

THE COMMON CAUSE, FEBRUARY 23, 1911.

# The Common Cause, The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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FEBRUARY 23 1911.

ONE PENNY.

## Notes and Comments.

### The People's Time.

We have accepted as inevitable that the Parliament Bill would take the first place in the Government programme, but we are not going to abate our demand that other business this session shall include the enfranchisement of women, and Mr. Asquith, who told the Trade Union Deputation on the 9th that "he hoped they would be able to give effect in the course of the session which was now in progress, at any rate to that part of the reform which dealt with the payment of Members," cannot meet us either with the statement that the Parliament Bill will take all the time there is or that the Payment of Members will not affect women. In the House on the 16th, he said that he could not yet make a definite statement as to whether such a measure would

### Adult Suffrage and the Conciliation Bill.

Some misconception has arisen owing to Mr. Keir Hardie's name appearing as one of the backers of the bill issued on the 16th by Mr. Byles. This bill is an Adult Suffrage Bill and refers to all elections. It is well known, of course, that Mr. Keir Hardie, like Mr. Shackleton and other good suffragists, is in favour of adult suffrage just as other good suffragists are opposed to it. The fact is that some people want a few women to have the vote and some want all and the more sensible portion of the adult suffragists (like Mr. Keir Hardie) are anxious to take all they can get now and leave the remainder to be dealt with if and when public opinion is ripe. Mr. Byles has secured no day for his bill, which cannot therefore pass this session; but if it remained it would block Sir George Kemp's bill and Mr. Byles is being asked to withdraw, which he will doubt-



"FIRE DAMP."

A Mother of Men.

"O feet I have held in my hand,  
O hands at my heart to catch!"

By MEUNIER (Musée de Bruxelles).

be introduced this session, but when it was introduced he hoped to make it retrospective. So far he has only claimed all the time of the House up to Easter, so May 5th is our day and for that day we must work.

### Home Rule Bill Next Year.

It appeared plainly in the debate which took place on the 15th that the Government has pledged itself to the Irish party to bring in a Home Rule Bill next session. Such a Bill is contentious and very much more complex than the simple Veto Bill, so it may be expected to take a lion's share of Government time. There never will really be "time" to consider the demand of a voteless class and it will have to be made. We look to our friends in the House to make it.

less do, since he has always been a firm believer in the enfranchisement of women and would not lend himself to a trick of this sort.

### Law or Lunacy.

Last Friday the "Daily News" had an article by Mr. G. K. Chesterton on a police court case and on Monday 20th it gave the facts. We agree with Mr. Chesterton that the case as stated is enough to make one ask "Are we all mad?" Here are the facts as given by the "Daily News" special correspondent:—On the 10th inst. at Epping Police Court, Annie Woolmore, a young married woman, was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment in Holloway Gaol for "neglecting" her five children. The children were stated to look "exceedingly well in health"

and the woman was sober. She was, however, stated to be ill and her husband said "she starved herself to feed the kids." The husband earned 16s. a week and paid 2s. 6d. a week for rent; there was no water supply in the cottage and it had to be fetched a distance of a quarter of a mile across fields. With seven people to feed, warm and clothe on 13s. 6d., ill, starved and solitary (for the man is said to have left all the housework to her) the woman with no water nearer than a quarter of a mile let the house and children get dirty. For this she was sent to gaol for six weeks crying, "Oh! Lord save my soul!" The house has just been condemned as uninhabitable! But why was it not condemned before? Why is any landlord allowed to ask 2s. 6d. rent for a house with no water supply? A woman cannot feed, clothe and warm seven persons on 13s. 6d. and it is the most outrageous cruelty to send her to gaol when she has become too ill to struggle any more. Will someone not start a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Mothers?

#### Law and Administration.

We publish this week a very brief summary of the law as it affects the rights of mothers over their children. Everyone will readily call to mind instances in which the law appears not to have been correctly administered and still more cases where it is practically impossible for the injured woman to put the law in motion. This seems to point, among other things, to the urgent need for women lawyers. Suffragists will remember that Miss Pankhurst was a distinguished graduate in law at Victoria University and it is little wonder that revolt should have been originated by one who knew so well the need women have for legal advice from a fellow-woman. In New York it is a woman lawyer who has successfully rendered inoperative the most objectionable clause in the Page Law and France has long had "avocates." There are absolutely no grounds of public policy upon which men can continue to refuse women admission to the legal profession and we ardently hope that this may be the next door to be forced. Many good men within the profession would help women.

#### A Better Way.

Those who are criticising the contemplated action of certain Suffragists in initiating the results of the census appear to us generally not to understand the situation. They point out that the census is extremely valuable,—which no one denies. They point out that it is as valuable to women as to men,—which again no one denies. Those who propose to resist the taking of the census do so not because they think it of little or no value, but because they think it of great value and resistance is a definite act of social warfare on their part. If we think the time has come when war is the only way, we shall not shrink from making havoc. The National Union has not adopted the policy of resistance either to the census or to taxation, because it is not yet of opinion that war is the only way. Those who protest against resistance should shew a better way. We hope we can. But it is incumbent on all who profess to be Suffragists, including our friends in the House, to shew this better way too.

#### Medical Women's Salaries.

A curious discussion took place on the 13th on the Walsall Town Council, when it was proposed, on the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee, to raise the salary of the Schools' Medical Officer, who happens to be a woman. The "Birmingham Gazette" reported as follows:—

Dr. Lynch said the proper way to assess the salary was to decide what her services would obtain in the open market. A lady doctor could not expect to get the same salary as a man, as two-thirds of the medical practices in the country were not open to women, who could not be expected to get up in the night and tramp lonely roads. He was not sure the department was worth the money spent on it. The lady went to her office, opened her letters and then went to look at the children, having a nurse to dance attendance on her. There was no in-

tellectual strain involved and there were no unpaid doctor's bills to worry her.

Sir E. T. Holden, in reply, protested that most of the speakers had been most unfair to Miss Sergeant. When the post was advertised she was chosen from forty applicants—both men and women—and the selection was due to her capacity. Some of the speakers thought because she was not a man they would pay her a less salary. (Cries of "No".)

The motion was rejected.

#### Another Town Council.

Haddington Town Council has passed a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage.—"John o' Groat's" given in the list in our issue of Feb. 9th, should have been "Thurso."

#### A Woman Pastor.

The Rev. Gertrud von Petzold, who was the first woman elected to a regular ministerial charge in the English Free Churches, has returned from America and once more taken the pulpit of a Unitarian Church in this country. She is now pastor of the Small Heath congregation, Birmingham. During her ministry in America she conducted the religious ceremony at the opening of the State Parliament.

#### A South African Woman Speaker.

We hear from Miss Dorothy Edwards, of the National Union, that Miss Nina Boyle, President of the Johannesburg Women's Suffrage Society, is in England for a few months and would be willing to speak for the National Union. She is described as a most delightful speaker, keeping her audience "enraptured by her interesting, forceful and amusing speech and her charming personality." Those who wish to secure her services should write to "The Limes," Upper Street, Fleet, Hants.

#### Consideration for a Liar.

A man was summoned last week for making a false statement concerning a candidate during the last election. The Bench, after a short retirement, decided that the statement complained of was made and that it was entirely false, and that defendant had no justification or reasonable grounds for believing that it was true when made. There would not be a conviction, said the Chairman, as it would involve a somewhat lengthy period of disqualification, but defendant would be bound over for twelve months to be of good behaviour and pay £5 towards the costs.

One would have supposed that disqualification was a penalty peculiarly suited to a man who lied about his political opponent. But the Bench thought the penalty altogether too great. It is pleasant for truthful women to know that they are by birth set far lower than a liar, because they are women.

#### Nobody's Business.

Last week an old lady died who was born in England, of English parents, but married to a German who died in 1901. She and her husband lived in St. Pancras for 50 years, paying rates to the amount of £500. Nevertheless, she was recently refused an old age pension because by English law she had become German. By German law, however, she was English. One is tempted to quote,—

"Rattle her bones over the stones,  
She's only a woman whom nobody owns!"

#### Our Cartoon.

Very imperfectly we show to-day a woman of the people, strong, muscular, bowed with a hard life's toil, finding her son among the victims of the mine. The field of modern industry takes its toll of life in a thousand ways, more even than the field of battle. We quote from Olive Schreiner's book, reviewed to-day in our columns: "There is no battlefield on earth, nor ever has been, howsoever covered with slain, which it has not cost the women of the race more in actual bloodshed and anguish to supply, than it has cost the men who lie there. *We pay the first cost on all human life.*"

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

- The Oldham Society for Women's Suffrage has issued a leaflet bearing on the front page the name, objects, and methods of the Society, and the names and addresses of the officers and committee, whilst inside is an historical summary of the Women's Suffrage Movement, from the Parliamentary point of view. This part of the leaflet, slightly altered, is here reproduced by kind permission of the Oldham Society:—
1902. On May 30, 1902, the Federated Parliament admitted women to the Federal Franchise throughout Australia.  
 , , ,  
 Women Enfranchised in New South Wales.  
 1903. Full Suffrage granted to the Women of Tasmania.  
 1904. On March 16 a Resolution "that the disabilities of women in respect of the Parliamentary Franchise ought to be removed by legislation" was carried in the House of Commons by 114 against 68.  
 , , ,  
 Full Suffrage granted to the women of Queensland.
- SECOND READING.**  
 February 28, Mr. Stanger's Women's Enfranchisement Bill PASSED SECOND READING in the House of Commons with a majority of 179, and was referred to a Committee of the whole House.  
 , , ,  
 Full Suffrage granted to the women of Victoria, Australia.
- SECOND READING.**  
 March 19, "Representation of the People" Bill PASSED SECOND READING in the House of Commons, an amendment to reject it having been defeated by 157 to 122, and referred to a Committee of the whole House.  
 , , ,  
**SECOND READING.**  
 July 12, Conciliation Bill to Enfranchise women occupiers PASSED THE SECOND READING in the House of Commons with a majority of 110, and was referred to a Committee of the whole House. This Bill practically proposed to grant the Parliamentary Franchise on the same terms as the Municipal Franchise to women occupiers. It was drafted by the Conciliation Committee, the members of which were chosen from all parties in the House of Commons, and consisted of 25 Liberals, 17 Unionists, 6 Nationalists, and 6 Labour, under the chairmanship of the Earl of Lytton. This Bill was the sixth Women's Suffrage Bill which passed its second reading in the House of Commons.
- THE WEEK'S MOTTO.**  
 If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again!!!

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

ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday.

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

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| 3 MONTHS  | 1 9 |
| 6 MONTHS  | 3 3 |
| 12 MONTHS | 6 6 |

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

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

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

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### What the Women's Movement Means

"Ich kann nicht anders."—Martin Luther.

When we heard that we were to have, at last, another book from the heart and brain of Olive Schreiner, we felt we could hardly bear to wait; we wanted so much to have her massive wisdom, her serene acceptance (which is not ignoble acquiescence stifling aspiration), the sanity of her revolt, the mellowness of her judgment tempering scorn and indignation.

The book has not disappointed us. It is written on great lines; it will help many a woman to serenity, whose narrow life and thwarted powers have led to exasperation; it will help many a man to a just judgment, who has been irritated by extravagances and futilities or baffled of the hope of solution by difficulties which have appalled him because they are so old. The author tells us in a touching preface how the work of a lifetime was destroyed by the burning of her manuscript book during the Boer War. Her sketch of what that book contained makes it a hard test of patience to accept the disaster and when we read this book, which contains only a small portion of the subject matter of the lost gospel, we have some measure of our loss. Still—she has given us this, in spite of failing health and daunting sorrow, and not only we but the women to come thank her.

The book deals with the vast changes in human labour that have taken place during the last century and even half century and shews how these are really at the bottom of what is known as the "woman question." War and disease required a huge birth-rate to keep up the stock; the need for vast quantities of mere muscle also had to be met; therefore, until recently one of the chief social duties of women was to bear as many children as possible. Now, increasingly, we rear a larger proportion of those born and the demands of modern industry

being much greater for intellectual than for manual labour, it becomes necessary that much fewer children should be born and that these should be more highly trained. The woman therefore has to spend less of her strength in child-bearing and has, more and more, to hand her children over to specialists for training. Industry also, which used to be almost entirely domestic, has now left the home and the attempt to confine woman to the home is an attempt to confine her to a place from which most of the labour and interest has gone.

"We demand that, in the strange new world that is arising alike upon the man and the woman, where nothing is as it was, and all things are assuming new shapes and relations, that in this new world we also shall have our share of honoured and socially useful human toil, our full half of the labour of the Children of Woman. We demand nothing more than this, and we will take nothing less. This is our WOMAN'S RIGHT!"

She proceeds then to the main theme of her book, which is the extreme danger of women sinking to a state of parasitism. She shews how the struggle for training and for scope and enfranchisement of the women of the upper classes has been actually a struggle for spiritual life and freedom; for the male must labour or die, but the female may and in small classes now does live and in the past has in large masses lived the life of a parasite on man. This condition, the author holds, is a possibility in the near future, owing to the growth of mechanical and other science, and she points out how sex parasitism, attacking the more fortunate classes, destroys the man through the woman and leads inevitably to national and racial decay. She adds in a note:—

"The relation of female parasitism generally to the peculiar phenomenon of prostitution is fundamental. Prostitution can never be adequately dealt with, either from the moral or the scientific standpoint, unless its relation to the general phenomenon of female parasitism be fully recognised. It is the failure to do this which leaves so painful a sense of abortion on the mind, after listening to most modern utterances on the question, whether made from the emotional platform of the moral reformer or the intellectual platform of the would-be scientist. We are left with a feeling that the matter has been handled but not dealt with; that the knife has not reached the core."

If then we must admit that for her full dignity and happiness and use, woman must labour and increasingly must labour intellectually, Miss Schreiner goes on to consider whether we can really find some field for special feminine aptitudes which we may consecrate to woman; leaving man other and wider fields. She seeks, but finds no such aptitudes; she does not deny that they may exist, but she pleads for liberty in which to discover what they are. "We take all labour for our province!" she cries.

"From the judge's seat to the legislator's chair; from the statesman's closet to the merchant's office; from the chemist's laboratory to the astronomer's tower, there is no post or form of toil for which it is not our intention to attempt to fit ourselves; and there is no closed door we do not intend to force open; and there is no fruit in the garden of knowledge it is not our determination to eat. Acting in us and through us, nature we know will mercilessly expose to us our deficiencies in the field of human toil, and reveal to us our powers. And, for to-day, we take all labour for our province!"

She speaks boldly and fearlessly about war and the woman's standpoint. "We pay the first cost on all human life," she says. "No woman who is a woman says of a human body, 'It is nothing!' Not that woman has deeper moral insight, not that she is less courageous or less strong, but that 'she knows the history of human flesh; she knows its cost; he does not.'"

"Men's bodies are our women's works of art. Given to us power of control, we will never carelessly throw them in to fill up the gaps in human relationships made by international ambitions and greed." . . . . "In nations continually at war, incessant and unbroken child-bearing is by war imposed on all women if the State is to survive; and whenever war occurs, if numbers are to be maintained, there must be an increased child-bearing and rearing. This throws upon women as women a war tax, compared with which all that the male expends in military preparations is comparatively light. . . . It is especially in the domain of war that we, the bearers of men's bodies, who supply its most valuable munition, who, not amid the clamour and ardour of battle, but singly, and alone, with a three-in-the-morning courage, shed our blood and face death that the battle-field may have its food, and food more precious to us than our heart's blood; it is we especially who, in the domain

of war, have our word to say, a word no man can say for us. It is our intention to enter into the domain of war and to labour there till in the course of generations we have extinguished it."

Miss Schreiner deals faithfully with the theory put forward by some Eugenists that, since healthy marriage depends on love and men will not love intellectual women, we may have to sacrifice all the undoubted advantages of intelligence and activity in women to the bare necessity of continuing the race in the only way open to us. She points out that the possession of intellect, wealth, freedom by the woman does not in any way check the love of man; what it does do is to make more difficult for the individual man the gratification of his desire, and she points out how the greater freedom of choice acquired by women will no doubt baulk some men, but that it will act eugenically. The man who relies on the "purchasing power of his possessions" may find himself rejected in a saner world, and he and such as he, will be "the residuary, male old-maids of the human race."

"So far from the economic freedom and social independence of the woman exterminating sexual love between man and woman, it would for the first time fully enfranchise it."

She shows how the Woman's Movement is essentially a movement of the woman towards the man, of the sexes towards closer union and remarks that if there be a New Woman, she is there to match a New Man; the change in woman is strictly complementary and the disco-ordination which exists is not so much between man and woman as between the past and the future.

"The key to half and more than half of the phenomena in our own social condition can be found only in our rapidly changing conditions, necessitating equally rapid change in our conceptions, ideals, and institutions."

Now differences of outlook and ideal are most acutely felt in that most intimate and difficult relation, the relation of sex and therefore it is here that the rapid changes in condition have produced the most painful and obvious dislocations. These are, however, only temporary.

"It is because so wide and gracious to us are the possibilities of the future, so impossible is a return to the past, so deadly is a passive acquiescence in the present, that to-day we are found everywhere raising our strange new cry—'Labour and the training that fits us for labour!'

Woman and Labour. By Olive Schreiner. (T. Fisher Unwin. Pp. 282. 8s. 6d. net.)

### The Legal Rights of Mothers.

Subject to various Acts of Parliament mentioned below and to rights which our courts, particularly the Court of Chancery, always more friendly to woman than the Courts of Common Law, have constantly exercised where the interests of the child have called for their interference, the father is entitled, as against the mother, to the custody of his infant child, however young. He retains this right, unless he does something to forfeit it. An agreement made by him before marriage to give up any children of the marriage to the control of the mother would be regarded as contrary to public policy and would therefore not be enforced by the courts. Formerly, an agreement in a deed of separation, by which the father purported to give up his right, rendered the whole deed void. This was altered by an Act of 1873. This Act, however, contained a proviso that the agreement was not enforceable, unless for the child's benefit, and, in the well-known case of *Re Besant*, the proviso was applied as against the mother, in spite of the terms of a deed of separation which gave her the custody of her infant daughter. The mother's rights have steadily grown. Under the older law even the Court of Chancery declined to interfere in her behalf, except in such cases as cruelty combined with general bad character, habitual drunkenness, or open habits of profligacy. Anything below that was considered insufficient. But by "Talfoord's Act," passed in 1839, the court was empowered to grant the mother access to any child in the control of the father and even to give her the custody of any child up to the age of seven. No degree of bad conduct is, or perhaps well could be, specified. The matter was left to the discretion of the judge. But in one case of mis-

conduct the Lord Chancellor expressly said, in removing the children from the father's custody, that the Act had been passed to "obviate the improper and illegitimate use of the father's rights and authority to put pressure upon the wife, and to give the court a wider discretion on behalf of the innocent wife and the interests of the children." And again, "the court must take care that the father's rights were not used as a means for compelling the mother to forego her remedies against him for marital misconduct." By the Act of 1873 already referred to, the age was raised from 7 to 16. Under these Acts the mother's rights, which, under the older law were admitted only when the father's conduct became outrageous and the children's interests imperatively demanded that she should have the custody of them, clearly received fuller recognition.

But the best piece of legislation, from the mother's point of view, though it is not perfect, is the Guardianship of Infants' Act, 1886. It is worth while going into it rather more in detail. Here are some illustrations of its working. Apart from the powers it confers as to the appointment of guardians, referred to below, it demands a higher standard of conduct on the father's part. It is again impossible to lay down a precise standard. Even if it were, different courts would apply it differently. Nevertheless, it is the fact that under this Statute fathers have been deprived of the custody of their children, though they may not have acted so badly as to have lost their rights under the older law. The court has made an order in favour of the mother, though guilty of misconduct, where the father has also been guilty. Where a wife petitioned for judicial separation for cruelty, the father was found by the court to be unfit to have the custody of the children and later, the court decided that under section 7 the burden lay upon him of proving himself reformed and fit to have the custody. A Divorce Court has been held to have power to give to a guilty party, man or woman, rights of access to the children. Where there was a boy of ten, and the father had been found guilty of misconduct, the court made an order (section 5) as to custody and access, having regard to the welfare of the infant, and to the wishes as well of the mother as of the father. The court has ordered delivery to the mother, without fixing any age limit. Where a wife petitioned for judicial separation on the ground of the husband's misconduct, the court made an order that the husband was unfit to have the custody of the child, though there was evidence that he was very fond of the child, and had never been cruel to her. In another case, the husband had been declared unfit, having been guilty of adultery and cruelty, and custody had been given to the wife. Afterwards, the wife was found unfit to have custody any longer and the husband, who by this time had re-married and was leading "a respectable life," had the custody of the children restored to him. And generally, under this Act the court has a wide discretion with reference to custody and access, the determining factors being expressly stated to be the welfare of the child, the conduct of the parents, and the wishes of the mother as well as of the father.

As for education, the bone of contention is usually the religious belief in which the child shall be brought up. In a well-known case a Protestant, on his marriage with a Roman Catholic, had agreed that children of the marriage should be brought up as Roman Catholics. After the birth of children he changed his mind and the court granted an injunction preventing the mother from taking the children to confession or to a Catholic Church. It was declared in that and in a similar case later, that the father could not fetter himself "in the exercise of his right and duty of providing for the religious education of his children, or renounce the right. He must from time to time consider what is, in his judgment, most for the good of the children. . . . The court will pay great respect to the expressed wishes of the father." One has heard of cases in which a husband has had his children educated in a particular religious faith simply to spite a wife of a different faith. Unfortunately such cases, for various reasons, are not generally brought to the test of full trial in the courts. If they were, it is possible that the court might hold that the husband was

not properly exercising the discretion which the law vests in him for the good of the child.

As for guardianship, the Act of 1886 provides that, on the death of the father, the mother is to be guardian, either alone or, if the father has appointed a guardian, jointly with him. If the father has appointed no guardian the court may, if it thinks fit, appoint a guardian to act jointly with the mother. On the other hand, the mother may provisionally nominate some person to act after her death jointly with the father, and the court, if it is shown to its satisfaction that the father is unfitted to be the sole guardian, may confirm the appointment.

There is an Act, passed in 1891, under which a parent who has abandoned or deserted his child, has to satisfy the court that, having regard to the welfare of the child, he is a fit person, before he can regain custody of it. It is to be feared that this Act often remains a dead letter. Indeed, we hear of cases in which the principles laid down in all the above series of Acts appear to be ignored, and we can well believe that many such take place. It is bad administration rather than bad law that does most mischief. You have generally the power of the purse cast against the woman. You have often sex bias, more or less unconscious, on the part of the tribunal. If anyone doubts this, how does he account for the ridiculously light sentences so often passed in the case of violence to women and girls. You have, perhaps oftenest, a natural shrinking from laying bare to the world the tragedy of the home, and the dread of worse evils, either from the husband or from an often hide-bound court, which apparently finds it impossible to assimilate and apply those newer and more humane principles which our legislature, with all its faults seems, by the above statutes, to have intended to establish.

FRANK LEIGH.

### A Tuscan Contadina.

Seen only four times, yet is she a glorious memory I would like to share with others. She will not, however, please those whose ideal of woman is in the nature of a "milk-white lamb bleating for man's protection;" for she is of the type of the strong, free woman, beautiful to look at, and inspiring to know in days that are still haunted by the degenerate ideals of a dead century. There was no need to bemoan the weakness of woman or the inequality of fate in looking at her. Strength and honour were her clothing, and she rejoiced in the days that came.

The first time I saw her I was tempted to the window in an Italian villa far up in the wilds of Tuscany by shouts of hearty laughter—a man's and a woman's mingled. It was such infectious mirth that no one could resist inquiring after its cause, and in this way it was explained. Before the stable door my Italian contadina was having a tug-of-war with the family chauffeur for the possession of a broom, with which she intended to sweep her farmyard near by, and she was winning. Three times in succession she pulled him over the line in spite of his most strenuous efforts, and their laughter, broken by the fight, rang out loud and long in a full peal together.

A crowd of olive-skinned, crimson-lipped, black-haired youngsters stood watching; some of them were her children. She had great beauty—a beauty quiet and reserved as that of the olive trees of her country; the beauty of intelligence and of experience, not of untried youth; an unconscious loveliness that has no arts or false graces. Black hair, like fine silk, was smoothed down on each side of her oval face, with its complexion of pure pale olive; her firm features revealed magnificence of strength, not without tenderness and womanliness; they were of classic type, and so closely resembled the woman's in Michel Angelo's Creation of the Sun and Moon that she might indeed have been the model for this figure. But it was the beauty of her eyes that most drew and held your gaze; in quietness, there was a calm, wise expression in them—without sadness or melancholy, but that seemed to bespeak a contented acceptance of life as it is,

and a power to meet its exigencies well; in laughter, all her spirited hurled itself to the surface in them, and rippled through them with a brook-like gaiety. Her body had not become irresponsible with the years, like an ill-used instrument, so that it was incapable of expressing the music in her, as the bodies of so many of our over-worked or unhappy women have become; as she grew older she had not grown worn, and the subtle interplay of mind and form in her remained still a delight. She looked about thirty-five years old, but must have been more, for she had so many children that last summer in the *Sturm und Drang* of hay-making, two of them were forgotten at bedtime, and left out all night, to be discovered next morning contentedly sleeping just outside the farm-house door. She was dressed in scanty clothing that did not impede her movements nor hide the rhythmic grace of them; her skirt was short enough to show strong ankles and well-formed bare feet that strode over the ground without shrinking at its roughness.

The second time I saw her I learnt more about her. It was on the night that the "*Gran turco*" (the Indian corn) of her farmland had been stripped of its husks and made ready for the threshing; this is done in the moonlight in the hours between nine and twelve, when all the peasants—men and women, down even to the youngest children—sit round in a ring and help to tear the husks off the cones. Everyone is very happy, because this is the in-gathering of the chief food supply for the year, and there is no longer any fear that storms may come and destroy it; and when the great heap of gathered corn has given place to a pile of golden cones on one side and broken husks on the other, the company trots indoors, the concertina is brought, and the dance (destined to last till work begins at four o'clock in the morning) is struck up. In the long living-room of the house, with its red-brick floor, huge hearth, and whitewashed walls, of which the only adornment was a figure of the Madonna amid a multitude of copper pots and pans, well polished, and reflecting the light of the single oil lamp was the contadina, as head of the household, with all her children. The men sat in one long row against the wall jumping up when inclination moved them to seize the women, who, showing more originality in their choice of seats, were posed variously about the room. The hostess was one of the partners most sought after. One after another the young men seized her by the waist and spun round with her at an incredible speed, like tops; but like tops that whirled with jerks, each turn so quick that it looked like a flash of movement succeeded by an equally short suspension of turning. It was with wonder I learnt that upstairs she had an infant of four months old, whose solid sleeping no uproar could disturb, and that the beautiful woman of twenty-one years old, who sat so still in the chimney seat looking like a Madonna with the magnificent wise-eyed baby in her arms, was her eldest-born. She remained, while I watched her, untiring, well-breathed, fresh, zestful with intensity of life.

My beautiful contadina was, however, not always on holiday. The third time I saw her she was at work, and displaying in her labour the same energy and grace that she did in her play. She was a little way off on a hill-slope gathering apples in the company of two young men and two girls, one of the latter, who stood on a ladder, was handing a basket well laden with fruit down to her; she received it with uplifted arms and poised it there for an instant with the ease and grace of a Greek caryatid before she let it slide to the ground. Then she climbed the ladder and mounted into the branches with bare feet that clung to them, and, entwining her arms round them, flung the red fruit into her basket below.

One more time I saw her, and she was at a motherly task. It was morning, and she sat in her own farmyard, amid the scattered husks of the "*Gran turco*," leaning up against her quaint pink house. She had chosen a spot that was shadowed by a group of old cypresses, for the deep blue of the sky was turning to a rosy purple with the heat. A little round-eyed mortal of two years old sat on her knee, and she was performing his morning toilette—combing out his black silky hair (like hers) and tying it up with scarlet ribbons. Two little girls near by

were picking the corn from the cones, so that it could be thrown before the wind, which would whirl away the chaff like scattered silver. The youngster of four months old lay asleep on the straw. In the midst of it all, with pleasurable eyes and a brilliant smile for the stranger, sat the mother; she accepted the sunlight and the restful moment as she accepted everything else—with sweet content; and she was a blessing herself in her calmness and strength.

Whenever I saw this Tuscan contadina she gave me a glimpse of true woman, like a flash of being from the future, and an earnest of what could be. It seemed that even the Amazons of Greek story and of the Tomb of Halikarnassus might some day return again to earth, no longer in war, but with the offered hand of peace and equality.

A. M. ALLEN.

### The Debate on the Conciliation Bill 1910.

We should like, when we have space, to reprint, from time to time, portions of the best speeches made by our supporters in the House on the occasion of the Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill. We gave very brief summaries at the time, and also dealt at some length with the most prominent opponents. To-day we quote from the verbatim report of the speech made on July 12th, 1910, by

THE RT. HON. A. J. BALFOUR, M.P.

My view is that a democracy, properly understood, is government by consent, broadly speaking. The idea that you can give to every citizen in this country of a given age exactly the same weight in the councils of the Empire, or that if you did give them precisely and exactly the same weight, that we should get on better than now, seems to me to be rather visionary; but I do think that whenever you get to the point that a class feels itself as a class excluded, and outraged by being excluded, then those who believe that democracy, properly understood, is the only possible government for any nation at the stage of political evolution which we have reached, must consider whether it is not his business to try to see whether the government which is by hypothesis not a government by consent, can be turned into government by consent. I do not speak of the whole class of women, because it is hard to know exactly what their views are, but I think everybody must feel that the number of ardent spirits who are doing admirable work—I am not talking of the militant section—in public life at this moment, and who think they ought to have the same rights as are given to every male occupier, is a large and growing number which can not and ought not to be ignored, and a number which, so long as you ignore it will prevent your being able to say with any truth that our government is government by consent. Do not answer me by saying "How loose is the phrase 'government by consent.' How are you going to define it? How are you going to put it in an Act of Parliament? You cannot define it; you cannot put it in an Act of Parliament; you cannot put it into any neat formula." Is it on that account worse suited to deal with conditions so complex and so difficult as those of our modern civilisation? Are we not sufficient of statesmen to refuse to reject a system because we cannot clean cut every frontier of our case, and be able to say, with perfect precision, this instance falls outside our rubric and that instance falls within? Therefore, my ground, broadly speaking, is not a ground of right, and I refuse to be frightened by all these arguments used by the Prime Minister, that if you once admit a right you do not know where it will end. I do not admit the right, but I do say that when women have begun, or any large and important section of women have begun, to feel that they suffer under hereditary disability, it is your business to consider the

situation, and to see if you cannot remedy their grievance.

Therefore I end my speech with an appeal in the exact contrary sense to that of the Prime Minister. He seems to think that sex is an absolute bar, not to politics, but to the exercise of one particular kind of political function. If he said that we ought to keep women out of politics, I could understand it; but he does not say that. He says they may canvass, but they must not vote; he says they may speak, but they must not vote; he says, "urge them to agitate," but they must not vote. They may do everything connected with the active political life of a country in which political life glows in every section of society—they may do everything in connection with that life except the single formal operation of putting a cross after the name of a candidate. Talk of logic. Is that logic? Talk of the bar of sex. Is that where you wish to draw the distinction between the duties of the sexes? Talk of any change of this sort being injurious to the future of women as women; if the future of women as women is injured by their being mixed up in political life, their cause is lost already. They are mixed up with it; they are daily more and more mixed up with it. You who oppose this Bill are yourselves urging them to mix themselves up with it. In these circumstances you cannot complain if they feel that by this exclusion under the existing law there is a hereditary slur put upon their sex. That is a policy which might have been justifiable, and I think was justifiable, in times gone by, but with the development of political instincts, political institutions, and political discussions, it is tolerable no longer.

### Women Voters.

In view of the statements freely made that the Conciliation Bill is "undemocratic," and of Mr. Lloyd George's statement that under the occupation franchise "hundreds of thousands of plural voters" would arise, it seemed advisable to make careful and detailed enquiry as to the status of women on the Municipal Register. Such enquiries were set on foot in Bangor and Carnarvon, in Keswick and in Dundee, and we have the figures for the first three—Bangor being a cathedral and university town and a health resort, it might be expected to have a large proportion of leisured women.

BANGOR.

In Bangor the result was as follows:—

|                         | Spinster. | Widow. | Total. |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Class A: Business Women | 29        | 32     | 61     |
| Class B: Earners        | 56        | 107    | 163    |
| Class C: Working-class  |           |        |        |
| housewives              | 19        | 125    | 144    |
| Class D: Middle-class   |           |        |        |
| housewives              | 12        | 24     | 36     |

*Class A: Business Women*, i.e., women who are engaged in some occupation other than the management of their own homes, and who keep a regular domestic servant, or more than one. This will include lodging-house keepers, shopkeepers, teachers, etc.

*Class B: Earners*, i.e., women who are engaged in some occupation other than the management of their own homes, but who keep no regular servant. Shopkeepers who keep no servant; women who let their rooms to lodgers but keep no servant, as well as women engaged in any home industry, e.g., lace-makers, knitters, dress-makers, etc., should be reckoned in this class.

*Class C: Working-class Housewives*, i.e., women who do not work outside the home and who keep no servant.

*Class D: Middle-class Housewives*, i.e., women who do not work for their living and who keep one or more regular servants—"women of independent means."

N.B.—An occasional charwoman should not be reckoned as a servant.

Of these 404 women voters, 397 were qualified as householders and 7 as £10 occupiers. Of the latter 4 were in Class A, 2 in Class B, and 1 only in Class D.

Classified according to status, we find:

Classes A, B and C give 368, or 91 per cent.  
" B and C give 307, or 76 per cent.  
" D gives 36, or 9 per cent.

Only 9 per cent. therefore, are women of "independent means" and this is a blow to the "undemocratic" theory. Again, 288 are widows, as against 116 spinsters,—a blow to the theory that "the best of their sex, the married women," will be unrepresented.

These figures were checked and vouched for by an independent committee sitting in the office of the Assistant Overseer, he and the Borough Rate Collector being two of the five signatories; the Mayor and three Town Councillor helped.

#### CARNARVON.

In Carnarvon the figures were as follows:—

Total number of women voters: 345.

Class A, 29; Class B, 174; Class C, 79; Class D, 63. Here, the percentage of women of independent means is higher than in Bangor, being about 22½ per cent., whereas women who work for their living form 77½ per cent. of the voters.

Out of 345 in Carnarvon 11 are £10 occupiers.

#### DUNDEE.

In Dundee the work was also carried out by an independent Committee, with the following results:—

##### Parliamentary Voters—

Householders, who, under the Conciliation Bill, would be Parliamentary voters ..... 3,866

##### Non-Parliamentary Voters—

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Non-occupant owners, who, under the Conciliation Bill, would not be Parliamentary voters .....                                   | 628     |
| £10 occupants, who, under the Conciliation Bill, would not be Parliamentary voters .....   | 389     |
| Wives whose husbands already vote in the constituency, who, under the Conciliation Bill, would not be Parliamentary voters ..... | 279     |
| Lodgers, who, under the Conciliation Bill, would not be Parliamentary voters .....   | 202     |
| Service franchise, who, under the Conciliation Bill, would not be Parliamentary voters .....                                     | 22      |
|  | — 1,520 |

##### No Returns—

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Refused information .....      | 514   |
| Removed, or not found in ..... | 290   |
| Dead .....                     | 69    |
|                                | — 873 |

Total on roll ..... 6,259

It will be seen that the £10 occupiers would, in Dundee, represent a rather larger proportion (not quite 1-11th) of the total women voters and these would be cut out of the present Bill.

An analysis of the status of the Householders gives the following figures:—

|                                      |                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Class A—Professional workers .....   | 129 (3·4 per cent.)    |
| " B—Weekly wage-earners .....        | 1,690 (43·8 per cent.) |
| " C—Working-class housewives .....   | 1,759 (45·3 per cent.) |
| " D—Women of independent means ..... | 288 (7·5 per cent.)    |
|                                      | 3,866                  |

This gives us 3,578 women working for their livelihood as against 288 propertied women; 92·5 of the women householders of Dundee are therefore women who work for their livelihood and 89·1 are what are commonly called "working women."

Analysis of their housing gave the following:—

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Occupying 1 or 2 rooms ..... | 2,177   |
| " 3 or 4 .....               | 1,178   |
| " 5 .....                    | 183     |
| " 6 or more .....            | 328     |
|                              | — 3,866 |

Analysis of their state gave:—

|                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Widows .....                  | 2,046 (52·9 per cent.) |
| Single .....                  | 1,450 (37·5 per cent.) |
| Married (husband alive) ..... | 370 (9·6 per cent.)    |
|                               | 3,866                  |

#### Bradford City Council Resolution.

At the monthly Council meeting, Alderman Arthur Priestman (Labour) moved a resolution in favour of legislation for the enfranchisement of women on the lines of the Conciliation Bill of 1910.

He said the Conciliation Bill would enfranchise about one million, of whom at least 80 per cent. belonged to the working classes. As there were seven and a half millions of men voters, men would still be in the ascendancy. (Shame, and laughter). He believed that the enfranchisement of women would add to the purity of political life.

Mr. E. J. Smith (Liberal), seconding the resolution, said he believed that on all great moral issues the influence of women would always be on the side of right. Not five per cent. of the men would go wrong by taking their wife's advice.

Mr. John Garnett and Ald. H. B. Priestman (Deputy Lord Mayor) supported, the latter declaring that the case for Woman Suffrage was unanswerable. Many of them, who supported the resolution because they believed the principle to be right, desired at the same time to dissociate themselves from the violence and extravagance that had characterised the Woman Suffrage agitation in some quarters.

The resolution, which was to be sent to the Prime Minister and to local Members of Parliament (three in number, of whom two are favourable), was carried unanimously.

#### Anti-Suffragists and Their Canvass of Women Householders.

The National League for opposing Women's Suffrage has lately been publishing far and wide the results of its canvass of women municipal voters on the suffrage question and deriving apparently great satisfaction and support therefrom. Some fifteen boroughs it seems have been canvassed, with a total female electorate of 41,757 persons. Of these it is said that 18,850 declared themselves opposed to their own enfranchisement, while only 5,579 were in favour. 12,621 expressed no opinion at all.

Now Cambridge is one of these fifteen boroughs; and last week there appeared in several of our local papers a short account of the canvass, wherein it was explained that it had been made by "addressing a reply-paid postcard to every woman on the register." The figures given for Cambridge were: Total electorate 2,145, against the suffrage 1,168, for it 570, neutral 271; leaving 89 only from whom no reply had been obtained. The paragraph concluded as follows:—

"The Cambridge figures, particularly when compared with those of Oxford, are most interesting. A large majority have declared against the vote and of the entire feminine electorate only 89 failed to record their opinion. In Oxford, although the votes recorded show a majority against the suffrage (*i.e.*, 571 to 353) 1,199 ladies did not express any opinion whatever. Evidently the ladies of Cambridge take more interest in politics than their sisters on the Isis."

Feeling, from previous knowledge and experience, some surprise at these statistics, a few members of the committee of the Cambridge Suffrage Association have made during the last three days some inquiry into the conduct of the canvass—and with truly astonishing results. They have learned in the first place, that the canvass was *not* made, as stated, by means of the cold, impartial "reply-paid postcard." *Not a single postcard was employed.* The canvassing was done by a paid messenger—of what education or reliability we know not,—who obtained no

signatures from the householders but merely recorded in his book his own view of their views. The precise questions he asked, the actual people addressed, the replies received, are all things for which there is nothing but this *employee's* word to vouch. And in more than one instance we have been told that the question asked related to approval of "militancy" or "suffragette" tactics. To such a question nearly all the members of our "National Union" Society would, of course, have replied "No."

In the second place, in every neighbourhood in which, so far, it has been possible to make any inquiry, *numbers of women voters have been found who were never canvassed at all.* Yet Cambridge is singled out by the Anti-Suffragists as being a place in which their canvass was singularly complete!

In the third place, a systematic canvass of municipal voters which a member of our Suffrage Committee has recently been making privately in the district in which she lives has yielded, it turns out, *a majority for the Suffrage of seventy per cent.*! It scarcely seems likely that this district should happen to be the only one in the borough in which women householders who are Suffragists reside in any numbers.

Altogether, we think there is ample proof that the statistics published by the Anti-Suffrage League in regard to Cambridge are utterly worthless. And what ground have we for supposing that in regard to other places they are any better? We consider that the Anti-Suffrage League is in all honesty and sincerity bound to make public acknowledgment of the incompleteness and unsatisfactoriness of this canvass of women householders, and to refrain in the future from making any public use of the statistics obtained.

In saying this, however, I should like it to be understood that I do not for a moment admit that the justice of the claim of Women Suffragists depends upon their being in an absolute majority. It is extremely doubtful that any of the great political reforms of the last century would have been carried if they had depended upon a mere counting of heads. The majority of people, men or women, are averse to changes, generally because they fail to understand them from lack of interest or opportunity. Hence, representative government means and ought to mean, something very different indeed from direct government by plebiscite.

MARY WARD (Hon. Sec. Cambridge W. S. S.)

#### Men's League Demonstration.

QUEEN'S HALL, FEB. 20th.

"This meeting urges the Government to grant facilities for the passage of a Women's Enfranchisement Bill through the House of Commons this session."

This was the text of the resolution, passed with one dissentient, at the Queen's Hall on Monday night. The tone of the meeting was one of enthusiasm and hopefulness. The only blot was the absence of Lord Selborne, who was to have been the principal speaker.

The Chairman, Mr. H. W. Nevinson, showed what a great advance the Women's Suffrage movement had made in the last year, and appealed to the men to come and take their share in the fight and hasten the victory. He mentioned, as a specially hopeful sign, the fact that the Liberal group in the House of Commons are supporting the new Conciliation Bill.

Sir Joseph Walton, M.P., a member of the Liberal group, moved the resolution. He quoted the large number of electors in his constituency (Barnsley) who had signed the Voters' Petition in January, 1910, and said that the new Conciliation Bill had his heartiest support. He told a story of an Irishman who was found driving in a wrong direction, and said in justification, that at any rate he was going at a good pace! The Women's Suffrage movement may not be going as fast as some of us could wish, but at any rate it is going in the right direction.

Lord Lytton, who received a great ovation, took Lord Selborne's place as representing the Conservative Suff-

ragists. He reviewed the gains of the Suffrage cause during the past year and said that every effort would be made to pass the Conciliation Bill *this session.* If it passes its second reading on May 5th the House will be asked to pass a resolution affirming its desire to proceed to the completion of the Bill, and calling on the Government to give the further facilities necessary. The House of Lords, backed by the Government, will probably demand a referendum. We must be prepared for this.

Mr. George Lansbury, M.P., urged Liberal women not to do a stroke of work for their party until this measure had become law. Everyone recognised that the House of Lords' question must be dealt with first. Suffragists would wait until the Parliament Bill was sent to the Upper House, *but not a day longer.* He urged the Labour men to use their votes to get the Bill through, because votes are the only language a Cabinet understands. They must vote against any measure proposed by the Government if the Government persists in blocking the Suffrage Bill.

The Rev. J. Ivory Cripps made a stirring speech in support of the resolution, in which he attacked false ideas of "chivalry" and "citizenship," and showed the absurdity of some of the arguments used against the enfranchisement of women.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks, moved by Mr. Cecil Chapman and seconded by Mr. Goldfinch Bate, to the speakers and to Mme. Marie Brema, who had sung in the interval.

#### In Parliament.

##### RATES AND TAXES.

The debate on the address took the greater part of last week. On Monday, 13th, it took the form of a discussion on the relations of local and imperial finance, a discussion of some interest to women since, to a very small extent, they can influence rating, whereas taxation is entirely removed from their influence.

##### HOME RULE.

On Wednesday 15th, the debate on Home Rule found our Anti-Suffrage Premier using the self-same phrases and arguments which represent the aspirations of Suffragists. Having suggested the maxim—*Solvitur ambulando*—he interpreted it to mean, "Walking by the light of common-sense in the domain of reality." This is what we ask of the Antis. He declared that Parliament was "totally incapable of giving either time or knowledge to the investigation of these matters (domestic) which may seem petty to us," and this from the "limitation of time and human power." Parliament could not, he said, "give the requisite time, attention, and knowledge."

Now this is women's plea for the representation of women, giving a genuine "Home Rule."

Mr. Redmond, in denying that he was a "separatist," said he was a Home Ruler because he was "anxious to see peace and amity between the peoples of the two countries"; just so, Suffragists wish to see peace and amity between men and women and recognise that this is best attained in freedom.

Mr. Churchill, who "would like to see the great English-speaking nations walking together in majesty and freedom and peace," might be asked to remember that he is *Home Secretary*, and that there is no majesty freedom or peace possible as long as he cynically denies that women want what they are giving their lives for, or that women suffer from the lack of representation, which he grants to men as the indispensable condition of "majesty and freedom and peace."

The higher Mr. Churchill's rhetorical flights, the more impossible does it become to regard them as anything but the most shameless politician's cant.

##### THE TIME OF THE HOUSE.

On Thursday, 16th, the following resolution was passed by 196 to 118:—"That up to and including the 13th of April Government business shall have precedence

at every sitting." Mr. Asquith stated that it was hoped to take the Second Reading of the Parliament Bill on Monday, 27th Feb. Lord Hugh Cecil suggested that the Government was thinking not only of passing the Parliament Bill, but also "of preventing some other measures which might be in the hands of private members being

not merely not passed, but if possible, not discussed, such as Women's Suffrage and the Osborne Judgment." Mr. Churchill asserted that the Cabinet was "the creature of the House of Commons," a statement with which neither Mr. Ginnell nor Mr. Josiah Wedgwood will be found to agree.

### 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 PALLISTER (Parliamentary).

Telegams: "Voiceless, London."

Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

*President:* MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

*Hon. Treasurer:* MRS. AUERBACH.

Telephone: 1960 Victoria.

### Executive Committee.

The business of the Executive Committee last Thursday was prefaced by the moving of resolutions of condolence with Lady Frances Balfour on the great loss she has recently sustained, and with Mrs. McLaren on the death of her mother, Mrs. Müller, an old friend to the cause of Women's Suffrage. These resolutions were passed by the Committee standing.

The Committee record with regret the resignation of Dr. Ethel Bentham, who is unable any longer to agree with the policy of the National Union.

The affiliation of six new societies—Crieff, Falmouth, Hexham, Littlehampton, Selby and South Shields—was formally approved.

The Press Committee have co-opted Miss Catherine Marshall, and she has most kindly undertaken to act as press secretary while she is in London. It is hoped that a considerable development of the work will result, that Miss Marshall will find a successor before she leaves London.

K. D. COURTNEY.

### PUBLIC MEETING.

The National Union, in conjunction with the London Society, is arranging a Public Reception in the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, on Wednesday, March 15th, 4.30 to 6.30. The National Union speakers will be Miss Sterling, Mrs. Swanwick, Miss Royden and Miss Costelloe. Other names will be announced later. It is hoped that all members of the National Union in or near London will make an effort to attend the meeting and take the opportunity of meeting the Executive Committees of the National Union and of the London Society. The early hour of the meeting will enable members from the country to return the same night, and a large gathering of those within reach of London is expected. The more distant societies are asked to remind members or friends who happen to be in London of the date of the meeting.

### PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

The date of the Provincial Council, which is to take place at Haslemere, has been fixed for Friday, April 7th. On that day the business meeting of the Council will take place, and there will be a public meeting on the evening of Thursday, April 6th. Societies are reminded that each Federation is entitled to be represented at the Provincial Councils by two delegates as well as by one of the officers of the Federation, to be elected annually.

### N.E. Lanark Election.

Helpers wanted. Apply Miss Crompton, Poste Restante, Holytown.

### Treasurer's Notes.

I have received the following letter from Mr. Regd. Pott:

"I notice that you are craving the sympathy of the new broom, but would remind you of the story of the

pieman, who said, 'Blow yer sympathy and buy a pie,' so have pleasure in enclosing a cheque for a guinea."

I hasten to assure Mr. Pott that he has quite correctly interpreted my real needs—and I hope many others will come forward to purchase similar "pies."

HELENA AUERBACH.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND.

February 10th to February 17th, 1911.

|   | £ s d.             |
|---|--------------------|
| Already acknowledged                                | 304 0 10½          |
| Subscriptions:—                                     |                    |
| Miss Sloane   | 0 10 6             |
| Miss Alice Hawksley                                 | 1 1 0              |
| Miss E. D. Bertram                                  | 0 2 6              |
| Miss M. Booth Scott                                 | 0 2 6              |
| Miss Silcox   | 0 10 6             |
| Miss O. L. Cobb                                     | 0 5 0              |
| Miss Lucia Gregory                                  | 1 0 0              |
| Mrs. John P. Boyd-Carpenter                         | 10 10 0            |
| Miss C. Cochrane                                    | 0 10 0             |
| Miss E. M. Greg                                     | 5 0 0              |
| Mrs. J. A. Bright                                   | 1 1 0              |
| Miss Janet Brooke                                   | 0 2 6              |
| Miss R. V. Davies                                   | 0 5 0              |
| Miss Esme Tassell                                   | 0 2 0              |
| Donations:—   |                    |
| Miss A. M. Allen (sale of embroidery)               | 0 9 6              |
| Mr. R. H. Pott                                      | 1 1 0              |
| Affiliation Fees:—                                  |                    |
| Leicester W.S.S.                                    | 3 5 0              |
| Crieff W.S.S. (second instalment)                   | 0 2 6              |
| Clevedon W.S.S.                                     | 0 6 6              |
| Southwold W.S.S.                                    | 0 6 9              |
| Middlesbrough W.S.S.                                | 0 5 0              |
| Flyle W.S.S.  | 0 15 0             |
| Glocester W.S.S.                                    | 0 17 0             |
| Leeds W.S.S.  | 3 5 6              |
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| Per Mrs. W. E. Dowson for the Hornastle By-election | 7 10 0             |

### By-elections.

#### WEST WILTS.

Candidates: Mr. G. R. PALMER (U.)  
Mr. GEOFFREY HOWARD (L.)

The candidates have been interviewed, with the following result. Mr. Geoffrey Howard says he will not join the Conciliation Committee, as he still prefers his "own solution" to the question, i.e., an Adult Suffrage Bill. He will endeavour in the committee stage of the Bill to get democratic amendments drafted, and if these prove impracticable, he will vote for and support the Bill as it stands. Mr. Palmer heartily approves of the Bill and has promised, if elected, to support it in all its stages.

#### HORNCastle.

Result:  
Capt. WEIGALL (U.) ..... 4,955  
Alderman F. C. LINFIELD (L.) ..... 4,848

Unionist majority ..... 107

It is known that it was the out voters who turned the scale in favour of the Unionists. In Hornastle itself, it is felt that the Suffrage cause has advanced greatly.

Mrs. Renton, who has been doing excellent work there for the National Union, writes:—

I am glad to be able to report a satisfactory campaign. Our candidate, Mr. Linfield, has not been returned, but the Opposition majority has been reduced from 524 in December to 107. Our work in support of Mr. Linfield has been carried out mainly by means of open-air meetings on market days and at night; in addition we have held two specially successful indoor meetings, one at Hornastle and the other at Skegness.

Mrs. Fyfe, of the London Society, volunteered her services, and was in sole charge of the Skegness committee-rooms, and also helped with arrangements for meetings there; without her assistance it would not have been possible to open a committee-room in Skegness, and extremely difficult to arrange meetings. I feel that the thanks of the National Union are due to her for her ungrudging and untiring work. Miss I. O. Ford came over from Leeds for two meetings, and spoke most effectively at the indoor meeting in Hornastle on Friday, and again in the market-place on Saturday. I was most grateful for her kindness in coming at considerable personal inconvenience. Mrs. Earl (Rotherham) and Miss Ashworth (Bury) were in the constituency for five and two days respectively, and rendered most valuable assistance.

Miss Geraldine Cooke arrived on Wednesday, the 8th of February, from the Eastern Counties Federation, and took the lion's share of the speaking; she was with me to the end of the campaign.

Everywhere in the constituency we have met with nothing but a sympathetic hearing, receiving many warm invitations to return. At Skegness an old man stopped me in the street to congratulate me on our meetings there, and told me he would have a very different idea of our movement in future. This has all been very encouraging, but personally I feel that a much greater effect could have been produced had more help been forthcoming.

I have much pleasure in reporting the friendly co-operation of both the Liberal agents and the Free Trade Union representatives, who did all in their power to help our work.

### Federation Notes.

#### North and East Ridings Yorks. Federation.

Mrs. Merivale Mayer has been working assiduously in Middlesbrough, the great industrial centre of the iron trade, and has just formed a very promising society there. She



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Coat and Skirt, as sketch, in new tweeds and serges, perfectly tailored and trimmed with cretonne collar.

£4.

has secured Mrs. Peary Williams, the Member's wife, as president, and Miss Stead, sister of the Editor of the "Review of Reviews," is a member of the committee. Mrs. Mayer has had a very warm and encouraging reception there. A new society has also been formed at Selby.

### West of England.

#### DEBATE AT BRISTOL.

A highly successful debate between ourselves and the Anti-Suffragists took place on February 17th in the Lesser Colston Hall. The event had aroused much interest, every ticket had been sold, and the hall would have been packed had not our opponents refused to consent to the late admission of those eager to fill the seats of the ticket-holders prevented from coming at the last moment.

The Anti-Suffragists evidently feared a swamping vote, and their fears were justified, for the poll went heavily in our favour—235 to 162.

And no wonder. Mrs. Swanwick carried all before her, and Mrs. Colquhoun, for our opponents, though she made the best of a bad case, only succeeded in showing what a bad case it is. Like most Anti-Suffrage speakers, she seems to have the Empire on the brain, and left one with the impression that it is nothing but a Juggernaut, to which millions of persons, and especially women, of course, must annually be sacrificed. The Suffragist ideal of Empire, as set forth by Mrs. Swanwick, is far saner and more civilised. We regard it as a place in which the individual, irrespective of sex, is to be helped and encouraged to reach the highest development possible. Miss Pascoe, the Anti-Suffragist second speaker, had to be pulled up by the chairman for seeking to sidetrack the attention of the audience on militant methods; while Miss Ransome, on our side, spoke from the working-woman's point of view. She made a telling hit by quoting a non-suffragist commercial traveller, who gave it as his opinion that in business a woman is always at a disadvantage, owing to the sex prejudice with which the trade world is saturated.

### Free Church League for Women's Suffrage.

Hon. Organizing Secretary: Rev. E. Clarke, 1, Burns Road, Harlesden, N.

Hon. Corresponding Secretary: Miss Hatty Baker, 38, Hartington Villas, Hove.

A reception by the Executive Committee is to be held previously to the inaugural meeting of the League on Wednesday, March 1st, at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C. The reception is from 7 to 8 p.m., the meeting commencing at 8 p.m. Admission free, reserved seats 1s.; tickets to be had from hon. organizing secretary. More distributors of handbills are still needed, especially among Nonconformists. Will those willing to undertake the advertising of the meeting in this way in some special Free Church, send name and address and name of church, if in N. London to T. G. Rogers, Esq., 4, Cholmeley Park, Highgate, N.; if in S. London to A. Foster, Esq., Homelea, Coombe Road, S. Croydon? With such speakers as Rev. Dr. Clifford, M.A., Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A., Walter Maclare, M.P., Sir James Yoxall, M.P., and Rev. Ivor Cripps, B.A., the meeting should be crowded.

A drawing-room meeting has been arranged for Wednesday, 22nd inst., at 149, Lavender Hill, S.W. Speaker, Rev. E. Clarke; chair, Mrs. Worthy, P.L.G.; time, 3.30. It is hoped then to form a Clapham and Battersea branch.

### The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

At a meeting held by the Church League for Women's Suffrage at Steinway Hall on February 17th, the chairman, Rev. W. C. Roberts, rector of Crick, Rugby, laid down two propositions as to "commercial vice"—(1) That legislation does affect vice; (2) that nothing which is regrettable is a necessity. Mrs. Archibald Little, delegate to the Madrid Conference, compared the "white slave" to Andromeda, chained to the rock as a prey to the monster, and waiting for Perseus to come on winged feet to rescue her. She rejoiced to think that there were signs of his coming; since January 1st all employment agencies have to be licensed, and Mr. Burgoyne is shortly introducing a Bill to make procuring a felony. Congresses were held every three years to discuss the means of removing this evil altogether, and the last, which met at Madrid, was received with all possible honour by the Spanish Government, which voted £5,000 for its expenses. She urged strongly the need for educating young girls, especially those whose wages were low, in the duties of caution and self-respect.

Miss Royden dwelt chiefly on the effect which Women's Suffrage would have in removing this national disgrace, and pointed out that since the workingman had had a vote the Government had become the best employer of male labour, while it still remained the worst sweater in the case of women's work, whereas in New Zealand, where women were enfranchised, the sweating of women had been abolished.

## West Heath School, Hampstead.

A SCHOOL where Boys and Girls are educated together, and where they learn the respect for each other and gain the wholesome and natural knowledge of one another which is a foundation for all that is best in the mutual relations of men and women.

Children are received from the ages of six to eighteen; thus obviating the disastrous break at thirteen or fourteen years of age, in the continuity of their intellectual work, which is a necessity (for moral reasons) in schools where boys and girls are educated separately.

\* \* \* \* \*

At West Heath School the Boys and Girls share each other's pursuits, whether in work, games or leisure (with certain obvious exceptions). They have, in fact, in this respect the freedom of a large family, in conjunction with the help due to the supervision of a staff of experienced educationists.

At the same time, the even proportion in the staff of men and women gives ample opportunity for the association of boys with men and girls with women, which must be an inherent characteristic of any true system of co-education. Where boys and girls are thus brought up, false ideas as to predominance find no acceptance, and a standard, honest in being alike for all, is upheld. Particulars can be had from the Principal.

*Reference is allowed to the*

REV. CANON SCOTT HOLLAND, D.D., St. Paul's, E.C., and MISS JANE WALKER, M.D., 122, Harley Street, W.

Legislation recognised a double standard for men and women in matters of sex, dealing leniently with the man, but meting out severe punishment to the woman. Since earliest times it has been regarded as an axiom that chastity is impossible for a man, and unchastity is unpardonable in a woman, hence the injustice of the present laws concerning divorce, and the relation of a mother to her illegitimate child. Such a proposition was unjust to men, and women alike, and it was the duty of everyone to do their utmost towards removing this temptation of men, and consequent victimising of women. Miss Royden invited the many Rescue workers present who were engaged in rescuing individuals to join hands with those who were aiming at the same goal by striking at the roots of the evil. There were those who alleged that the vote was unnecessary, as women could influence men without it; if so, then on such rested the responsibility for the present state of affairs. The Church League wished to restore the standard set up by our Lord, who made no distinction whatever between the sexes; nor could any Christian evade the obligation, for how can we pray "Thy Kingdom come" and acquiesce in a condition which renders such a Kingdom impossible?

### Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, W.

Owing to the fact that Lord Selborne was unable to fulfil his engagement with the Men's League for Women's Suffrage to speak at their meeting, he has promised to address a large gathering under the auspices of this Association on Thursday evening, March 9th, at 8 p.m., at the Grand Hall, Hotel Cecil. Tickets, 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s., can be obtained from the hon. secretary, Mrs. Gilbert Samuel, 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, W.

### Foreign News.

#### GERMANY.

The Countess Marie Linden is the first woman in the German Empire who is qualified to be Professor of Medicine, and she is naturally anxious to occupy this position. She applied to the University of Bonn, where the entire staff were

in favour of admitting her, as the first woman, into the ranks of the professors, but—the Prussian Ministry of Education has refused to allow it.

The masters in the Prussian schools recently signed a petition against women being appointed to headships in girls' schools: they are afraid of their "male dignity" being impaired. Is this really the country some people would have us stand in such awe of, where more than half the population is treated with such contempt?

The German Colonial Office is anxious to encourage the officials in the Protectorates to marry girls from home, and with this object in view it is offering to pay the entire cost of the bride's journey; only after the marriage has actually taken place, however. It is hoped that this will induce the settlers to marry German wives, as it appears that a great many unions with natives have been taking place.

It was as late as 1900 that the first two women factory inspectors were appointed in Prussia. Last year their number had risen to eight, and this year four new ones are to be added.

On January 1st, 1911, Dr. Rose Otto took up her new duties in Halle as inspector of dwelling-houses. At first she is to investigate more especially the dwellings of the poorer inhabitants, but later on she is to inspect the rooms of servants, apprentices, etc., who live in the houses of their employers; and it will be her duty to look at all the rooms in the houses she visits. Dr. Otto has fixed office hours at the Town Hall, where anyone may come for an interview.

#### FRANCE.

All inquiries with regard to the employment bureau mentioned in our issue of February 2nd should be addressed to the secretary, Mademoiselle Pellerin, 55, Rue Saint-Jacques, Paris.

The French Anti-Sweating League is organizing a National Congress on Home Work, to be held in Paris from March 16th to 19th.

### Reviews.

THE PARTY SYSTEM, by Hilaire Belloc and Cecil Chesterton. (Stephen Swift. pp. 226.)

It is a queer thing to be a woman and to find oneself very largely in agreement with Mr. Belloc. But how can it be otherwise, when he attacks the party system which has been so largely to blame in crushing for so long the women's movement, as it has crushed so many other vital things—conscience, courage, honesty—even the sense of humour! Mr. Belloc frankly does not regard women as human at all: they are a sort of sub-species, all sex, a little higher (perhaps) than the monkeys, and, anyhow, necessary for the propagation of the species Homo. I need not here examine Mr. Belloc's "bumps," but it rather tickles me to think what good ammunition he has provided for Suffragists.

The two Front Benches are in league to play a game for their own glorification and enrichment; Government is carried on by a particularly corrupt system of co-option, in which wealth plays the chief part. Party funds, secret, of course, are used as the chief lever for getting subservient party men into the House and keeping out all others, and the rewards for heavy secret contributions are peerages and places and honours. Elections are in the hands of the caucus, and the time of the House in the hands of the self-appointed

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Government, the Speaker being only the obedient servant of the oligarchy.

In caustic language Mr. Belloc shows how democracy has become a mere name, in that the people do not really even choose their representatives, to say nothing of their programmes and how the quality of our legislators has necessarily degenerated till they are unfit to deal with any real crisis in affairs. It is difficult to believe that the matter-of-fact woman would be quite as easy to dupe as the fatuous male elector, with his newspaper wisdom and his music-hall patriotism, singing,

One with us is He who leads us,  
Asquith, God and right!"

We are not bound to go all the way with Mr. Belloc nor to believe all his rather wild statements. Doubtless he is blinded by emotion. We can, however, sympathise with him and we may find much of what he says illuminating. He has several remedies, among which the best is a more enlightened public opinion, and I can tell him that women, having nothing to lose and a great deal to gain by the abolition of the party system, will be particularly susceptible of enlightenment and keen to spread it.

A NON-PARTY SUFFRAGIST.

#### THE MAGAZINES.

In *The Contemporary Review* for February, Mrs. Billington-Greig writes on "The Taxation of Married Women." She points out that while succeeding Married Women's Property Acts have removed many disabilities, still many anomalies and injustices persist, especially in income-tax law. The taxation of the married woman as a separate entity would remedy this state of things, and remove unjust differentiation against marriage.

In *The Nineteenth Century* for this month, Mrs. Frederic Harrison gives "A Woman's View of Divorce." She deals with the evidence of the Divorce Commission, and regrets that women of all views were not more adequately represented on that body. She opposes easy divorce, and maintains that the marriage laws, though imperfect, have been designed in the interests of woman, and only require comparatively slight alteration.

#### PAMPHLETS.

We have received the *Statement of Hon. John F. Shafroth, Governor of Colorado*, before the Committee on Woman Suffrage of the United States Senate. (Washington Government Printing Office.) Governor Shafroth has witnessed the effect of women's franchise at first hand, and his position gives to his statements more authority than any possible for Mr. Bok or Mr. Barry, of the "Ladies' Home Journal." After sixteen years of equal Suffrage, Governor Shafroth declares it to be right, practicable, and expedient, and asserts that there is no disposition to revoke it.

### 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.

#### THE TEN POUND OCCUPIER.

It seems particularly hard on teachers that the £10 occupation qualification should be dropped. Under that qualification most of them would get a vote; without it, scarcely any will. Yet I should think it would be almost impossible to find any class who more needs the protection of the vote, or who would be capable of using the vote with more intelligence and discretion. Again, what about those women who have offices outside their homes? Not being householders, are they to lose their votes? I should have thought a Government which was so fearful that a vote on municipal lines would not enfranchise sufficient working-women would have looked after

the welfare of these two, of which teachers, both elementary and private, must form a very large class of working-women.

M. FOLEY.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
[We cannot quite see Mrs. Foley's point as regards teachers. Elementary school teachers do not "occupy" the school premises, and would in any case only have a vote as householders. Again very few heads of secondary schools could be found who did not live in the school house; they therefore would have the vote as householders. The householder qualification is the most "democratic" there is, for it does not postulate any particular value.—Ed. "C.C."]

#### THE SUFFRAGE EXCHANGE SCHEME.

*Miss Marshall* writes to say that the word printed "withholding" in the last line of the fifth paragraph in her article of last week should have been "withdrawing."

### Our Advertisers.

"Toothbrush Drill" is not yet, alas! a universal practice in our schools, and the great need for more care in this direction is shown by the report of a special commission which lately examined the teeth of the elementary school children in a great Northern city. They found that it would take every dentist in that great city all his working hours for a whole year to put those children's teeth in order. Yet, no doubt, most of those children underwent "Toothbrush Drill." But in our modern conditions of life, and with modern food, it is certainly necessary to use an antiseptic when cleaning our teeth, and none more pleasant and efficacious could be found than "Phenoda," which has the great advantage of not leaving a taste in the mouth for hours afterwards. "Phenoda" Tooth Paste is manufactured by Messrs. James Woolley, Sons and Co., Ltd., of Manchester, and may be obtained through all chemists.

### Work of Societies in the Union.

#### WEST OF ENGLAND FEDERATION.

The feature of our month's work in the West has been a series of meetings arranged for Miss Abadam.

At Weston-super-Mare, on the 8th, when Mrs. Cross was in the chair, Miss Abadam's speech had a marked effect, in spite of a strong Anti-Suffrage and Liberal opposition, and three or four new members joined the Society.

On February 9th she addressed a drawing-room meeting at Bristol, at which Mrs. Budgett presided. The hostess, Mrs. Talbot, had made a special effort to attract some of the wives of the local clergy and other influential members of society, and Miss Abadam's well-known power of making earnest women think deeply and seriously on our topic was again exemplified, four new and important members joining our branch, while others were much impressed.

On the 10th Miss Abadam was at the Guildhall, Wells. Dr. Hilda Clark, of Street, presided, and though there was a disappointingly small audience, those present were extremely interested in the splendid address given, the effect of which will, no doubt, spread and arouse more enthusiasm than exists at present.

Besides these, to return to Bristol, a lecture on "Did Bacon Write Shakespeare?" by Miss J. M. Barrett, a practice debate between Mrs. Senington and Miss McKeand (Mrs. Chate in the chair), have taken place at our shop, and two working parties have been held at Mrs. Cross's and Mrs. Barrett's respectively. Moreover, Mr. and Mrs. Cross have, by invitation, twice addressed meetings held specially for Liberal women—a most healthy sign.

A pretty idea came to our notice the other day. A young girl went to a fancy-dress ball as "The Election." Far from thinking that our issue was not before the country in December, she did not consider her dress complete without our colours. She was therefore furnished with a sash and badge, given our well-known Fourteen Reasons pamphlet, and well primed with arguments for all her Anti-Suffrage partners. We recommend this elegant form of propaganda to all our younger Suffragists.

#### NORTH-EASTERN FEDERATION.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE SOCIETY.—Meetings have been held each Wednesday evening at the office in Ridley Place, and have been fairly well attended. On February 1st Mrs. Spence Watson gave a lecture on

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"Josephine Butler and Her Work," the chair being taken by Miss Abraham. The speaker's personal knowledge of Mrs. Butler made her subject doubly interesting. On Feb. 8th the first of a course of discussion meetings was held. These are to be continued at fortnightly intervals under the direction of Miss G. Fenwick. They were inaugurated by an account of the growth of the National Union and the work of Mrs. Fawcett, given by Mrs. Wilkinson. On February 15th Dr. Ethel Williams spoke of "The Condition of Widows under the Poor Law" as they had come under her notice when she was investigating in different parts of the country the cases of children receiving out-relief. Miss Edith Erickson (P.L.G.) and Dr. Charlotte Brown occupied the chair successively. A good programme of sub-jets has been arranged for the Wednesdays in March.

GATESHEAD SOCIETY held its usual monthly meeting on February 1st at the house of Mrs. Warden. Mrs. J. T. Dunn occupied the chair, and gave a very inspiring address. Mrs. Hutchinson then gave an excellent report of the Council meeting held in London, January 26-28. Some discussion followed, and votes of thanks to the hostess and the speakers brought a good meeting to a close.

SUNDERLAND SOCIETY.—The first of our fortnightly meetings was held at Meng's Café on Thursday, February 9th. Mrs. Mundella took the chair. Miss C. M. Gordon gave an account of the Council meetings, and Mr. Andrew Common spoke on the anomalies in the laws concerning women's income-tax. Mrs. Arthur Johnson, hon. secretary, gave a sketch of our future plans, which was met with encouraging applause. There was an excellent attendance, and a substantial collection. We are also having a speakers' class fortnightly on Fridays, and on February 27th we hope to have the pleasure of hearing Miss Maude Royden at a drawing-room meeting in the afternoon and at a public reception in the evening.

DARLINGTON.—A meeting will be held here on February 24th, Mrs. Gray being the speaker.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Miss Annie Dickinson, Langholm, Jarrow, is secretary of this new Society, which will hold its first meeting on Friday, February 24th.

HEXHAM.—Mrs. Arrol Riverhill, Corbridge, has kindly consented to act as hon. sec. pro tem., and the first meeting is to be held at her house on Thursday, February 23rd.

A drawing-room meeting was held on Monday, February 13th, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Ormond, at 35, Percy Gardens, Tynemouth. Dr. Ethel Williams took the chair, and Miss Maude Royden was the speaker. There was a very good attendance, and Miss Royden's most convincing speech was fully appreciated. Very few of the audience were members of the N.U., but at the close of the meeting several names were given in. There is every hope that before long a Society will be formed in Tynemouth and the adjacent towns along the coast.

#### EASTERN FEDERATION.

LETCWORTH.

Two meetings were held in Letchworth last week. The first, in the Girls' Club, was for the younger members of the Society. About thirty were present. Mrs. Rackham gave an address. As usual, she

spoke in a most reasonable, convincing way. It was decided to hold an "American Fair" on March 11th in aid of our own branch and an organiser for the Eastern Counties Federation. Great interest was shown in the scheme, and strong committees were at once formed. A cottage meeting was held, by the kindness of Miss Tothunter and Miss Pentelow, in their cottage. After a cup of tea and a general chat, Miss Pentelow spoke. Two new associates were enrolled. We are holding a series of these cottage meetings for associates and their friends, and in this way we hope to strengthen the faith of our associates and enrol new ones. Three associates have already offered to hold meetings in their cottages. We think these informal gatherings are likely to be more effective than large meetings. Our associates now number forty-four, and they all seem anxious to know more about the Suffrage question.

#### Other Societies.

##### THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

A debate of exceptional interest will be held at the Caxton Hall (Room 18), Westminster S.W., Friday, February 24th, at 3 p.m., the subject being: "That Equality of the Marriage Laws will be Desirable for the Progress of the Community." Mr. Cecil Chapman will open the debate, and the negative will be taken by Dr. Forbes Winslow, M.B., LL.D., D.C.L., both of whom gave evidence on the Royal Divorce Commission. Lady Meyer will be in the chair, and a general discussion will follow. Admission free.

The Play Department announces a performance of exceptional interest on Tuesday afternoon, March 7th, at the Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden Lane, W.C. Two new one-act plays will be produced, Miss Eva Moore, Mrs. J. B. Fagan, Miss Dora Barton, and others having promised their services. The programme will include "Restitution," by John Kidd, a powerful play dealing with the divorce question; "Her Wild Oats," by Harold Rubinstein, which touches upon the Suffrage question from a new point of view; and "The Other Side," an entertaining monologue by H. M. Paull. Tickets (all reserved), 2s. and 3s., may be had from the League, or from Miss Victoria Addison, 37, Avonmore Road, Kensington, W.

##### THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

8. Park Mansions Arcada, S.W. (opposite Knightsbridge Tube Station). The At Home on Tuesday, 14th inst., was the most successful yet held, the office being crowded to overflowing. Mrs. Cope acted as hostess, and introduced Miss Sheppard, who gave an interesting and sympathetic address on "Josephine Butler and the White Slave Traffic." Mrs. Cecil Chapman, in thanking Miss Sheppard for her speech, pointed out the close connection between many much-needed reforms and votes for women. On Tuesday, February 28th, Mrs. Pertwee will speak on "Women's Work," and Mrs. Seymour Hare will be hostess. Members are reminded that the success of the At Homes depends upon them, and they are asked to bring as many friends as possible.

#### OPEN-AIR MEETINGS AT UXBRIIDGE.

Six informal open-air meetings will be held at the "Old Pump" on consecutive Saturdays at 8, when members of various Societies and "Free lance" Suffragists will be heard. The dates will be March 4 to April 1 inclusive.

#### Forthcoming Meetings.

**FEBRUARY 23.**  
Budleigh Salterton—Masonic Hall—Women Only—Miss Abadam. 3.0  
Leeds—Albion Hall—At Home. 7.0  
Filey—Masonic Hall—Mrs. Philip Snowden. 8.0  
Bristol—Baptist Chapel, Redland—Debate—Miss J. Baretta, Miss Price. 8.0  
Bristol—Westbury Debating Society—Debate—Miss Tanner. 8.0  
Corbridge—Mrs. Arrol's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Royden. 3.15  
Sunderland—Meng's Café, Fawcett Street—Fortnightly Meeting. 8.0  
Jarrow—Mechanics' Institute—Miss Royden. Councillor J. D. Rose (chair). 7.30  
Clevedon—Public Hall—Miss Bertha Mason's Lantern Lecture. 5.15  
Letchworth—44, Priory Road—Cottage Meeting—Miss M. Sugden. Afternoon.

FEBRUARY 24.  
Darlington—Temperance Institute—Mrs. Gray. 7.30  
Gateshead-on-Tyne—Coatsworth Hall—Annual Meeting. 7.50  
Wakefield—Mrs. Atcherley's Suffrage Tea and Debate—Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Fielden. 3.30  
Newcastle-on-Tyne—27, Ridley Place—Miss Royden. Rev. W. E. Moll (chair). 4.0  
S. Shields—Congregational Hall—At Home—Miss Royden. Dr. Ethel Williams (chair). 7.30  
Bristol—7, Osborne Road, Clifton—Working Party. 3.0

**FEBRUARY 25.**  
Driffield—Temperance Hall—Mrs. Philip Snowden. Dr. Pride (chair). 8.0  
Birmingham—Bromsgrove—Mrs. Horton's Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Osler, Mrs. Ring. 5.15  
Durham—St. Chad's Hall—Miss Royden. 3.30  
Plymouth—Mrs. Holman Andrews' Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Abadam. 3.30

**FEBRUARY 26.**  
Leeds—Miners' Institute—Miss I. O. Ford. 3.0  
FEBRUARY 27.  
Oldham—Music Room, Werneth Park—Miss Ellen Walsh. 8.0  
Nottingham—Market Place—Miss Helga Gill. 7.30  
Knutsford—King's Coffee House—Social Evening—Mrs. W. Tattersall. 8.0  
Haslemere—Co-operative Hall—Women's Co-op. Guild—Mrs. Cooper. 8.0  
Sunderland—Mrs. Turnbull's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Royden. 3.15



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**JOHN KNIGHT LTD.,**  
Soapmakers by Appointment to H.M. King George V.,  
The Royal Primrose Soap Works,  
LONDON, E.

FEBRUARY 23, 1911.

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THE COMMON CAUSE.

755

Sunderland—Y.M.C.A. Hall—Reception—Mrs. Ernest Vaux, 8.0  
Bridlington—Temperance Hall—Mrs. Philip Snowden. Dr. Mary Murdoch (chair). 7.30  
Devonport—Stoke Public Hall—Miss Abadam. 8.0  
Bristol—19, Lower Redland Road—Debate with Young Conservative League—A. Daniel, Esq., Miss E. H. Smith. 8.0

**FEBRUARY 23.**  
Bournemouth—Assembly Rooms, Town Hall Avenue—At Home—Miss Knapp. 4.0  
Cardiff—Whitbread Room, Park Hotel—Conversazione. 7.30  
Plymouth—Lecture Hall, Co-op. Buildings—Women Only—Miss Abadam. 8.0  
Leeds—Miss Lupton's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Fielden. Evening. Bristol—111a, Whiteladies' Road—"Italian Patriots"—Mrs. Randall Vickers. 8.0  
Llangollen—Council Room, Town Hall—Miss Eskrigge. Evening.

**MARCH 1.**  
Nottingham—54, Long Row—Mrs. Burton. 7.30

**MARCH 3.**  
Wakefield—The Music Saloon—At Home and Concert—Mrs. Edwin Gray. 3.30  
Birmingham—10, Easy Row—Franchise Club. 5.0

**MARCH 4.**  
Cheltenham—Town Hall—"How the Vote was Won," and Musical Programme. 8.0

**MARCH 7.**  
Bournemouth—Assembly Rooms, Town Hall Avenue—At Home—The Misses Heywood. 4.0

Croydon—Miss Miller's Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Bailie. 3.0  
Dublin—35, Molesworth Street—"The Feeble-minded Problem"—Mrs. Getto (London). 8.0

**MARCH 8.**  
Croydon—Adult School Hall—At Home—Mrs. Cooper. 3.30  
Croydon—Miss Miller's Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Cooper. 8.30

**MARCH 9.**  
Dublin—35, Molesworth Street—Irish W.S. and Local Government Association—Committee Meeting. 11.30

Reigate—Mrs. Alexander's Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Cooper. 3.30  
Sutton Coldfield—Town Hall—Miss C. Hamilton's Anti-Suffrage Waxworks and Dr. Waite's Play. 8.0

**LONDON.**  
Feb. 21: Wandsworth, Mrs. P. N. Salmon's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss E. A. Bompas, Miss R. Smith. 3.0  
Lambeth, Alford Club House, Meeting of Women Municipal Voters, Mrs. Stanbury, F. Bryant, Esq., L.C.C. (chair). 3.0

Feb. 25: Norwood, Suffrage Offices, Miss K. Raleigh, Miss Green. 8.0  
Feb. 27: 58, Victoria Street, S.W., Quarterly Conference for Members. 3.30  
Windsor, Reception Room, Guildhall, At Home. 5.0

Feb. 28: Sutton, Small Public Hall, Lantern Lecture, Miss Mason. 3.30

March 1: Epsom, Mrs. Hart Smith-Pearse's Drawing-room Meeting; Lecture, "Mary Somerville," Miss Palliser. 3.15  
Blackheath, 8, Shooters Hill Road, "The Society of the Spoken Thought," Discussion. 3.15

March 3: Enfield, Mrs. Nicholson's Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Lowndes. 3.0  
N. Hackney, St. Anlrews Hall, Stamford Hill, Miss Abadam, Miss Maude Royden. 8.0

March 4: Norwood, Suffrage Offices, Miss Abadam, Miss Maude Royden. 8.0

March 6: S. Paddington Ethical Church, Miss Abadam, Miss Ransom, Dr. Stanton Coit (chair). 8.30

March 7: S. Kensington, Mrs. Rendel's Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Ruth Young. 8.30

March 8: Richmond, Miss Bailey's At Home, Mrs. Corbett Ashby. 5.0

**SCOTLAND.**  
Feb. 23: Dundee, 12, Meadowside, Debating Society and Speakers' Class, Miss E. Lindsay. 8.0

Feb. 24: Edinburgh, Café Hall, Princes Street, Annual Meeting. 4.30  
Glasgow, 58, Renfield Street, Miss E. Stewart (hostess), Mrs. France. 4.0

John o' Groats Society, Thurso Town Hall, "How the Vote was Won," and Tableau. Evening.

Feb. 25: Edinburgh, 5a, Frederick Street, Miss Lamont's Meeting, Miss Begbie, Miss Low. 8.0

Feb. 28: Kilmalcolm, Public Hall, At Home, Miss Low. 8.30  
Largs, Women Liberals, Miss Low. 8.0

March 3: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, At Home, Miss Williamson. 4.30  
Glasgow, 53, Renfield Street, Miss E. Stewart (hostess), Mrs. France. 4.0

**186,**  
**REGENT ST., W.**

**maud Barham**

ARTISTIC and  
ORIGINAL DRESS  
for all occasions.  
HAND EMBROIDERIES.

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**LADY-NURSE** Wanted for country, 5 miles from Cardiff. Two little girls, 2½ years and 14 months. Must be experienced, and able to take entire charge. Unitarian preferred.—Full particulars to Mrs. Jeavons, Rhiewin, near Cardiff.

**ONELESS CORSETS.** unbreakable. Illustrated List Free.—Knitted Corset Company, Nottingham.

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**ORGANISERS** (Women) Wanted, Suffrage Work, non-party, non-militant; experience of political or office work essential.—Apply, in first case by letter, to Scottish Federation, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

**BEXHILL APARTMENTS.**—Moderate terms, 10 minutes from sea. Strongly recommended by Miss Candler, "Rochford," Upper Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea.

**CUSHION** Covers!—Genuine Irish Linen; handsomely embroidered in corners with green, sky or red shamrocks; 3in. hemstitched goffered frill; only 1s.; postage 3d. extra.—Write to-day, Hutton's, 159, Larne, Ireland.

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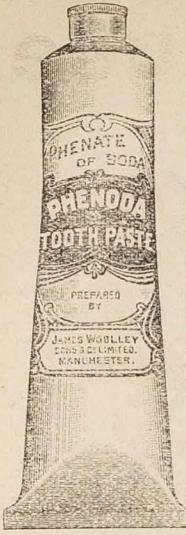
**VEGETARIAN BOARD-RESIDENCE.** temporary or permanent. Homelike. Ladies and Gentlemen. Convenient situation.—Madame Veigel, 63, Hereford Road, Bayswater, W.

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But for Printer's Error, Miss Davies Webster's advertisement last week would have read:—



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A FRAGRANT ANTISEPTIC  
DENTIFRICE FOR CLEAN-  
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"An excellent Tooth Paste, cleansing  
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"As a Tooth Cleaner thoroughly  
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Light Luncheons, Hot and Cold.  
Afternoon Teas. Home Cookery.  
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Most centrally situated.  
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PASSENGER LIFT. TWO NIGHT PORTERS.  
Re-decorated and re-furnished.  
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(Opposite Martyr's Memorial in centre of city).  
Terms Moderate.

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SMALL FLAGS.**

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at the National Union Offices, Parliament  
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RIBBON, 4½ inches wide ..... 1s. 3d. per yard.

2 inches wide ..... 6d. " "

Narrow widths at 3d. and 1d. " "

FLAGS for decoration (cotton), 4/- per dozen.

(bunting), 6/- per dozen.

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Reduced Price, 1d. each.  
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(Signed).....

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