

The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of
Women's Suffrage
Societies.

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ONE PENNY.

The News of the Week.

The Elections and Christmas.

Never, surely, can a general election have been more hurriedly put through and it is with a sigh of relief that we turn to the truce of holiday time. In the good days for which we hope, when all elections will be on one day, and there is no canvassing, the delirium of an election will be somewhat checked. The sporting man will be sorry, but no one else will.

Meanwhile, people have rushed off with feverish haste to their holiday because they know how soon party strife will be renewed within the House.

Women in Industry.

The "Co-operative News," which often has very interesting articles, last week had no less than three devoted to the wage-earning woman. One of these considers whether married women should work in factories; it advances all the well-worn objections, but does not hazard any attempt at a real solution of the problem. Another asks whether women are "worth" a living wage, meaning of course, whether a woman can by her labour produce enough wealth to keep herself at a decent standard of living; this article is, in the main, a

plea for an extension of the compulsory minimum wage. Thirdly, there is an article called "Women Workers' Unlearned Lesson,"

which points forcibly to the absolute necessity of organizing women's labour.

In organizing women's labour, women are met on all hands by the amazing jealousy and opposition of men, just as they have been in their endeavours to secure better education and the opening up of the professions; they are also greatly hampered by the poverty of women as a whole, and the work, which is really for the good of the whole human family, is only done by fighting step by step the ignorance and prejudice which cannot see the sin and danger of keeping several million women on the verge of destitution. The great mass of women always have worked for their living, and it is only because most of the manufacture used to be carried on in the home, and was not paid for in money, that people did not recognize that it was wealth-producing. Sooner or later (and the sooner the better) men will have to recognize that the sweated woman is a danger to the State, and an iniquity, and that the remedies are (1) to allow women to do the work they can do best, and train them for it; (2) to help and encourage the organization of women; (3) to raise the general status of women by giving



The Divine Image.

For Mercy has a human heart
Pity a human face;
And Love the human form divine;
And Peace the human dress.

WILLIAM BLAKE.

them political power; (4) to recognize that a child-bearing woman must somehow be protected and supported, and that merely to prohibit her from earning an honest wage is neither to protect nor support her.

Girton Fellowship.

Mrs. S. Arthur Strong, Litt.D. (Dublin), Hon. LL.D. (St. Andrew's), and a former student of Girton College, has been appointed the first Fellow of Girton. The value of the fellowship is £300 a year, and Mrs. Strong holds it for life. She is at present assistant director of the British School at Rome.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica and Women.

A dinner was given last week by the editor of the Encyclopaedia Britannica to the women who have collaborated in the eleventh edition, now being issued. There was a large gathering, among them being the Mistress of Girton and the Principal of Newnham, the Principal of Somerville, the Principal of Bedford College, London, and the heads of many other women's colleges; the Principal Lady Inspector of Factories (Miss A. M. Anderson), the Lady Superintendent of the Post-office Savings Bank (Miss Maria Constance Smith), Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. W. K. Clifford, Lady Strachey, Mrs. Alec Tweedie, Mrs. Sophie Bryant, Mrs. Hertha Ayrton, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Mrs. Wilfrid Meynell, and Miss Emily Davies.

Oldham and Women's Suffrage.

A pleasant little incident occurred at Oldham after the count, when Mr. Emmott, the senior Member, moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Lees, the Mayor. He said he felt that it was a distinct pleasure to be one of the first two Members of Parliament to be declared returned by a Lady Mayor.

Both Members are excellent Suffragists, and the whole of the borough is so "solid for Suffrage" that until recently it seemed to the inhabitants superfluous to start a society. It was pointed out to them, however, that it was incumbent upon them to "spread the light," and when the society was started, Mrs. Lees, of course, led the way, as she does in all good things.

A New Oxford Professor.

Canon Scott Holland has been appointed Canon of Christ Church and Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Oxford. One is glad to think of so humane a spirit coming into contact with young men at a most impressionable age.

The Police as Provocative Agents.

Protests are at last beginning to be made, and will, we hope, grow in strength and support, against the questionable uses to which our police are sometimes put. We are apt to be self-righteous about the rôle of *agent provocateur*, so common on the Continent, and some of the worst features of the *police des mœurs* (save the mark!) have been abolished. But there is still much to do. In a recent hotel scandal in Manchester it appeared in the evidence given by the police that they were being used to establish misconduct by apparently misconducting themselves. There have been grave accusations against the police in Parliament Square, many witnesses asserting that they encouraged and some that they actually committed serious assaults on the women. On December 10th, Mr. Curtis Bennett, in dismissing a case brought by the police, made some grave reflections upon their conduct of it. The feeling is growing steadily among women that women are needed on watch committees and in police courts. It is not right to subject our splendid policemen to temptation and corruption of this sort, and women would have no illusions about it.

International Peace.

Mr. Carnegie has given two millions to found a fund for the promotion of international peace. We would suggest that the income of this should be devoted to secure the enfranchisement of women the world over, for we believe this would do more than anything else to promote international peace.

Misrepresentative Government.

The women members of the National Union of Teachers are beginning to resent having their money taken to run candidates for Parliament over whom they have no control. It is astonishing that the Osborne judgment was secured by a man and not by a woman, but the characteristic attitude of the uncomprehending Anti-Suffragist is clearly shown by Mr. Asquith, who, while realizing the necessity for dealing with the situation caused by the Osborne judgment, is unable to see the wrong of taxing women for the payment of Members who may be actually misrepresenting them.

What Women Feel.

Sir Edward Clarke, replying to Lady Frances Balfour, is reported to have said, in his evidence before the Divorce Commission: "I thought everyone's experience was that women were much more indulgent to the faults of men than to those of their own sex. . . . I think women feel less keenly the mischief of the offence in a man's case than in their own." It is curious to hear what Sir Edward Clarke (an Anti-Suffragist) thinks about women's feelings. Before the appointment of women factory inspectors we were told the women were quite content with their conditions; "*they never complained*"; yet in the first year of the appointment of women, over 1,000 cases were brought.

No Room for Girls.

A correspondent sends the following "true story." It was decided to open vacation schools in the Christmas holidays for the poor children in a part of our town, and a large meeting of prospective helpers was called together at the rectory to discuss the plans. One of the clergy began by pointing out the need of the children whose homes were often shut up during the day while their mothers were out at work, with the result that the poor little "lads" had to spend their time in the streets, where they acquired undesirable habits.

A few Suffragists were present, and at this juncture pricked up their ears.

Suffragist 1: "Are you not going to have any girls?"

Clergyman: "NO; girls ought to be in the home."

Suffragist 2: "But you said their homes were shut up!"

Clergyman: "Er—er,—but girls should always be welcome in their neighbours' homes, because they can cook and wash and sew."

Suffragist 1: "The *little* girls cannot cook and wash."

Suffragist 3: "That would not be much holiday for them, would it?"

Clergyman: "But boys are in such danger in the streets; they learn to use bad language and gamble."

Suffragist 2: "I think girls get far more harm in the streets."

Suffragist 3: "The future mothers are as important as the future fathers."

Clergyman: "Oh, of course; but we shall not have any room for girls, for of course one can't put them in the same classes with the boys. Also, lectures are arranged that won't be suitable for girls."

Suffragist 3: "What is the lecture that will not do for girls?"

Clergyman: "Health." !!!

The matter was finally settled by a Suffragist volunteering to organize a department for girls, and other workers offered additional help in order to make it possible.

The A. B. C. of Women's Suffrage.

What is there in our

"COMMON CAUSE,"

we are sometimes led to ask, which binds us all so powerfully together? We are women of all classes, all temperaments, all ages; our members are drawn from every camp—social, political, and sectarian. What is the force which sweeps down all the barriers which would divide us, and unites us in this

INTIMATE COMRADESHIP

which we all feel, but many of us only dimly comprehend?

Is it not partly that, in claiming our recognition as human beings, with human rights and human needs, we are driven right down to our fundamental kinship with all other women, our

COMMON HUMANITY.

Our humanity we share, and the insult of a conception of us which recognises our sex alone, and forgets or denies our humanity, we share, too. We can all unite in making, for women,

SHYLOCK'S PLEA FOR THE JEWS:

"Hath not a woman eyes? Hath not a woman hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? Fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer, as a man is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die?"

But perhaps the greatest motive power in our movement, and the greatest bond amongst us all, is our

COMMON MOTHERHOOD,

for every woman, whether she has children of her own or not, is a mother at heart; and it is this mother-spirit "yearning to all the pity of the world," which has brought thousands of women into a struggle which would be intolerable were not existing conditions more intolerable still.

"WHEN WOMEN GET TOGETHER,"

we are told, "they always talk about their children." Well, the women of the world have got together, in their tens, in their hundreds, and in their thousands, and they have talked about the children of the world. And they are not satisfied.

In this country they see the State slowly waking to realise its

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CHILDREN,

but they also see it helpless before the problem of the children—like a man whose wife has died and left him

TO BRING UP THE CHILDREN ALONE.

Politicians talk of infant mortality, and they punish the negligent woman whose baby falls into the fire; but how many more babies die because their mothers are ill-nourished? And how does the law look after the mother?

IF SHE IS MARRIED,

she has no claim on her husband for anything beyond bare maintenance; and if he refuses this her only remedy is to break up her home and go into the workhouse, where she will be separated from her children. These are not isolated cases. In Liverpool alone, we are told, there are 3,000 deserted wives.

IF SHE IS A WIDOW,

she must work to feed her children, doing a man's work as well as a woman's for half the money, or less. We all know of the widow who, last year, in London, was earning a maximum wage of 1s. a day in work under a Government contract.

IF SHE IS UNMARRIED,

she *may*, if she can get an affiliation order, be able to claim as much as 5s. a week from her baby's father, but only *after the baby is born*.

WHAT CHANCE HAVE THE BABIES?

Where women have power to touch the laws, they are changing these things, and saving the children.

We shall all be reminded continually this week of a Mother and Child, and to many of us at any rate the thought will never be far distant of the cause we are striving for, which is the cause of the

MOTHER IN WOMAN

claiming her right to protect her own.

THE WEEK'S STORY.

"OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES."

A small boy of six was asked whether he thought women should have votes, and, having replied "Yes," was further asked: "Why?" His answer came without hesitation: "Because my mummy's a woman."

THE WEEK'S MOTTO.

"To go on for ever and fail and go on again,
And be mauled to the earth and arise,
And contend for the shade of a word and a thing not seen with the eyes:
With the half of a broken hope for a pillow at night

That somehow the right is the right
And the smooth shall bloom from the rough:
Lord, if that were enough?

R. L. Stevenson.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday.

LONDON AGENT.—Communications referring to advertisements may now be addressed to our London agent, Mrs. H. A. Evans, 10, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C. Friends in London desirous of helping to get advertisements will kindly communicate with her.

THE PAPER WILL BE POSTED to any address in Britain or abroad for the following prepaid payments:—

3 MONTHS	...	1 9
6 MONTHS	...	3 3
12 MONTHS	...	6 6

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, accompanied by a stamped envelope addressed if it is desired that they should be returned. The Editor accepts no responsibility, however, for matter which is offered unsolicited.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices, and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents, however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long beforehand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last possible day, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, giving the name and address of the newsagent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

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Sticking to His Guns.

"One word with two meanings is a traitor's shield and shaft; and a slit tongue be his blazon."

Circassian Proverb.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has for his convenience made his mind to work in watertight compartments; he does not let the right side of his brain know what the left side does. We have been endeavouring to analyse his reply to the question put to him at Bangor on 9th December (see "Common Cause," No. 88, p. 590), and the result leaves us with only two alternatives: either Mr. Lloyd George is an enormously over-rated man and is quite unfit for the position to which the electorate has raised him, or (and this seems likely) he is so obsessed by sex bias that he takes leave of his wits whenever the woman's question is presented to him. It may not be amiss to recapitulate the points of Mr. George's answer:—

1. He would only vote for the third reading of a Bill on "democratic lines," and he must be the arbiter of whether the lines were sufficiently "democratic"!
2. The Conciliation Bill was not on "democratic lines." It "jerrymanders and rigs the register in such a way as to give an undue proportion of votes to one section."
3. If 3,000 Suffragists in his constituency voted against him, he would "stick to his guns."
4. Suffragists had not "educated the country" to their demand.

5. If it had not been for "foolish tactics" the measure would have been carried in the last Parliament.

6. "I am not going to be bullied out of my opinions because a number of women are excessively offensive."

We may very briefly dismiss Mr. George's objections to the Conciliation Bill as it stood when Parliament dissolved, because we have so often shown that the accusation of being "undemocratic" is absurdly unfounded. Suffragists all know (though apparently Cabinet Ministers do not) that there was absolutely no "rigging of the register." The women demanded the removal of the sex disability only, leaving the qualifications precisely as they are for men. Mr. Lloyd George's own party objected to this, and to satisfy the Radicals, ownership, lodger, university, and service qualifications were swept away and the Conciliation Bill proposed to give the vote to women ratepayers only. Mr. George was guilty of the preposterous statement that it would "double the number of plural votes," but he has never shown how this would be possible, and it was shown by figures obtained from Mr. Charles Booth's book that over 80 per cent. of these women are working women.

If, however, Mr. George as an individual did not like the Bill, that was his own affair (and that of his constituents). But he was not content with merely stating his personal preference. He—who is so loud in his assertions that the will of the People (by which he means the Men) shall prevail, was actually goaded into saying that if 3,000 Suffragists in his constituency (out of a total of some 6,000 electors) were to vote against him, he would "stick to his guns." What are Mr. George's "guns"?

He says the Suffragists have not "educated the country!" Because Mr. George has done nothing to educate the country, because party politicians do not find it profitable to do so, and the newspapers have made a conspiracy of silence such as has no precedent in history, Mr. George chooses to shut his eyes to the enormous change that has been going on in the country, and to the really stupendous work that women have done with all the forces of party, press, and vested interest against them. When Mr. Asquith speaks in the Albert Hall once in the year, the country rings from end to end with the news of it; Suffragists filled the Albert Hall six times in twelve months and twice in one week. They held over 4,000 meetings in the country in four months, most of these being concentrated into eight weeks, and resolutions in support of the Bill were carried everywhere. Town Councils and Trade Unions have supported us, yet we have not "sufficiently educated" the country to our moderate and conciliatory demand! And these words are spoken by a man who professes that his aim in life is to "fight the battle of the poor and the oppressed," and who never by any chance does one good turn at "educating" the country to the extension of the franchise he professes to favour. One could endure Mr. George's opposition to a narrow Bill if he ever did any work for a wider one; but he has never done anything of any account to educate the electors, and he tries to do all the harm he can by sneering at us and raising the cheap laugh which is still so easily raised against women.

He cited the two unsuccessful Suffragist candidatures as proof that the country was not "ripe" for the enfranchisement of women. It is impossible to believe that he does not know this is the shoddiest clap-trap, and in fact he gave away the argument in the next sentence, when he admitted that the measure would have been carried in the last Parliament if it had not been for "foolish tactics." Here we have the roof-admission. And what an admission it is! If Mr. George had not been annoyed, if his vanity had not been hurt and his masculine prerogative hustled, he would have helped and not hindered the doing of justice to women! We believe it. No one who watched Mr.

George carefully at the meeting in the Albert Hall which was wrecked by members of the W.S.P.U., will be surprised to hear that he resolved then and there to have his revenge on all women, because a few women annoyed him. He himself calls the militants a "despicable minority." Barring the adjective, we agree with him. But consider the admission he makes. The second in the Government of this country, the man who more often than any other takes into his mouth the defence of those whose impatience at delay and indignation at oppression outrun discretion, is still so much in the bondage of sex-prejudice that he meets the almost despairing cry of sweated, starved, abused womanhood with the childish pout, "I am not going to be bullied!"

These then, are Mr. George's "guns," that he is going to "stick to." How brave! How statesman-like! How truly in accord with his own words at Edinburgh: "Sympathy is essential to legislation, and sympathy without knowledge is impossible."

Mr. George, and no other, wrecked our Bill in the last Parliament. He did it because he was personally annoyed, and the 300 Members who voted for the second reading were not prepared to make the matter a subject for fighting the Government. In 1884 Mr. Gladstone ruined the women's hopes by threatening to resign unless the pledged members threw the women overboard, and they obediently did so. In a more insidious way, and with the pretence of leaving the House free, the same force was put into motion in 1910. Mr. Churchill's admission in Dundee that the private members could have forced the Government to give facilities only by blocking all Government business, was an admission that the Government had not kept to its promise of impartiality, because everyone knows the private members were not yet prepared to revolt against their own Government. Such tactics may succeed once, twice and again; they cannot succeed for ever. Even Mr. George's own party women in his own land are awake now. We may have to win without his help, in his very teeth. We have no doubt whatever as to the comment of history on such Liberalism.

"Noel."

The fever of the Christmas atmosphere creeps into Noel's veins. She forgets that she is weary, that she is past forty and alone. She remembers that she has once been fair and forgets that she is now faded. . . . There is a thrill in the brisk air which comes from the moving of many people—people hurrying from shop to shop in a bustling belated fashion; this is their last chance of purchasing before the holidays. You can hear them chattering as you pass: "I don't believe she'll like that," or, "Wish to goodness I could think what to give him." Some of the voices sound worried, as though the luxury of bestowal took all the zest out of the season, but the majority are happy, almost childishly happy; and most are so, perhaps, because their owners are making sacrifices.

Couples gaze considerably at the wonderful display of toys. You can tell what they are thinking of without overhearing their conversation. . . . If anyone glances at Noel she is stirred unaccountably—foolishly agitated, as in her girlhood, when a halo of delight and mystery seemed to surround every trifling new occurrence. These haloes have since been transformed into mists of tears. . . . But this afternoon—why, she cannot guess—the World again appears interesting, and the World again appears interested—in her. Goodwill shines out from the eyes of passers; excitement glitters from the handsomely stocked, brightly lighted windows.

The perfume from the flower-shops sends her faint with old memories. . . . That ball given by the Hussars . . . those verses hidden in a posy . . . a moonlit night on a distant shore . . . Why does all this come back to her now? . . .

Why does Youth call thus insistently?—call as in those far distant days when a need to work for her living was the last thing she would have dreamed of? . . . What can explain this sensation of mad exhilaration, this revival of expectancy, this long-dead anticipation that—something is going to happen? . . .

Christmas brings no variety in her monotonous life. No one has gifts for her. With her slender salary she can afford to give none, though she means to give one—to a little woman she met in an omnibus three months ago. The little woman had a tiny face, a finely modelled straight nose, a sensitive tremulous mouth; the openings of her limpid dark-grey eyes were wide and long, drooping at the corners; her delicately marked level brows were dark too, and her hair also. But it was her expression still more than her beauty which had touched Noel's imagination. Hopelessness had hung about her like a veil, and in such hopelessness Noel felt a kinship.

So she had spoken to the little woman, and they had become friends. Yes, Noel means to give one present. It may be this intention which fills her now with something of forgotten ecstasy—with the sheer joy of life.

This and the magnetism from the glad benevolent crowds that sway about her; from the Christmas stars that have begun to dance above the little earth; from the joy of the keen wind that kisses her cheek—her faded cheek—till she knows it must be rose again. Rose again! Isn't that something to be blithesome for? Thanks, thanks, kind wind! . . .

Oh, the rapture of it all—the quickening of pace, the throbbing of the heart, the sweet music in her ears! Life and Youth—vibrant Youth—still laughing in her soul, still offering its colours to her eyes! . . .

At last Noel turns reluctantly towards her dwelling-place. She gropes her way up the silent tall staircase; unlocks her door. Absurdly, she fancies that the scent of violets is wafted to her as she opens it. She strikes a match and lights the gas. Upon the table there is—no basket of flowers, no package of any kind. Neither has the postman left her a single letter. . . . The room seems strangely empty; it lacks even the consolation of a fire. She looks round at the familiar landmarks as one returning from a prolonged journey. She looks in the glass; the roses in her cheeks have already begun to pine. . . . Customary tiredness seizes once more upon her limbs.

A choir-boy who lives on the floor below begins to practise a Christmas hymn in angelic crystalline tones. She falls on her knees beside the uncurtained casement. The Christmas stars are still dancing in the darkness. She lifts up her arms.

"Oh, Christ, dear Christ, help Noel's loneliness!" She implores in a wild reaction of sobbing.

GEORGETTE AGNEW.

More About the Referendum.

"You are throwing away, if ever you adopt that proposal—which I know you will not, and the Tories themselves are beginning to be shy of it—you would be throwing away the whole of the fruits of the experience and wisdom of generation after generation; you would be striking a blow at the very foundations of representative government; you would be DEGRADING THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. . . . It would be a leap in the dark, a leap out of the dark into the dark."

Mr. Asquith (Glossop, Dec. 14, 1910).

"Above all, how are you going to protect the elector against the ORGANISED INFLUENCE AND PRESSURE OF WEALTH, which would be more powerful, mind you, in the case of the Referendum, where there would not be the same sense of general interest and mutual protection as there is at the time of a general election. . . . I assure you, and I am speaking for many

of my political associates, that I WOULD NOT REMAIN A MEMBER of an Assembly whose functions were mutilated and truncated in that fashion."

Mr. Asquith (Stowmarket, Dec. 12, 1910).

"We do not approve of the policy of a Referendum. WE THINK IT A BAD AND VICIOUS SYSTEM for a country to adopt at the stage, at any rate, to which Great Britain has attained. We know it is wholly out of harmony with British institutions. We think it would be fatal to Ministerial responsibility."

Mr. Churchill (Chester, Dec. 4, 1910).

"THE LONG PURSE would have all the advantage. . . . To incorporate the Referendum as an integral part of our Constitution in any form in which I have

seen it advocated would be A BLOW TO REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT of the most serious kind. The electors of this country are busy men. They cannot study each of our complicated controversies in detail. It is enough if they choose men whom they trust, whose point of view they agree with in general, and commit to them for a limited time the control of legislation and policy."

Lord Loreburn (Letter to Mr. Dickie, Dec. 3, 1910).

"The Referendum is a new-fangled, costly, and irritating plebiscite DESIGNED TO GIVE POWER TO WEALTH, and crush by expenditure the wishes of the least well-to-do."

Mr. Lewis Harcourt (Letter quoted in Press Dec. 5, 1910).

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

OBJECT: To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

METHODS: (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in this country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

Hon. Secretaries: *MISS EDITH DIMOCK.* President: *MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.* Hon. Treasurer: *MISS BERTHA MASON (Pro Tem.).*
 MISS BERTHA MASON (Parliamentary). Secretary: *MISS T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A.* Telephone: 1960 Victoria.
 Telegrams: "Voiceless, London." Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Executive Committee.

The offices of the National Union will be closed from the evening of December 23rd to the morning of the 28th.

The annual Council meeting has been fixed for Thursday and Friday, January 26th and 27th, in the Kensington Town Hall. The election of hon. officers and Executive Committee will take place, and resolutions bearing on constitution and policy will be in order.

The following societies have been admitted to the Union: Abernethy, Burnley, Lewes, Merionethshire, Newburgh-on-Tay, Peebles, Topsham, Sutton Coldfield, and Stockport.

The next Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance will take place in Stockholm on June 11-18, 1911. A delegation of twelve representatives of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies to this Congress will be appointed at the annual meeting, but others may attend on becoming members of the Alliance.

The committee gratefully acknowledges Miss Dimock's kind gifts of a fender for the committee-room and a set of pigeon-hole shelves for the passage.

Mr. Herbert Jacobs.

Mr. Herbert Jacobs very kindly came to see the committee on December 15th, and gave his views upon the election in E. St. Pancras and the general policy of running Suffrage candidates, with which he is still in hearty agreement. On the proposal of Mrs. Fawcett, a very hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Jacobs for having been willing to stand, and for the perfect temper with which he had conducted a very difficult candidature.

Mr. Mirrlees.

The following letter has been received from Mr. Mirrlees, in reply to one from Mrs. Fawcett, conveying to him the thanks of the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S. for the gallant fight he made in the Camlachie Division of Glasgow on behalf of Women's Suffrage. It will be remembered that the majority of the Anti-Suffragist who represents the division was reduced from 434 to 26.

11, Cranmer Road, Cambridge.
December 18th.

My Dear Madam,—I have to thank the N.U.W.S.S. for their over-appreciation of my services in contesting Camlachie. I feel that none of the work was wasted, as we drew more attention to the Suffrage question

than any number of bricks thrown or helmets smashed, and, to my mind, justified the constitutional position of the National Union. I feel strongly that we have moved the question on a stage further.

In my opinion, three-quarters of the electors of Camlachie gave consideration to the question of voting for me and justice to women, but unfortunately practically all came to the same conclusion—namely, that I would not get in, and that, therefore, a vote given to me meant that their party candidate would be endangered without the woman's champion being elected. Under these circumstances I consider it wonderful that 35 men should take the same position as myself, that justice to women was more important than any other political question.

Yours very truly,

WM. MIRRLEES.

Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Treasurer's Notes.

Again I acknowledge with gratitude the donations which have come in this week to our Election Campaign Fund.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND. December 3rd to December 10th, 1910

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1,408	13	0
Mr. Goldring	1	0	0
H. and M. C.	1	0	0
Mr. F. E. Marshall	5	0	0
Miss Violet Bustace	0	4	6
Mr. Hecht	0	2	0
Miss A. S. Verrall	1	0	0
Miss E. Verrall	1	0	0
Miss R. B. Bruce	10	10	0
Mrs. Pilsbury	0	5	0
Oxted and Limpfield W.S.S. (per Mrs. Osmaston)	5	0	0
Miss Nicholson	0	5	0
Miss Harriet Jones	10	0	0
Mrs. Robie Uniacke	5	0	0
Miss J. E. Muntz	4	0	0
Lady Onslow	1	1	0
Miss V. M. Allfrey	1	1	0
Miss B. E. Allfrey	1	1	0
Mrs. Pilcher	5	0	0
Miss E. M. Hanson	1	0	0
Miss M. E. Bridge	0	10	0
Miss A. M. Bodkin	5	0	0
Newnham College W.S.S.	5	15	0
Mrs. Albert Druce	5	0	0
Miss E. M. C. Druce	1	1	0
Mrs. Atkinson	1	0	0
Miss Evelyn Atkinson	0	10	0
Miss M. C. Crossfield	1	0	0
Hon. Mrs. Wilkinson	1	1	0
Mrs. Dowson	1	0	0
Miss Maud Dowson	1	0	0

Anonymous, Brighton	0	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Gray	1	1	0
Miss C. S. Banks	0	2	6
Mrs. Wiener	5	0	0
Miss Nancy Fleming	0	10	0
Mrs. Roger Clark	10	0	0
Miss M. Basden	1	1	0
Mrs. Napier	1	1	0
Miss Margaret Colson	5	0	0
Mrs. Sim	0	10	0
Mrs. Lambert	0	7	0
Miss Craig	1	1	0
Miss Ogle	0	5	0
Miss M. A. Greswell	0	10	0
Miss Holloway	0	2	6
The Misses Rev	0	2	6
Mrs. Mirrlees	1	0	0
Miss D. Edwards	0	1	0
Mrs. Spencer Thomas	0	10	0
Miss Priestman	0	5	0
Mrs. Schluter	1	1	0
G. H.	0	5	0

£1,514 0 0

CONTRIBUTIONS.

November 19th to December 10th, 1910.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	65	2	11½
Subscriptions:—			
Lady Horsley	5	5	0
Miss B. Nicholson	0	6	0
Miss Roscorla	0	1	0
Miss M. Roscorla	0	1	0
Miss M. F. Awdry	1	1	0
Mrs. Powell	0	5	0
Mrs. Luxmoore	0	5	0
Miss Teasdel	0	1	0
Mrs. Hamilton	0	1	0
Mrs. Manger	0	1	0
Mrs. G. P. Mallet	0	1	0
Mrs. Goudge	0	10	0
Donations:—			
Half profits, Reception, Chelsea Town Hall	3	10	0
Birmingham W.S.S. Albert Hall meeting collection	0	10	6
Miss E. L. Willis	1	0	0
Miss M. H. Drew	1	0	0
Miss J. H. Drew (Albert Hall meeting)	1	0	0
The Bushy Young People's Association, per Mr. T. Tatten	0	10	6
"A thank offering to God"	1	10	0
Affiliation Fees:—			
Stockport W.S.S.	0	5	0
Guidford W.S.S. (additional)	0	7	9
Abernethy W.S.S.	0	5	9
Godalming W.S.S. (additional)	0	2	6
Teignmouth W.S.S.	0	13	9
Hockwold-cum-Wilton W.S.S. (additional)	0	1	0
Peebles W.S.S.	0	7	6
Machynleth W.S.S.	0	5	0
St. Hugh's Hall W.S.S.	0	5	0
Lewes W.S.S.	0	10	0

£85 3 8½

MILLION SHILLING FUND.

Already acknowledged	s.	d.
Mrs. Shakespear	1,864	6
	10	6

1,875 0

BERTHA MASON, Treasurer.

"The Common Cause."

A NEW POSTER.

The Literature Committee of the National Union has issued a new poster, and we hope that many societies will display it at their meetings and in their shops. It is 160in. by 75in., and printed in black ink on horizontal strips of red-white-and-green paper, the legend being "Read 'The Common Cause.' Price 1d. weekly," and the price is 1s. net. It can be obtained from the offices of the National Union.

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

We suggest that many of our friends would find a year's subscription to "The Common Cause" a very acceptable present at this season. Bound copies of the first year are also still to be had, price 8s. 6d., and the cover (with index and title-page) can be had for 2s. (postage 4d.). These should be ordered from the Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

Camlachie Division of Glasgow.

The only thing which prevented us from attaining our object of turning out Mr. McKinder was lack of time. We entered the constituency on the morning of Tuesday, November 29th—just nine days before the poll on December 8th.

One committee-room was taken for the whole time and a second for the last three days. By Wednesday we were busy canvassing and holding meetings. Mr. Mirrlees had arrived on Tuesday, and from that time till the poll he was indefatigable. Camlachie is an engineering district, and a perfect network of factories of other kinds; so breakfast-hour meetings were early and numerous. Indeed, we held a continual run of meetings from early morn till dewy eve. (This is poetic licence: it was generally in pouring rain!) The men were even willing to stand and listen to Women Suffrage speakers when they came tired from their day's work at six o'clock in the evening. Good-will was manifest everywhere, particularly at Parkhead Forge, Mavor and Coulson's and Matheson's Tool Works, where the crowds were very big and very interested. Our first hall meetings were inclined to be other than peaceful, but at our latter meetings men crowded round the platform, expressing their sympathy with Women's Suffrage, and admiration for Mr. Mirrlees' grit and sportsmanlike contest, his unflinching good humour, his sincerity, and his earnest desire to satisfy an elector on any reasonable point he liked to raise. "It's more than the other candidates do," said one man; and the general cry was, "Why didn't Mr. Mirrlees come sooner?"

Our only handicaps were lack of time and the small number of our workers, of whom we had not more than a hundred. Yet we managed to canvass a large portion of the district, and held about two hundred meetings. On the day before the poll we held thirty-eight.

The influence our work had on the candidates was interesting. A few weeks previously Mr. McKinder had written to Mrs. Hunter, of the Glasgow Society, refusing to receive a deputation, saying he was opposed to Women's Suffrage and that no good could come of such a meeting. During the contest he stated at his meetings that the Referendum, and the Referendum alone, would solve the Women's Suffrage question; that he believed in sending it to the Referendum, and therefore all Women Suffragists who opposed his candidature were opposing their own best interests! Mr. J. M. Hogge, who in the course of a personal interview had said he would not vote for a Bill such as the Conciliation Bill, or for anything short of Adult Suffrage, proclaimed loudly at all his meetings that he was a member of the Edinburgh National Society, and that it passed his comprehension why we should run a Woman Suffrage candidate in Camlachie. It passed our comprehension that Mr. Hogge should be content to belong to a society with an object so much more direct and so much more humble than his own. It is strange to note that Mr. O'Connor Kessack, who was satisfactory on the question of Suffrage, was also the only candidate who recognised that we were perfectly justified in running a candidate of our own who would put Woman Suffrage first and foremost. On the night of the declaration of the poll interest centred in the result of this four-cornered contest, and there was a good deal of excitement when a notice was put up on the "Evening News" screen—"Recount in Camlachie." It is a tribute to the friendly feeling towards us existing in Glasgow that when the results were made known there was not that scorn or jeering that has often been poured on Suffrage efforts.

The Press, as usual, was good, bad, and indifferent by turns, as far as faithful reports went. But they were attentive, as they have scarcely been before. After the poll, the "Scotsman," instead of pouring scorn on thirty-five votes, went out of its way to inform the public that Lord Halsbury once managed to score one vote in England. It is also interesting to note that the official Unionist candidate in Caithness-shire polled eighty-seven votes only during the present election.

All our workers showed a splendid spirit. They went into the fight inexperienced, but courageous. They came out of it with experience and with no loss of courage. One of them writes: "How inspiring it all was! We have lived long enough not to expect to see seeds scattered and grown up all at the same time. We have taken root, and that's the main thing."

It is the main thing, Camlachie is not stony ground—though there may be a stubborn Scotch thistle or two about,—and we shall see the seed yet bringing forth an hundred-fold.

ELIZABETH LAMOND.

The Scottish Federation is grateful to everyone who worked in the Camlachie election, and particularly to those who came from a long distance, such as Miss O'Shea from Portsmouth, Miss Deakin from Liverpool, Miss Darlington and Miss Robertson from Manchester, Miss Edith Hooper from London, Miss Henderson from Dundee, Mrs. Finbury from St. Andrews, and Mrs. Hope from Berwick-on-Tweed. A great many of the Glasgow Committee gave active support, including Mrs. Hunter, Dr. Everett McLaren, and Miss Morrison, who lent us her motor car for the day of the poll. A big band came from Edinburgh, including Dr. Inglis, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Mrs. Easson, Miss Low, Miss Lisa Gordon, Miss Lamond, Miss Hilliard, Miss Begged, Miss Matheson, Miss Cotterill, and a great many more. It is impossible to mention everyone by name, but we are grateful to one and all.

We had for our election agent Mr. Percy Sturrock, of Dundee, who has for long been a supporter of Women's Suffrage.

Work in the Constituencies.

Yorkshire (Buckrose Division).

In this division the candidates were Sir Luke White (L.), who has always been a good friend to Women's Suffrage, and Colonel Mark Sykes (U.), an Anti-Suffragist. Mrs. Merivale Mayer, from the National Union, organised the work, and helped Sir Luke White, who, we are glad to say, has again been returned.

Mrs. Mayer held splendid meetings in Driffield, and organised others elsewhere.

Edinburgh.

We decided to sell the "Common Cause" at the polling booths, as it seemed the most useful propaganda work we could do. A great many of our most active workers were at Camlachie helping the Suffrage candidate, and we could only partially "man" a few of the booths. Those who volunteered did their work nobly, standing for hours on the muddy pavements. With the aid of Mrs. Bartholomew's motor, which she kindly lent for the day, every booth was visited twice, the "C. C." sold, and the banner displayed.

In the afternoon Mrs. Inglis Clark went in her own motor to many of the booths, and sold papers. By these means our Suffrage colours were much in evidence, and although our helpers were few, 425 copies of "The Common Cause" were sold. One local paper had a picture of a Suffragist at a booth selling the paper.

The taking of signatures to the petition last election had educated the people to regard our cause seriously and respectfully, and all our workers found the attitude of the crowd much improved. At one booth a candidate came out to the pavement and spoke to our worker and bought a paper, and everywhere the police were kind and courteous.

Derby's New Members Favourable to Women's Suffrage.

An excellent women's meeting, attended by some 600 women, was held at the invitation of Mr. J. H. Thomas, the Labour candidate for Derby, in the Temperance Hall on the 30th November. Mr. Thomas's object in calling the meeting was not merely a party one. Realising that at no distant date women would have the vote, he wished them to see the necessity for preparing themselves to make a wise use of it, and in a fine speech he made it abundantly clear to them that such hardships and suffering, for instance, as were evidenced by the workers at Cradley Heath and the women in the Potteries, could not continue when once women should have obtained the protection of the vote.

Sir Thomas Roe, the Liberal candidate, followed him with a speech also strongly in favour of Women's Suffrage. His support of the movement, he reminded his audience, dated from the days of Lydia Becker—some forty years ago—when he had worked with her, and it had continued ever since.

Mrs. Boden, local president of the British Women's Temperance Association, was in the chair. In bespeaking the support of the women for the candidatures of Sir Thomas Roe and Mr. J. H. Thomas, she stated that she would not have stood on the platform of candidates who were opposed to giving women the vote.

Lady Onslow, as president of the Derby branch of the N.U.W.S.S., expressed the thanks of her committee to Sir Thomas Roe and to Mr. J. H. Thomas for their splendid championship of the women's cause, adding that it was with the utmost confidence that she left that cause in their hands in the hope and belief that they would again have an opportunity of pressing the women's claim in the House of Commons.

It is a matter of great satisfaction for all Suffragists that Sir Thomas Roe and Mr. J. H. Thomas have again been elected M.P.s for Derby.

Birmingham.

During election week members of the Franchise Club "manned" the two shops, distributing literature and talking to passers-by on Suffrage questions. One or two spoke at open-air meetings, and others helped by distributing handbills. On polling day members were present at the polling stations distributing handbills to the voters.

Egremont Division.

I have been working single-handed in this division for ten days. It is the only Cumberland constituency in which we did not work at the last election, and it is significant that it is the only one whose member voted against the Conciliation Bill. Both candidates in this election were unsatisfactory. The Conservative, who has been re-elected, dislikes to see women taking part in politics, except when "helping" men (i.e., canvassing). The Liberal professed great friendship to our cause, but knew nothing about the Conciliation Bill and would not promise to vote for it. I have been doing propaganda work in the industrial part of the constituency, holding open-air meetings immediately preceding the candidates' meetings, and getting electors to go and question the candidates on Women's Suffrage. It has been hard work covering the ground alone, and without a motor or carriage; but the

pioneer work done by Miss Helga Gill in the same district last August has made it easier than it would have been otherwise. I was told that the people of these mining towns and villages were very rough, and that I should not get a hearing, especially in the midst of a very keenly contested election. But we know from experience that we can always count on fair play and a good hearing from the men of Cumberland. So I disregarded the pessimists. I have had large and perfectly orderly crowds at Egremont, Cleator Moor, Moor Row, and Frizington, and have met with sympathy and good-will everywhere. The resolution (urging the candidates, if elected, to support the Bill) was carried at every meeting—once unanimously, twice with only one dissentient,—and copies were taken to the candidates by some of their principal supporters. At Egremont, the Liberal candidate's chairman came to our meeting and seconded our resolution, and took a copy of it then and there to the Liberal meeting. The men are keenly interested and eager to help. I have not found a single one who was opposed to our demand. They will hardly believe that their member opposes it. "Voted *agin* it, did he? But it's simple justice." One unrepentant heckler was set upon by the whole of the rest of the audience after our meeting. I heard them arguing with him hotly as I came away. I think we can safely count on pressure being brought to bear on Mr. Grant by his electors when the Bill comes up again. The local papers have given good reports of the meetings, in spite of the unusual demand made on their space at election time.

As it was no use holding meetings in the Egremont Division on the day when the poll was declared, I held an indoor one in Whitehaven that day and got an organisation committee formed and a local branch started, with good promise of membership. The late member (Con.) for Whitehaven voted for the Conciliation Bill in both divisions, so we were sorry for his defeat, but the new member (Lab.) has given absolutely satisfactory answers to all our questions, so our cause will not suffer by the change. C. E. M.

Burton.

At the monthly meeting of the Burton Society held on December 8th it was decided that, owing to the satisfactory promises from both candidates for the Burton Division of Staffordshire and the unsatisfactory position of both candidates for South Derbyshire, the Society should confine its efforts to keeping the subject before the electors, especially on polling day.

A goodly number of members were present at the polling stations in Burton on December 10th, and found many of the electors interested in the question. Leaflets were given away and "Common Causes" sold.

Sunderland's New Members Favourable to Women's Suffrage.

Mr. Hawar Greenwood (Liberal) did not mention Suffrage in his election address, which contained nothing but the Veto. He issued on the same sheet a list of things he stands for, and amongst them was Women's Suffrage. We have, however, been able to extract no pledge from him as to voting. Mr. Frank Goldstone (Labour) mentioned the Conciliation Bill in his election address.

Cornish Constituencies.

At the request of the Liskeard Society I came down to Cornwall to help them to support a good friend of ours—Mr. Foot, who was Liberal candidate for the Bodmin Division. Miss Williams has already reported on the sudden and satisfactory awakening of the Unionist candidate's conscience on the subject, when he found that the Society meant business, and as he (Sir Reginald Pole-Carew) has been returned for Bodmin, our Common Cause owes one more pledged supporter in the House to the firm stand taken in Liskeard by Mr. and Mrs. Hermon, the Misses Wilkinson, Mrs. Steel, and others. They have followed up their victory promptly and generously by advertising thoroughly the two candidates' promises, and by judiciously distributing one hundred "Common Causes" given by Mrs. Hermon. The newspapers have been very full of Women's Suffrage, and the Liberal papers have made joyful use of Sir Reginald's "reconsideration."

When I moved on to the neighbouring division of Launceston, I found that a wholesome respect for Suffragists was in the air, and both candidates—Mr. Croydon Marks (the Liberal, who has been returned) and Mr. Treffny—were in a receptive frame of mind, and both promised support. So I left them and went to St. Ives and Penzance Division, where I found the candidates sitting on the fence and murmuring that there was "no demand for the vote." Mr. Vaughan Williams, the Unionist, was extremely polite and illogical, and extremely unsatisfactory. Sir Clifford Cory, the Liberal, who is now member, proved as elusive as the famous Pimpernel—"I sought him here, I sought him there," etc.

Since leaving Penzance I have been in the Camborne or Mining Division, where both candidates are good Suffragists. Mr. Acland—who has been returned to continue the good work he has done for us—has proved himself a genuine Suffragist in this campaign, and at his rally on the eve of the poll he made a rousing Suffrage speech. The constituency is a notoriously rough one, but it was most willing to

listen to reason and argument, and to agree to the justice of our claim. From end to end, at the mine heads, in the streets, at the foundries, the request was the same: "We haven't had a chance to hear before; come and tell us more about it." BARBARA DUNCAN.

Wakefield's New Member Favourable to Women's Suffrage.

The new member for Wakefield, Mr. A. Marshall (Liberal), is prepared to support the Conciliation Bill or a similar Women's Suffrage measure. He will not promise to ballot.

Hitchin.

Part of our election work has consisted in having a shop in Hitchin during election week. This has been mainly worked by the Letchworth Branch, though Mrs. Smithson was most helpful in making the arrangements beforehand, which was no easy task. The shop attracted a great deal of attention, and our posters and leaflets in the window were examined and read by a countless number of persons. We did a fair trade in literature, Christmas cards, etc., and gave away hundreds of leaflets.

The Liberal candidate answered our questions satisfactorily, and the Conservative candidate did not, so we supported the former, and in consequence suffered from the attentions of the supporters of the latter, who pasted their Unionist bills over our windows several times.

We had many chats with men, and when we explained the Conciliation Bill they generally declared themselves in favour of our demand. We feel we have made some headway in Hitchin, which is conservative in every sense of the word.

"Common Causes" have been sold at various meetings, and Mrs. Wolverly Fordham stood at the polling booth at Ashwell most of the day, and was very successful. The weather, unfortunately, has prevented much outdoor selling.

Federation Notes.

Surrey, Sussex, and Hants.

DEPUTATION TO MR. MACMASTER, M.P.

On December 6th the Camberley Society arranged a deputation to Mr. D. Macmaster, M.P. for the North-west Division of Surrey. They had been trying in vain for a whole year to get him to receive a deputation. It was composed of members of the Camberley, Weybridge, and Woking Societies, and the speaker was Mr. J. E. Gill, formerly of the Bengal service—another proof, if one were needed, that all who have served the British Empire in the East do not share the views of the Curzon-Cromer combine. In the course of an hour's interview, Mr. Macmaster declined to pledge himself to support any Bill, but declared that his hearers were not justified in assuming that, because he had voted against the Conciliation Bill, he was necessarily hostile to the Women's Suffrage movement!

Midland.

The results of the election have been very favourable for Suffrage in Leicestershire. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and Mr. Crawshaw Williams (Leicester), Mr. Logan (Harborough), Mr. MacLaren (Bosworth), and Colonel Yate (Melton) are all sound, and only Sir Maurice Levy (Loughborough) an Anti-Suffragist. Although during the election Miss Gill, of course, ceased to be our official organiser, we were very fortunate in having her still in our area—at Coventry,—where most valuable work has been done. The Suffragists are held to have largely influenced the defeat of the untrustworthy Mr. Kenneth Foster and the return of Mr. Mason, a strong supporter.

The Shrewsbury Society has strengthened the very considerable impression made by their work during the election by a crowded and enthusiastic meeting there on December 7th, which was addressed by Professor McCombie, of Birmingham University, and Miss Margaret Ashton.

At Northfield the polling booths were manned on election day, and the interest aroused there by our work during the elections has resulted in meetings being asked for in the district, and these are to be held both before Christmas and in the New Year.

On all sides we hear of the marked improvement of the treatment of Suffragists at the polling stations, and of the more rational attitude of the electors towards the question.

At a recent most successful meeting at Sutton Coldfield, at which Mrs. Ring and Mr. A. D. Matthews, of Birmingham, spoke, twenty-five new members joined, of whom nine were men, and one a councillor.

PHILLIS E. H. DOWSON,
NOEL HERBERT WRIGHT.

DEPUTATION FROM THE BURTON SOCIETY TO MR. RAPHAEL.

Mr. H. H. Raphael, late member and present candidate in the Liberal interest for South Derbyshire, was interviewed on Friday, December 9th, by Mrs. Michael Sadler (president), Mrs. Arthur Lambick, and Miss Nicholls, representing the Burton Women's Suffrage Society. Mr. Raphael accorded the deputation a courteous reception at Derby. Though acknowledging the justice of the women's claim to the vote, and the logic of the arguments advanced in its favour, Mr.

Raphael declined to give any promises to support the cause at present, saying that he could not honestly express himself as being in favour of Women's Suffrage.

Members of the New Parliament who voted for the Conciliation Bill

(Concluded.)

Mr. J. H. Whitehouse (L.), *Lanarkshire, Mid.* A member of the Conciliation Committee.
Mr. D. B. Hall (U.), *Isle of Wight.*
Mr. J. King (L.), *Somerset, North.*
Mr. H. W. Pearson (L.), *Eye.*
Mr. W. Johnson (Lab.), *Nuneaton.*
Lieut. P. Kerr-Smiley (U.), *Antrim, North.*
Mr. J. P. Boland (N.), *Kerry, South.*
Colonel Greig (L.), *Renfrewshire, West.*
Mr. A. W. Black (L.), *Biggleswade.*
Mr. G. H. Morgan (L.), *Truro.*
Mr. E. Hayward (L.), *Durham, South-East.*
Mr. H. K. Newton (U.), *Harwich.*
Sir A. Gelder (L.), *Brigg.*
Mr. E. A. Fitzroy (U.), *Northamptonshire, South.*
Mr. J. M. Robertson (L.), *Tyneside.*
Mr. F. Goldsmith (U.), *Stowmarket.*
Mr. B. E. Peto (U.), *Devizes.* A member of the Conciliation Committee.
Mr. W. Brace (Lab.), *Glamorgan, South.*
Mr. A. M. Anderson, K.C. (L.), *Ayrshire, North.*
Mr. J. W. Gulland (L.), *Dumfries Burghs.*
Dr. W. A. Chapple (L.), *Stirlingshire.*
Mr. P. W. Raffan (L.), *Leigh.*
Mr. W. Hunter, K.C. (L.), *Govan.*
Mr. R. Balfour (L.), *Partick.*
Mr. R. V. Harcourt (L.), *Montrose Burghs.*
Capt. P. A. Clive (U.), *Herefordshire, South.*
Mr. A. St. G. Hamersley (U.), *Woodstock.*
Mr. W. C. Bridgeman (U.), *Oswestry.*
Mr. R. A. Sanders (U.), *Bridgwater.*
Mr. A. Stanley (Lab.), *Staffordshire, North-West.*
Colonel R. H. Raws-n (U.), *Reigate.*
Mr. G. L. Courthope (U.), *Rye.*
Mr. A. Henderson (Lab.), *Barnard Castle.*
Mr. J. Williams (Lab.), *Glamorgan.*
Mr. R. B. Haldane, K.C. (L.), *Haddingtonshire.*
Mr. C. N. Nicholson (L.), *Doncaster.*



NEW FÊTE BLOUSE (as sketch), an entirely new idea, in best quality nixon, with wide ribbon of contrasting colour underneath, round the figure and over the shoulders, finished with black ribbon velvet, and lace vest and collar. In black, white, and all shades.

21/9

Debenham & Freebody.

Wigmore Street (Cavendish Square), London, W.

Mr. W. Clough (L.), *Skipton*.
 Mr. H. T. Barrie (U.), *Londonderry, North*.
 Mr. J. M. He derson (L.), *Aberdeenshire, West*.
 Mr. H. Hope (U.), *Buteshire*.
 Mr. J. Falconer (L.), *Forfarshire*.
 Sir W. Menzies (L.), *Lanarkshire*.
 Mr. J. S. Ainsworth (L.), *Argyllshire*.
 Mr. G. C. Marks (L.), *Launceston*.
 Major Morrison-Bell (U.), *Devon, East*.
 Mr. A. Rendall (L.), *Gloucestershire, South*.
 Mr. W. E. Hume Williams, K.C. (U.), *Bassellaw*.
 Capt. G. Sandys (U.), *Wells*.
 Sir Luke White (L.), *Buckrose, Yorks*.
 Mr. W. Abraham (Lab.), *Rhondda*.
 Sir J. H. Bethell (L.), *Romford*.
 Mr. J. M. Macdonald (L.), *Falkirk Burghs*.
 Mr. R. Munro (L.), *Wick Burghs*.
 Mr. M. Keating (N.), *S. Kilkenny*.

The following new members are also known to be favourable to Women's Suffrage:—Mr. F. Goldstone (Lab.), *Sunderland*; Sir R. Pole-Carew (U.), *Bodmin*; Sir Charles Rose (L.), *East Cambs.*; Lord Ninian (U.), *Cardiff*; Mr. A. Marshall (L.), *Wakefield*.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

President: The Bishop of Lincoln.
 Hon. Secretary: Rev. C. Hinscliff.

Offices: 11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

The League has entered upon the second year of its existence with more than a thousand members, and fourteen branches have been established in various parts of the country. The Rev. C. Baumgarten, Vicar of St. George's, Bloomsbury, has kindly lent the church and vestry for the following services and meetings during January:—January 2nd, a meeting of the Central branch, at 4-30; January 6th, The Epiphany, a quiet day; January 30th, the annual meeting of the General Council, etc., 2-30, to be followed by a service. Arrangements are being made for a reception on the evening of January 30th, in order that delegates from the country may have an opportunity of meeting the London members. Particulars as to this will be announced as soon as possible. During the time of the General Election the League held no meetings, save those of a devotional character, and services took place at St. Mark's, Regent's Park (preacher, Rev. Maurice F. Bell), and at the Royal Chapel of the Savoy (preacher, Rev. Hugh B. Chapman). Members of the League also attended an early celebration at St. Paul's.

FORMATION OF A NEW BRANCH.

A branch of the Church League has been formed for Warwick, Leamington, and County, and a committee, representing clergy and laity in these towns and the outlying villages, has been elected. Services will be held in various churches and meetings arranged. The secretary, Mrs. Catlin, Greville Villa, Church Hill, Leamington, would be very glad if any church people in the country districts of Warwickshire who are interested in Women's Suffrage from the religious, ethical, and social point of view, would communicate with her, and she would be pleased to send details of the League.

Membership of other Suffrage Societies does not preclude admission to the Church League, which, dealing as it does with the religious and fundamental aspect of the Women's Movement, leaves the other societies to deal in a practical way with the political side of the question.

Women's Tax Resistance League.

Central Office: 10, Talbot House, St. Martin's Lane.

The new office is now open at 10, Talbot House, St. Martin's Lane, London, W.C. It is four doors from the Duke of York's Theatre, and No. 10 is on the third floor (lift provided). The office hours are 10 to 5, or by appointment with the Secretary, Mrs. Kineton-Parkes.

At the request of many friends who are anxious to help on this very logical protest, Associates to the League have been adopted, and will be heartily welcomed. To be an Associate it is necessary to do all that one possibly can to create resistors among one's women friends who are taxpayers, and to subscribe to the funds.

Limerick Council.

On the 15th December the Corporation of Limerick passed the following resolution *nem. con.*:—"That the Council of the County Borough of Limerick calls upon the Government to give immediate facilities for the passing of a Bill into law granting the franchise to women on the same terms as it is now possessed by men."

Britain Overseas.

Before the recent elections for the South African Union Parliament, the Women's Enfranchisement League sent a letter containing the following questions to every candidate for the Union Parliament and Provincial Council:—

(1) If elected, will you vote for a Bill to extend the franchise to white women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men?

(2) In view of the denial of the franchise to white women in the present Constitution, will you oppose any extension of the franchise to natives?

(3) Will you declare yourself in favour of Women's Suffrage on the above terms in your election address?

(4) Will you sign a requisition to your party leaders asking them to take up this question at the earliest possible moment?

(5) Will you refer to Women's Suffrage in your speeches?

The letter stated that the members of the League would take an active personal part in the campaign, and that they would support any candidate who answered their questions satisfactorily, irrespective of personal or party considerations.

General Botha replied that he was in favour of women's enfranchisement, but that he did not think the time was opportune for bringing it forward.

Of the candidates for the Union Parliament who replied, most answered the questions unconditionally in the affirmative. A few stated that they approved of the enfranchisement of white women, but did not think it should be made an important issue of the first general election, especially as the general opinion of women on the question was not known. Of the two candidates who answered unfavourably, one stated that, though personally not in favour, he would refrain from opposing the extension of the franchise to women, and the other stated that he recognised that on the grounds of abstract justice the women had an excellent case.

Of the candidates for Provincial Council, only one gave an entirely unsatisfactory answer to the questions, and most answered all the questions in the affirmative.

The Beit Fellowship.

Miss Annie Homer, of West Bromwich, has just been awarded one of the Beit Fellowships for Medical Research. Miss Homer, who was born in 1882, was a scholar of Newnham College, Cambridge, where she took first-class honours in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos. Since then she has held studentships and a fellowship at Newnham, has pursued research work, and taught as a demonstrator in chemistry.

She proposes to conduct her research under the Beit Fellowship at the Physiological and Chemical Laboratories in Cambridge, and the subject matter is to be:—"The Chemistry and Physiology of Tryptophane," "The Metabolism and Chemistry of Hæmoglobin in so far as they bear on its production in the animal body." "The comparison of normal and pathological tissues as regards their contents of intracellular ferments."

Miss Homer is said to be a fine swimmer and a good tennis player.

Reviews.

THE MAGAZINES.

In the two November numbers of *La Revue*, M. Jean Finot has an article on the emancipation of women entitled, "The Death of the Eternal Feminine," in which he urges the right of women to work and to develop, and predicts for the future a far more attractive, as well as far more efficient, womanhood.

The Forum for November has an article on "Votes for Women in England," by Archibald Henderson, giving an account of the militant movement, and of the Government's opposition, and predicting that the growing momentum of the cause will very soon make it irresistible.

In *The Westminster Review* for December, Joseph Strauss writes on "Women's Position in Jewry," ancient and modern, maintaining that it should command universal approval and admiration on account of its lofty and dignified standard. He recalls the fact that in Jewry women have always been held capable of occupying the highest offices in the State, and that Moses (Num. xxvii., 1-10) actually contravened ancient custom in order to enable the brotherless daughters of Zelophahad to inherit and possess property. In the same review, A. B. Wallis Chapman has an article on "The Right to Vote," urging the acknowledgment of equal rights for men and women, and suggesting examination suffrage at the age of twenty-five (*e.g.*, test by simple questions which every voter should be able to answer), and Adult Suffrage at forty-five.

Miss Edith Sellers writes in the November *Cornhill* on the unemployed, blaming the State for the lack of technical training in its County Council and other schools, and showing a much better condition of things in Germany and Hungary, and in South Australia.

"The Lady Summarised" concludes Mrs. G. H. Putnam's interesting series of articles in *The Contemporary Review*, and appears in the December number. The writer points out that the unsocial training and experience of the lady through the ages constitutes a certain danger, and that "women in industry need a very special sort of opportunity if the race is not to suffer." She traces the lady's history down to the present day, and predicts her possible extinction by an ad-

WEST HEATH SCHOOL, HAMPSTEAD.

A School where Boys and Girls are educated together, and where they learn the respect for each other and gain the wholesome and natural knowledge of one another which is a foundation for all that is best in the mutual relations of men and women. Children are received from the ages of six to eighteen; thus obviating the disastrous break, at 13 or 14 years of age, in the continuity of their intellectual work, which is a necessity (for moral reasons) in schools where boys and girls are separated from one another.

At West Heath School the boys and girls share each other's pursuits, whether in work, games, or leisure. They have, in fact, in this respect the freedom of a large family, in conjunction with the help due to the supervision of a staff of experienced educationists. At the same time, the even proportion in the staff of men and women gives ample opportunity for the association of boys with men and of girls with women which must be an inherent characteristic of any true system of co-Education. Where boys and girls are thus brought up, false ideas as to predominance find no acceptance, and a standard, honest in being alike for all, is upheld.

Particulars from the Principal.

Reference allowed to:—

The Rev. Canon Scott-Holland, D.D., St. Paul's, E.C.; and Dr. Jane Walker, 122, Harley Street, W.

vancing social sentiment. In the same number Mary Longman writes on "Children's Care Committees," established by the London County Council, and points out that they have so far failed because as a rule the voluntary workers who compose them are either inadequately qualified or are too busy to attend to the work. The writer suggests that the County Council should establish a trained and official Children's Care Department, which would aid and co-operate with efficient Care Committees. Inefficient ones would then soon die out.

In *The Nineteenth Century* for December appears "The Married Working Woman: A Study," by Anna Martin. The writer lays stress on the fact of the mental superiority of the wife to the husband in this class, and gives a remarkable account of the domestic resourcefulness and organising power of the wife of the average working man.

A useful little compilation is published by the Lotus Press, Dundee, and entitled "LEARN OF ME WHAT WOMAN IS" (pp. 80. 6d.). It is a collection of the venomous things in prose and verse that have been said about Woman (with a capital W). Here we find Mr. Kipling complaining of the want of "understanding" in women, Byron jeering at their inconstancy, Dr. Johnson at their ungracefulness, Swift at their change of lovers. Pot calls Kettle black with immense verve, and insists that the blackness is part and parcel of the very nature of Kettle, whereas "every woman knows" that there are aluminium kettles and copper kettles, and even pure silver kettles, and that the blackness (where it exists) is caused by the fire. One little rhyme quoted puts the matter in a nutshell:

"Men have many faults;
 Poor women have but two:
 There's nothing good they say,
 And nothing right they do."

Such a collection of envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness towards men could never be found among women writers.

One protest we must make against the form of the compilation, and that is against the attribution to authors of the remarks made by their characters. So Olive Schreiner is actually credited with saying that "When men and women are equal they will love no more,"—a bad blunder.

The Perfect Heart.

Look not to Eden for the perfect heart
 That shall achieve the glory of our race!

Man's noblest form is but a work of art
 And swiftly fadeth woman's loveliest face.

Rust feeds upon the honour of the sword
 And the swift shuttle's mastered by the moth.

Suns pale and pass like labour's golden hoard
 And castles crumble like poor painted cloth.

Only man's heart toils on—but now too long
 In crippled majesty with limping gait:

The hour hath struck to raise a battle-song
 Of nobler note and face the blows of Fate

Armed with a heart wrought on a grander plan,
 In equal parts of woman and of man.

WILLIAM K. HILL.

Correspondence.

Correspondents are requested to send their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for any statement made in the correspondence column.
 Correspondents are requested to write one side of the paper only.

THE LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN.

To the Editor "Common Cause."

Madam,—Might I suggest that before the next Parliament assembles the members of the various branches of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies should make it their business to leave pamphlets on the legal status of women at the different houses in their respective centres? It seems to me that that would be a piece of true missionary work, as so few people of either sex know how we women stand under the law. The Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association has issued an excellent little leaflet entitled "The Unjust Laws of England as they Affect Women," and surely in our Society there must be something similar. There can be few women, whether Suffragists or anti-Suffragists, who, on reading of the true state of affairs, would not smart under a sense of injustice and humiliation, and few good men who would not be moved to indignation and shame. Let us Suffragists see to it that between now and the next Parliament as many as possible of the householders in our different centres shall be the recipients of one such pamphlet.—Yours,
 T. G.

Parkstone, Dorset, Dec. 2, 1910.

THE NEGLIGIBLE QUANTITY.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—On December 6th the "Birmingham Daily Post" published, under the heading, "Rome Rule in Ireland," a pitious story of wrong done to a wife and mother. The woman was a Protestant, and had been married to her husband—a Roman Catholic—in a Presbyterian chapel. After a period of happy married life, the man, under pressure from his priest, demanded that his wife should change her faith and be re-married according to Roman Catholic rites. Because she would not do this her two children were stolen from her by her deserting husband, who left her without any clue to his or their whereabouts.

The apparent purpose for which the story was published was to arouse feeling against the Catholic priest who had excited the man to his atrocious behaviour, and so to create prejudice against Home Rule in Ireland. An animated correspondence between Catholics and Protestants followed, in which the writers repeatedly and correctly pointed out that the man, by British law, has power to bring up his children in any religious faith he chooses, that he was "quite a law-abiding subject and absolutely within his legal rights in the matter."

The whole question at issue was attack and defence of the action of the Catholic Church. No criticism was even hinted of the British law, by which such treatment of wives and mothers is sanctioned and upheld—that law which, we are constantly told, so favours women that it is wholly unreasonable of them to claim any power to modify or reform it; nor would the "Birmingham Daily Post" insert my letter directing attention to this aspect of the affair.

What is the difference in moral responsibility between the Englishman who makes and maintains such a law, and the Irishman who takes advantage of it?

A similar example of the insensitiveness of politicians to injustice which affects women only is afforded by the agitation over the Osborne Judgment. Legal authority has pronounced it inadmissible to provide for the expenses of members of Parliament from the contributions of men whose views they may not represent. But, lest Labour representation should suffer, Mr. Asquith promptly undertakes to bring in a Bill for payment of members by the State; utterly indifferent to the fact that the money so paid will be compulsorily taken not from men only but also from women, who can in no case be represented by those they must help to support. Doubtless this grievance will be considered as unimportant as was the taxing of voteless women at Worcester a few years ago to pay the cost of the Men's Bribery Commission.—Yours,

CATHERINE C. OSLER.

Birmingham, December, 1910.

WOMEN SCRUTINEERS.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I am anxious to know if the following experiences are unique, or whether other women have had the same privileges that I have just enjoyed in the Chichester Division of Sussex. I was engaged as sub-agent by the Liberal candidate, who pledged himself to Suffrage to the satisfaction of the committee of the Forward Suffrage Union. I was in charge of two districts, and everywhere I found the most perfect loyalty and good-fellowship among the local Liberals. In every speech I made I mentioned the Suffrage, of course, and on most occasions the other speakers also spoke in favour, amid applause. In one district the man who had been sub-agent in January, and whom I had therefore displaced, worked day and night gratuitously, and overwhelmed me with kindness.

When the time came to appoint counting agents I asked Mr. Reiss if I might be among them. He agreed most readily, and when I explained that we had been fighting the Under Sheriff since 1895 in another division of Sussex, first to get women into the counting hall and then to get them actually to take part in the count, he became enthusiastic. He also appointed Miss Florence Cook, and we went into the hall, took our seats, and proceeded. The Under Sheriff gasped, rushed up to the candidate, and said: "Mr. Reiss, do you seriously mean to tell me that you expect me to allow lady scrutineers?" Mr. Reiss said that if objection was raised to his counting agents, he was willing to withdraw them if Lord Edmund also withdrew his! The count would then have taken at least twice as long, and the Under Sheriff gave way. He consoled himself by glaring fiercely at us and addressing us pointedly as "Gentlemen."

I should be most interested to know if women have taken part in the count at any previous Parliamentary election. It is certainly entirely owing to the liberal action of Mr. Richard Reiss that this distinct advance has been made in Sussex. I cannot urge Suffragists too strongly to help him at any future occasion. He is just the sort of man whom, party politics apart, we want to see in Parliament.—Yours,

CICELY DEAN CORBETT.

[Women have certainly been present at the counts in every election where a Women's Suffrage candidate has stood for election.—Ed. "C. C."]

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to-day

SUFFRAGE CANDIDATES.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Everyone must agree with Miss O'Shea's sensible and lucid letter in your issue of the 15th of December. If she National Union intends to pursue the policy of running Women's Suffrage candidates—and at two Council meetings has the policy been adopted, first in London in March, and then at Keswick, where a resolution was passed urging immediate action,—then it is essential that constituencies be carefully chosen and well worked beforehand. Forlorn hopes are most necessary at times, and they achieve more than can be either measured or weighed by any material standard. But a campaign cannot be won by forlorn hopes, nor by allowing each regiment to attach when and where it pleases. Miss O'Shea is right. A great national policy such as this must be directed from a centre. Our first object is to put our own supporters into Parliament. Our second object is to turn our opponents out; and it is obvious that this can best be attained where an Anti-Suffragist holds a seat by a narrow majority. There are scores of such seats at the present moment, where the sitting member is either actively opposed or so hazy in his views as to be practically useless. I, for one, support with all my heart Miss O'Shea's proposal that a Special Committee be appointed to choose suitable constituencies, and, in conjunction with the federations and the societies, to begin work at once, so that whether the general election come in six months' time, or sooner, we shall be found ready.—Yours,

ELSIE MAUD INGLIS

8, Walker Street, Edinburgh, December 17th, 1910.

ORGANIZING THE PARTIES FOR SUFFRAGE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—The failure in two constituencies of our policy of running Women's Suffrage candidates, and the defeat in many other constituencies of the party candidate supported by our Union, ought to make us reconsider our election policy; and surely now is the time to do this, whilst our experiences at this election are still fresh in our minds.

I should like to point out some of the merits of a scheme which I suggested tentatively in a letter to "The Common Cause" of November 24th. We put it into practice on a small scale in our area, and the warm approval it received on all sides makes one think that it might be very effective if carried out systematically. Like all election work, it depends for its success on thorough and detailed organization beforehand. It involves no new policy; it is simply an ex-

tended application of our old policy of supporting our friends and opposing our enemies, but by taking the Federation instead of the individual society as the basis of organisation, more effective results can be obtained.

For a brief description of the scheme I quote from a letter in the "Times" of November 30th, signed by Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Mason:—"A and B are two constituencies. In A the Conservative candidate is a Suffragist and the Liberal candidate is an Anti-Suffragist. In B the position is reversed. All the Liberal Suffragists in A go and work in B, and all the Conservative Suffragists in B go and work in A, thus securing the maximum of support for the Suffragist candidate and the maximum opposition for the Anti-Suffragist candidate in each constituency."

By this plan we get the help of—

- (1) Suffragists who put the Suffrage before everything else, and would co-operate in any scheme adopted by the National Union.
- (2) People who are quite keen Suffragists, but would not co-operate in any scheme which involved desertion of their party. (Two of the keenest party men I know immediately offered to put their services at our disposal if we were going to work on those lines.)
- (3) People who are not keen enough either for Women's Suffrage or for their party, taken singly, to do active election work, but who might be spurred to activity by the prospect of helping both at the same time.

The action of each person who refuses to work in one constituency and goes to work in another has a fourfold effect; thus if X, a Liberal living in A, goes to work in B, she (or he) writes to—

- (1) The Liberal candidate in A, saying she cannot work for him because he will not pledge himself to support the Conciliation Bill.
- (2) The Conservative candidate in B, saying she will not work against him, because he has pledged himself to support the Bill.
- (3) The Liberal candidate in B, saying why she is going out of her way to work for him.
- (4) The Conservative candidate in A, saying why she is going out of her way to work against him.

(The agents, as well as the candidates, should be written to in each case.)

Looking at the scheme from the candidates' point of view, every Suffragist candidate receives letters—

- (1) From the Suffragists in his constituency who are refraining from opposing him.
- (2) From the Suffragists in other constituencies who are coming to help him.

And every Anti-Suffragist candidate receives letters—

- (1) From the Suffragists in his constituency who are refusing to work for him.
- (2) From the Suffragists in other constituencies who are coming to work for his opponent.

Of course, the action of one or two individuals will not be very formidable, but the co-operative action of a number of individuals would have considerable effect, especially if the loan of motor-cars were offered and withheld in the same way. This plan of campaign would be easier to carry out in adjacent boroughs than in county constituencies, as the transference of workers from one constituency to another is difficult when distances are great; but even in country districts a good deal might be done by organizing hospitality and making arrangements long enough beforehand.—Yours,

CATHERINE E. MARSHALL.

Hawse End, Keswick, December 17.

TAX RESISTANCE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I was extremely interested in the letter in your last issue from a correspondent who signs herself A. Sharp.

Much that she says about tax resistance and its power as a logical protest is so excellent and so valuable that I should like, if I may, to take exception to one of her statements. I refer to her criticism of the Women's Tax Resistance League. I can only say that no lady of that name has been here to consult me, but that I should most gladly welcome a visit from

her. I shall be very pleased to answer all the interesting and very necessary questions she has raised with regard to "Imperial Taxation," and to give her own reasons for not including the local rates in our resistance. I will also be delighted to give her full information with respect to methods of procedure, and with regard to restraint and the other queries she raises.

True, the League is, as your correspondent points out, "in its infancy," but at the same time I should not like any of your readers, many of whom are our ardent supporters, to imagine for one moment that women such as we have on our committee would have embarked upon so serious an enterprise without having taken the very best legal advice from various sources.

If Miss Sharp belongs to a provincial branch of the National Union I would gladly go down there to speak, as I have done at various places in answer to the invitations of local secretaries. They tell me that their members are anxious to hear all about tax resistance before the Council meetings in January, in order that they may then feel competent to take part in the debate.—Yours,

MARGARET KINETON PARKES.

Women's Tax Resistance League,
10, Talbot House, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.

THE ARTISTS' LEAGUE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I should be very grateful if you would allow me space to say one or two things about Suffrage posters.

The Artists' Suffrage League has published in all ten of these, and I can quite believe people are pretty tired of many of them, as, indeed, we are ourselves. I have been asked why we did not issue new ones for this last general election; it is this question that I want to answer. I need not dwell on the unexpectedness of the election when it finally burst on us, and the hurry with which the whole matter has been conducted. Such haste, however, affects nothing more than placards, as all observers may have noted for themselves. Apart from this, our Society cannot well issue many new posters till it disposes of the old ones. Coloured posters are expensive. To be able to sell them at 4d. each (without making any profit) we are obliged to have at least 1,000 copies printed at the same time. Now, these copies sell off very slowly. When a society has ordered six of each sort it feels it has sent a large order, and that particular society probably wants no more for six months. But six copies of one design makes a very small inroad into a thousand. It takes us from one to two years to sell 1,000 copies. We have laid out on this design ten to fourteen pounds, say, and this sum comes back in dribbles; we cannot print new posters till our money returns, or till we have amassed large profits on selling postcards, or other objects.

If people would purchase posters in hundreds and really post them on hoardings we should soon get through our 10,000 copies, and I think then we should not be remiss about producing new designs. One or two generous people sent the Artists' League money for posting 200 posters in East St. Pancras. I think myself this money was well bestowed—people really look a great deal at the pictures on the hoardings. For the information of anyone who may meditate a like extravagance, I may say that a quad-crown poster (price 4d.) costs in a general way 4d. a week to post.

It is known to your readers that the Artists' League issued one new poster for their election, "Votes for Mothers." It was rather an expensive one to produce, and we were obliged to have 2,000 copies at once to enable us to sell it at 4d. We hope very much it will be bought up quickly.

F. LUDICKE,

LADIES' HAIRDRESSER AND SPECIALIST IN ARTISTIC HAIR
WORK, COLOURING AND TREATMENT OF THE HAIR,
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LONDON.Well-appointed and commodious TEMPERANCE HOTEL,
offering all the conveniences and advantages of the larger
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Bathrooms on every Floor.
Perfect Sanitation. Passenger Lifts.
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D'HOTE BREAKFAST, SINGLE,
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Full Tariff and Testimonials on application.Lounges and Spacious Dining, Drawing,
Writing, Reading, Billiard, and
Smoking Rooms.

In conclusion, may I earnestly beg anyone who has a good idea for a poster or leaflet to be sure and send it to us without delay. If it is a really good notion we will certainly bring it out somehow. Such a suggestion should be capable of illustration by not more than three figures. We do not depict drunken men.—Yours,

MARY LOWNDES.

SUFFRAGE OR PARTY.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—The members of the National Union have always been given to understand that it was not a party organization, nor "The Common Cause" a party paper.

But I consider our confidence has been greatly abused by the article headed "Words, Words, Words," in the issue of December 8th. The Liberal Government may not have done all that we thought it ought or might, but it has done more than any other to help in social reforms. Considering what vast arrears of social-reform work was waiting to be done—not touched by the Conservatives, though so long in power,—I consider they have done heroic work, especially as they have not had fair play from the Lords.

It is not only the Ministerial party who have used the words (and with sincerity) of "Fair Play, Representative Institutions, The Will of the People," etc., but the Conservatives have taken these words from them, which are not sincere when used by them, as past history shows.

The Liberal party have done better work for the nation in five years than the Conservatives in ten, and if their only work had been the bringing of peace and goodwill in South Africa, that alone should make us feel grateful to them. But this was only one of several benefits. Our (the Liberal) leaders have not failed to lead!

I sincerely hope that in future we shall not see in "The Common Cause" either party attacked as a party, because those of us who are members of either resent very much that the honesty and sincerity of those who lead us should be called in question in this bitter manner.—Yours,

NINI SAYERS

(A member of the N.U.W.S.S. since its commencement).
Springfield, Coriton Road, Ealing, December 14th, 1910.

[We are somewhat entertained at the "non-party" style of our angry correspondent. In the article to which she refers, the professions of three Cabinet Ministers were tested by the degree in which they had carried them out with regard to the women's claim to enfranchisement, and, by this test, they were found to be hollow. Not one word was said about any party question whatever, nor was the Liberal party attacked, as a party. A Suffragist who feels no indignation at a Government which deliberately destroys the only practicable Suffrage Bill, does not put Suffrage first. The National Union and the organ of the National Union do.—Ed. "C. C."]

(We are obliged to hold over a number of letters.)

Reports of Societies within the National Union.

Secretaries would simplify the work by sending in notices of FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, endorsed with those words, with time, place, and speakers legibly written, on one side of the paper only, and on a sheet of paper separate from other matter. (The following were unavoidably held over last week.)

BRISTOL.

On December 6 a meeting was held under the auspices of the Conservative and Unionist W.P.A. and the N.U.W.S.S. The principal speaker was the Earl of Lytton. In the unavoidable absence of Miss Frances Sterling, Mr. W. C. H. Cross took the chair. At the beginning of the meeting a "Song of Freedom," written by Miss S. T. Tanner, was sung to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne."

The Earl of Lytton said the election was very illuminating on the position and arguments in favour of Women's Suffrage. He dealt with the Conciliation Bill, and showed that it would enfranchise chiefly working women.

A luncheon was given to Lord Lytton by the Men's League the next day.

On Thursday, December 8th, Miss J. M. Baretta went by invitation to a debating society at the Manor House, Easton, to open a debate on Women's Suffrage. No vote was taken, but a good discussion followed Miss Baretta's excellent address. Miss Tanner and Mrs. H. T. Willis supported Miss Baretta.

On Friday, December 9th, Mrs. W. C. H. Cross went by invitation to a debate at St. Bartholomew's Parish Hall, Bishopston. Her opponent was Miss Stuart, of London. The subject was new to the debating society, but much interest was excited, and there was a spirited discussion. The Suffrage resolution was lost, only members voting, but Mrs. Cross had a very good reception. She was supported by Mr. F. W. Rogers and Miss Tanner.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT.

At Pembroke Terrace Debating Society Dr. Eric Evans gave an address on "The Advantage of the Granting of the Parliamentary Franchise to Women will be to the State." She showed how the inferior economic condition of women is detrimental not only to women, but to men and to the coming generation, and how impossible it is to legislate adequately for the welfare of children

till women have a voice in legislation, especially in legislation which is concerned with adolescence.

At the Literary and Debating Society of Abertridwr, Miss Barke, M.A., gave an address on Women's Suffrage. Dr. Burke was in the chair. This was the first of the kind in the district, so Miss Barke gave the history of the movement, and explained the justice and the need of the reform in her usual lucid style. The audience, which numbered about seventy, with a majority of men, gave a fair-minded hearing. We have great hopes of Abertridwr.

Our Forest of Trees attracted large crowds to the Park Hall. It was declared open by our president, Mrs. Lewis. It was a charming sight, and many visitors said how impressed they were by the amount of work there must have been behind it. Twenty-two huge Christmas trees, each bearing over 100 gifts; stalls laden with fancy-work, toy shops, games; children's dances; pierrots; a lady palmist; and, last but not least, "How the Vote was Won," cleverly performed by some members of the W.F.L. Such were the attractions which made our Forest of Trees a success. One end of the hall had been screened off as a refreshment room, and was much patronised. The educative side was not forgotten. N.U.W.S.S. pamphlets and badges were sold in large quantities, also eighty "Common Causes" over 600 Christmas cards, postcards, and calendars published by the Artists' League, the Suffrage Atelier, Nottingham W.S.S., and others. There was much demand for leaflets, which were given away free. Members were enrolled, and others became subscribers to "The Common Cause." Donors and helpers are too many to be mentioned by name, but each of them has a right to the gratitude of all, whether she sent generous gifts, or stood by a dazzling Christmas tree, or, in a curtailed-off recess assumed the more humble but indispensable duties of the kitchen.

COLWYN BAY.

A successful monthly meeting was held on Monday night at Cartmell's Café. Mr. Kettlewell kindly presided, and Miss Kenyon and Dr. Blake took part in an interesting debate on "Shall Women have the Vote?" Miss Kenyon took the affirmative. Her paper was very interesting, and she said the vote ought to be granted to women simply as a matter of justice. Dr. Blake opposed the resolution in an amusing and humorous paper. Before putting the resolution to the meeting there was a discussion, and several questions were asked, and answered by the speakers, and then the resolution was carried without a dissentient. Several copies of "The Common Cause" were sold.

CRONDALL AND CROOKHAM.

A most interesting meeting was held in Crookham School on Saturday, December 3rd. It was addressed by Dr. Flora Murray and Miss Milton, secretary of the Farnham Branch. The Rev. A. W. Creed took the chair. Only forty people were present, but as it was

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the first public meeting since the branch was started, it was quite a fair beginning.

INVERNESS.

The Inverness Society have been busy preparing for its first Suffrage Sale, which was held on December 17th. A plum-pudding "Bee" was held in the kitchen of one of the members of Committee, at which in two days thirty plum puddings were made for the sale.

The Nairn and Elgin Societies contributed to this sale, and sent a contingent of helpers.

MARPLE BRIDGE.

On Tuesday, November 29th, a public meeting was held in the Congregational Hall. In spite of cold, foggy weather a good audience assembled to hear Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., and C. H. Burden, Esq., B.Sc.

Miss Robertson gave a fine address on the "Enormous Revolution" which had taken place in the position and status of women, and dealt with the ethical side of the enfranchisement of women. Mr. Burden's speech was greatly enjoyed and appreciated, and we all felt encouraged.

The chair was taken by our president, Miss Ker. A vote of thanks to the speakers was proposed by Mrs. Leonard, and seconded by Mr. Percy Redfern. Several new members joined the Society.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Societies held a bazaar on Friday, December 2nd, at 3, Osborne Terrace, Newcastle, by the kind permission of Dr. Ethel Williams and Miss Harcastle. Lady Howick very kindly opened the sale, which proved most successful, the proceeds amounting to £65.

On December 7th a social evening was arranged by Miss Bury in the Bridge End Assembly Rooms, Heaton, and although the attendance was not large, several new members were enrolled. Rev. E. Harris presided, and speeches were given by Mrs. Harrison Bell and Mr. Foster. An excellent musical programme was provided by Mr. and the Misses Adamson and Miss Parkinson, whilst the Gateshead Society performed a Suffrage play, "Hard Lines," written by Mrs. Hutchinson.

PEEBLES.

On Monday, November 28th, a meeting, crowded to overflowing, from which latecomers were turned away, was held in the Chamber's Town Hall, seated for 600. Miss Abadam and Dr. Elsie Inglis addressed an enthusiastic audience, largely composed of women householders, who had been previously canvassed by post-cards. The speeches made a deep impression. Few people had realised the urgent need for reform in the conditions of women's labour.

The chair was taken by the Provost J. A. Ballantyne, Esq., a prominent local Liberal, and a sympathetic letter was read from Major Thorburn, a keen Conservative. This emphasised our non-party attitude. Several new members joined the Society, which has now affiliated to the N.U., and a few dozen "Common Causes" were sold. An excellent report in the local paper should do much to encourage new members.

SHREWSBURY.

A very successful meeting was held in the Music Hall, Shrewsbury, on Wednesday, December 7th. Mrs. Harley, who presided, explained why we had supported Mr. Pace, the Liberal and Labour candidate, at the recent election, and showed that although our action had been greatly criticised, it was merely in accord with the N.U. policy. Miss Margaret Ashton's fine inspiring speech was received with loud and ringing applause, whilst Dr. McCombie's excellent and well-reasoned address was eagerly listened to. The Rev. J. C. Street, in seconding a vote of thanks to the speakers, which Mrs. Harley had moved, referred in sympathetic terms to the "prompt and courageous action" of the Society and its officers in helping Mr. Pace, who, three days before the election, had come forward against Sir C. Hill, the sitting member.

THREE TOWNS AND DISTRICT.

Miss Maud Slater gave a splendid address at our usual Thursday monthly meeting, which was not as well attended as might be. Election fever is gone. Miss Willcocks also spoke. In the afternoon Mrs. Holman Andrew gave an At Home to members to give them an opportunity of doing their share—i.e., paying the expenses of election campaign, which amount to £15. We got a small collection, but we want more.

"Common Causes" sold fairly well at all the meetings.

WALLASEY AND WIRRAL.

The performances for the Actresses' Franchise League were very successful indeed, the plays being "An Englishwoman's Home," "The Apple," and "How the Vote was Won." The hall was well filled, considering that the same night the Liberal candidate, Mr. Ashton, K.C., was addressing his first meeting.

On Wednesday, December 7th, we had at our social study circle an address by Mr. Phillips, the Anti-Suffrage organiser. We hope to be able to get him to more meetings. An Anti-Suffrage speaker is the best means of stiffening the backs of wobblers, or of making the not very keen Suffragist a useful member of the Society.

WHITBY.

On the eve of the General Election, with two political meetings on the same night, Whitby held the largest meeting on Women's Suffrage ever held in the town. Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., had kindly come to address the meeting, supported by Mrs. Merivale Mayer. The chair was taken by Mr. Channing Heron. Sir John Cockburn attributed the disorders of the militants to those who remain stationary, or try to impede the course of the tide of a progressive movement. He begged his audience to use their own judgment, and not blindly to follow their party leaders. This was a constructive age, and in such a period the help of women was needed.

Mrs. Mayer was followed with close attention. She explained how disastrous to the position of the man worker is the existence of the unfranchised woman worker, and how short-sighted the policy that would keep her in that state.

WIGAN AND DISTRICT.

A members' meeting was held in the Hope Schools, Wigan, on Wednesday, December 7th, at 7.30. Miss Ashworth, of Bury, addressed the meeting. Unfortunately the audience was small, owing in all probability to the election excitement in the town not having abated. Mrs. Lamb took the chair. Miss Ashworth gave an excellent address, bringing in very ably the different aspects of Women's Suffrage, from the point of view of the sheltered woman and from that of the woman who earns her own living. She also gave an interesting account of her life in India when holding a Government appointment there. She said the state of woman there had made her feel the necessity for the vote as a means of raising the moral tone and of creating a different attitude of mind towards women.

The meeting concluded with various votes of thanks to Miss Ashworth and Mrs. Lamb. A number of "Common Causes" were sold, and two new members were enrolled.

BIRMINGHAM.

A meeting of the Franchise Club was held on December 9th, and the reports submitted show that the work is progressing in a satisfactory manner.

Copies of "The Common Cause" are being distributed weekly by members of the Franchise Club. There are now twenty-one Circle secretaries, and voluntary organisers have undertaken work in Harborne, Bournville, Handsworth, Balsall Heath, and part of Edgbaston.

The result of propaganda work done during the election has been a demand for meetings, which will be arranged early in the New Year.

The members of the speakers' class are preparing to address cottage meetings, girls' clubs, and mothers' meetings on Suffrage questions. We have sold a great number of the various beautiful Suffrage Christmas cards and calendars, as affording a delicate and charming way of drawing attention to our cause.

The Secretary of the newly formed Society at Sutton Coldfield reports a total membership of seventy. Much valuable work is being done at Harborne, where Mrs. Merritt-Hawkes is acting as hon. organiser.

New work has been planned for 1911, including cottage meetings and the sending of speakers to girls' clubs.

BIRMINGHAM—SUTTON COLDFIELD.

Our Society, which has only just been formed, held its first At Home at the Town Hall on Monday evening, December 12th. We feel very much encouraged with the success of the gathering. There were 160 guests present. Miss Earl (president) took the chair.

The speakers were Mrs. Ring, Mr. Julian Osler, and Mr. Matthews. They were all such excellent exponents of the Suffrage question that it is impossible to single out any special items for notice. A vote of thanks to the speakers was proposed by Councillor Rathbone, who expressed himself in full sympathy with the movement. This was seconded by Miss Edwards. The platform and tables were artistically decorated with plants and flowers, red, white, and green, the colours of the Union, only being used. Refreshments, all home-made, were provided by the members. Miss Buckler disposed of fifty copies of "The Common Cause," and at the end of the meeting we had the pleasure of adding twenty-five new names to our number.

BOURNEMOUTH.

This branch held their monthly public meeting in St. Peter's Hall on the evening of December 12th, when Laurence Housman, Esq., was the speaker. In spite of the dreadful weather, and the fact that Mr. Winston Churchill was speaking in the neighbourhood, between 200 and 300 members and friends attended, and a delightful evening was spent. Mrs. Edison took the chair. Several new members joined the branch, and a good collection was taken. Some literature and three dozen "Common Causes" were sold. The weekly At Home will begin on January 3rd with a social.

(We are again obliged to hold over nearly all the new reports.)

Forthcoming Meetings.

IMPORTANT To Branch Secretaries.

In order to ensure accuracy in the announcements of forthcoming meetings, and in response to the wishes of readers, the Editor of "The Common Cause" begs to announce that—

After December 31st, 1910, no announcement of a meeting will be inserted unless it includes: Full address (for a drawing-room meeting the address is optional, but the name of the hostess should be given), date, hour.

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