

The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

Women's Suffrage

Societies.

VOL. III. No. 112. Registered as
a Newspaper.

JUNE 1, 1911.

ONE PENNY.

Notes and Comments.

Monday's Answer.

The anxiously expected answer of the Government to our demand for facilities this session to pass the remaining stages of the Conciliation Bill is given on page 135. It amounts merely to a re-iteration of Mr. Asquith's pledge that facilities for proceeding effectively

earning and therefore personally insured. We hope soon to deal with the matter at greater length but meanwhile we hope that men and women will ponder the situation and the state of mind revealed. It would, he said, "impose a burden on the rest of the fund" to include wives and mothers and therefore they could not be included. That is to say, unless maidens are, upon marriage, deprived of the benefit of their compulsory insurance, widows, (even when they go out to work)



THE EIGHTH SQUARE.

[This year a Women's Suffrage Bill passed its Second Reading for the seventh time.]

"I know what you'd like!" said the Queen good-naturedly, taking a little box out of her pocket. "Have a biscuit?" Alice thought it would not be civil to say "No," though it wasn't at all what she wanted. So she took it and ate it as well as she could: and it was *very* dry; and she thought she had never been so nearly choked in all her life.

* * * * *

" But you make no remark?"

"I—I didn't know I had to make one—just then," Alice faltered out.

"You *should* have said," the Queen went on in a tone of grave reproof, "'It's extremely kind of you to tell me all this'—however, we'll suppose it's said—the Seventh Square is all forest—however, one of the Knights will show you the way—and in the Eighth Square we shall be Queens together, and it's all feasting and fun!"

shall be given in *this Parliament*. This is not enough. The Government must do better than that.

A First Charge on the State.

We draw the attention of our readers to the reply (p. 135) made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to a question on the subject of the exclusion of married women and widows from benefit, unless actually wage-

cannot be received again into benefit. The maidens, out of their small wages, are to pay for the widows. Why? Because the work of a wife and mother has no money value. Politicians talk a great deal about the value of this work when they want to get it out of the women, but when its recognition means taxing men, they regret that it is impossible to "impose a burden on the rest of the fund." When will they see that the care of mothers and babes should be a first charge on the State?

Women and the Insurance Bill.

We publish elsewhere an account of a meeting of the Fabian Women's Group to discuss the Insurance Bill. It is a quaint commentary on the contention that married women would suffer under an instalment of justice like the Conciliation Bill, that two of the speeches most clearly pointing out the injustice of the Bill towards married women should have been by Miss MacArthur and Miss Llewelyn Davies. The truth is of course that women do not cease to be women when they marry and a woman, whether married or single, will understand other women's lives better, anyhow, than most men can.

We recommend an article by R.C.K.E. in the "Manchester Guardian" of Friday, 26th May, on the "Position of Women in the Insurance Bill"; also a letter by Miss Llewelyn Davies and Miss Harris in the issue of Monday, 29th.

A Futile Assembly.

The Women's Liberal Association held its Council meeting last week in London and a resolution supporting the Conciliation Bill as well as an amendment requiring it to be widened in committee was lost.

We are inclined to agree with the "Manchester Guardian" in the view that the Women's Liberal Association is "not a very important body," and therefore that it should do anything quite so futile (in the words of Mrs. Massie) as "agree to differ" on the burning question of women's suffrage is not a matter of great importance. The result was, as might have been expected, that the Adultists failed to carry their amendment but succeeded in wrecking the resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill and such a result would, one presumes, be satisfactory only to the Antis. This is an illustration in small of what would occur if the extreme Adultists insisted upon being uncompromising—they can't pass their own measure, but they may (with an Anti-Suffrage Premier) wreck ours. They could not do it, of course, with a really Liberal Premier, but Mr. Asquith is quite astute enough to make use of them for his own purposes.

Women's Wages in the Colonies.

A Reuter's telegram declares that the Government of New South Wales has fixed the minimum wage for all women employed under Government at £110 per annum. By a coincidence Mr. Philip Snowden's Civil Service (Women) Act will come on for Second Reading on Thursday, June 1st. It proposes to throw open all Civil Service clerkships and writerships in Great Britain to women, and also secures for them absolute equality of remuneration with male Civil Servants.

Taking one of the chief branches of Civil Service work—the Post Office, the wage of male and female employees at present compare very unfavourably. The lowest wage for men sorters is 20s. per week, rising to 62s., for women it is 14s., rising to 30s. a week. Male telegraphists start at 18s., and rise to 65s., but women start at 16s. and rise only to 40s. In second division clerkships men's maximum salary is £250 and women's £100. The work they perform is practically the same.

Mr. Hilaire Belloc at Dorking.

Mr. Hilaire Belloc, departing from what we believe is his usual custom, spoke at an Anti-Suffrage meeting at Dorking on May 23rd, but he proved something of an "Enfant Terrible" to the Society which had invited his presence. He began his address by admitting roundly the futility of the physical force argument, on which Anti-Suffragists place so much reliance, and ended by stating his conviction that the Conciliation Bill would shortly become law. The interval was chiefly filled with dark and cryptic hints as to the awful consequences that would ensue if certain theories on the relation of the sexes which he ascribes (quite unwarrantably) to Suffragists, were to gain ground. The lecture was illumined by those brilliant and witty observations for which Mr. Belloc is justly famous, which proved an unmixed joy to all members of the audience, whatever their views on the great question of Women's Suffrage.

Sweden and Women's Suffrage.

It is suitable that the great Congress of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance should meet this year at Stockholm. As early as 1862, women were granted the Municipal Franchise in Sweden, and this confers the right of an indirect vote to the Upper House. In 1902 the campaign for the Parliamentary vote for women was begun in earnest. The movement has commanded the sympathy of the Labour Party, the Liberals and the King, and culminates in a Bill which is now under consideration in the Swedish Parliament.

Home Rule and the Woman Question.

It is understood that although Mr. John Redmond himself is not a Suffragist, the majority of his party are in favour of Votes for Women. In the division on the Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill 35 Irish members voted for and 9 against it.

In this connection it is of special interest to note that the most powerful (London) Branch of the United Irish League of Great Britain—the organisation on which the Irish Party depends in the country—has for the last two years had for its chief organising officer a young Irish-woman. She is an ardent Suffragist, and her branch contributes more money than any other in Great Britain to the Irish Parliamentary Fund. Further, the most powerful branch of the United Irish League of Ireland (whose headquarters are in Dublin) has also for its chief organising officer a young Irishwoman. This lady was for some time assistant secretary, but on the departure of the chief secretary, Mr. Ryan, she took over the full responsible duties.

Alleged Illegalities.

Mrs. Despard, who has for a considerable time past refused to pay Imperial Taxes has been distrained upon and the Women's Freedom League has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer complaining first that a male bailiff was put in possession without previous notice and secondly that the goods were sold with only 24 hours' notice instead of the statutory seven days. They further state that, at the sale, upon Mrs. Despard protesting against these illegalities, the auctioneer ordered his porters to seize and throw her out, but this they were prevented from doing by a large number of women suffragists who surrounded Mrs. Despard.

The N.U.T. and Women's Suffrage.

We are very glad to note that, the Executive of the National Union of Teachers having again passed a resolution in favour of women's suffrage, this is now going to all the local associations. It is to be hoped that women teachers will remain within the Union and work assiduously to pass this resolution everywhere. They will then be in a stronger position next year.

Neglect at Birth.

On the 24th there was an inquest in Poplar upon the death "from want of attention at birth" of a baby. It was stated that the mother had been very ill for some time, and that the family had undergone great privation. The father had been out of work, and the home had been "sold bit by bit" until nothing was left in the place. When the child was born the mother had not even a sheet to cover her, and had to be removed to the workhouse. We do not seem to have got much further than primeval savagery in this matter anyhow.

Australia and Women's Suffrage.

Speaking at a dinner given by the Labour Party at the Holborn Restaurant, Mr. Andrew Fisher, Premier of the Commonwealth of Australia, said, "We include the women in our political movement—(hear, hear),—and I am happy to be able to say that at the present time there is not a single representative of that party in Australia who would dare to stand on a platform and say that the giving of the franchise to the women has been anything but good for the Commonwealth of Australia.—(Cheers.)"

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

WHAT OUR MOVEMENT MEANS.

Reader, if you know nothing about Women's Suffrage, do not let it be because you care nothing. When you see men and women making heroic sacrifices for a great cause, you have reason for shame if you do not

ENQUIRE ABOUT IT.

If any man says "men are chivalrous" and the "natural protectors of women," and yet has not taken the trouble to ascertain why some women are so keen to obtain for others—or themselves—the protection of the vote which men already have, he is himself illustrating the humbug of his saying. If he cared for the interests of women as much as he says, he would make some effort to find out if they would benefit by the grant of the Suffrage. Nor can women regard themselves as anything but deserters of the interests of their sex and their children and their race, if they don't enquire what is meant by Women's Suffrage. The Conciliation Bill at present before the House of Commons is

NOT NEARLY ALL.

This is a Bill to give votes to women householders—that is, every woman who lives in a house or part of a house, even if it is only one room, if she has exclusive possession of this room, would have a vote. But that Bill is only part of the meaning of our movement. The Suffragists are making a plea for

EQUALITY OF TREATMENT

in all things for men and women. They say that a woman should have the right to determine by what laws she should be governed as well as a man; that she should have the same chance as a man of earning her living, of being trained for it, and of procuring good conditions in it; that she should be made to realise her public duty towards the State in seeing that the laws are fair and helpful to all, as well as a man. A woman should shoulder this responsibility, and when she sees others working in miserable homes, and when she finds her country rushing into unnecessary war, she should never rest till she has tried to find some means of changing that state of affairs. At a meeting of the Women's Liberal Association held on May 24, in London, Miss Maude Illingworth related that married women had said to her: "Ah, Miss Illingworth, you know if everybody had a husband as good as mine,

THE AGITATION WOULD DIE

a natural death." And this was greeted with laughter and cheers! Men have a right to despise women who laugh at such a sentiment as that. What utter selfishness! What a blasphemy against humanity! Women,

secure in their own comfort, LAUGHING because they care nothing about the misery outside their sheltered garden; CHEERING because women say "Do they suffer?"

LET THEM SUFFER!

Am I my brother's keeper? Do you men and women think this is a thing to be cheered or a thing to hang the head over in utter shame? If you think the latter, you are a Suffragist, and we ask you to become active as one.

This demand for the vote is a demand that women should have a voice in making the laws. Now laws are not made for perfectly good and perfectly happy people. If all husbands and all wives were perfect, we should need

NO MARRIAGE LAWS

at all, because marriage would be perfect without law. It is exactly because every woman has *not* got a good husband that the law has to step in and regulate marriage and when this law is made by men only it is

NOT A JUST LAW

and it is not likely to be just either. No man would be willing to have marriage laws made by women only. He would say that it takes two to make a contract, and that's what we say. It is no contract at all if it is made by one party only: it is actually slavery though we do not call it so.

HOW TO HELP.

Talk about Women's Suffrage, and make others believe in it. Give what money you can to the movement. Join the Society.

Let the member of Parliament who represents your constituency know that you want the Women's Cause to go on.

Take this paper, and then you will keep in line with our progress.

Join the Great Procession which will march through London on June 17. Special trains are being run from all parts of England to enable you to go up for it, and further particulars about it are in this paper.

THIS WEEK'S STORY.

In some shop in the Provinces, a Women's Suffrage worker came across this:—The shop-girls were "living in"—there was bad food and overcrowding (five girls slept on three beds); the wage they were receiving was 2s. 6d. a week. One girl complained to the manager that the wage was insufficient, when he said, "If it is 'nt enough, YOU'VE GOT YOUR EVENINGS!" While such facts exist, there is something for women to do in politics.

THIS WEEK'S MOTTO.

"Strike while the iron is hot."

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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 before-hand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the latest 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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Evasion.

I do believe in freedom's call
In countries where the nigger is,
I'm sure that every Liberal
Should boast no blessing bigger is;
I hate the coward slave whose breast
The flame of freedom's dim in;
But liberty's an empty jest
When parties talk of women.

I do believe the people's will
Should regulate the nation,
That law and tax should follow still
Upon representation;
But among "people" since I'd grieve
The woman half to docket,
I flinch my pay without her leave
From every woman's pocket.

I do believe the House of Peers
Is like old Satan lurking,
It wakes my democratic fears
To see their Veto working;
If Lords lay Bills upon the shelf,
I raise a mighty clatter,
But when I burke a Bill myself,
That's quite a different matter.

Verses recited by Mr. Henry Nevinson, at the meeting of the Women Writers' Suffrage League, and attributed by him to "A Cabinet Minister."

The answers given by Mr. Lloyd George on Monday night (see page 135) are no answers at all. Even he can hardly have expected that a demand like ours, accumulated for years and years and years, can be appeased by anything so vague and elusive. "After all," he said, "it is a measure of the very greatest magnitude." Do we not know it? Mr. George himself said we should never have good measures of social reform without it. We knew that too.

This Government insists that when a measure has passed the Commons three times in succession it shall automatically become law. A Woman's Suffrage Bill has passed its Second Reading seven separate times and every year for the last four years, only to be veto-ed by

the Government of the day. Mr. George seems to contemplate quite placidly that it may pass yet an eighth time and get no further. The Government passed the Parliament Bill by a majority of 121. It considers that this is a handsome majority and entitles it to force the hands of the Lords: our majority on May 5th was 167. We are entitled to fairer treatment and we demand it.

What, exactly, emerged on Monday afternoon? Mr. Lloyd George, speaking for the Government, said that careful consideration had led the Government to promise that, when this Bill had again been read a second time next session (and the Government would provide a day for this) it should have "one week for its further stages." This is the sentence wherein lies the ambiguity and cross-examination seemed to shew that the ambiguity was intentional. A cursory attention might lead us to suppose that this meant fulfilling the Prime Minister's pledge next session. But Mr. George would give no undertaking that the closure would be allowed and he indicated that, if the Bill were talked out, the Government would then fulfil its promise in some subsequent session and he suggested that franchise reform "which we hope we shall be able to get through in the third session of this Parliament" might include women's suffrage.

There we have it! The only pledge which Mr. Asquith has definitely broken to us is the pledge he made to Liberal Members in the Parliament before last, that he would introduce a Reform Bill in that Parliament. He did not do so. His supporters say he could not do so. We never supposed he could. We said at the time that he could not, and we distrusted that pledge and our distrust was amply justified by the event. Neither in that Parliament nor in the next did Mr. Asquith produce his vaunted Reform Bill. We do not trust such a pledge. In 1884 women were cheated over a Reform Bill. The sorry game has been played once too often. We are not to be cheated again.

Mr. Lloyd George actually said that he understood a week next session would "satisfy the requirements of the promoters of the measure" and tried to suggest that suffragists would be quite happy with another academic debate, next year, lasting a week and ending in—nothing. It looks like deliberate humbug. What the promoters of the measure have doubtless said is that one week should be quite sufficient to pass the measure through the House of Commons. We agree. The subject has been discussed *ad nauseam*—the Antis could not muster any reputable opposition at all this year. One week, this session, is ample to thrash out all that remains to be said on the Committee, Report and Third Reading stages. If the Government proposals are to prolong the session, that is Mr. George's fault for introducing a complicated measure of social reform after he has said that such a measure cannot pass until women have votes. It is a monstrous thing to press on with all this social legislation which affects women so nearly and endeavour to stifle with it the women's cry for liberty.

If a week is enough next year, it is enough this year and our friends in the House are willing to stay "overtime" in order to see us through. If our opponents are not willing to stay to oppose, they are welcome to stay away. To offer us full facilities for passing the measure next session would have been grudging and graceless; to suggest that we may like to have a week next session in which to get no further is to play with the question. No one knows this better than the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Co-education and Woman Suffrage.

If men and women as we find them to-day had been co-educated, if, that is, they had, as boys and girls, worked and played side by side from early childhood to young man and young womanhood, there would at this time be no fight going on in order that women should establish their right to help in the government of their own country.

In countries or states where boys and girls have been thus brought up, there is no such fight; as soon as the question comes up, backed by any strong wish, either on the part of women themselves wishing to help, or of men

seeing the need of this help, the matter is fairly looked into and the demand is acceded to.

Just in so far as the habit of separating boys and girls during their growing years obtains in this or that society, does this demand that women should have the same opportunities and responsibilities as men, meet with opposition whenever and however it arises.

The fight is a specially hard one in England, because here the plan of segregating our boys and girls is practically universal and is more thoroughly practised than in any other country.

The chief motive for opposition to any claim for responsible freedom is fear of consequences. The average man of the middle and upper classes is against us in the matter of the freedom and responsibility of women, simply because he is possessed by this fear. In the bulk, men do not know, they have not the vaguest idea, what women are or what they can be reckoned upon to do, once they leave the beaten track of what is called the woman's sphere. They feel that if women are freed they may "do anything," and that their only chance of escape from this vague and nebulous danger is the status quo. They could not, in so many words, define the status quo, any more than they can define what they believe might happen, but still the status quo is what they are used to and the other is not.

Women are going to win their enfranchisement in spite of this mass of more or less inert opposition, but at what a cost! With what pain and turmoil is this fight being carried on. At what a sacrifice of time, of money, of energy and enthusiasm which belongs by right to other matters. None of this is wasted; true, but that it should be necessary, is itself proof how wrong, how fopsy-turvy our world has become. Through all this pain and weary work we are getting slowly and laboriously to a point of view that we ought never to have lost.

And I maintain that we have lost this point of view very largely because we separate our boys and girls in their growing years. It is through this system that we have established and fostered men's ignorance of women which is now having such dire results.

Now let us acknowledge at once that the results are not surprising. What, under these unnatural circumstances, women show of themselves to men is not of such a high or ennobling quality that the average man is likely to take it on trust that more would be to his advantage. We have got to realise in this matter, once for all, that the average man, yes, and the average woman, too, is by acquired instinct, an opponent of this reform. Women, even the best of them, do not as a general thing show their best side to men. They are bred in such a manner that simplicity and honesty are at a discount, and there are thousands, nay millions of women in this country who have for so long formed themselves on a dishonest pattern, that they cannot be expected at once to realise what is wrong.

But women have this advantage, that their ignorance about men goes nothing like so deep as that of men about women. This is so because the segregation of the growing girl is a habit of comparatively recent growth. In the homes of the past, girls had a much wider life, humanly speaking, than they have in the schools of to-day; they mixed with the men of their own and of other families and they had opportunities of developing their womanly tendencies and incipient motherliness in the presence of the younger children of the family and in work among those less well-off than themselves. The girl of 30 or 40 years ago had a very good chance, as things went then, of growing up into an intelligent and womanly creature. The average girl of what are called the upper classes of to-day has far less chance. I foresee that objection may be raised to this statement, but while having every sympathy with higher education and all that it is meant to bring, I wish to point to the great names of the last century, women reared in their homes, and to suggest that we shall look in vain for their equals among the products of the schools. Half the good of the wider educational movement is lost for women by their segregation during their years of growth. She, like her brother, is segregated and, if we go on as we are doing now, the average upper class woman of the

future will be as ignorant of men as the average upper class man of to-day is ignorant of women.

We may notice that when in the past measures have been taken for freeing men, women, as women, have never by their influence withstood these measures; now that women's turn has come, we may find men getting up in masses and saying that, as men, they will not allow women's demand.

If men really knew women they would take at once a humbler and prouder view; and, above all, they would take a more courageous view. They are afraid because they do not know, and they do not know because they have no means whatever, and have been debarred from early childhood from finding any means, of understanding.

Among the working classes, the real and genuine poor, men and women do know each other much better. Among the children of the poor, this unnatural segregation is far less common and complete, and among the working people, the opposition of men to the movement for the freeing of women is incomparably less. One has only to look at the Labour Members, or to go down and speak at a working men's meeting to realize this.

And, again, in Scotland and the North of England where, until quite lately, boys and girls were largely educated together, we find that the idea of the enfranchisement of women is welcomed far more universally than in other parts of the British Isles.

To my mind the questions of co-education and of the enfranchisement of women are one; the bogies that haunt the mind of those who are opposed to the one always glide forward when the other is mentioned, and they one and all have their origin and their growth in ignorance, the ignorance which is inevitable as long as this disastrous system of separation is kept up.

Boys learn to be unmanly and girls to be unwomanly through segregation, and it is just in so far as true manliness and true womanliness are lacking in England at this moment that the fight for freedom is a bitter and a hard one.

People have called this fight a sex-war, and it is a sex-war just to this extent, that if men and women had understood one another there would have been no fight at all. Where they do understand each other, in the degree in which this movement has brought men and women together on common ground, the sex-war ceases; men and women, just to this extent, the extent of mutual understanding, work shoulder to shoulder true comrades. Sex gets back into its right place, finds its right proportion. It is a sex-war just to this extent, that the opposition to the movement, whether this opposition is offered by men or by women, is due to circumstances made by man and fostered by man, and this opposition exists, and exists only, because of man's ignorance of woman.

It is not that the women are, so to say, "better" than men, they are not. Men are ignorant, and women are dishonest; they are dishonest because they have had to live up or rather live down, to a false standard which men have evolved. Men have found it convenient to dower women with all sorts of characteristics which they never have possessed and never will possess, and to impute to them a special category of vices which they persuade themselves will break out unless women are kept well in hand. Two standards of goodness and badness have been thus evolved, one for men and one for women; and both rest on the convenience of men. These standards imply that virtues which are fine in women, can be weaknesses in a man; and that characteristics which are horrible in a woman may be the natural attributes of a man. This state of things is of course illogical and absurd, but, under the circumstances, it is not surprising.

People believe about co-education just as they do about the freeing of women, that if boys and girls, and men and women, are put on an equal footing as to opportunities and responsibilities, are given free scope for companionship and interchange of thoughts and ideas, sex distinctions will tend to disappear. This idea is, again, founded on ignorance. I do not understand whether they believe that men are going to become women, or women men, or whether humanity is to find a flat and featureless meeting ground where we shall be neither one thing nor the other. It seems to me all so foolish as

scarcely to bear arguing. Taken either on the purely physiological ground, where the answer is so clearly given by the animal world that one wonders how a question ever arose; or on the truer and broader ground of human experience, one knows that, in itself, companionship between men and women on terms of equality tends rather to emphasise than to diminish differences, where such differences belong to the right and natural development of the educated human creature. This must be so; either sex exists at all only in relation to the other.

It is only through looking at the whole matter with the distorted vision bred by the unnatural separation of boy and girl, of young man and young woman, that the whole thing has got so out of proportion. Our minds have become obsessed with false ideas, and we have, instead of an appreciation of the true mystery of sex, an ignorant inquisitiveness which is, at this present moment, the chief feeling that exists wherever any question of sex comes up. We know, if we will only look at the matter squarely, that in every true friendship between those of opposite sex, be it between husband and wife, mother and son, father and daughter, brother and sister, youth and maid, in any friendship based on knowledge and understanding and developed under a sense of perfect equality (and there are, thank God, many such friendships, or where would England be now?) in such there is a reverence of the man for the woman, *quâ woman*, and of the woman for the man, *quâ man* which rests on the mystery of sex; and that the nearer the understanding, the deeper the mystery.

The mystery of sex, like every true mystery, is in essence a spiritual thing. But we have well-nigh vulgarised this spiritual essence out of recognition by our blind and stupid plan of dividing those whose union and companionship alone can perfect it.

ENNIS RICHMOND.

Four Bills Dealing with Immorality.

It is significant of a healthy tendency towards the improvement of public opinion that there are at the present time four Bills prepared for consideration by Parliament, dealing with grave moral questions.

In the following remarks we call these Bills A, B, C and D. A is the Criminal Law Amendment Act (White Slave Traffic), B the Criminal Law Amendment Act (Raising of the Age from 16 to 18), C the Indecent Advertisements (Amendment) Bill, D the Prevention of Immorality Bill.

Of these the three former are short Bills amending existing legislation where experience has proved it inadequate to deal fully with the offences in question.

A, introduced by Mr. Burgoyne, M.P. for North Kensington, was drafted by a committee of 24 Members, representing four important societies. This committee, which included nine barristers and three solicitors, worked for 18 months, and in April 1909, a deputation representing almost every society in London interested in these matters, was favourably received at the Home Office, and assured that the Government would give every consideration to the Bill. The change at the Home Office has caused delay, but there is a hope that the Government may adopt the measure. It gives the power of arrest without a warrant of a dealer in human flesh and human souls. It includes the "person in charge" in charges against keepers of houses of ill-fame, and provides that repeated offences under this clause render the offender liable to be dealt with as an "incorrigible rogue" under the Vagrancy Act, 1824. It provides that the tenancy of a house of ill-fame must terminate. A much-needed amendment to the Vagrancy Act, 1898, makes it clear that the law against solicitation for immoral purposes applies equally to men and women. Further, that "bullies" shall, on a second conviction, be dealt with as "incorrigible rogues." B (not yet before the House) is a one clause Bill, which provides that a girl under 18 cannot consent to her own ruin.

C, introduced by Lord Braye in the Upper House, to amend the Indecent Advertisements Act of 1889, embodies suggestions of the Commission on Betting and Gambling re Indecent Publications. D, introduced by

Mr. Joseph King, M.P. for Somerset, contains 48 clauses, some of great length, and deals with all the above proposals and many more. It seeks to consolidate and greatly strengthen existing laws relating to morality and decency by repealing and replacing 9 Acts, amending 9 others, and adding certainly two important new provisions in addition to those dealt with in A and C. The main proposals are (1) To protect all feeble-minded women and girls. All women and girls in specially dependent positions, such as those in receipt of Poor Law relief, or those in danger from their employers. (2) To strengthen the law with regard to illegal operations and administration of drugs. (3) The Punishment of Incest Act. (4) To protect lads under 19 against abandoned women. (5) To strengthen the Children Act, 1908, to deal with parents and others allowing children to remain in immoral surroundings and to protect such children.

When we come to consider the clauses of A B and C parallel to those in D, we are greatly struck by the thoroughly practical nature of the amendments proposed in A with regard to the White Slave Traffic. They "fill up gaps," and we trust they will speedily pass into law. Power to arrest a procurer without warrant, when delay would mean the escape of the criminal, is a more practical check to this evil traffic than even such an apparently prohibitive punishment as that proposed in D. In the matter of keeping houses of ill-fame, A would deal with habitual offenders as rogues and vagabonds. This seems to us better than the proposed fine or imprisonment of D, for money, and large sums of money, are commonly available in this vile trade. While the absolute termination of tenancy of a house used for immoral purposes is far more deterrent than the proposal of D to act only on the application of the landlord or lessor.

With regard to the age of consent, dealt with in B and D, no doubt the ideal would be to raise it to 21 for *both sexes*, for why should not the person be protected as long as the property? Practically, however, there would be difficulty at the present time in raising the age above 18, in view of other existing legislation, and we much hope that the promoters of B, a one-clause Bill proposing this, and D may combine to demand this. It is obvious that a girl under 16 is too easily influenced to be left a prey to designing men or women.

It is illustrative of the lack of logic to which we as a nation quietly submit, that no attempt is made to alter the legal age of marriage, which still stands at 14 for a boy, and 12 for a girl! Of course, this is a relic of a different period of life, manners, and customs, but as a Chief Constable lately pointed out, such an anachronism has a bearing on the subject.

Before leaving this section we may hesitate as to the advisability of supporting Mr. King's drastic proposals to make all offences under this clause liable to such severe punishment as penal servitude.

A makes clear the fact that the clause of the Vagrancy Act, 1898, dealing with solicitation, applies to *both sexes*. D provides (1) That for "persistently" soliciting a man shall be liable to imprisonment; (2) That "a person of either sex," who solicits or importunes, shall be liable for a first offence to fine or imprisonment, for a second to imprisonment, but that a young *woman* may be sent to a Borstal institution, where the sentence is longer but the treatment remedial rather than punitive. We do not understand the necessity for two clauses. We are told that under the Vagrancy Act, 1898, a young person of either sex may be sent to a Borstal Institution. If this be so, let us by all means adopt A, and avoid the objectionable sex legislation apparently foreshadowed in D. The great point is so to frame the law that it shall be operative equally against the immoral man and the immoral woman.

Coming to C we find a short Act to amend the Indecent Advertisements Act, 1889, where it has proved defective. D would repeal and replace that Act, but the definition in C is to our mind the better.

There remain the large number of clauses in D, many of extreme value, dealing with matters untouched by the other Bills. We would name especially those for the protection of all feeble-minded women and girls, of lads under 19, of girls and women in dependent positions, of

children in immoral surroundings, and that giving the power of search should it be suspected that a girl is being unlawfully detained.

A word of warning may not be out of place as to clearing the court for certain cases. This sometimes results in a child of tender years or a young woman being left to face men only—truly a terrifying experience, and one that will deter many from taking a case into court. The presence of respectable women in a court, has too, an influence, of course unconscious, on the verdict. We look forward to the time when many cases will be tried by women jurors, if not by women magistrates. Only then will certain cases be understood aright.

It is notorious that certain terrible offences hardly, if ever, receive a full sentence. Mr. King proposes greatly to enhance the penalties. In some cases a change of administration rather than of law will effect what is required. Public opinion expressed through the press may do much in this matter.

Meanwhile, very real gratitude is due to Mr. Burgoyne, Mr. King, and all those who are striving so earnestly to purify our national life. It is encouraging to hear of the many proofs of interest received by Mr. King from the press, and from men and women of all ranks. The wide scope of his bill brings the subject as a whole before the public, though it may be that the smaller measures have a better chance of becoming law. We venture to hope that some concerted action may be devised, which will induce the Government to give facilities for passing the more urgent measures.

But we must remember that no Government can legislate in advance of public opinion. No time should be lost therefore in sending resolutions and memorials from societies, meetings, and individuals to the promoters, the Home Office, and individual Members of Parliament, in support of these Bills.

In conclusion, we would quote some striking words heard lately, but we fear, only haltingly reproduced:—"The root of the matter lies *not* in the law, but in such early training in morality, justice, mutual respect, and purity, that the youth of the Empire will grow up *proud* to be pure men and women."

E. F. M.

In Parliament.

THE LORDS AND THE RECONSTITUTION BILL.

On May 22nd Lord Lansdowne's Bill for the Reconstitution of the House of Lords was read a second time without a division in the House of Lords.

THE INSURANCE BILL.

On May 22nd, in reply to a question, Mr. Lloyd George said that all the criticisms of the scheme had been "criticisms of detail."

On May 23rd, in reply to a question from Mr. Younger, Mr. Lloyd George said that the premiums contributed by a woman before marriage "must be retained and accumulated to meet the contingent liability arising in case she re-enters insurance as a widow." Further pressed as to why the whole of the women's contribution should not be repaid to them on marriage, only the accumulated interest accruing to the fund, Mr. George replied "I am bound in a matter of this sort to take the advice of the actuaries and their advice was certainly that *we could not afford it*. I can assure the hon. Member it was one of the questions I put to them. I thought it was very desirable if it could be done and at the same time retain sufficient in the fund for what might come upon it later on, say in widowhood. I found the actuaries very much opposed to it. They said it could not possibly be done *without imposing a burden on the rest of the fund*."

Mr. George made it plain, further, that it is not proposed to help the invalid widow of an insured man, unless she is herself insured, nor to give maternity benefit to uninsured unmarried mothers, even if the father is insured, nor to extend the provisions of the Bill to domestic servants receiving board and lodging from their employers (this last answer was made on the 25th).

The debate on the Second Reading was continued on Wednesday and Thursday.

On Thursday, Mr. A. H. Gill (Lab. Bolton), Mr. F. H. Booth (L. Pontefract), Mr. Bonar Law (C. Bootle) and Mr. T. C. Taylor (L. Radcliffe) all protested that the Bill was unfair to women, Mr. Law adding that "if the Bill went through in this form, there would be some ground for saying if women had votes, a clause of this kind (i.e., the dropping of women out of the scheme upon marriage) would not be passed."

TRADE UNION FUNDS.

On Wednesday 24th, Mr. Churchill introduced a Bill dealing with the use of Trade Union Funds. This is the result of the Osborne judgment.

THE CONCILIATION BILL.

On the 23rd Sir George Kemp and Mr. Snowden gave notice of the following motion for an early date:—

"That the Women's Enfranchisement Bill have the same precedence when it is set down for consideration with the consent of the Government on days on which Government business has precedence as though it were a bill in charge of a Minister of the Crown."

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BILL.

(We take the following from the "*Manchester Guardian*.")

In the House of Commons on Monday 29th, Viscount WOLMER (U—Newton) asked whether, in view of the majority of members in favour of women's suffrage, and of the fact that their opinions had been as least twice submitted to the electors, the Prime Minister would grant facilities for the passage of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill into law this session.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: The position of the Government in regard to this matter was stated on behalf of the Cabinet by the Prime Minister in the last House of Commons on November 22, 1910. The exact language used was as follows: "The Government will, if they are still in power, give facilities in the next Parliament for effectively proceeding with a bill which is so framed as to admit of free amendment." The Government recognises that the bill which was read a second time the other day satisfies the last-mentioned condition, and that consequently it is their duty in this Parliament to give the promised facilities. They were careful not to bind themselves by any pledge in regard to this the first session of the new Parliament, as it was clearly impossible to foresee the course which business would take. The Cabinet have now given the matter their most careful consideration, and they have come to the conclusion that the Government proposals for legislation will, if they are to be adequately discussed, fully occupy a prolonged session, and that without jeopardising the fortunes of those measures they could not allot to the Woman Suffrage Bill this year such an amount of time as its importance demands. They will be prepared next session, when the bill has been again read a second time, either as the result of obtaining a good place in the ballot, or (if that does not happen) by the grant of a Government day for the purpose to give a week (which they understand to be the time suggested as reasonable by the promoters) for its further stages.

Mr. P. SNOWDEN (Lab.—Blackburn): On what authority is the statement made that the sponsors of the bill will be satisfied with a week?

Mr. F. E. SMITH (U—Liverpool): Or the opponents?—(Hear, hear.)

Mr. LEIF JONES (L—Rushcliffe): Are we to take it that a week is equivalent in the eyes of the Government to the "full facilities" promised last year?

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: It was understood—I cannot say on what authority, but representations were made by friends of the movement—that in their judgment a week would satisfy the requirements of the promoters of the measure, and the Government at this present stage cannot see their way to go beyond facilities for a week. That is all they can see their way to do at the present moment. In answer to Mr. Leif Jones, I would remind my hon. friend that the pledge given by the Prime Minister was for "full facilities in the present

Parliament," and certainly if in the course of a week the bill could not be pressed through, that would not be regarded as a discharge of the pledge of the Prime Minister for "this Parliament." My interpretation—and I think it is the interpretation of the Government—is that we are bound in the course of the present Parliament to find whatever time is necessary to enable the House of Commons to express an opinion even to the final stage upon the proposals.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Lab.—Merthyr): In the event of only a week being allocated for this measure, will the Government, by means of the closure or otherwise, make certain that the bill go through in the time?

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: The Government could not give an undertaking of that kind. After all, it is a measure of the very greatest magnitude.

Mr. STUART-WORTLEY (U.—Sheffield): Does this time-table contemplate Committee stage in a Standing Committee or in the whole House?

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: That is a very big question indeed. I have my own opinion with regard to it. But it is a question which would have to be considered very carefully before we arrived at that stage.

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 K. D. COURTNEY.
Miss EDITH PALLISER (Parliamentary).
Telegrams: "Voiceless, London."

President:
Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretary to Press Committee: Miss EMILY M. LEAF.
Secretary: Miss T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A.
Telegrams: "Voiceless, London."
Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. AUERBACH.

The Procession.

We are getting forward quickly with details of the Procession. Our main body will consist of Federations, each under its own banner, and Societies within the Federations. We hope that each Society will have its own banner, as we are anxious to make as good a show as possible of our territorial Federation system, and we want the National Union colours prominently displayed in all. A very good banner design has been sent from this office to Miss Willis, 4, Stanlake Villa, Stanlake Road, Shepherd's Bush. It can be made at a very small cost, and Societies are asked to send their orders direct to her. The Famous Women banners will be carried. Volunteers willing to act as bearers or relief bearers are asked to send in their names to headquarters. A beautiful banner for the whole Union is being made by the Artists' League, and our leaders will head the Procession. We are hoping to have the Irish contingent headed by Mrs. and Mr. Haslam themselves.

We have a very good supply of bands and hope to include a body of Scotch Pipers.

Our section will line up in Whitehall, Whitehall Place and Parliament Street and we shall come about half way in the main body of the procession.

Besides our Federations we hope to have a body of Industrial women and behind these our affiliated University group, consisting of Oxford and Cambridge women, past and present, without gowns. Communications should be addressed to: Miss Ray Costelloe, Court Place, Iffley, for Cambridge, and Miss Davies-Colley, Briarwood, Woking, for Oxford. The Oxford and Cambridge women who have degrees from other Universities and wish to wear their gowns are asked to join the other gowned women in the Graduates' group which will line up in Whitehall Court and will not carry the colours of any Society.

We greatly regret that it has been impossible to arrange for a mass meeting, but we are doing our best to give our provincial members visible evidence of the welcome, we, of the Central Office, extend to them.

We have taken the whole of the Portman Rooms which will be at our disposal for the whole of the afternoon and

Mr. A. CHAMBERLAIN (U.—East Worcestershire): Was not an undertaking given when the new rules in regard to Standing Committees were framed that bills of this character should not be sent to such Committees?

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: I do not want to express an opinion, because this is a matter which the Government would have to consider very carefully, but I must say that there is very great force in what the right hon. gentleman says.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE: Are the "full facilities" to be given next session? If not, will not the possibility of the bill becoming law this Parliament be destroyed in the event of the House of Lords rejecting it?

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: I think my hon. friend will find, assuming that this Parliament lasts its prescribed time, by which I mean the time prescribed by the Parliament Bill, that the following session would certainly not be too late. There are measures with which the Government are concerned—franchise measures—which we hope we shall be able to get through in the third session of this Parliament. That would give ample time for the measures to come within the terms of the Parliament Bill.

evening. Travellers from a distance may go there direct to deposit wraps and parcels.

Tea may be obtained there at a small cost, and we are hoping that members of the Executive will be present to make acquaintance with provincial delegates.

The hour for our lining up is five o'clock, and there will be clear indications of where each section is to take its place. The time of waiting will be made a little pleasanter by the music of our bands. We shall march to Exhibition Road, and turn down there to disband, then we hope that many of the members will make their way by Underground from South Kensington to Portman Rooms, where we shall have an informal meeting with speeches and opportunities for conversation. Light refreshments will also be provided, and travellers from a distance will be able to rest until it is time to go to their various stations. There will be brakes provided to convey those who are not strong enough to walk, at a charge of 2s. per head. Arrangements for special trains are being made by the various Federations and Societies, and we hope that details of such will be published in "The Common Cause" as soon as they are completed.

GERALDINE COOKE.

Miss I. O. Ford has decided to accompany the Leeds contingent to the Procession on June 17th and has therefore resigned her place on the British delegation to Stockholm.

It has been suggested that all taking part in the Procession should wear a broad sash of the National Union colours across the breast from the right shoulder—cost about 1s. 6d. We should be glad if this could be carried out as far as possible.

Madame Jeanne Schmahl, who is coming to walk in our section of the Procession is the elected representative of *L'Union française pour le suffrage des femmes*.

We are constantly being asked whether men are wanted to walk in the Procession. The National Union numbers many hundreds of men members and sympathizers and welcomes them all. Those entitled to wear academics of any kind will greatly add to the effectiveness of the Procession by wearing them.

Mrs. Chapman Catt.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, will be in England from June 25th to July 15th and the N.U. is proposing to give a dinner in her honour on July 4th.

All those who were present at the meetings of the International Alliance in London two years ago, will be delighted to have the opportunity of seeing and hearing Mrs. Chapman Catt again.

Deputation from Mayors Refused.

It was hoped that the support given to the Conciliation Bill would have been shown in a very marked and unprecedented manner by a Deputation to the Prime Minister from the Lord Mayors, Mayors, Lord Provosts and Provosts, of those Councils which had passed Resolutions in favour of the Conciliation Bill. The object of this Deputation was to urge the Prime Minister to grant facilities for the Bill this session. Unfortunately, and much to the regret of the National Union, the Prime Minister declined to receive this Deputation, pleading the pressure of his engagements.

Mr. Bridgeman has stated that he paired for the Bill on May 5th. Mr. Hudson (Newcastle-on-Tyne) writes to say that he was delayed by an important engagement and arrived one minute too late for the division and was therefore unable to record his vote for the Bill.

EDITH PALLISER.

Press Department.

We have this week to report an excellent column in the *Queen*, May 20th.

In Ireland the leading newspapers give us strong support:—

The *Belfast News Letter* (the chief Conservative paper) May 9th, said "The Government is pledged up to the hilt to provide effective means for dealing with the Bill this session."

The *Cork Free Press*, May 6th, wrote of "The invincible logic of the Women's Suffrage Movement as well as its justice and desirability."

The *Irish Times* is favourable, and the *Northern Whig* gives good reports. The one hostile paper which reaches us is the *Cork Constitution* (Conservative). We quote a paragraph as an example of the kind of argument it employs against Women's Suffrage. "A proof given—by a reckless class of women of their unfitness to govern themselves—is a decided change of opinion on the part of many, as to the suitability of most women for the position of Poor Law Guardians. The last thing the female workhouse officials and inmates would probably relish is to be subjected to interference from members of their own sex. It is difficult to conceive what possible advantage would be gained by the presence of ladies on such boards. One advocate has said that the "spiritual needs" of the female inmates require attention from their own sex. Possibly several workhouse chaplains may not accord with this view." This paragraph is being answered this week.

E. M. LEAF (Hon. Sec. Press Committee).

Literature Department.

The National Union has issued two new handbills on "Payment of Members" and on "Facilities this session."

A classified list of all the literature sold by the National Union is in preparation and will be sent to secretaries of societies.

I shall be extremely glad to hear from any member of the Union who has suggestions to make about literature. Information coming from secretaries, organisers, and others engaged in active propaganda work, as to the kind of literature required, will be particularly welcome.

I. B. O'MALLEY, Hon. Secretary to the Literature Committee.

Treasurer's Notes.

The Procession Fund is now open. As almost every one of our local societies will have to raise a fund for fares and local expenses in connection with the procession, I must direct my appeal more especially to Londoners. If every suffragist in or near London would send us a contribution, then indeed we should be able to make our section of the Procession all that we wish it to be. We are delighted with the sums sent us and with the promises of more to come; but so far, less than a hundred contributions have been received and there are I believe over 4,000 members of the London Society, so when those other 3,900 send us their donations, as I am sure they will, our Fund should be sufficient to meet all the many calls that are being made upon it. The preliminary estimate of the cost of our share of the Demonstration already exceeds many times over the amount we have received, so PLEASE SEND US YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

HELENA AUERBACH.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO GENERAL FUND.

MAY 19TH TO MAY 25TH, 1911.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-----|----|----|
| Already acknowledged since November 1st ... | 846 | 15 | 3½ |
| Donations— | | | |
| "A Sister" | 10 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Stanbury | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Affiliation Fees— | | | |
| Ipswich and County W.S.S. | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Dingwall W.S.S. | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| Knaresborough W.S.S. | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| Reading W.S.S. | 1 | 12 | 3 |
| Wick W.S.S. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Sheffield W.S.S. | 1 | 5 | 0 |

£863 6 9½

PROCESSION FUND.

MAY, 1911.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Lady Scott Moncrieff | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Hugh Thompson | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Bateson | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Naomi Bassett Fox | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Isabel M. Hervey | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss W. Bedhampton | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Lady Anderson | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Miss A. F. Ferryman | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Lowe | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mrs. Roberts | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Webb | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr. E. H. Smith | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Webster | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss E. M. Julian | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrs. Gordon-Clark | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Miss Lake | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Dr. and Mrs. Halliburton | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Patterson | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Tait | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Sykes | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Davidson | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Miss Isabel Gwynne | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Miss Janet H. Thomson | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Gurney Smith | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| The Hon. Mrs. Lyttelton | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Hall | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Aspland | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Miss Horsnail | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Henry Sargant | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| "A Sister" | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Henry Marshall | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Norton-Taylor | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mrs. Meyerstein | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Anonymous | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Mrs. H. Pears | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Dryhurst | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss R. M. Paul | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss D. F. Cholmeley | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss K. M. Allen | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Edith Terry | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Coles | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Annie Coles | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Agnes Coles | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss K. M. Coles | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Edwards | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Mann | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss Helen Colt | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Sayers | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss E. Morgan | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Mrs. Parkyn | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Miss D. M. Blundun | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Miss A. G. Prichard | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Miss Alice Gates | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Mr. P. M. Hill | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Mrs. Ralph Durand | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Miss Beatrice Biddle | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Miss H. Frodsham | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Miss E. M. Miller | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Miss G. Sainsbury | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Mrs. Quelch | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Miss E. Webster | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Mrs. Hiscocx | 0 | 2 | 0 |

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Miss M. G. Blundun | 0 1 6 |
| Mrs. Eve | 0 1 0 |
| | £49 11 6 |

Definite promises amounting to about £30.
Other promises, not naming the amount, have also been received.

Coronation Address.

We have received from the Artists' League a beautiful specimen address to their Majesties the King and Queen, for the use of societies in the National Union. These addresses can be obtained either plain or illuminated, and in the latter case the name of the Society is filled in. The copy we have is beautifully finished with gold leaf. Prices can be obtained on application to Miss Lowndes, Brittany Studio, 259, King's Road, Chelsea.

National Union and London Society Receptions.

The fourth Reception took place at the Portman Rooms on May 24th. Miss Courtney being unfortunately detained on important business, the chair was taken by Miss Sterling. Mrs. Allan Bright's eloquence roused enthusiasm as she dwelt on the thoughts suggested by the day, the birthday of Queen Victoria, and Empire Day—an Empire which includes such great countries as Australia and New Zealand where the women are free, where, too, the birth-rate is higher and the rate of infant mortality lower than in the old country. There was a time, so we are told when women lived "lapped round" with a protecting wall from all disturbing outside influences; now politics touches them at all points. In such a scheme as the National Insurance, Maternity insurance, a matter of extreme delicacy and complexity closely affecting women, is dealt with by men alone and it is too difficult for them.

Dealing with Anti-Suffragists, Mrs. Bright declared she understood and felt for the "Anti," used to generations of artificial superiority and loth to part with his privileges. As suffragists understand the man Anti so do they warmly and gratefully recognise the love of freedom for itself that distinguishes the man suffragist. In conclusion Mrs. Bright quoted Lord Robert Cecil,—"if facilities are refused we thank God that there is, as the "Times" has declared, indeed a difference between the sense of honour of a man and that of a woman.

Miss Sterling dealt with the immediate political position, and explained that if news was available after the meeting of the Cabinet that morning Miss Palliser would send round at once to the Hall. She urged once more upon those present the necessity for unceasing effort in bringing pressure to bear upon the private M.P.'s who are a most important factor in the situation as it now is.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby made an appeal that a real effort be made to win the young to our side, and to get them to work for us even at the risk of sometimes having to suffer for their inexperience.

The room was charmingly decorated and arranged with flowers and flags in the colours.

Queen's Hall Meeting for Working Women.

The arrangements for this meeting at 8.30 p.m. on Friday, June 2nd, are now complete. The only night the hall was free was Friday, and Friday is not a good night from the housewife's point of view, being only one degree better than Saturday as a busy shopping night and also "bath night" for the children; it is also a compulsory overtime night in many factories. In spite of all this the response from the women has been far beyond what could have been hoped, and if all who hope to come are able to do so, the hall will be full to overflowing. From 7.45 Suffrage songs and choruses, composed by Lady Strachey, will be led by a choir conducted by Miss Kesabel Watson, while Mrs. Layton will be at the organ. A few platform seats at 5s. remain, and the general public may be able to secure a few seats in the orchestra.

Oxford Women Students' Society for Women's Suffrage.

An Oxford Women Students' Suffrage Society is in process of formation, with the object of combining in one society all Oxford students, past and present, who are in favour of the suffrage. The present separate College Societies will be merged in the new central body, which will be affiliated to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. It is hoped by this new organisation to promote joint action on the part of Oxford students, and to concentrate their efforts on behalf of Women's Suffrage.

A Provisional Committee has been formed and has drawn up a draft constitution to be laid before a general meeting of all Oxford students, past and present, who desire to join the new society.

The general meeting, to which all such students are invited, will be held at Lady Margaret Hall (by kind permission of the Principal) on Saturday, June 3, at 4 p.m. Tea at 3.30.

Any student desiring to have a copy of the draft constitution is asked to apply to the hon. secretary *pro tem.*, Miss H. S. Davies-Colley, Briarwood, Woking.

The Provisional Committee has arranged to send a banner to the Procession of Women's Suffrage Societies in London on June 17th. Any Oxford students who intend to take part in the procession are asked to send their names to the hon. secretary, who will send further particulars.

H. S. DAVIES-COLLEY (Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*).

Federation Notes.

Manchester and District.

PROCESSION WORK.

On May 18th the Middleton Society met to adopt rules and elect its committee and officers. Mrs. Jones-Brown and Miss Parkin were elected secretaries, and Miss Kershaw treasurer. It was found that three or four members of the Society would be able to walk in the Procession and the Society decided to have a banner.

The meeting at Wilmslow on May 22 resulted in several promises for the Procession, and very kind offer on the part of Miss Briggs to make a banner (designed by Mrs. John Scott) for the Wilmslow Society.

In Leigh Market, on May 23rd, Miss Robertson addressed a large and enthusiastic crowd of working-men.

The meeting at Whitefield on May 24th was not large, but it made up in enthusiasm what it lacked in numbers, and much will have been done to augment the Radcliffe contingent in the Procession.

On Friday, May 26th, about fifty members of the Bolton Society assembled in the Girls' Club, to hear details of the Procession from Miss Robertson. Their enthusiasm was even higher than what we are accustomed to expect in Bolton, and over twenty of those present gave in their names at once for June 17th.

The White Sale in Ancoats, arranged in aid of the Procession Fund, was duly held on Saturday, May 27th, and about £10 was realised (of which about £1 must be deducted for expenses). The women flocked eagerly, as we had hoped they would, to buy clothes for their children and themselves. Indeed the whole sale, which we had expected would last two hours, was over in ten minutes! The delight of the women at getting pretty white dresses and underclothes for the children to wear in the Procession at such cheap prices made the Sale seem worth while quite apart from the funds raised thereby.

The Societies in the Federation hope to send to the Procession a contingent of about 200, exclusive of the number, still unknown, coming from the Manchester Society.

WORK IN BLACKBURN.

I spent two weeks in Blackburn. There is no suffrage society in the town, and the want of one has made work very hard. Nevertheless, we held two good open-air meetings in the Market Place.

At the first, Mr. Frankland, chairman of the Trades and Labour Council, presided over a large and enthusiastic meeting. Several questions were asked, procession handbills were distributed, and a good impression was made.

At the second Mrs. Entwistle took the chair, and Mrs. Cooper and I were speakers. A good audience assembled, and we had a fine meeting. Towards the end the Anti-Socialists, who were also holding a meeting on the Market Place, drew away our audience because their lively proceedings gave rise to the promise of a row.

A considerable number of women have promised to go from Blackburn to walk in the procession on June 17th, and more are considering the matter. I trust that on that day Blackburn will be represented by a large number of men and women. A town whose Members are such strong supporters of our cause as Mr. Snowden and Sir Henry Norman ought to be strongly represented.

There is good promise of a suffrage society being formed, and I am hoping great things from the At Home to be held here on June 15th from four to six at the Criterion Café, King William Street, when Miss Margaret Robertson and myself will be the speakers.

ANNOT E. ROBINSON.

Midland.

DEATH OF LADY RHYNS OF OXFORD.

The Oxford Society and the cause of Women's Suffrage has suffered a very great loss by the death of Lady Rhys, the wife of Sir John Rhys, who is the Society's president. Although Lady Rhys had been of late years unable to work in public for the education and the enfranchisement of women she was distinguished for the depth and sincerity of her convictions, and all friends of Women's Suffrage in Oxford and many elsewhere knew of the inspiring support she gave to their cause. The hospitality of her house at Jesus College was always generously offered and gratefully accepted, and no one left her presence without feeling that such as she are the very mainspring of the movement.

North and East Riding.

In reply to a letter from the Federation Committee, Mr. Walter R. Rea, M.P., said that the meeting of Liberal Members in favour of Women's Suffrage, "at which I was present, arranged to send a deputation to the Prime Minister to ask for facilities for the further progress of the Bill." This, however, he went on to say, "in no way commits me regarding the action I may feel called upon to take at the third reading stage, if the Bill progresses so far."

Mr. Arnold Rowntree replied that he is doing all he can to secure facilities for the Women's Suffrage Bill, and will personally gladly make any necessary sacrifice to secure its passage into law this Session.

The Federation is also writing to unfavourable M.P.'s in its area.

Mrs. Merivale Mayer has left Richmond, Yorks, where she has done wonders, considering the difficulties surrounding the place, and she has formed the nucleus of a Society, with Mrs. Gardner and Mrs. Evers for secretaries, and Mrs. Gardner for treasurer. She held another fine meeting in the Market Place. The doctors of the place wished her good luck, and hoped she would return to speak again. Father Farmer promised to exert all his influence for the Cause.

North-Western.

The North-Western Federation held its first annual general meeting in Carlisle on Saturday, May 20th. The proceedings opened with a reception on Friday evening, given by the Carlisle Society to the committee and delegates from the affiliated societies in Cumberland, Westmoreland and North Lancashire. The morning session on Saturday was devoted to business, and the afternoon to discussions on election policy, Tax Resistance, and various problems connected with the maintenance of a non-party attitude on political questions.

The reports of the Federated Societies showed a year of active propaganda and organization work, and claimed a steady growth of public opinion in favour of the enfranchisement of duly-qualified women. A vote of thanks was passed to the local Borough and Urban District Councils (Whitehaven, Cockermouth and Keswick) which have petitioned Government for facilities for the Bill, and to the local papers which support Women's Suffrage. It was recorded that of the Members of Parliament in the North-Western Federation area eight had supported the Bill, and two—Colonel Bagot in South Westmoreland and Mr. Grant in Egremont—had opposed it. A resolution was passed thanking those who had voted for the Bill, and asking them to support the demand for facilities for its further stages.

The treasurer's report showed a balance in hand to start the new year, and a proposal to start an Organization Fund and an Election Guarantee Fund (to be used in the case of an election occurring in the Federation area) produced immediate contributions to the amount of £41.

The officers for the coming year are:—Chairman, Miss C. E. Marshall, Keswick; hon. secretary, Miss L. Walker, Kendal; hon. treasurer, Miss S. Graham, Carlisle. Miss A. M. Royden (Liverpool) represents the Executive Committee of the National Union, and the committee includes representatives from Carlisle, Penrith, Keswick, Arlecdon, Kendal and Ambleside.

South-Western.

EXETER: DEPUTATION TO MR. DUKE, K.C., M.P.

Mr. Duke, K.C., M.P., received a deputation from the Exeter Society, consisting of Mrs. Walter Pring, Mrs. Frank Fletcher and Miss Baly. Mr. Duke promised not to oppose the Bill and admitted the justice of our claim. It was explained to him that the support he had received at the last election from the officers of the association was contrary to a change of officers, and that the present committee was pledged to support no candidate unless he was a supporter of Women's Suffrage. Mr. Duke holds his seat by the majority of one so our position is peculiarly strong.

West of England.

As a result of Mrs. Nairne's work the Frome branch has been strengthened, and Miss Serrard, hon. secretary Women's Liberal Association, has consented to act as correspondent for Suffrage matters. Her association has also petitioned Mr. Asquith for facilities and prevailed upon Mr. Harvey (editor "Somerset and Wilts. Journal") to do the same.

Some good openings have been made in Tewkesbury by Mrs. Nairne and in Melksham a letter demanding facilities has been secured from members of the Men's Liberal Association. Similar letters have been sent from the Women's Liberal Association in Bath and many well-known Liberal electors, while Mr. Pither has kindly used his influence in Castle Cary to the same end.

Formation of a Society at Rotherham.

Organisation work has been carried on in Rotherham and a National Union Society has been formed there. A meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, Wellgate, on May 25th. Mrs. J. Earp presided and an address was given by Mrs. Pryce Jones of Sheffield.

Mrs. Earp referred to the will of the late Mrs. Rose Hyland of Manchester who has left money to several institutions on condition that within twelve months of her death they have at least two women members.

Mrs. Pryce Jones congratulated Rotherham on the formation of the society. She said the granting of the vote to women was a question of right and a matter of fairplay. They wanted the vote because they wanted to remove from their sex the stigma of unworthiness and unfitness. In conclusion she made a reference to the Conciliation Bill now before Parliament.

The International Women's Franchise Club.

This Club has now been in existence for eighteen months and has proved by its unqualified success how genuine was the need of some meeting-place for men and women of all nations and of all opinions, with the common bond of suffrage conviction. After spending a year in temporary premises, the Club is now permanently established next door to the Grafton Galleries in a beautiful house—roomy, light, airy, and quiet. The sub-committee who superintended the decorations are especially to be congratulated. A member, who belongs to a ladies' club in the near neighbourhood, expressed the general opinion, when she exclaimed: "I'm proud to belong to the Franchise Club; it's so nice-looking!"

The Club was fortunate in securing so distinguished a president as Lord Lytton, who is supported by a committee representative of all kinds of Suffrage activity, and comprising some of our best-known and most respected workers.

The low subscription is a special feature of the Club. It was recognised from the first that as all available money was still—for a little while, at all events—necessary for propaganda work in the common cause, the Club should be run as cheaply as possible. In spite of this—the subscription is still only £1 ls. per annum,—members can get light luncheons and suppers, and especially good afternoon teas. Lectures by first-rate speakers are given about once a week, varied by entertainments and receptions to foreign or Colonial guests.

After the first thousand members had joined, the Committee decided to impose an entrance fee of £1 ls. This came into force on March 1. Many representations have been made by country members that in view of the fact that they derive less benefit from the Club than town members some reduction should be made in their fees. The Committee have therefore decided to postpone the entrance fee for country members (outside the 15-mile radius) for a limited time. Foreign members (subscription 10s. 6d.) and temporary members (two months for 5s.) are permanently free from entrance fees.

It is felt that at this moment more than ever before solidarity among Suffragists is essential, in spite of any differences of party or method. Nothing can give this solidarity so well as meeting socially on neutral ground. For this, if no other

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SCARF

(as sketch), in richly beaded net over Black, White, and coloured Silk Nimons, edged marabout feather, and finished with silk tassels, a very handsome wrap.

16/9.



reason, members and their friends are asked to make the Franchise Club known among all Suffragists, so that the small subscription may be compensated by increased membership and the comforts of the Club may not be curtailed. The address is 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly. C. D. CORBETT.

Local Councils and the Bill.

Last week we gave Lambeth and Brixton as if they had two borough councils, whereas they have one. The voting, we are informed, was 35 in favour of the resolution and 4 against.

Tynemouth Borough Council has passed a resolution asking the Government for facilities for Sir George Kemp's Bill. Chester-le-Street Urban District Council has passed a resolution asking for facilities for the Bill.

The Press.

The Daily News of May 22nd had a timely leader note which we quote in full.

The Cabinet is considering whether time should be given for the final stages of the Women's Suffrage Bill, and it ought to have little difficulty in coming to a favourable decision. The House has approved this Bill and Bills similar in character by overwhelming majorities drawn from all parties. The present Bill fulfils fairly Mr. Asquith's condition that it should be democratic and capable of amendment. If the House is refused without a convincing reason the time necessary for disposing completely of the Bill, then both the liberties and the credit of the House will suffer even more seriously than a reform which is long overdue. The only adequate reason that occurs to us as possible is lack of time owing to the fulness of the Government's programme, and we think that that could not be urged justly. There is no reason to suppose that the session is overcharged with Government business, and experience has shown that the fag-end of even congested sessions is usually frittered away. The Suffrage Bill is very brief, and would require only a very few days. Those few days could be carved out of the session without injury to the Government programme; or, if there were any possibility of official Bills being cramped for time, there is no good reason why Parliament should not be asked to sit a few days longer. The important thing is that the House of Commons should have freedom to employ its leisure in enacting a reform to which it is pledged.

The Manchester Guardian of the same date has a leader in which it is stated that "if Mr. Asquith wishes to keep his promise in substance and effect, or perhaps even to keep it at all, it is clear that the time for doing so is now." The article goes on to say that the two dangers of delay are that Liberalism will "drop down morally" and that many Liberals will forswear their allegiance to the party, if the question is played with any longer.

The Nation of May 13th said "the pledges of the Government are specific and it cannot now merely decree the measure's (Conciliation Bill's) extinction."

Among newspapers that are more than merely fair to women, and have large amounts of space devoted to women's interests are the Birkenhead News and the Wallasey News. The whole tone of these papers is remarkably cultivated and high-minded.

The Scotsman of May 25th says in reference to the Insurance Bill: "In short, to render the scheme solvent an injustice has to be done to a class that are certainly not least deserving of the nation's encouragement—the wives of working-men; at the same time there are placed something resembling a handicap on marriage and a premium on separation. Can anyone believe that this injustice would have been contemplated if women had the Parliamentary vote? The framers of the Bill have managed to place in the hands of the advocates of women's rights a new weapon of argument—one of the best and strongest in their armoury."

The Queen, which has long been sympathetic to the enfranchisement of women, had an excellent leader the week before last.

University Section of the Women's Suffrage Procession, June 17th.

The organisation of the University Section has been undertaken by a special committee, with Dr. Flora Murray as chairman, constituted by the London Graduates' Union for Women's Suffrage and including representatives of Suffrage Societies in other Universities and of Women's colleges. The section will be independent of other parts of the procession and it will walk under academic banners only. The offer of the loan of College banners will be welcomed by the committee. The section will consist of graduates and undergraduates wearing academic dress and of members, past and present, of the Women's colleges at Oxford and Cambridge. Members of the section are asked to be in their places by 4.30 p.m. The section will form up in Whitehall Court immediately opposite the entrance to the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole.

As it is difficult to obtain adequate robing rooms for a date so near the Coronation it has only been possible to arrange

for limited accommodation at the Whitehall Rooms and it is therefore hoped that all who can do so will arrive in their robes. Tickets admitting to the robing room will be sent to those who apply for them before June 12th and information will then be given as to the arrangements for the transfer of hats and disrobing. Several of the Societies are to hold meetings after the procession: application for tickets and information respecting them can be obtained at the offices of the societies. No special arrangements, in regard to the meetings, are being made for members of the University section. A fund has been started for the hire of robes, etc. Donations to it and applications for grants from it should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. E. Davies-Colley, 16, Harley Street, London, W. For further information inquiry should be made to the Hon. Sec., Dr. M. A. Dowie, 55, Haverstock Hill, Hampstead, N.W.

The Lodging Problem.

A conference was held on lodging-house accommodation for women by the National Association for Women's Lodging-houses on May 17th, at the Guildhall, London. Papers were read by Lady McLaren, Councillor Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Hylton Dale, Dr. Sykes, Alderman Thompson, and other experts on the question. Mrs. Mary Higgs was absent through illness, but her paper was read.

The speakers were unanimously of opinion that private enterprise is not sufficient to meet the need of women for inexpensive and respectable lodgings, a need which, as Dr. Sykes pointed out, is steadily growing with the ever-increasing number of young women who are each year driven from their homes by financial stress. There are a certain number of lodging-houses managed by municipalities, but the greater number are in private hands. Very few are for women only. Most are situated near public-houses, and are even in connection with them. They are frequently verminous and, in these houses which are for men as well as for women, there is no other place for personal washing and the washing of clothes but the scullery sink. Cleanliness, as Lady McLaren aptly said, is infinitely more important to a woman than to a man; he can find a job though he is dirty; she sinks at once in the social scale if she is not clean. (A respectable woman who has been but a short time out of work may, if she has to enter a lodging-house, run the risk of never finding respectable work again.) Apart from any consideration of this sort, it is obvious that the moral perils are great for any young woman who is reduced to seeking shelter in these mixed houses. And poor as their accommodation is, it is often not to be had by women. Mrs. Hylton Dale pointed out that many houses object to receiving women because they give more trouble: they want to wash and sew. If a woman has children, she can hardly hope to gain admittance. Private effort, then, having failed so completely, it is necessary that municipalities or the State should take up the work. It is hopeful work. In Glasgow there is a house for women only which is always full, and has paid 4 per cent. from the first. It is to be hoped that London and the provincial towns will take up the task. It was agreed by the meeting that there must be lodging-houses for women only; that privacy in the sleeping rooms should be the ideal; that washing accommodation must be given; and that there must be a woman manageress. The regulations should not be unnecessarily burdensome. Dr. Sykes well said that women cannot be driven in, they must be attracted in.

Councillor Margaret Ashton made what was described as the most racy speech of the day, and Miss Margaret Robertson, who has sampled Ashton House as a lodger, described her experiences.

Health Visitors Bill.

Under the auspices of the Women's Local Government Society a conference was held on Monday, May 15, at the Caxton Hall, to consider the Health Visitors Bill. Fifteen organisations were represented, including the National Union of Women Workers, the Women's Industrial Council, the Women Sanitary Inspectors' Association, the National Health Society, the Rural Housing and Sanitation Association. Mrs. C. Theodore Williams presided.

The conference agreed, on the motion of Mrs. Maitland, seconded by Dr. S. C. Lawrence, M.O.H., Edmonton, that the Health Visitors Bill was calculated to lower the high standard of work hitherto maintained by women officially employed by sanitary authorities, by encouraging the appointment of women without adequate qualification, without the necessary powers, with too narrow range of work and with practically no status, and that if the Bill as now before Parliament should come on for second reading it should be actively opposed.

Mrs. Maitland gave the substance of a letter she had received from Dr. Scurfield, M.O.H. (Sheffield), emphasising the points she desired to bring forward that there is no room for health visitors; that health visitors with one qualification only may do more harm than good; half-trained women would give faulty advice and get into trouble with the medical practitioners. There was no difficulty in obtaining applications from fully-trained nurses also trained as midwives, who possessed the sanitary inspectors' qualification

or who agreed to obtain it within a short time. It was a great mistake to multiply inspectors. The woman should be able to perform the duties of sanitary inspector, supervisor of midwives, health visitor, and, if thought desirable, of the school nurse.

Dr. Lawrence, after reference to the correspondence on the subject in the "British Medical Journal" and other technical papers, said he felt so strongly on the subject that he considered the resolution put the case too mildly. He criticised the Bill as containing no provision for adequate qualification, salary, or security of tenure, and contributed much valuable information on the subject from his practical experience.

Mr. Charles Bathurst, M.P., stated that he and Mr. Bridgeman had blocked the Bill, and that Mr. John Burns had promised to receive representations on the subject.

The Secretary of the Rural Housing Association having read a letter from Miss Cochrane in favour of the Bill in so far as the rural districts were concerned, Dr. Fremantle (M.O.H., Hertfordshire) expressed similar views, and Miss Carey (Sanitary Inspector, City of Westminster) raised the point whether it might not be well that in rural districts the County Councils only should appoint health visitors.

Mrs. Dickinson Berry, M.D., and Miss Henry, R.D.C., supported the resolution.

Mrs. Lovibond urged the importance of sanitary environment as affecting infant mortality, and moved the following resolution, which was carried:—"This conference is of opinion that any woman appointed in the future to carry out the work popularly known as 'health visiting' should be qualified and appointed as sanitary inspector, and should hold additional qualifications for the special work of health visiting." Dr. Bygott, M.O.H. (Barking), Dr. Wellesley Harris, M.O.H. (Lewisham), and Mrs. Greenwood (representing the Women Sanitary Inspectors' Association) spoke in support, and it was resolved that the resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister and the President of the Local Government Board.

Women and State Insurance.

An extremely interesting meeting was held by the Fabian Women's Group on Wednesday, May 24th, to discuss the provisions of the National Insurance Bill as they affect women. Mrs. BERNARD SHAW was in the chair. A large number of women's organisations were represented, and the discussion, opened by speeches from Miss MARY MACARTHUR and Miss LLEWELYN DAVIES, was extremely animated. All present seemed to be agreed that the bill in its present form is unfair to women and should not be accepted without considerable amendment.

Miss MACARTHUR, after giving a lucid exposition of some of the chief provisions of the bill, proceeded to criticise it from the point of view of the women's trade unions. She said that she wished her criticism to be mainly constructive but that there were several points in which the bill as it at present stood was unfair to women. There was first the "actuarial" discrepancy. Employed women who paid 3d. a week in their times of health would only receive 7s. 6d. a week allowance in times of sickness, whereas men who had paid 4d. a week would receive 10s. As the contributions of the employer and the State were the same for both sexes, the proper proportion would be to give the woman 8s. 11d. where the man received 10s. To take it the other way round, if she was only to receive 7s. 6d. a week in time of illness, she ought only to pay 1½d. at other times. Another drawback was that as women dropped out of the scheme altogether if they married and ceased to be employed, the time when they were contributing would probably be the healthiest period of their lives, their young years before marriage, and they would get no proportionate return. Certain classes of women would be in a specially bad position, notably domestic servants. The proposals of the Bill were specially unfair with regard to young persons, as for them there was to be no abatement in respect of low wages. For persons under twenty-one the sick benefit was to be reduced to 5s. a week for a boy and 4s. a week for a girl, but married persons under twenty-one were to receive the whole benefit. The effects of this would be to encourage the underpaid labour of young people, to discourage a newly married woman from giving up work in a factory, and to encourage the marriage of boys and girls. Miss MacArthur then dwelt on the difficulties which would arise in the case of broken time, piece-work, and seasonal trades. She said that her solution would be the fixing of a subsistence level wage below which there should be no contribution from the employee at all, and the employer should be penalised by being made to pay the whole thing. She believed that if the bill passed as it stood at present the majority of women would not be accepted for insurance by the friendly societies, and would drift into the Post Office scheme, which was not insurance at all, but merely compulsory thrift. Rather than this should happen, she would willingly see the bill die. She ended by showing special ways in which the bill would have a disastrous effect on women's trades unions.

Miss LLEWELYN DAVIES criticised the bill from the point of view of the Women's Co-operative Guild, the majority of whose members are married non-wage-earning women. She said that the proposed maternity benefit was a small instal-

ment of a much-needed and far-reaching reform. The sum of 30s. was entirely inadequate, but would be better than nothing. She suggested that it should be placed under the control of the local health committees and that part of it should be paid to the mother in cash. The provision that women should not receive sick pay at the same time as maternity benefit ought to be amended, otherwise a woman would be worse off at the time of her confinement than during any other illness. The deadly flaw in the bill was, however, the exclusion of non-wage-earning married women from all benefits, even those of sanatoria. This seemed almost incredible. While the large majority of mothers were excluded the bill could not be called national. If women had had votes such a thing could not have happened. (Loud applause, after which the speaker explained that it was especially necessary for married women to have votes. A voice: "Let some women get votes first and they will help the rest.") Miss Llewelyn Davies concluded by showing that it was very necessary to press for the inclusion of women in the administration of the Act. Several speakers pointed out special ways in which the bill as it stands at present would press hardly on women, and re-informed Miss MacArthur's suggestion that under it a large number of women would for various reasons not really be insured at all, but merely be subjected to a scheme of compulsory thrift. Every word of the discussion made it more plain how necessary it is that women should be directly consulted in politics, and how absurd it is to call any scheme "national" when women are not consulted in its construction, but only suffer its results. I. B. O'MALLEY.

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JOSEPHINE BUTLER

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[ESTABLISHED 1897.]

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The Ladies' National Association

For the Abolition of State Regulation of Vice and for the Promotion of Social Purity.

The annual meeting was held on May 23rd, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Mr. Walter McLaren, M.P., was in the chair, and the Right Honourable James Stuart telegraphed best wishes for the meeting, regretting that he could not be present, but that his interest in the cause was unabated, and that the necessity of maintaining efficient organisation was increasing. Mr. McLaren spoke of the marvellous changes that had come about since the days of Mrs. Josephine Butler with regard to women's questions. Amongst the Bills introduced into the House of Commons last year there were more than thirty that affected women, and twelve of these dealing with immorality. Parliament would not have time to deal with all these measures, nor was it desirable that they should till women have a direct voice in settling their provision. There were great openings for the work of the Ladies' National Association, for instance, in resisting proposals for notification and compulsory detention in cases of venereal diseases.

After the formal business of electing honorary officers and committee, and the passing of the financial and annual report, Mrs. Budgett took the chair, as Mr. McLaren had to leave early.

Dr. Jane Walker then addressed the meeting on the subject of compulsory detention for venereal diseases. She pointed out the differences between these and other diseases which were subject to notification and detention; and the danger that compulsory methods would lead to concealment, and therefore defeat their own object. She urged the necessity of educating public opinion and legislators as to the right method of dealing with this problem, and above all for parents to teach their children the evil consequences of vice.

Lady Bunting spoke about Japan and the Yoshiwara quarter outside the city of Tokyo, where girls were kept under the authority of the police, as slaves to vice. Recently the Yoshiwara was destroyed by fire, and 5,000 girls were left homeless. She and others felt this was a good opportunity to write to the Mayor of Tokyo, whom she knew personally, to express the hope that these poor girls might be allowed to gain their freedom and be given an opportunity of living a pure life.

Mr. W. A. Cooté proposed a resolution asking that the Government would give immediate facilities for the passing of the Criminal Law Amendment (White Slave Traffic) Bill, which provides the authorities with greater legal powers to deal with the growing crime of the White Slave Traffic. The resolution was seconded by Miss Emily Ford, and carried unanimously.

Foreign News.

NORWAY.

King Hakon has publicly recognised the great services of Mrs. Guam in combating tuberculosis, by decorating her with a gold medal. Our readers will remember that Mrs. Guam is the president of the Norwegian Women's Suffrage Association.

Speeches during Mrs. Chapman Catt's Stay in Norway. During Mrs. Chapman Catt's stay in Norway, from the 24th to the 28th of April, she had the opportunity of meeting several of our most eminent politicians.

On the 25th she took part in an excursion to Voxenkollen, where our former Prime Minister, Gunnar Knudsen, proposed her health and that of her friend Miss Hay, adding a few words of hearty welcome to Norway.

Mrs. Catt replied by thanking Mr. Gunnar Knudsen and his ministry for having appointed ladies as government delegates at the meetings of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance at Amsterdam in 1908, and in London in 1910.

On the evening of the 26th a banquet was held in her honour at the Grand Hotel, at which our present Prime Minister, W. Konow, made the following speech:—

Ladies and gentlemen, I need not many words to interpret the strong and deep feeling of satisfaction and sympathy that fills our minds and hearts at having the distinguished president of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance in our midst as our honoured guest.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, I have the honour in the name of the present company to address to you our hearty welcome to Norway.

We present our respectful homage to you as the representative of the mighty society across the ocean, to which are bound by many ties of relationship, sympathy and gratitude, mainly because hundreds of thousands of our emigrated countrymen have found a new home for work, for wellbeing, and happiness under its glorious banner.

We render homage to you as the distinguished representative and high model of the American woman, who for generations has shown to the world the perfect image of the highest and noblest human qualities.

Above all we render homage to you as the eminent representative and leader of the mighty movement and the mighty work, which now is spreading over the whole world with the view of bestowing full political and civic rights to women in the name of justice, freedom and progress.

We Norwegians consider it as an honour to have been in the front of the movement of giving political franchise to women. Votes for women is an established fact with us. Female suffrage is universal at the municipal elections. And it is only a question of time when women also will get rights equal with men at the general political elections.

If you ask me: What is your experience? And what are the results of the incorporation of female suffrage in the political institutions of Norway? I am glad to be able to answer:

Within all parties and all fractions with us there is an overwhelming consensus of opinion, that we have been right, that we have moved in the right direction.

As to the ways of future development, we are all of us equally ignorant. But it is our confident hope, that in the high intelligence and ability, in the warm hearts and keen intuition of women we shall have the best means and the best assistance for realizing the highest and greatest end of society: justice, personal and social liberty and human culture, while in the deeply rooted conscience and highly developed ethic sense of women we shall have the best guarantee for the preservation of the common goods of civilisation, and the best guarantee against the danger, lest the great work of society might be frustrated by exaggerations and biased minds.

In deep and sincere conviction that the future may bring this hope to fulfilment, we beg to ask you Mrs. Chapman Catt, to take with you our best wishes for the progress and victory of the splendid programme whose most illustrious leader and spokesman you are.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour to propose to add according to our national custom to our good wishes a strong Norwegian Hurra!

UNITED STATES.

On May 6th the American suffragists marched in a grand procession through the principal streets of New York. The numbers estimated range from 3,000 to 5,000, but 10,000 are said to have assembled in the square, where speeches were afterwards made. The procession was watched by an enormous crowd of about 150,000 persons, and those who came to scoff very soon changed their attitude and cheered instead. Perhaps next time many of them will walk instead of only looking on.

SWEDEN.

The three political parties who took part in the recent municipal elections at Stockholm have each elected a woman. Mrs. Emilia Broome, who was chosen by the Liberals, is at the head of the society for social work in that city; and Miss Anna Lindhagen, the Social Democratic candidate, is an ardent Suffragist and social worker. The Conservatives elected Miss Alma Hedin, sister of Sven Hedin.

The sum of 5,000 crowns annually for ten years has been promised by Mrs. Martina Bergman, Osterberg, for teaching sociology to Swedish women. Her idea is to arrange a lecturing tour, commencing next October, and gradually go through all the provinces, devoting four months to each. The lectures are to deal principally with the laws affecting women and children.

ICELAND.

International Suffrage Congress in Stockholm.

Those of our readers who do not take in "Jus Suffragii" may be interested to hear that Mrs. Chapman Catt, the president of the International Alliance, has arrived in Stockholm, and found active preparations for the coming Congress in full swing. Swedish Suffragists are preparing to give their guests a most hearty welcome, and are arranging a variety of interesting excursions and entertainments, besides receptions and public dinners, not to mention the meetings. As an encouragement of attending the Congress, we cannot do better than quote Mrs. Catt's own words: "Each delegate will surely find a visit to this wonderfully beautiful city of Stockholm a refreshing and instructive vacation. Each suffragist will receive inspiration and knowledge from the deliberations, which will prove valuable assets in her home propaganda work, and each and all may feel that their presence here will add to the testimony, now being officially taken by the Swedish Government, concerning the rapidly growing demand for woman suffrage in all lands."

Return tickets from London to Stockholm, via Flushing, Hamburg or Berlin, and lasting sixty days, cost £14 13s. 9d. first class, and £9 11s. 11d. second class. The journey straight through takes just under forty-eight hours, and can be conveniently broken at Hamburg and Copenhagen.

A correspondent writes from Reykjavik:—"It may interest you to learn that a Bill has just been passed by the Althing (Parliament) here, giving to women the same rights as are enjoyed at present by men, to enter the schools and University, and to take all the classes there, and also throwing open to them all the professions and Government appointments. A Bill to amend the Constitution has also been passed this year, but it must get the sanction of the people at a general election and then pass the new Althing before it can be sent to the King for his assent. This Bill contains provisions giving women the vote on exactly the same terms as men. Married women are included as well as single, and there is no property qualification at all. All women over twenty-five years of age can vote for the candidates for the lower House, and those over thirty years for the candidates for the upper House. Women are, of course, eligible as candidates."

Xanthippe.

(A feminist paper in Zurich has appeared with the above name, and these verses—translated from the German—appear at the head.)

I am Xanthippe, you know me of old,
Know that my voice is the voice of a scold!
More than two thousand long years I have borne
The bitter injustice of slander and scorn.
And I know that for countless ages to come
Slander and scorn will never be dumb
When my sad name is uttered, and justice denied me
To summon to judgment the judges who tried me.
I am inured to the scorn and the shame,
My shoulders are down-bowed to carry the blame.
But my living and suffering sister I call
To rebel against wrong and acknowledge her soul.
And further, I bid her quite plainly declare
She is pinched by the shoe which they force her to wear.
To picture the pain and the torment and sorrow
Of women, the sharpest of goose-quills I borrow,
And whenever injustices come in my way
On the wound, unafraid, my finger I lay.
Perchance my superfluous task you'll deride?
But your gratitude is not the goal of my pride.
Perchance your ideal of woman's confounded,
(Of angel and idiot so oddly compounded)?
But question your heart and I think you'll agree
All you do is not done to edify me!
Perchance I may seem to you harsh and severe?
Bethink you! The ancientest grievance is here!
Perchance some discomforts may cause you annoy?
If you will scatter thorns, you can't have figs, my boy!

Reviews.

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT: A STUDY IN ECONOMICS AND ROMANCE. By G. R. Stirling Taylor. (Martin Lecker. 7s. 6d. net. Pp. 210.)

Mr. Taylor's rather unusual knowledge of the writings of his heroine gives (as he rightly claims that it should) its special value to his biography, as those writings themselves give extraordinary interest to the study of Mary Wollstonecraft. In spite of all the sympathy we feel with the difficulties they had to meet, it is impossible for any modern woman to read the words of (e.g.) Hannah More, or Mary Astell, or Mrs. Norton without being occasionally repelled by "the extreme humility of the curtsy" they make to men's opinion of what women ought to be. It is the peculiar quality of Mary Wollstonecraft's genius that no line of her writing ever jars, or can jar, in this way, on the most advanced of the women of to-day. One may disagree with or dislike certain propositions, but with the fundamental assumption underlying all there can be no quarrelling. It is "not a plea for the granting of sex privileges; it is . . . a passionate demand that her sex shall be obliterated by the larger claim to be considered a human being." There is the very essence of what is misleadingly called "feminism"; and all that this great pioneer demanded is essentially all that we are demanding to-day. She quotes Rousseau—"Educate women like men, and the more they resemble our sex the less power they will have over us"—and answers him: "That is the very point I aim at. I do not wish them to have power over men, but over themselves."

Mr. Taylor has wisely emphasised this quality in the genius of Mary Wollstonecraft, and points out with justifiable triumph that she wrote a "Vindication of the Rights of Men" (mankind) before the more famous "Vindication of the Rights of Women." His book is worth reading for this alone. As a biography it is hardly so successful. One wants an appreciation more full of insight into a very perplexing character if we are to believe Mary Wollstonecraft as "beating the usual prison-fever of the mental captive-disordered nerves" was hers through life? If so, the life of this daringly original thinker was a tragedy, and needs a mighty pen indeed to portray it. Some humane writer will yet, perhaps, pluck out the heart of her mystery and show us how to meet greatly help to be told that we ought not to indulge "a trembling desire to fit Mary into the code of Sunday School ethics," when we seek more explanation of that strange union of noble intellect with hectic, wavering, and fevered passions.

A. M. R.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

SUFFRAGETTE SALLY, by G. Colmore. (Stanley Paul and Co. 6s.)

THE CORONATION, by Christopher St. John and Charles Thursby. (The International Suffrage Shop.)

THE CHILD AND THE STATE, by Margaret McMillan. (The National Labour Press. 1s. net.)

THE BREAD UPON THE WATERS, by Georgette Agnew. (Heinemann. 6s.)

SUFFRAGE SONGS AND VERSES, by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. (The Charlton Company. Ten cents.)

ADULT SUFFRAGE, by F. D. Acland, M.P. (The People's Suffrage Federation. 1d.)

THE POSITION OF WOMAN, ACTUAL AND IDEAL, papers by various essayists with a preface by Sir Oliver Lodge. (James Nisbet and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

A SHORT HISTORY OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS, by Eugene A. Hecker. (O. P. Putnam and Sons. 6s. net.)
(The above acknowledgments do not preclude subsequent longer notice.)

Letters to the Editor.

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 on one side of the paper only.

MIDWIVES AND NATIONAL INSURANCE.

Will you allow space in your valuable paper for us to call attention to the Clauses in regard to maternity benefits in Mr. Lloyd George's Insurance Bill, which specially concern us as midwives?

There are 30,000 women on the Midwives' Roll, and we, the Midwives' Institute, being the only incorporated body of midwives, feel bound to speak on behalf of this large number of useful members of the community, who are unable themselves to voice their views.

Your readers may not know that midwives attend 50 per cent. of the total number of births in England and Wales; the percentage would necessarily be much higher amongst the class insured under Mr. Lloyd George's Bill. We therefore feel that we have a right to speak.

It is very difficult to understand exactly what are the provisions of this Bill. In one part it says that the woman entitled to maternity benefit shall not be entitled to sickness or medical benefit for four weeks after her confinement, but in answer to a question put by Mr. Lees Smith, and reported in the "Daily Telegraph," Mr. Lloyd George said that the maternity benefit under the Bill (which covered medical attendance), must be regarded as additional to sickness benefit and not as a substitute for it. If this means that a woman can be entitled to sickness benefit in addition to maternity benefit, it will be a great relief to many poor women to know it, and it would leave the 30s. (which, by the by, is not to be apportioned by the woman who has paid for it, but by a local Health Committee, as may be prescribed), presumably for medical attendance, and extras, including nursing.

We would ask that it shall be laid down in the Act that the lying-in woman shall have entirely free choice as to whether she employs a doctor or a midwife, and liberty to choose that doctor or midwife; also, if she employs a midwife and it is necessary for the midwife to send for a doctor, that his fee shall be assured.

The medical profession are able through their powerful organizations to influence Parliament. The midwife is, by reason of her sex, excluded from any participation in making the laws that concern her, and the only hope of obtaining a small modicum of justice is by appealing to the public through the Press.—Yours faithfully,

AMY HUGHES, President, Midwives' Institute.
FANE WILSON, Vice-president, Midwives' Institute.
ROSALIND PAGET, Hon. Treasurer, Midwives' Institute.
R. P. FYNES-CLINTON, Secretary, Midwives' Institute.
The Incorporated Midwives' Institute, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

TRINITY GRADUATES AND UNDERGRADUATES.

We have some hope of being able to start a Suffrage society for Trinity graduates and undergraduates this term. Meanwhile we should be glad if the numerous ladies who have taken our Ad Eundem degree would give us a little practical help in the following ways:—

(1) By writing personally to Sir E. Carson and Mr. Campbell asking them to support the further stages of the Bill.

(2) By getting Dublin University men who have taken the M.A. or any higher degree to do so. We should be especially grateful to Suffragists who would do this for us as we cannot hope to be able to afford to circularise them ourselves.

(3) We should be glad to know whether any ladies, either those who have taken our degree by examination or who hold the Ad Eundem, would walk in the procession to represent Trinity Women Suffragists.

(4) As some Trinity College Anti-Suffragists are very much upset at University graduates wearing academicals, and as I am informed that the men from the English universities—all honour to their chivalry—intend to do so on June 17, we should be very glad if our English friends could persuade some Trinity men resident in London to take part in the procession. We have so many supporters among the men here that we feel confident our Irishmen in London will rise to the occasion.

M. E. DUGGAN.

5, Trinity College, Dublin, May 22nd.

MARRIED WOMEN AND THE POOR LAW.

I enclose an extract from the "Poor Law Officer's Journal" of April 28th last. I believe the answer to the question is written by a barrister who is also a Poor Law official so that it can be relied on as correct. The statement that women can be compulsorily detained in the workhouse at the instance of their husbands is often made by Suffrage

speakers, so it is only right that the correct facts should be made widely known.
ROSAMOND SMITH.
Netherlea, Holbrook, Derbyshire, May 27th, 1911.

EXTRACT.

Question: Man and wife are inmates of the Workhouse. Can the wife take her discharge without the consent of the husband?

Answer: In 1842 the Poor Law Commissioners suggested that while the Guardians had no power to prevent a wife from leaving the Workhouse without her husband, the husband, if he thought fit, could detain her in the Workhouse by his marital authority, but, having regard to the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Regina v. Jackson* (1891), 12 B. 671, which was to the effect that a husband has no right to restrain the liberty of his wife's person in the absence of any other injury to him than the mere loss of her society, the opinion of the Poor Law Commissioners on this point is not to be relied upon. We are of opinion that the wife may take her discharge even though the husband object to her so doing.

[This point is one upon which lawyers differ and it seems possible that a good deal of discretion lies in the hands of the Guardians. We quote again two authorities quoted in our issue of November 24th, 1910.

The Poor Law, by T. W. Fowle, M.A., p. 140:—"It is doubtful whether the Guardians have power to detain a wife whose husband is in the House, but they can certainly do so if the husband exercises his marital authority to forbid her departure. It results, therefore, that the pauper is perhaps the only member of the community to whom the law can afford efficient help in compelling the obedience of wives."

The English Poor Law System (Aschrott, p. 246):—"The moot question, whether a married woman may be discharged from the workhouse without her husband, has been settled by the Central Board by the decision that the husband by virtue of his marital authority may forbid his wife to leave the workhouse, but that if he refuses to make use of this authority the Guardians cannot prevent the wife from discharging herself, though they may discharge her husband with her."
—Ed. "C. C."]

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN AMERICA.

Miss Molly Elliot Seawell has expanded into a small book an article against women's suffrage that she published last autumn in the "Atlantic Monthly." In it she makes many unwarranted assertions in regard to equal rights for women, alleging especially that if women obtain the franchise married women must lose all their property rights. Chief Justice Potter of Wyoming in the "Woman's Journal" of January 7th, 1911, wrote:

"None of the consequences or complications mentioned by Miss Seawell have arisen in Wyoming, where women have had full suffrage since 1869. Married women have not only not been deprived of any property rights which they had before equal suffrage was adopted, but from time to time statutes have been passed extending the property rights of married women."

Judge Lindsey of the Juvenile Court of Denver, Colorado, annotated a whole series of Miss Seawell's statements, writing against each the words, "Absolutely false." He added, in the "Woman's Journal" of October 8th, 1910:—"It is hard to understand how anyone with a grain of intelligence could sign her name to such absurdities. The statements are false in every detail, and our experience in Colorado proves that not one of them ever operated in actual practice as claimed."

Chief Justice Sullivan of Idaho, in "The Woman's Journal" of November 12th, 1910, said of Miss Seawell's dissertation:—"It seems strange that a magazine with the standing of the "Atlantic Monthly" would give space to an article containing not only an utter misconception of the legal principles applicable to women who have the right of suffrage, but so many erroneous statements and misrepresentations of the historical facts of the real condition of woman suffrage where it is now in actual operation. I am unable to understand why an author should risk her reputation by making so many false statements. It seems to me that nothing but ignorance, prejudice, and a wilful intention to misrepresent could have instigated such an article."

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Of Miss Seawell's statement that a dozen ruffians could forcibly prevent a hundred women from voting, and that this would certainly happen, Chief Justice Sullivan says:—"No such thing has ever occurred in any of the suffrage States. What would the good men at the polling place be doing while the ruffians were belabouring their mothers and wives, sisters and sweethearts, and preventing them from depositing their ballots? The rowdy who attempted it would never attempt such an act again."

ALICE STONE BLACKWELL,
President, Massachusetts Woman
Suffrage Association.

585, Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.

MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS.

May I say through your columns that I agree absolutely with everything "Suffragist" says as regards married women as teachers? Married life is not a business transaction—to cook, sew, etc.—but a partnership, solemnly undertaken, with the distinct prospect of bringing up a family. Motherhood means responsibility, and the first responsibility that falls to the mother is that of nursing her baby.

In these days when so much attention is being drawn to the question of Infant Mortality and to the evils resulting from the neglect of the laws of hygiene in infant life, are we to encourage the teachers of our children to stand among the ranks of those who for money, for freedom or for social pleasures are willing to cast aside the gift which nature has bestowed upon them for the safeguarding of the life that has been entrusted to their care?

As a nurse who has worked among infants both in a Children's Hospital and by private nursing for over 25 years, I say with confidence, that no mother, who is bearing the mental strain of teaching in any of our public schools, can possibly, if she tries to nurse her baby, give it a milk of such a quality as it has a right to expect, and such as will ensure for it the best foundation for a healthy, vigorous life.

EX-HOSPITAL MATRON.

[Our correspondent has considerably whittled down the demand for the total exclusion of married women from schools. She makes it appear that all she objects to is the presence in school of nursing mothers. This is a very different matter. Most married women have long years of activity during which they are not required to suckle infants.—Ed. "C. C."]

OLD AGE PENSIONS AND POOR RELIEF.

I do not know if the following case will be of any interest to your readers or whether the position is one too well known to suffragists to need comment.

An old man aged 83 and his wife aged 65 have been receiving relief from the Guardians of 3s. apiece. Under the administration of the Old Age Pensions Act the wife cannot receive relief and the husband a pension at the same time. The Guardians propose to insist upon the old man's application for his pension, and this will mean a loss of 1s. a week out of a total income of 6s. to the couple. In two other cases (somewhat less destitute than these) in which the man is over and the woman under 70, the man has been ordered to apply for the pension and the 1s. has been lost to them.

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THE MEN'S LEAGUE AT THE PROCESSION.

My Committee are particularly anxious that the Men's League Contingent in the Procession of June 17th should be as large as possible. They are therefore strongly of the opinion that men who intend to march should not, as on previous occasions, disperse among other contingents either as banner bearers or otherwise.

We feel sure you will recognise that this request is not based upon unwillingness to be useful to other societies, but rather upon the conclusion that at the present crisis the League will do the best service by appearing at full strength in the Procession.

May I therefore make a special appeal through your columns that all men marching in the Procession will march with the Men's Contingent.

J. MALCOLM MITCHELL (Hon. Sec.).

Work of Societies in the Union.

LONDON SOCIETY.

CAMBREWELL.—On May 25th a very large and highly favourable open-air meeting was held at Grove Lane, Miss Clague in the chair. The speakers were Miss O'Malley and Miss Helen Ward. The crowd gave marked and repeated signs of disapproval of an inter-rupter, and took the "working women meeting" leaflets in large numbers. Considerable interest was shown in Miss O'Malley's arguments upon the State Insurance Bill, especially by the women.

ESHER.—An open-air meeting was held on May 18th at the Fountain, East Molesey, Miss Martineau in the chair. Miss Helen Ward was the speaker, and a resolution re facilities was carried *nem. con.*, and sent to the local M.P.

HINGHAM.—Under the presidency of Mrs. Garnett, the Highgate branch held their fourth annual meeting at the Spears Memorial Hall on May 17th, and after the reading of the report and the re-election of the committee, Miss Agnes Wilkie gave some details of the progress of the new branch in Muswell Hill, and Mrs. Dowse described the propaganda work undertaken at Stroud Green. Mrs. Swanwick, who met with a warm reception, then delivered a brilliant and rousing speech, and pointed out the injustice of women being forced to contribute by taxation to the support of members of Parliament, whilst they are to a certain extent being mis-represented. She also appealed to the men present to realize the impossibility of adequately dealing with many of the social problems that are pressing for solution till the point of view of the women is duly expressed and considered. Mr. Chancellor, M.P., who was introduced by Mrs. Garnett as one of the truest friends of the women's cause, made an able defence of the Conciliation Bill, which he, though an Adult Suffrage, yet considered democratic.

On May 21st, through the kind invitation of Mrs. Garnett, the second of a series of addresses on "Pioneer Women" was given by Miss Bompas, her subject being "Frances Power Cobbe and Mary Carpenter." Miss Bompas opened by saying it encouraged us to persevere when we look back on the work accomplished fifty years ago by the early Suffragists; and that it was specially interesting to contrast the lives of these two women, as they differed so greatly in temperament and upbringing. The keynote of Frances Power Cobbe's life was a cheery optimism. Mary Carpenter was sensitive and introspective, and at first thought women should work only behind the scenes; but her experience with the reformatories and industrial schools that she started proved to her that such reforms could only be accomplished by means of Parliamentary action. The National Indian Association was started through her endeavours.

KINGSTON AND SHERBORN.—An open-air meeting was held in Kingston Market Place on May 5th, at 8 p.m. Mrs. McRae, of the London Society, and Mr. Gugenheim, of the Men's League, addressed a large and interested crowd.

LAMBETH NORTH.—On May 22nd a meeting of the Kensington Women's Liberal Association was addressed by Miss Cohen, and proved to be unanimously in favour of the Suffrage. On May 23rd a highly successful meeting took place at the Temple Schools, North Lambeth, nearly 200 being present. Miss Hill, Miss C. Corbett, Alderman Hinds, and Councillor Wood were the speakers. The resolution asking for facilities was passed unanimously. Five members joined at once, and many more promised to do so. Nineteen "Common Causes" were sold. On May 24th Mr. Holman addressed the League of Young Liberals at 54, Kennington Road. About fifty were present, the meeting was very enthusiastic, and converts were made.

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT FEDERATION.

ECLES.—The annual meeting of the Eccles Society was held in Burgon's Hall, Monton, on Monday evening, May 15th. The chair was taken by Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A. (president), and an address was given by Miss Margaret Robertson. The secretary's and treasurer's reports showed what good progress had been made during the last year, which was very satisfactory, considering the branch was only twelve months old and could now boast of eighty members. Miss Robertson urged all to join in the London procession on June 17th.

KNUTSFORD.—On April 24th the Knutsford Division Society held its fourth annual meeting in the offices of the Manchester Society. The secretaries' and treasurer's reports were presented and passed, and committee and officers elected. It was finally decided at this meeting that the Society as a Division Society should be dissolved, and we have now in place of one large straggling society three compact ones—namely, Knutsford and surrounding districts; Alderley Edge, Wilmslow, and Styal; and Disley, Whaley Bridge, and Furness Vale,—each society affiliating direct to the National Union and Federation. Mrs. Binco (Knutsford) was in the chair and presided over the rather small meeting.

LEIGH.—At the beginning of the month the members of the Leigh Society were busy bringing pressure to bear upon the members of the Town Council in support of a motion in favour of petitioning Parliament to press for further facilities for the Conciliation Bill. The result was very encouraging, as the Council passed the resolution by seventeen votes to one. On Tuesday, May 23rd, Miss Robertson addressed a large and appreciative audience in the Market

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Place, and urged the necessity of sending up as large a contingent as possible to swell the procession on the 17th. Attempts are being made to urge the local Liberal Association to bring pressure to bear upon Mr. Asquith to further our cause.

MACCLESFIELD.—On Monday, May 22nd, Mr. Laurence Housman gave a reading of his censored play, "Pains and Penalties," in the Town Hall, Macclesfield, under the auspices of the local Suffrage Society. There was a large and appreciative audience. Artistically, it need hardly be said, the evening was a brilliant success; there was also a respectable balance in hand after paying all expenses; and, speaking from a Suffrage point of view, the piece is fine propaganda.

MANCHESTER.—During the month the Manchester Society has held a large number of drawing-room meetings in the divisions of South Manchester, Prestwich, Stretford, and North Salford; local committees have been formed; and a good many new members have joined. The chief object is to excite interest in the London procession, and to urge all to press for facilities for the Bill this session. A special Procession Sub-committee is also arranging details as to special trains, etc., which will be duly notified when complete. A private debate, for members of the Society only, was held at the Memorial Hall on May 10th, to discuss the policy of Tax Resistance. The speakers were Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Mrs. Swanwick, Miss L. Cox, Miss Horniman, Miss Kemp, Miss Wright (Macclesfield), Miss Ashton, Mr. Stanton Barnes, Mr. C. W. Pidduck, and a speaker from Oldham. On May 3rd we sent two delegates to attend the Convention in London. Miss Ashton held a book sale on May 8th, the proceeds amounting to over £19.

OLDHAM.—A most enjoyable social evening was spent on April 27th by members and friends. The Mayress (Miss Lees) kindly lent the Music Room, Werneth Park, and in opening the proceedings gave everybody a hearty welcome. A musical programme was much appreciated, and during an interval refreshments were served in the conservatory to over 200 people. Mrs. Bridge gave a report of the work of the Society, and of the canvass of women householders. Seventy-seven per cent. of those interviewed declared themselves in favour of women's enfranchisement, and 1,826 women householders have signed a petition to Parliament, which was presented by Mr. Barton, M.P., on May 4th.

RADCLIFFE.—A meeting was held in the Stockyard on May 22nd. Miss Stonex presided, and the speakers were Councillor W. Brooks and Mrs. Cooper. A resolution was passed asking for facilities for the Bill. As a kind of wind-up to the recent open-air campaign in the Radcliffe and Whitefield districts, a public meeting was held in the All Saints' Schoolroom, Whitefield, on May 24th. Dr. C. Chisholm presided, and Miss M. Robertson was the principal speaker. A resolution in support of the Bill was moved by Mr. Barnes, and seconded by Miss Robertson. On the afternoon of May 27th there was an open-air meeting at Ainsworth Road, Radcliffe. Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Cooper, and Miss Stonex were the speakers.

SOUTH-WESTERN FEDERATION.

The Federation has not succeeded in getting any railway facilities for the procession, but the G.W.R. have a Coronation excursion on June 16th (week or fortnight) which may suit some of those attending.

EXETER.—The members of this Society have been most energetic in carrying out a house-to-house canvass of women municipal voters, who were invited to a tea and meeting. The Queen's Hall was the scene of the tea, a very successful meeting was held, and the membership was increased by twenty. Mr. Lindley Brown took the chair, and the speakers were Miss Willocks, Miss Norma Smith, and Miss Montgomery.

PLYMOUTH activities this month have taken the form of letters and telegrams to members, preparations for a jumble sale, and newspaper controversy with the Antis. This has enabled us to get some telling Suffrage news and arguments into a paper which certainly would not otherwise publish them. A branch has been formed of the Anti-Suffrage League, and they have been challenged to public debate, but are still shy. The Women's Liberal Association invited Miss Slater to open a debate on the Conciliation Bill.



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which was well attended. As usual, it was a young man who voiced—and that very feebly—the Anti side, the feeling of the meeting being decidedly Suffragist. As the Liberal women ascribe their failure to return Mr. Mallet to our action at the general election, we were pleased with the friendliness of our reception.

FALMOUTH.—We were fortunate in having Mrs. Corbett-Ashby with us again. She gave an admirably clear address on Sir George Kemp's Bill in the Town Hall. Her moderation and fairness prove most convincing to thoughtful men and women. Mr. R. Barclay Fox took the chair, and Councillor W. Bullen seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, copies being sent to the members for Falmouth and Truro. Two new members joined.

IPSWICH.—A meeting was held at the Art Gallery on May 20th, when Mrs. Fawcett gave an address on "Women and Citizenship," when Mrs. Fawcett moved a resolution asking for facilities for the Conciliation Bill. She spoke of the great social improvements which had resulted in those countries in which women had the franchise, and she emphasised the enormous decrease in the infant mortality and the defencelessness of women, they were forced out of the monotype and linotype printing in Edinburgh, with conditions in Norway, New Zealand, and Victoria, where various female sections of the Civil Service had had their salaries raised since the franchise was extended. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had admitted that if the franchise were granted it would be absolutely impossible to maintain the present difference in wages. Miss Layard seconded the resolution. After afternoon tea had been served, Miss Pamela Page recited "The Government-to-be" (Ella Wheeler Wilcox).

Other Societies.

PROCESSION WORK.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

All Catholic men and women are asked to join this Society at once, as we are to walk under our own banner in the procession of June 17, and must have a great rally. Voluntary workers are also needed to make this known. Will they communicate with the hon. treasurer, Miss Monica Whately, 75, Harcourt Terrace, The Boltons, London, S.W., immediately. Pamphlets are on sale now, price one penny. "The Views of Cardinal Moran and the late Cardinal Vaughan on Woman Suffrage," reprinted by kind permission of the Editor of "The Tablet."

GYMNASTIC TEACHERS' SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Organiser: Miss W. L. Boul, Fintray, Cheltenham. It is hoped that all members of the above Society will co-operate to make this an imposing section of the procession. It has been decided that only those earning their living as teachers of gymnastics, certificated gymnasts, or accepted students from recognised training colleges shall be eligible for this section. White shirt and navy skirt to be worn, and no hat, if possible; also regalia, blue and silver, particulars of which and pattern of shade will be sent on application.

Attention is drawn to the fact that lines are to be seven abreast; therefore it is hoped that each college will feel responsible for at least twenty-one representatives to form its sub-section. Names should be sent in to the organiser as soon as possible.

FREE CHURCH LEAGUE.

Hon. Organ. Sec.: Rev. E. Clark, 1, Burns Road, Harlesden, N. For procession, 17th June, Mrs. Rogers, 4, Cholmeley Park, Highgate, N., is secretary. Sympathisers and stewards to walk in Free Church contingent, distributors of handbills at churches and meetings, helpers with sewing and writing, much needed. The Free Churches must show support for the Conciliation Bill.

THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

8, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge. A special canvass of Knightsbridge and district is being undertaken to advertise the Tuesday "At Homes" at the enlarged office, and also the procession.

A meeting will shortly be arranged at Sydney Hall, Pond Place, with a view to working up this district for the procession. The committee appeal for funds towards the procession expenses. It is hoped that some working women may be able to walk with the N.C.S. contingent, if they are helped in the matter of fares. This can only be done if others will subscribe to make it possible.

THE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Our efforts must now be made in the direction of the great procession on June 17th. Branches are asked to assemble their friends and members under their own banners. Our contingent will be headed by the Labarum and large banner. Those who are desirous of taking part, but who cannot undertake to walk the whole distance, should write at once to Mrs. Hinscliff, 11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, N.W., who will arrange that seats may be hired in carriages and brakes. Donations are asked to help us to meet the necessary expenses which will have to be incurred in order to ensure success.

Forthcoming Meetings.

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| JUNE 1. | | |
| Wigan—Market Square—Miss Robertson. | | 8.0 |
| Birmingham—Grand Hotel—Annual Meeting—Mrs. Cobden Sanderson; Mrs. Osler (chair). | | 4.45 |
| Rugby—Large Co-operative Hall—Women's Suffrage from the Imperial Point of View—Mrs. F. A. Steele. | | 8.0 |
| Leamington—Birch's Music Rooms—Franchise Club. | | 3.0 |
| Stocksfield—Mrs. Walton's Drawing-room Meeting—Reading by Mrs. Graham Thompson. | Afternoon | |
| JUNE 2. | | |
| Ashton-under-Lyne—Market Place—Miss Robertson. | | 8.0 |
| Woking—Public Hall—Miss Vida Goldstein, Miss A. M. Royden, and others. Chair, The Lady Betty Balfour. | | 8.30 |
| Manchester—Mrs. Renold's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Robertson. | | 3.30 |

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| JUNE 8. | | |
| Sutton Coldfield—Allerton, Lichfield Road—Garden Sale. | | 3.0 |
| Birmingham—10, Easy Row—Franchise Club. | | 5.0 |
| JUNE 9. | | |
| Birmingham—King's Norton—Mrs. Impey's Drawing-room Meeting. | | 3.30 |
| JUNE 10. | | |
| Birmingham—Lifford Hall—Mrs. Ward's Suffrage Tea—Address. | | 4.0 |
| JUNE 12. | | |
| Nottingham—St. Thomas's Mission Hall—"Tax Resistance" | | 4.30 |
| Nottingham—Market Place—Open-air Meeting—Miss C. Corbett, B.A., Mrs. Rackham, Rev. W. C. Roberts, and others. | | 7-30 |
| JUNE 13. | | |
| Hartley Row—Common—Mrs. Renton, Rev. A. H. G. Creed. | | 7.45 |
| JUNE 14. | | |
| Birmingham—Handsworth—Mrs. Winckle's Drawing-room Meeting. | | 3.30 |
| Birmingham—10, Easy Row—Franchise Club. | | 5.30 |

LONDON.

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| June 2: London Society, Queen's Hall, Meeting for Industrial Working Women, Mrs. Fawcett, Mr. Lansbury, M.P. Chair, the Lady Frances Balfour. | 8.30 |
| June 3: Highgate, "Tally-ho" Corner, Finchley, Open-air Meeting, Mrs. Garnett, Miss Davies. | 8.0 |
| June 6: Balham, 13, Dalebury Road, Upper Tooting, Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Rosamond Smith. Chair, D. Watson, Esq. | 8.0 |
| June 7: S. Paddington, Kensington College, Bayswater, Debate, Miss G. Lindo Henry, Miss C. Corbett, B.A. Chair, Mr. J. Munford. | 3.30 |
| June 9: International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, W., Reception to Miss Vida Goldstein. Chairman, P. Snowden, Esq., M.P. | 8.30 |
| June 10: Camberwell, The Rye, Miss Ward, Miss Sterling. | 2.30 |
| June 15: Camberwell, The Tabernacle, Rye Lane, Mrs. Abbott, J. Y. Kennedy, Esq. | 8.0 |

SCOTLAND.

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|---|------|
| June 2: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, "At Home," "Vigilance Work and Its Relation to the Vote," Mrs. Hunter. Chair, Mrs. W. P. Scott. | 4.30 |
| Edinburgh, Church Hall, Blackhall, Miss Alice Low, Dr. Elsie Inglis. Chair, J. Taylor, Esq., M.A. | 8.0 |
| June 3: Peebles, Chambers' Institute, Cake and Candy Sale. | 2.0 |
| June 5: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, Miss Alice Low. | 8.0 |
| June 9: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, "At Home." | 4.30 |

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PROFESSIONAL.

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