

# The Common Cause.

The Organ of the Women's Movement for Reform.

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ONE PENNY.



Mr. Austen Chamberlain: "Woman is naturally disqualified from the political duties that fall upon man."  
(An Hon. Member: "How about Queen Victoria?")

Mr. A. C.: "I decline to follow the hon. member into this discussion. I HAVE SAID that this disqualification exists!"

(Queen Isabella of Spain, Catherine of Russia, Elizabeth, and Victoria, in ghostly chorus:  
"For we are in our graves, and Oh,  
The difference to him!")

### The News of the Week.

#### Sweated Linen Workers.

It is enlightening to read the newspapers in August, the "holiday season." In the absence of startling political news there appears news of another kind—news of the grinding and unending toil by which the sweated worker, almost invariably a woman, keeps herself and her family alive. Even such delicate and highly skilled work as that of the Belfast linen-workers is apparently sweated to an appalling extent; the figures on which we base this judgment being supplied by the medical officer of health, Miss Mary Irwin, Secretary of the Scottish Council for Women's Trades, and by the chief woman inspector, Miss Martindale.

#### An Appeal.

From the chainmakers of Cradley Heath comes a piteous appeal for help, to which we call the attention of our readers. This "classic instance of the sweated trade," as Miss G. Tuckwell calls it, was scheduled under the Trade Board Acts, and notice given that 2½d. an hour was to be the minimum wage for hammered chain-making. Now it appears that if women can be induced by their employers to take less, the old sweated rates may be continued for at least a year. They have been refused, and are now "locked out." Miss G. Tuckwell, Mr. Shackleton, and Miss Mary Macarthur have issued an appeal for funds to help them, and surely funds should be forthcoming. It is utterly impossible that women who have been earning 4s. or 5s. a week should have any resources on which they can now fall back, and more fortunate women (whether Suffragists or not) and men who have here at least failed to "protect" the weak, should be ready to sacrifice something to help them. It is true that we want more than all the money and help we can get in order to win for women the political power without which their position can never be permanently raised. Yet individual cases must be remembered also, and the wounded cared for even while the battle is in progress. Those who can help should send their contributions at once to Miss Mary R. Macarthur, 34, Mecklenburgh Square, London, W.C. (Cheques to be made payable to Mr. D. J. Shackleton).

#### The New Midwives' Bill.

Mrs. Sidney Webb calls attention to the great hardships which will be imposed upon poor women if the proposed Midwives Bill becomes law. Here is an instance of the incredible mischief which can be wrought by legislation devised by one sex for the other without its advice and consent. Here also is a means by which men who sincerely wish to do the best they can for women, but cannot see how the vote would help them, may be pressed into the service. Such men though they oppose Women's Suffrage, would for that very reason be all the more willing to use their influence and power to remove such a hardship as Mrs. Webb foresees here, once they become aware of it. Suffragists can bring pressure to bear to get the Midwives Bill altered by the help of men who have refused to do anything else for them. It is irresistible to point out that such men, when they found, by the simple process of trying, how very difficult it is to get anything done for non-voters would probably end by becoming Suffragists themselves.

#### Equal Wages for Equal Work.

In a letter to the "Daily News" Mr. Herbert Elvin, secretary to the National Union of Clerks, refers to the competition of women with men in this profession. He justly remarks that women, having been "forced into the labour market either to support themselves or to help provide food and shelter for others, have as much right as men to choose their means of livelihood." "The evil is when they are prepared to undersell their labour, and at the same time to reduce the market rate of wages of their fellow-clerks (male)." In order to get over this

difficulty the National Union of Clerks insists on the principle of equal payment—equal work for equal wages. In other words, that payment shall be according to ability and not according to sex. We are not surprised to hear that the "National Union of Clerks is getting many applications for membership from lady clerks." Women do not wish to work for lower wages than men; they only do so because in many cases it is the only condition on which they can obtain admission to professions and trades in which men have held a monopoly for many years.

#### The International Convention and Women's Work.

The Berne International Convention which is to come into operation on January 14th, 1912, has laid down that women are not to be allowed to work in any industrial undertaking after 10 p.m. There are certain exceptions to this rule, but it will hold for a large majority of women industrial workers, and will apply to twelve countries, including Great Britain. We shall be interested to hear what experts have to say on the effect of this prohibition on the position of women in the labour market, but that it is outrageous for such prohibitions to be enforced without the consent of those concerned, and quite possibly to their great loss and injury, is obvious. There is no greater danger for women of all classes to-day than the exercise by men of an arbitrary sovereignty over the conditions under which they shall or shall not work, and the kind of work they must or must not do. From the highly trained professional woman to the sweated drudge, the consciousness of this ever present danger is driving thousands into the movement for political enfranchisement.

#### Anti-suffragist Chivalry.

A correspondent calls our attention to the following incident as casting light on the claims of the Anti-Suffragist M.P.s, so feelingly urged in the Debate on July 11th and 12th, that their opposition to the Conciliation Bill was based on a profound reverence for woman's work and genius "in her own sphere." At a meeting of the Eastbourne Board of Guardians it was proposed to appoint a woman-assistant relieving officer, to be an inspector under the Infant Life Protection Act. More womanly work could hardly be imagined than this of the inspection and care of children whose unhappy circumstances demand for them such protection. Mr. Gwynne, M.P. for Eastbourne (who voted stoutly against the Conciliation Bill), opposed the motion on the ground that a boy of 17 was quite as capable of doing the work as a woman, whose age nobody knew. The proposal was withdrawn.

#### Education of Women in Persia.

A special correspondent of the "Times" suggests that the education of women will play an important part in the future evolution of Persia. This movement, fostered in its infancy by American missionaries, has already begun to bear fruit. Last April Persian women held a large meeting in Teheran to discuss educational problems, and the girls' schools, founded by foreigners, are now being reinforced by many of native origin. The "Times" correspondent remarks that "On the day when women join openly in the affairs of men, a great change for the better will take place in the relations between Europeans and Persians." It is an observation which gives some ground for thought. Europeans, even those who write for the "Times," have mostly realised that the Oriental seclusion of women is a hindrance to the peaceful development of the world, a hindrance which mankind in its progress must remove. When will they realise that the disabilities they themselves impose on women are of the same nature, and that while encouraging others to pass Seraglio Point, they should not linger in the neighbourhood of Cape Turk.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.  
ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday.  
LONDON AGENT.—Communications referring to advertisements may now be addressed to our London agent, Mrs. H. A. Evans, 10, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C. Friends in London desirous of helping to get advertisements will kindly communicate with her.  
THE PAPER WILL BE POSTED to any address in England or abroad for the following prepaid payments:—

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

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

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

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

#### Holiday Notice.

Readers of "The Common Cause" are reminded to leave stamped addressed wrappers with their newsagents, so that the paper may be sent on to them during the holidays. The postage is 1d. per copy. Or the paper will be sent direct from this office to any address, for any period, for 1d. per copy.

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#### Holidays and No Holidays.

We are now in the midst of the holiday season. Unfortunately this does not mean that everybody is having holidays. It would perhaps hardly be an exaggeration to say that most of those who want holidays most are not having them and have very little prospect of getting them now or later. In the dark, airless, miserable dens which are all they have to call homes, there are many women, men, and alas! children to whom the meaning of the word holiday is almost unknown. They have never awakened among lonely hills or by the "sounding sea" to find their cares lifted from them as if by enchantment and everything touched with wonder and delight. Day after day their existences are made on the same pattern, and it is a pattern which can hardly be called life. Among such toilers are the women chainmakers of Cradley Heath, who are now locked out, because they will not agree to go on working for a wage of less than 2½d. an hour. An even worse instance is that of the women out-workers in the Belfast linen trade. A correspondent of the "Daily News" calculates that many of these women are working all their time for a wage of 1d. an hour. In order to make it possible for families to exist, children of five years old and upwards are made to help in the home-work. These little toilers often rise at 4 or 5 a.m. in order to get in some hours' work before school-time, and in the evening, when school is over, they return to their tedious task of drawing linen threads. When there is no school they often spend the whole day at linen work. A case is instanced of a little girl of fourteen, who after working from 6 a.m.

till 6 p.m. in a weaving factory, was found to be engaged in drawing linen threads at night. It is hardly necessary to say that these children and their mothers do not have holidays. We now know that in our modern industrial world there are many others like them, many who, while we work and while we play, and too often while we sleep, continue day after day, almost from the cradle to the grave, their dreary, hopeless, unrewarded, heart-sickening toil.

It is knowledge which, if we really grasp it, is almost enough to spoil a holiday for the lightest-hearted amongst us. It has made it very difficult for some of the best of us to take holidays at all. Day after day we hear of Suffragists working up to the edge of a breakdown, and over it, and though this conduct cannot be recommended to any one, since it probably means less good work done for the cause in the end, it is conduct from which those whom we admire most find it hardest to abstain.

But while our leaders and many of our fellow-workers are over-working, or restrained from overwork only by their duty to the cause, there are others amongst us to whom idleness is only too welcome. And to us the slack and slow-hearted this fresh tale of sweated workers should surely act as a goad. We could wish that it might be a goad also to those women who, while acknowledging the justice of our plea, and sympathising with our endeavours, have not yet seen their way to join us in the struggle. I do not of course refer to those who are restrained from active work by circumstances which are really outside their own control. We all know that there are ardent Suffragists who are prevented by physical infirmity or by the claims of those dependent on them from devoting their lives to the cause. These may justly comfort themselves with the belief that "They also serve who only stand and wait." But there are others who seem to find in these words a consolation to which they have no right. They forget that they were written by one who had long learned how "to scorn delights and live laborious days," and who even in his old age and blindness grieved only that his "day-labour" (day-labour which included "Paradise Lost") could not be as great as he wished it to be for the service of his God and his cause. But are there not some who call themselves Suffragists who do not do "day-labour" at all? It is to them I would appeal, or rather whom I would implore to find in this fresh tale of human misery an appeal which will make it impossible for them to stand idle, or to content themselves with a deadened sympathy and a repetition of the assurance that "Women's Suffrage must come." It is true that in many cases their inaction proceeds not so much from lack of eyes to see the sorrows of the world or lack of heart to feel them, as from a disbelief in the power of legislation to cure them. But if legislation cannot cure, it can at least alleviate. We do not know quite how much laws can do, but is there anyone who will deny that they can effect something? They have swept away one kind of slave traffic. Can they not remove others? They have altered economic conditions in the past. Can they not do so again? And in order to desire ardently to have a share in making them, it is not necessary to believe that they can do everything, only that they can do something, that there is some hope that they may lighten, some fear that they may make even heavier, the lives of those sufferers whose toils and troubles we have not the right to forget. And to the doubters who are held back in the struggle by the fear that women may not after all legislate any better than men, and that the addition of a million or so of women voters to the electorate will not make much difference, we can reply that that is not the point. The point is that every individual who is not endeavouring by legislation, as well as by every other means in his power, to alleviate the evils of the world, or who, being refused a share in legislation, is not struggling to obtain it, is in some sort consenting to those evils and responsible for them and has no right to rest in peace. Let us not refrain from the little we can do because it is little. Let us remember for how little—by any human measure—those other women are spending their lives.

And those of us who are discouraged by the thought of our own incompetence and ineffectiveness may be consoled by the knowledge that we can at least do something to lighten the burden of Suffragists better than ourselves. If we all worked, our leaders might not be so tempted to overwork! It is good to think that some who need it are taking holiday, good, also, to remember those who cannot, and those who will not.

"By rose-hung river and light-foot rill  
There are who rest not, who look long,  
Till they discern, as from a hill,  
At the sun's hour of morning song,  
Seen of souls only, and those souls free,  
The sacred spaces of the sea."

I. B. O'MALLEY.

### The Debate on the Second Reading.

V.—Austen Chamberlain.

We are about to write an appreciation.

The spirit of criticism is silent before Mr. Austen Chamberlain's speech on the Conciliation Bill. A creation so complete, so at unity with itself, so consistently conceived from a single point of view (Mr. Chamberlain's), imposes itself upon the spirit for awe and admiration, not for criticism. Other speakers have laid themselves open to retort, have faltered and wavered, have leaped at conclusions, or blushingly evaded them; have weakened their speeches with reasoning, and blurred their effects with argument. Not so here. Combining in his style the graces of the ever-courteous Sir Willoughby Patterne with those more august tones which remind us of nothing so much as the first chapter of Genesis, the future Conservative Prime Minister moves with unfaltering step and level front to his inevitable conclusion. What to him are the cries of Suffragists, the arguments of logicians, the protests of Nature herself? "I HAVE SAID" is his reply to all these, and the uproar is hushed into silence.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain cannot—he unbends so far as to tell us—he cannot be dictated to by the ladies of his family. Let them express their opinion. By all means. An attitude of deference, a courteously inclined ear, will always—in leisure hours—be at their command. Not only so, but the bright hope that, in their proffered counsel, some words not unworthy attention may be found, some grains of wheat among the chaff, may be theirs also. "Every man who is a wise man will listen to the advice of the women who are near to him. He will often take it!" But no dictation! The eyes of the world, fixed upon Mr. Austen Chamberlain, might be averted in contempt, were it to be suspected that he was not always and completely capable of a final decision on all points. Nay, the ministrants themselves, the gently counsilling ladies, might begin to suspect also, to doubt . . . and then? "I have yet to learn that either among men or women it is thought that that man wins honour and credit who leaves the decisive and predominant voice to women." After this, can there be further discussion? Mr. Chamberlain is not to win honour and credit by the extension of the franchise to women. He says so himself. On what ground, then, are we to press this change upon the electorate?

There is something subtly reminiscent in the whole tone of this lofty passage. The ladies who bow before Mr. Chamberlain's larger mind do not desire a better lot than so for ever monotonously to bow. Is there not a passage in the book of their lord's great prototype which resembles it in beauty and finish? "Possession without obligation to the object possessed approaches felicity. . . ." There is one instance of possession, and that the most perfect, which leaves us free, under not a shadow of obligation, receiving ever, never giving, or if giving, giving only of our waste; as it were (*sauv votre respect*), by form of perspiration, radiation, if you like; unconscious poral bountifulness; and it is a beneficent operation for the system. Our possession of an adoring female's worship, is this instance.

"The soft cherishable Parsee is hardly at any season other than prostrate. She craves nothing save that you continue in being her sun; which is your firm constitutional endeavour; and thus you have a most exact alliance."

How subtly, how delicately expressed! Yet not more so than here:—"I owe a debt of gratitude to a wife and a sister, who would be the first to withdraw their support from me, if I attempted to impose upon women the vote." (The italics are ours.)

The great principle which lifted Sir Willoughby above the level of smaller men is not for one moment absent from this great utterance. Yet some dull souls have missed its significance, and fallen into lamentable errors thereby. A House of Commons in which women sat, an electorate among whom women voted, would be, says the great politician, an electorate, a House of Commons, spoiled. And cries are raised at once—arguments adduced—to show that this is not the case. How stupid! And how wounding! Can arguments be adduced to show that Mr. Chamberlain will like a female electorate, or care to address a female House of Commons? No. Why, then, these irrelevant cries? These peevish and misplaced protests? The whole point of the passage has been missed by those who raise them, and their intelligence stands condemned.

At one point, indeed, we would venture to suggest, Mr. Chamberlain has laid himself open to these misunderstandings. Abandoning, for a moment, the sublimer style of the prophet for the more persuasive tones of the logician, he has—a concession, merely, to our human weakness—he has deviated into argument. He has pointed us to the fact that women cannot vote. I am opposed, he says, to Women's Suffrage, because "the sex of woman is a disqualification in fact." Long pondering over this dark saying—obscure, doubtless, only from its depth—has evolved from it no other meaning than that women cannot vote. Some strange, unimaginable obstacle bars their way. They cannot. They are "disqualified (by nature) for the political duties which fall upon man."

We pass by the silly and pointless interruption of a member (rightly nameless in the official report)—"How about Queen Victoria?" Queen Victoria, we need not say, did not vote, and as to "political duties," a debater who is content to base his reasoning upon facts, can hardly expect to be seriously answered by an Austen Chamberlain. But with what majesty was the silly interruption met! With what unfaltering decision the irrelevant fact swept into oblivion! "I decline to follow the hon. member into this discussion. . . . I have said that this disqualification exists." After this, we presume that the empty phrase about "stubborn facts" will at last fall into disuse. Those facts which think themselves stubborn have not known Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

But will it be believed that some have actually contended that to forbid women to do what they cannot, by Act of Parliament, is waste of time? That no laws have been, or need be, passed to prevent deaf men from hearing, blind men from seeing? And that it cannot be really necessary for women to be ordered to retain their sex by order of both Houses of Parliament in debate assembled? Such a contention shows a contemptible failure to appreciate the greatness of Mr. Chamberlain's aim. Nature, it is true, has disqualified Woman. But, alas! how weak has Nature sometimes shown herself to be! (Is she not a female?) How visible already is the change in the unchangeable law! How superficial the fundamental differences of sex! We need only instance the Suffragists. . . . How unlike what women must inevitably be! Nay, how unlike what Mr. Chamberlain would wish them to be! For he approved—he admits it—the original pattern. It has his imprimatur as being both the undoubted original, and good. All the more necessary and desirable, therefore, that the tentative outline sketched in by Nature should be reinforced by Mr. Chamberlain's unhesitating hand. "I hear it said," is his stern rebuke to the frivolously optimistic, "I hear it said that if you give women the vote, and call upon them to exercise it, they will be

assimilated to men, they will acquire the qualities which men possess, and will surrender something of those qualities which have been theirs before. . . . God forbid that they should abandon the qualities which are our pride and theirs! God forbid that they should assimilate the qualities of men!"

And what, let us reverently inquire, are these qualities of womanhood with which the Almighty is to forbid the House of Commons to tamper? Read, and it will quickly be seen how great mischief has been done already. "Their qualities which we most admire are their lofty devotion to ideals, their dependence upon others—upon husband, or brother, or the hero of their imaginations—their willingness to yield their opinions, their almost passionate desire for self-sacrifice . . . their insistence without compromise on what they believe to be right. . . ."

And even as the words fell from the lips of the gifted orator, a Bill of Compromise on the subject of Women's Suffrage was being discussed, to which many, many women—if indeed they are any longer to be called women, who have thus outraged their sex—many harpies, then—had given consent, as a measure which was "an acceptance of the second best"—"a choice between evils"—"a something which was not ideal, but the best it was possible to obtain at the moment"—a measure, in fact, which was all those things which Nature has made it fundamentally impossible for women to accept or approve.

And the other qualities? May they not equally disappear, in the absence of legislation to the contrary? The dependence on others, "upon husband or brother," says, touchingly, this idol of "a wife and sister," "or the hero of their imagination" . . . (We pause.

. . . Can the ladies Chamberlain have imagined the heroic qualities with which their lord —. But no—we hurry on . . .) "the almost passionate desire for self-sacrifice, often it must be admitted"—and who shall deny to the orator the capacity of feeling for female griefs, as glancing round the rest of the House of Commons, he adds with faltering tones—"often, it must be admitted, on behalf of objects very little worthy of their great devotion"? A Liberal, it may be—a Labour Member—possibly a Conservative Free Trader. Women have their sorrows, one must not deny it—terrible. But they have the sympathy, the advice, of one who comprehends all. "Do not," we can imagine Mr. Chamberlain saying, in the words of his great prototype, "do not marry an egoist."

But women will marry egoists—will even insist upon being their sisters—and it is an endearing trait. Mr. Chamberlain does not wish it to disappear. It is natural in women, and they will so quickly lose it if they are not legislated into altruism. No reference is made, in other than veiled terms, to those of their sex who have already lost this engaging trait of giving all and asking nothing; but with prophetic vision the orator pierces the veil of futurity, and calls upon the House of Commons to ensure by Act of Parliament that women shall continue to have a passionate desire for self-sacrifice. To give rights and powers to women who are (by nature) unselfish and self-sacrificing would, he points out in unforgettable terms, be as monstrous an injustice as to impose burdens on men who have perfectly serious and solid objections to carrying them.

Suffragists must now face the gloomy truth. Thousands, without question, have joined the movement for the enfranchisement of women, under the impression that they were in this manner commanding themselves to Mr. Chamberlain. This has not been the case. He has not really approved them—has not really liked the kind of woman who is a Suffragist. He does not perceive that any advantage can accrue to him from the existence of such women; indeed, he has distinctly told us that their existence is "no consolation" to him.

Those members of their sex, alone, who repudiate with strong shuddering the thought of compelling Mr. Chamberlain to do what he does not wish to do; in whom the "willingness to yield their own opinions" has been happily combined with "an insistence without compromise on what they believe to be right"—these alone

have succeeded in the great battle whose prize is his approval. These alone, therefore—we pronounce it unhesitatingly,—can be permitted to exist.

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

### "The Nineteenth Century and After."

August, 1910.

This magazine contains several articles of special interest to women; and from "Pageantry and Politics," an Anti-Suffrage argument, by Mrs. F. Harrison, some quotations, with a commentary, shall be given.

Of the Conciliation Bill the writer states:—"The ghost of such a proposal will trouble us never again. . . . For perhaps the first time Woman's Suffrage has been debated with thought, courtesy, dignity, and a true sense of the importance of the issue." This is a sign of the times. The "chivalry" lacking before has awakened, and assures us that we shall hear of the Conciliation Bill again.

Inquiring into "the part women should play in the body politic apart from the functions of wife and mother," she asks: "Is theirs an educational, moral, persuasive power? or is it the power of the law, the policeman, and the sword?" We reply—Are politics concerned with this latter side only? "Both powers are necessary and valuable, but they cannot co-exist in the same person." Then they cannot co-exist in a man, and he needs woman's help.

Women do not ask to combine both powers or to "administer the law with all its terrors." They want a wider scope for the power which is pre-eminently theirs. They want to mitigate the terrors of the law for those whom it oppresses, because "the true woman's view" has shown them things to which the eyes of men, by Nature's limitations, are shut.

The writer quotes a sentence "which gives the logic of the situation in a nut-shell": "Ladies, you cannot have the vote because you cannot do the fighting." Here we come back to the old illogical idea that politics are concerned only with war, and even so the argument is faulty. Women pay for the upkeep of the fighting forces, which is all the majority of men do. They also go in person to the seat of war to fight the equally necessary and grim fight with death and pain.

Then we hear: "In Colorado many men and women voters desire that the woman's vote should be taken from her. American opinion appears to be that the four Suffrage States are behind others in social legislation." The writer is answered in "America and Woman Suffrage" by Mrs. Borrmann Wells, who quotes:

(1) Judge Lindsey, February, 1906: "Woman Suffrage in Colorado for over ten years has more than demonstrated its justice. No one would dare to propose its repeal, and if left to the men of the State, any proposition to revoke the right bestowed upon women would be overwhelmingly defeated."

(2) Senator R. L. Owen, December, 1909: "In Colorado the votes of women have raised the wages of women, established a Juvenile Court, raised the age of consent, established a curfew, have wonderfully improved the charities of the State, and perfected the best school system in the world."

Statistics in Mrs. Wells' pamphlet show that the Suffrage States have the lowest percentage of unmarried women of any Western State; and nearly 25 per cent. less divorce, though before her enfranchisement Wyoming had the highest percentage in America. Her place is now eleventh. Its newness makes the movement "comparable to nothing in history," so it is compared at once by a reminder of women's opposition, and a query, Did any farm labourers protest against their charter?

Quoting from a letter to the "Times" on the need for the woman's point of view, the writer continues:—"If Mr. Chapman desires to have the woman's view he can only get it from the non-political woman." This claim is surely a little arrogant. "It is quite certain that the woman's point of view at its best and highest must be sought for in quiet places, aloof from party compromises and struggles." This recalls Milton's words:

"I cannot praise a fugitive and cloistered virtue, unexercised and unbreathed, that never sallies out and sees her adversary, but slinks out of the race where that immortal garland is to be run for, not without dust and heat. . . . That which purifies us is trial, and trial is by what is contrary."

"The woman's view at its best . . . grows and flourishes in the complete freedom of a woman's life." Then it is only at its best with women of leisure; the busy women who go down into the world and work and see its needs cannot be said to have complete freedom of life.

Pointing to the comfortable looks of the July Pro-  
cessionists, she asks: "What can these women want more?" It is not a question of the individual wants of these women. It is to the needs of the world that we look. She forgets, too, that "brain power and dis-  
passionate deliberation" were well represented in this politically "dangerous" pageant.

"One impression to be gained was the middle-class nature of the women's movement." From the middle classes (the English nation's backbone) have generally come the women who have greatly accomplished—Frances Buss, Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Fry, Harriet Beecher Stowe, etc.

"We may go further, and say that the movement has been politically indifferent to the claims of the working woman." The Liberal agent for Bolton gives the following statistics from his municipal register:—Working women, 4,752; other classes of women, 482; working women, 90 per cent. Nelson, in Lancashire, has: Working women, 916; other classes, 67; working women, 93 per cent.

The political women have also constantly opposed legislation to protect and defend women's labour on the academic plea of the equality of the sexes." No illustration is given, but suppose the premises to be sound. Imagine a tenant whose roof leaked from age and faulty construction. He would say to his landlord: "I will have no more patches; every patch delays the making of a new roof. Nothing but that will make my house good to dwell in." His argument would be sound and wise.

In the Rev. D. Wallace Duthie's note on the Paston letters, there is a picture of woman's life in the reign of Henry VI., a tracing of what woman has gained, a questioning whether she has not also lost.

In an age of splendid optimism and dawning knowledge of the laws of evolution we believe with the seer—

"There never was one lost good,"—and though critical of our modern faults, we will not look back in our furrow. The article contains frequent asides on the women of to-day:—"The Mohammedan idea of a mental training avowedly inferior to that of men has been banished from these coasts, though not without a certain male resentment and scorn for which there is little justification. The energy and zeal with which the sex has endeavoured to solve its own problems or seeks to fulfil its own destiny, are not to be lightly dismissed with scathing epithets." Yet surely this is what he seeks to do, as follows: "But the lust of conquest grows upon them, and to-day, having invaded and subdued other provinces, the irreconcilables among them are clamouring at the gates of Parliament or on Mr. Asquith's doorstep for the suffrage which is to make them truly free."

Speaking of women in the fifteenth century, he says: "Law with its statutes, Religion with its precepts, Manners with their arbitrary rules, all combined to keep them in a state of subjection," and "England had yet far to travel." She is now approaching a plateau on the uphill road, to reach which it is verily "*le dernier pas qui conte.*"

Again referring to woman's educational advance, he ends:

"But we may ask, because women can write books which deny the existence of God, or attack Christianity, because they can readjust the relations of the sexes, and fill their passionate volumes with love and lubricity, shall it be maintained that they have advanced in knowledge?" This taking of certain sports as though they were representative is not convincing; nor, in colloquial phrase, is it cricket. "We judge our friends by their best moments," says Emerson. Then let no man judge woman by her worst. If we only take her average she has nothing to fear from male critics, whose feeling is summed up by Lord Robert Cecil:

"The standard of public duty is higher among women than among men. They have greater capacities for self-sacrifice, and are therefore better to be trusted in managing the interests of others, and above all, by long tradition

and inheritance they have a deeper feeling for morality and religion. In these days when it is difficult to persuade anyone to consider any measure, except so far as it affects the material interests of this or that class, we should be acting foolishly,—and, indeed, criminally—if we excluded from the Parliamentary vote those who will bring to the consideration of these things a deep sense of religion and spirituality much higher and much better than is possessed by the male section of this community."

The final note is this: "Content with their privileges, they left it to the new order of women to demand their rights." The writer has yet to realise that the rights women demand are a fuller power and better instrument for doing their duty; and scope for the wider use, and the sharing with the less fortunate, of their much-prized privileges.

MARJORIE COSENS.

### South Salford.

On Wednesday, July 20th, the South Salford Suffrage Club for Men and Women was opened at Oldfield Hall, Gardenwall Street, Oldfield Road, with a social evening—a musical programme, suffrage speech, cup of tea, and "business" of the club. The packed room, the eager enthusiasm, and the proprietary pride of many of the women were a revelation to those who had not realised the quiet work which Miss Darlington had been carrying on in Salford for weeks past. That such work had been done was evident enough in the grasp of the situation shown by all present, and the unhesitating and whole-hearted way in which the meeting—men and women—expressed their uncompromising hostility to Mr. Hilaire Belloc. When we told them that Mr. Belloc had declared that the Women Occupiers' Bill would not have the support of the women in his constituency—"Wouldn't it? Just let him come down here, and we'll let him know!" they cried.

It was delightful to see our old friends introducing strangers to the little room which they had helped us to make gay. One woman had lent curtains, another flower-vases, another an urn: all seemed to take a personal pride and pleasure in it. For weeks past women had been meeting there every Wednesday afternoon. At first there were only four or five—"dragged in,"—but latterly 40 or 50 come every week and listen eagerly to speeches from different members of the North of England Society, joining in, discussing, drawing on their own experience, and seeming to acquire week by week more of that dignity and self-respect which participation in the women's movement, rightly understood, is bound to give. They love coming, too! They bring their babies, and many come with shawls over their heads telling us how nice it is not to have to "dress up." All through the summer the "neighbours" have boiled water for the cup of tea (d.), which closes the afternoon, to save us the trouble of lighting a fire.

At this opening meeting of the Club the men were distinctly in a minority, many husbands having deputed their wives to report whether there were any other men there, before they would venture in. The men who came, however, were deeply interested and anxious that the club should be established on the best and most practical footing.

As for the music—we brought several performers with us—and a gramophone,—and one of our local men supporters, Mr. Rothwell, sang magnificently for us, and we hope soon to discover more local talent. The men who have espoused our cause in Salford are several of them enthusiastic social workers. One described to me how it had come to him almost as a revelation that the help of the women was the one thing needed. Another, a captain in the Church Army, brought me a little verse which he said they had sung at the Band of Hope fifteen years ago:—

Some say that Woman should not Vote,  
And some say that she should;  
And some there are who think perhaps,  
She would not if she could.  
But however we may differ,  
There is one true thing we know—  
If Women had the ballot,  
The Public-house would go.

It would be interesting to know the origin of this—whether there is any more of it, and how it came to be sung in this country at a time when the Suffragists were comparatively quiescent.

The same man tells us a touching story illustrating the uses of women guardians from the point of view of the workhouse child. He was himself "a workhouse laddie," and during his time there a woman guardian was appointed. The other Guardians were furious—the chairman threatened to resign, and the boys, of course, emulated their indignation. But the first day the woman guardian made her rounds of the workhouse the boys were at dinner—consisting of suet dumplings and salt, which they found so unpalatable as to be scarcely eatable. The lady at once suggested the substitution of treacle for salt! The reform was adopted, and the boys thenceforward "swore by women guardians." Might not this be made into a parable for those men who dread "petticoat government"? We only want to be allowed to give them the treacle which they love!

Besides meetings in the Club House, several large meetings have been held in the constituency, and the experience of canvassers for these meetings has been most encouraging. I knocked at one door. "Come in!" and I opened it, but could see no one, till suddenly a voice came from near the ceiling, and I dimly made out a man on a ladder putting up a picture in the corner of the room, who shouted—"I know who you are! I'm for you! I'm going to help the women when the election comes." A few such incidents as this in an evening's canvassing warm one's heart and screw one's courage to the sticking place!

Mr. Belloc's speech in the Debate has proved a great asset to us, and we have posted to every woman municipal voter in the constituency a copy of the following leaflet, gaily printed in red and green:—

### WOMEN MUNICIPAL VOTERS OF SOUTH SALFORD!

Hear what the Member for South Salford  
has to say about you!

The WOMEN OCCUPIERS' FRANCHISE BILL, now  
before Parliament, would give votes to YOU, the  
women now on the Municipal Register.

### MR. HILAIRE BELLOC

#### In the House of Commons on July 11th Described the Women Whom This Bill Would Enfranchise as—

"the disappointed women," "the women who have not borne or cannot or will not bear children," "every woman who has quarrelled with her husband and is keeping a separate establishment"; "every woman who wishes to live her own life, whatever that may mean"; "every one of that sex who has a grievance against her Creator, and a large body of that other class who number many thousands in every large city, to whom without the slightest doubt no civic influence whatever should be given."

Are there no WIDOWS in South Salford?

Are there no MEN whose mothers or sisters have  
municipal votes?

If there are, let them join the

### SOUTH SALFORD WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION, Oldfield Hall, Gardenwall Street, Oldfield Road.

All particulars sent on application.

### North of England Society for Women's Suffrage, 85, Deansgate Arcade.

### NON-PARTY. NON-MILITANT.

We sent this out just before we started on our holidays. Now, on our return, we are looking forward confidently to reaping the fruits in a great reinforcement of our ranks, and redoubling of enthusiasm throughout the constituency.

### Women in Church Matters.

#### Introduction.

It is in my opinion useless to compare the position of women in a communion like the Church of Rome or the Church of England, perhaps even in the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, with that of women in Nonconformist Pro-

testant bodies or churches which treat the laity as a flock to be governed, and in churches which make all ecclesiastical power a mere delegation from the congregation. They differ so completely in character that it is impossible to argue that a sex disqualification which may be absurd in the one sort of church may not be justifiable in the other. My present object is to summarise the position of women first in the Mediæval Church, and afterwards in the reformed Church of England. The question of women in Protestant Nonconformist bodies would best, I think, be treated by a Non-conformist.

#### Woman's Position in the Mediæval Church as a Member of the Laity.

In mediæval society, which was really not a State, but a Church, woman was not an outlaw. The orthodox woman was in a far better position than a male Jew, infidel or heretic. Inasmuch as she could participate in the sacraments, she was, in a sense, a citizen. Between the layman and the laywoman the canon law drew little distinction. The laywoman was liable to ecclesiastical discipline in the same way as a man. She was equally bound to go to confession, and if she offended against Church law she was subjected to the same penances or punishments as a male offender. The Mediæval Inquisition made a girl liable to its jurisdiction at twelve years of age, a boy at fourteen. It has been said that the canon law would not allow a woman to be a witness in an ecclesiastical trial. This is not quite correct. In a trial for heresy a man was forced to bring only men as compurgators—that is, witnesses to character; but a woman was equally forced to bring as her compurgators only women. Men compurgators would not avail her. In regard to such matters of ecclesiastical administration as the Church permitted to lay people, a woman was allowed to take a part. Thus women are allowed by the canon law to appoint clergymen to livings or benefices, and freely exercised this power in the Middle Ages, and continue to exercise it in both the Anglican and Roman Communions. In the latter body where the lay patronage still exists, the lay patron is entitled to certain ceremonial honours, some of which are denied to a female patron. For instance, a lay male patron receives the Pax, and is specially censed, but not a woman patron. Patrons of both sexes are entitled to a solemn and special sprinkling with holy water. In the same way in some countries, of which England was one, they have always been allowed or compelled to act as parish officers. As far back as 1428 a woman, Beatrix Braye, was a churchwarden at Exeter; in 1496-7 Lady Isabel Newton was churchwarden at Yatton, in Somersetshire. When it is remembered that in the Middle Ages it was the duty of the churchwarden to present offenders for moral delinquencies at the Archdeacon's Court, to arrange the May revel and the public Christmas festivities, as well as to see to church repairs, it cannot be said that the Church refused to avail itself of women's services. Some thinkers in the Middle Ages even demanded for woman a more extensive sphere. William of Ockham, a fourteenth century writer who championed the cause of the Emperor against the Pope, argued that "since infallibility was guaranteed only to the Church Universal, the true faith might perish in Pope, Cardinals, Roman Church, the whole clergy, all male members of the Church—and survive in the rest of the Church, perhaps in women and babes." Ockham, accordingly, in claiming for the laity the right to summon a general council of the Church, suggests that "women should be admitted" to such council—"if there were need of them." ("Gierke's Political Theories of the Middle Ages," translated by Maitland, pp. 59, 60.) The failure of the Conciliar movement and the re-establishment of the Papal Monarchy removed Ockham's speculation from practical ecclesiastical politics.

#### Women as Members of the Clerical Order.

In throwing open the monastic system to women the Church recognised its duty to satisfy the religious vocation in the female sex. Yet the jurisdiction which an abbess could exercise over her nuns was a crux to the canon lawyer. The abbess could not excommunicate the rebellious members of her convent; but she could order a priest to do so. In other words, she could exercise episcopal authority. The old canonist explained the difficulty by saying that abbesses have not ecclesiastical jurisdiction properly, but a certain "use of jurisdiction." Now it seems to be admitted that sex is not a disqualification to an exercise of delegated ecclesiastical jurisdiction. From the priesthood, however, women were rigidly excluded. No woman could receive holy orders. This exclusion was based, no doubt, on Jewish tradition and on the teaching of St. Paul. I have recently read that the point whether a woman could be ordained was actually raised in the thirteenth century, and that Pope Innocent IV. condemned the idea of conferring holy orders on a woman as "temerarious," without saying, however, that such orders, if conferred, would be null and void. It would be worth the while of some student to look at the passage, as if the point were raised in the Church of England this decree of Innocent IV. would no doubt be treated as binding law, canons of this nature not being repealed by the Reformation settlement. Modern Roman Catholic canonists lay it down that women are incapable of

holy orders. Whether this incapacity is one which a Papal dispensation could remove I do not know. No such dispensation has ever been given.

#### The Effect of the Reformation on Woman's Church Status.

In my opinion the Reformation, on the whole, worked disastrously for women. It is true that the blow which struck at clerical privilege in a sense raised the status of the laity, both male and female. Against this, however, must be set the increased stress laid on Old Testament teaching and on the Pauline theology. So far as England is concerned, on the Pauline theology. So far as England is concerned,

it cannot be said that laywomen in practice lost any of their mediæval privileges; but it cannot be said that their religious status was in any way improved. The abolition of convents, indeed, robbed women of a sphere of usefulness—it may be mentioned that at the present time the number of English "sisters" in the Anglican Communion is larger than the number of English Nuns before the Reformation—and the claim of Parliament to legislate for the Church increased the power of the layman against the laywoman.

(To be continued.)

#### NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

**OBJECT:** To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.  
**METHODS:** (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in this country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

Hon. Secretaries:  
MISS EDITH DIMOCK.

President:  
MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Treasurer:  
MISS BERTHA MASON (*Pro Tem.*)

MISS BERTHA MASON (Parliamentary).

Telegrams: "Voiceless, London."

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

#### Queen's Hall Demonstration.

June 28th, 1910.

The following donations promised at the meeting have been received:

	£	s.	d.
Miss A. Bateson	5	5	0
Miss M. Boileau, M.D.	5	0	0
Miss E. F. Boyd	1	0	0
Miss Meta Bradley	1	1	0
Miss Bray	1	0	0
Mrs. Allan Bright	0	10	0
Miss Mary Brinton	1	0	0
Miss Annie Leigh Browne	20	0	0
Mrs. Arthur Cane	1	1	0
Mrs. Carleton	0	5	0
Sir William Chance, Bart., and Lady Chance	5	0	0
R. F. Cholmley, Esq.	5	0	0
Miss Constance Cochrane	5	0	0
Miss H. D. Cockle (first instalment)	2	8	0
Mrs. Stanton Coit	25	0	0
Collection at Queen's Hall	112	14	6
Mrs. Corbett	1	1	0
Miss M. Corbett	1	1	0
Miss C. Courtauld	10	0	0
Miss S. R. Courtauld	5	0	0
Mrs. H. Cowell	5	0	0
Miss B. J. M. Croal	1	1	0
Miss Margaret C. Crosfield	5	0	0
Mrs. A. M. Daniel	1	0	0
Miss H. A. M. Dawson	20	0	0
Miss Lucy Deane	120	0	0
Mrs. C. Dixon	20	0	0
Miss L. M. Dixon	1	0	0
Miss Mary Drew	1	0	0
Miss Joan Drew	1	0	0
Mrs. A. G. Dryhurst	1	1	0
Mrs. Duncan	5	0	0
Miss C. M. Eve	1	0	0
Mrs. Exley	1	0	0
Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.	75	0	0
Miss Philippa Fawcett	105	0	0
Miss H. F. Fenwick	1	0	0
Miss Elfrieda Finké	3	0	0
Mrs. Carl Flügel	25	0	0
John C. Flügel, Esq.	5	0	0
Miss I. O. Ford	10	0	0
Miss Naomi Bassett Fox	5	0	0
G. M. E. Franklin, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. L. B. Franklin	5	0	0
Mrs. Fyffe	1	1	0
Miss Gadson	1	0	0
Miss Agnes Gardiner	1	0	0
Mrs. Gilliat	1	0	0
Mrs. E. Gimingham	1	0	0
Miss T. Gosse	0	10	0
Miss Frances Hardcastle	5	0	0
Miss E. Gertrude Harris	1	1	0
Mrs. Hecht	5	0	0
Miss Ida Hedges	0	3	0
Mrs. Heitland	25	0	0
Miss Amy C. Herford	5	0	0
Mrs. Herringham	50	0	0
The Misses Hertz	3	0	0
Miss Isabel M. Hervey	2	0	0
Miss Davenport Hill	2	0	0
Per Miss Hitchcock	0	18	0
Miss Edith Hodge	1	0	0
Miss Mabel A. Hodge	5	0	0
Mrs. Hogg	25	0	0
Canon Scott Holland	3	0	0

£1,370 19 6

The following promises have also been received:

	£	s.	d.
Miss Margaret Ashton	100	0	0
Sir John MacLeavy Brown	10	0	0
Miss H. D. Cockle (second instalment)	17	10	0
Dr. Stanton Coit	10	0	0
Miss Margaret Coit	3	0	0
Mrs. Bedford Fenwick	1	0	0
Mrs. Flinders Petrie	1	1	0
Miss Helen Stocks	0	2	0
Miss Frances Sterling	100	0	0
Dr. Jane Walker	25	0	0
Mrs. James White	1	0	0

£268 13 0

#### Surrey, Sussex, and Hants.

I have had a most satisfactory fortnight working on the ground prepared by the Cuckfield Society in Mid-Sussex.

We began with a day at Lindfield Fair, where their enterprising secretary, Miss Bevan, had, at Mr. Golding's suggestion, obtained a stall. There we displayed literature, posters, and banners, and with the help of local members and enthusiasts from Brighton, we carried on a quiet canvassing all day among the visitors that flocked in from miles round. From the results, both at the time and since, we all agreed that it was very well worth while. In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Francis came and addressed a meeting outside the immediate circle of the Fair, and we had an attentive and intelligent audience, and some discussion.

Then I spent two days at Horsted Keynes helping Miss Meyer to work up the meeting for August 11th. In the Parish Room (kindly lent by the vicar) Miss Verall and I had a large and most attentive audience, and an "all-star" committee has been formed, which will include Mrs. Martinale and Miss Corbett. Already Miss Meyer has nearly trebled the membership of the branch in a few weeks, and things look promising.

Since then most of my time has been spent at Hurst and Hassocks, crystallising the Society and committee that had already been initiated. We had a meeting on Wednesday (August 17th), when Mrs. Keatinge came over from Horsham to take the chair, and Miss Basden and I spoke, and in spite of truly "English summer" weather we had a fair audience, and they now number about 35 members in their Society. The secretary, Miss Potts, is unfortunately under strict doctor's orders for two or three months, but Miss Young has consented to carry on things until she is able to be about again. The men of Hurst and Hassocks are coming forward splendidly, and Mr. Cairnford and Mr. Addleshaw have undertaken to form a Men's League Committee, and to start a branch in that neighbourhood, and I believe they will be most successful.

There have been activities in other places also. On Monday (15th) Mrs. Carey, of Burgess Hill, gathered a roomful of her friends to talk about the things that concern women. Miss Spooner and I spoke, and a discussion followed, the outcome of which is that Burgess Hill has undertaken to help Mrs. Carey to get up a public meeting, and then to see what further steps can be taken. On Thursday Hayward's Heath had secured Miss Ashton to speak to a goodly gathering of women in Mrs. Sibley's garden. I went over to help, and by good luck found Miss Bryan waiting for a train, and of course we bore her off in triumph to our meeting, where she graciously overlooked her unceremonious

#### Treasurer's Notes.

CONTRIBUTIONS, AUGUST 20 TO AUGUST 27, 1910.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1919	8	1½
Subscriptions: Mrs. Alfred Illingworth	105	0	0
Donations: Miss Rosa Morrison (in memory of Eleanor Grove, for work in Devon and Cornwall)	25	0	0

£2049 8 1½

#### MILLION SHILLING FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1454	6	0
Miss Ray Costelloe and Mrs. J. B. Reynolds (27 dollars) about	110	0	0
"Binkie," a Suffrage bear, per Miss Sulman	1	0	0

1565 6

I am very anxious to claim Miss Eleanor Rathbone's promised gift of £25 towards the salary of an organizer for Devon and Cornwall before the close of the financial year, so that work may be started in that area at the beginning of October. I have received about £40 towards this fund, and appeal for another £30 to come in this month.

BERTHA MASON, Treasurer.

#### Federation Notes.

##### Manchester and District.

A meeting definitely to form this Federation and to pass the rules will be held at 85, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, on Tuesday, September 6th, at 5.30. An invitation, together with the agenda, and a copy of the suggested rules has been issued to the Societies in the proposed area, and it is hoped that they will all be represented.

The constitution of this Federation has been somewhat difficult, owing to the fact that with one or two exceptions all the Societies concerned were branches of the North of England Society, not affiliated to the National Union, and this formed a sort of Union which had to be dissolved before the Federation could be established. Many regrets have been felt for the disappearance of the old order, but there is no doubt that anything we may lose will be more than compensated for by the general levelling up which should accompany the recognition of ourselves as a Federation, not to speak of the growth of independence and sense of mutual responsibility amongst the Societies.

The proposed area is an important one, including as it does nearly all the great industrial towns of Lancashire, and the task of forming strong Societies in each constituency will be a heavy one. If, however, each existing Society will take its share of the work it should be possible to have a Society in every one of the forty constituencies before Christmas, and this is the object for which we must work.

##### North-Western.

I am afraid the weather prophet has been an Anti-Suffragist this week. Several meetings have had to be given up on account of rainstorms, and a Cumberland rainstorm is no joke.

I have been working for the most part in Sir John Randle's constituency, and everywhere had sympathetic and large audiences. We are singularly fortunate in having Sir John's agents strongly on our side.

On Wednesday I had a meeting in Broughton. The audience was very large and representative.

On Thursday I invaded Mr. Grant's constituency. He is one of the few Anti-Suffragists members for Cumberland and Westmorland. The rain poured down, and it was nearly a hurricane, but the men and women of Arlecdon faced the weather and collected outside the Sunday school. It got, however, so bad that we got the key and held the meeting inside. J. Ray, Esq., very kindly took the chair, and made a very interesting speech. I proposed the usual resolution, and Miss Lawrence, who not only entertains me, but also got these meetings up, seconded it. It was carried by a very large majority.

Miss Newling, Miss Dover, Miss Knight, and Miss Ben-deback, all of Keswick, have been doing splendid work in preparing the ground.

HELGA GILL.



**Debenham & Freebody**  
Wigmore Street, (Cavendish Square) London W.  
Famous for over a Century for Taste for Quality for Value

**NEW KNITTED SILK COATS.**

The most useful garment imaginable. Suitable alike for dressy occasions and town wear as well as for the seaside, the river, travelling, outdoor sports, and foreign seaside resorts. The style and effect of a perfect-fitting tailor-made garment with the comfort and warmth of a negligée wrap. In black, white, and all the newest shades, including early autumn tints. Made exclusively for Debenham & Freebody.

**72/6**  
(as sketch)  
In longer lengths from  
**4 gns. to 6 gns.**  
Caps to match, **8/11**

**SILKUNA COATS**, closely resembling real silk in appearance, in a wide range of fashionable shades, **59/6**.  
Caps to match, **5/11**.

abduction, and took the chair. It was a most successful meeting, and Miss Ashton's rousing speech bore good fruit in new members and increased subscriptions.

On Monday (22nd) I met the Cuckfield Committee, and found them with a most healthy and insatiable thirst for other worlds to conquer. And there are plenty for them, even though here among the Sussex villages they have gathered in one year 226 members, and started three distinct dependent Societies, besides the parent branch. I would like to commend their method of mothering baby Societies in surrounding villages to other county branches, but I cannot promise them equal success, as they cannot borrow the most potent factor—Miss Bevan.

We have had three open-air meetings this week in the neighbourhood of Farnham on almost unbroken ground; in each case Miss Milton took the chair, and I spoke. The Farnham Society is to be congratulated on the fact that it is realising the ideal of the Federation, and has extended its activities to the borders of the adjoining societies—Church Crookham and Godalming. The former co-operated in a meeting at Crockham on Tuesday, and Farnham is generously handing over to it the fruit of its labours in that part, as Church Crookham is a slightly nearer centre. Miss Poole, of Crockham, who is already a member of that Society, has undertaken to carry on the work begun by Mrs. Springman and Miss Milton. On Thursday we had a meeting at Frensham, where there is already a nucleus of good Suffragists; and on Friday we met under King Alfred's tree at Tilford, where the neighbouring village of Elstead, which works with Godalming, helped to swell the audience, which was a delightfully representative and attentive one.

BARBARA DUNCAN.

### Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

ANERLEY BRANCH.

Thanks to the vigorous efforts and kind hospitality of Miss E. Fennings, a meeting of male sympathisers was held at Anerley on August 23.

After some discussion it was decided to form a branch of the Men's League, to be called the Norwood Branch, and a committee was formed to carry out the necessary arrangements.

The possibility of an anti-Government election policy being adopted by the League at the special general meeting on September 23 was discussed, and a resolution approving of such a policy was passed.

Certain keen Liberals voted against this, but finding they were in the minority, agreed to sink their personal feelings and stand loyally by the League in whatever policy should be deemed most expedient by the majority for furthering the best interests of the movement.

Norwood is notoriously an Anti-Suffrage stronghold; and if the new branch is to do effective work all in sympathy must bear a part. Mr. R. French, 70, Mackenzie Road, Beckenham, who is acting as hon. secretary and treasurer, will be glad to receive the names of intending members, or donations to the general fund.

Members will be prepared to assist all societies in any way which may be suggested, and will welcome any advice or assistance which may be offered.

JOHN SIMPSON.

I shall be glad to receive the names and addresses of any gentlemen who will help me to form a branch covering Highgate, Crouch End, Hornsey, Hampstead, Highbury, Islington, and Finchley.

### Important Notice.

CANVASS OF MUNICIPAL COUNTY AND PAROCHIAL ELECTORS.

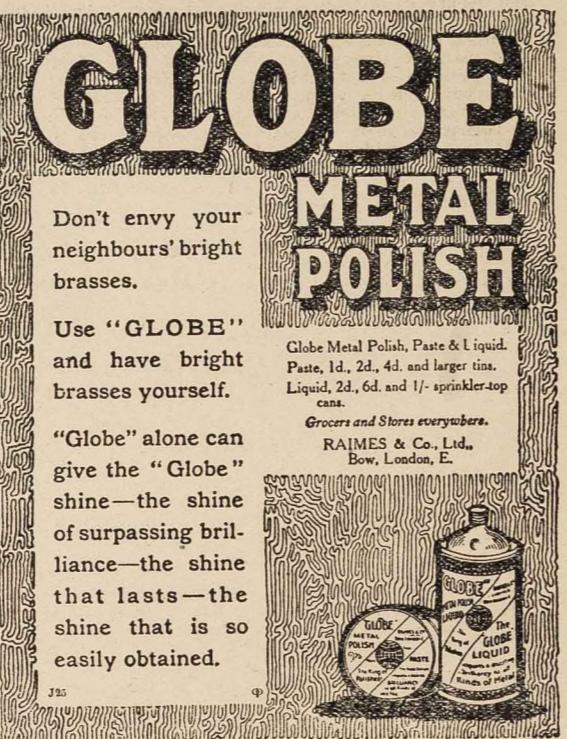
Some inquiries have been made as to the exact nature of the canvass of municipal voters suggested to workers of the National Union.

It is not proposed that the results of this canvass should be presented in the form of a national petition. It will rather serve as a bit of solid propaganda work which the Societies can do bit by bit when they have no election work on hand.

The method of work in towns will be to take the Register of Municipal Voters (Div. 3, Women Only) and canvass ward by ward, making each section complete in itself. The same system will be pursued in the counties with Div. 3 of the Register of County and Parochial Electors.

The great advantage of the work is that it can be done in small portions, as the various Societies have time for it. It will fill the gaps in their other work, and will afford a most useful field for propaganda among the very women who will have the vote if the Conciliation Bill passes.

It may be useful to workers to point out that separate forms have been issued for use among municipal electors, and among county and parochial electors respectively. These forms can be obtained from the National Union. Each local governing area must have one form. It may also be desirable to remind workers that a petition is not legal (1) unless there



is one written form which must be placed for presentation on the top of all printed ones, and (2) unless every sheet is exactly the same size and worded in the same manner.

Care should be taken to ascertain, before obtaining a signature, that the signer is a registered voter, so that no erasures or corrections need be made later. This is a very important point.

"Gardener's pencils" have been recommended as better than the purple indelible ones, which are so quickly made illegible by rain.

### Glasgow Corporation and Women's Suffrage.

The Corporation of Glasgow met last week, Lord Provost M'Innes Shaw presiding.

Mr. Pratt moved that the Corporation petition Parliament in favour of the Parliamentary Franchise (Women) Bill. This question, he said, was by no means a party political question. It was a question in which men of all parties and opinions were found both on one side and on the other.

Mr. Cosh seconded, remarking that he looked forward to the enfranchisement of women as a step forward in the direction of great and good social progress.

Mr. W. F. Anderson said it had always been a puzzle to him to know why women should be permitted to elect representatives to administrative bodies, and allowed to become members of such bodies, and yet were barred from having any voice in making laws which they were permitted to administrate.

The motion was adopted unanimously, several ladies in the gallery applauding.

### Foreign News.

#### SWITZERLAND.

In several Swiss Cantons there is a law which makes the mother of an illegitimate child liable to a fine of 20 francs. These payments bring in annually about 6,000 francs to the Treasury, and for this reason some of the Cantonal governments will not repeal the law, though others, more enlightened, have done so. The great Council of the Canton Lucerne, during the revision of their penal code, discussed this question, and finally decided against repeal, in spite of the strong opposition of the Liberal and Socialist parties. It is probable, however, that this law, which inflicts a fine on

the guilty woman and secures immunity for the equally implicated man, will be subjected to a referendum.

#### ITALY.

The Deputy Pacetti has called the attention of the Italian Government to the injustice of denying women State officials the pension to which, as men, they would have been entitled, and to the great misery often resulting from this fact. He quoted the case of a teacher who died after twenty years' service, leaving three young children. By favour they were given £5, while to the child of a telephone operator, who died after twenty-one years' service, any help was refused. Signor Pacetti's speech made a great impression upon the Chamber, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer promised that in the approaching revision of the pension scheme the women's claim should be duly considered.

#### Miss Horniman's Theatre.

Miss Horniman sends us the following notice:—  
So many unfounded rumours as to changes at the Gaiety are afloat that I must ask you to be so kind as to insert these few lines.

For the Christmas matinées Mr. B. Iden Payne will produce his Honour Judge Parry's "Katawampus," with his own company. This will entail so much extra work that an extension of my company will become necessary for the general repertory work of my theatre.—Yours,

A. E. F. HORNIMAN.

#### Holiday Work in Buckinghamshire.

It is intended to hold informal village meetings (preferably where there has never been one before) within a few miles' radius of Wendover, between September 1 and 13. All willing to help, whether members of societies or not, are asked to communicate with Miss K. Raleigh, The Chestnut College, Wendover, Bucks., who invites suggestions.

excavated for treasure, and on finding a mutilated but beautiful statue of colossal size, ordered it to be broken up "lest she should lose all credit with the Porte for her disinterestedness." This act of vandalism gave even Dr. Mervyn pause. Her own means were insufficient for these pursuits, and no money was forthcoming from the British Government, so that she was forced, perhaps fortunately, to give them up. She settled in the Lebanon, where she spent the remainder of her days in ever increasing eccentricity. Her whole life was influenced by the prophecy made to her by a fortune-teller in her youth that she should ride into Jerusalem as Queen of the Jews. She kept in great state two Arab mares, one of which was, as she averred, "born saddled," and was destined to carry the Messiah on his triumphal entry into the Holy City. She was visited by King Cahe and Lamartine to whom she could not pardon his lap dog. Finally, having had herself walled into her house, she died in 1839, alone but for her native servants. Lady Hester's fame among her contemporaries is a testimony to the force of sheer personality as opposed to performance, for in the course of a long life she never seems to have accomplished anything she undertook. She was evidently a woman of immense physical endurance and courage. Her strange manner of life impressed a romantic age, especially when found in a "person of rank." Her conversation, or rather monologue, was agreed on all hands to be charming, if redundant. Of her witicism only a few specimens have survived, and they seem to belong rather to the category of rude speeches. Dr. Mervyn was no Boswell, so that to later ages there seems little enough to justify the impression she undoubtedly produced on those who met her. Mrs. Roundell has gathered together the fragments that remain in a picturesque and pleasing narrative.

#### Correspondence.

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

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only.

#### THE CANVASS OF WOMEN MUNICIPAL ELECTORS.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—In common I suppose with all the other secretaries of Societies in the National Union, I have received from the Executive a suggestion to organise a petition of women municipal voters in favour of our Bill. Such a suggestion from such a source is sure, whether intended or not, to have nearly the force of command. But before setting to work to obey, I could wish that some responsible member of the Executive would satisfy doubts which may perhaps be troubling other Suffrage secretaries besides myself. Did the Executive, I wonder, before resolving to commit the Union to a very large and laborious undertaking, weigh fully the advantages of the alternative proposal of a great mass petition of women in general, not merely municipal voters? May I set forth, as briefly as I can, what seems to me to be the advantages of this alternative?

First: What is the object of organising a petition at all? Is it not obviously to meet a definite demand, made from several quarters—but notably by the Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George, and several other members of the Government—for further proof that the rank and file of women desire the vote? Unreasonable as the demand for such a proof at this late stage in the movement may seem to us Suffragists, it is clearly our right tactics to deprive the Government of every plausible excuse for not giving facilities to our Bill. We ought therefore to give them if we can what they are asking for, and not what we think they ought to be asking for. Now what they are asking for is not proof that the particular women who would be enfranchised under the Conciliation Bill wish for enfranchisement. On the contrary, they profess to reject the Bill just because it singles out these particular women, who are, they say, too few and not of the right class. Our object, therefore, ought to be to prove not that women occupiers want the Conciliation Bill, but that women in general want it, and are satisfied with it.

#### NEAR THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

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Secondly: Besides being less adapted to meet this particular petition than a general women's petition, a woman occupiers' petition is an infinitely more troublesome and slower piece of work, and the results when done would be numerically far smaller and therefore less popularly effective. Every experienced organiser must admit this. The worker for a general petition can go from door to door getting signatures at almost every house, as well as at every gathering of women and from her friends and servants and fellow-workers. To reach the women occupiers she has to encumber herself with registers, to traverse whole streets in search of one or two signatures, and frequently (as a large proportion of women occupiers are wage-earners), to find them out at call after call. The total petition thus collected will bulk very small when placed beside the much-vaunted 300,000 signatures of the Anti-Suffragists. I am not denying that it may be in fact a much more solid and scientific piece of work. It has the advantage (and I admit it is a great one) that the results for each thoroughly done ward or constituency are complete in themselves, and can be used to show the exact proportion of occupiers in a ward who desire a vote. Yet to judge from the instructions which have been sent out, the Executive are willing to abandon even this advantage. We are expressly encouraged to collect signatures at meetings, and not to trouble about inserting the voting number. Yet if this is done it is clear that the petition will be statistically useless, as voters from different wards will be mixed up on the same sheet, and it will be impossible to calculate proportions or indeed to offer any guarantee of the authenticity of the signatures.

As to the time necessary for organising a really big general petition, the short test which we applied here may be worth mentioning, though it may be felt that it was not on a large enough scale to form a really safe guide. According to our experience, twelve workers working from door to door for four periods of three hours each, collected 1,000 signatures. At the same rate, if 150 Societies put six workers each on to the task, working twenty-four hours a week, they could collect a million signatures in about seven-and-a-half weeks.

After all, however, Suffragists themselves must be at best bad judges of the effect of particular forms of agitation. Would it not be possible to obtain formally or informally from Mr. Lloyd George or Mr. Asquith a statement as to which of these forms of petition they would accept as at least part proof of the desire of women for the vote? If they reject both, let them themselves say what test would satisfy them. Or, if this is impossible, could not the opinion of the Conciliation Committee itself be taken, before all the Societies in the Union are committed to this most laborious enterprise? Even Hercules was in a happier position than the National Union! He did not have to invent his seven labours himself, only to be told when he had carried them through, that not these but quite a different seven were wanted.—Yours,

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

Liverpool Society for Women's Suffrage.  
[The object of the suggested canvass of municipal electors is explained in another column. With regard to a mass petition of all women, we are of opinion that such methods are now played out. We have tried this particular "labour of Hercules" for what it is worth, and nothing seems to be gained by repeating it.—Ed. "C. C."]

SUFFRAGE OR PARTY.  
To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam.—It is with great pleasure that I see in your correspondence columns the advice given by Mrs. Acland: "If what you mean by a Liberal women's strike is simply that in constituencies where the prospective Liberal candidate is an Anti-Suffragist, Liberal women should not work, there is much to be said for such advice, and I think if the W.L.F. at their Council on December 5 announced this as their policy, and recommended it to all their W.L.A.s, few local Liberal executives would select such a candidate." She adds: "But you appear to wish that we should work for no Liberal candidates till the Suffrage is granted, and that advice, as you clearly see when it is tendered to you, is absurd." The editor's comment is: "We suggest a method of striking which would not be equivalent to thrusting off Mr. F. E. Smith and Mr. Chamberlain. It is that Liberal women should notify to their party leaders their absolute refusal to support an Anti-Suffragist, and their determination to support the Conservative or Labour candidate who is a Suffragist in opposition to a Liberal who is not, should the party agents venture to select one. Such a strike as this would, we believe, be immediately effective, and can be impartially recommended to party women of all colours."

We women Liberals cannot help to reverse the policy of Free Trade to the starving of the people before our eyes; there are other Liberal objects in maintenance or extension of the policy of Gladstone which we cannot consent to work against. If we could we should have to excuse Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Churchill. That women have political and civil rights of which they are deprived contrary to the principles and to the very soul of Liberalism is our grievance against this Government, and against the traitors who profess to be friends. Against our party we have no grievance, quite the contrary. We have to get in our many friends.—Yours,

E. LINDSAY.

[We supposed that the essential quality of Liberalism was to carry out the will of the people. Conservatives would say "the will of the educated people," or "of those who have a stake in the country." But Liberals desire the will of "the people." Till we have Women's Suffrage the will of the people cannot be known. Nothing, therefore, can be of so much importance to the true Liberal as to ascertain it, and until he has done so he should shrink from thrusting upon the people even the most benevolent reforms, since they may be reluctant to receive them.—Ed. "C.C."]

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Will you allow me to point out a slight mistake in Mrs. Acland's letter to "The Common Cause" of the 18th inst. She says: "No one seems to contemplate that Primrose dames or the Women's Unionist and Tariff Reform Association should go on strike, even against the most Anti-Suffrage Conservative."

It would not be possible for either of these Associations to go on strike, their members not being unanimous on the subject of Women's Suffrage.

A very large number of their members, however, belong to the "Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, which is pledged never to work, as an Association, for a Conservative candidate who is opposed to Women's Suffrage.

I believe that the majority of Suffragists of both parties would join in a general strike if they felt absolute confidence that their political opponents would loyally adhere to the principle of placing Suffrage before party until the vote was won.

Would it not be possible for conciliation to be carried one step farther, and for Conservative and Liberal Suffragists to come to an agreement not to work for any candidate who is opposed to the enfranchisement of women, although not undertaking to work against the official candidate of their respective parties?—Yours,

MARION CHADWICK.

Neuhäusen, East Prussia, August 25, 1910.

[That Conservative and Liberal Suffragists should refuse to work for Anti-Suffragists is something. But as their refusals must to some extent balance each other, the strike suggested in last week's issue would be considerably more effective.—Ed. "C. C."]

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam.—Your correspondent, Eleanor Acland, in alluding to my letter, does not seem to grasp the fact that we are urging the Women's Liberal Federation to prompt action,



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and not to some course of policy in the future. Liberals being in power, we naturally do not appeal to the Primrose League at this crisis.

Surely half a loaf is better than none, and men have always had the sense to recognise this fact. There is no need for the present Conciliation Bill to prove "futile" if the Liberal Women's Associations would at once make themselves felt.—Yours,

LOUISA BIGG.

2, York Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W., August 18, 1910.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Mrs. Acland seems to be of Mr. Lloyd George's school, and non-party women find it difficult to believe that she really expects to win anything more than votes for all men by her efforts on the lines she suggests.

When Mr. Lloyd George refuses to use his own vote because the present franchise laws are undemocratic, we may believe in him, but as at present indoor men servants have not the vote, I think women need no hesitation in working for Mr. Shackleton's Bill, though maidservants would not be enfranchised by it.—Yours,

LETTICE FLOYD.

#### THE GLASGOW TOWN COUNCIL AND THE CONCILIATION BILL.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—The Glasgow Town Council has unanimously agreed to petition Parliament in favour of the Conciliation Bill, and I am glad to be able to tell you that this motion to do so was brought before the Council by Councillor Pratt, who is a member of our Executive Committee. We hope other Corporations will follow Glasgow's example, for the Government can hardly afford to ignore petitions coming from important bodies of voters, and we feel that all Suffragists owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Pratt for having carried out this practical piece of work on our behalf. I am under the impression, but am, of course, open to correction, that this is the first time a Corporation has taken action in the matter.—Yours,

NELLIE M. HUNTER, Secretary.

[We welcome with great pleasure this recognition of the value of women as citizens by men who have had the opportunity of observing their work on the Council of a great city like Glasgow. We print elsewhere a report of the proceedings.—Ed. "C.C."]

Miss Dorothy Evans calls our attention to the statement very frequently made by Suffragist speakers, that soldiers and sailors cannot vote. The fact is, of course, that though they have legally precisely the same claim to be registered as voters as civilians have, the exigencies of their profession often make it impossible for them to obtain the necessary qualification. Navvies, we may note, are in the same difficulty. They move about too frequently to qualify for registration, and so are very largely non-voters.

Suffragists should be most careful to guard themselves against the appearance of stating that soldiers and sailors are disfranchised by law; they are—and this is the point—very often disqualified by circumstances.

#### Reports of Societies within the National Union.

*Secretaries would simplify the work by sending in notices of FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, endorsed with those words, with time, place, and speakers legibly written, on one side of the paper only, and on a sheet of paper separate from other matter.*

#### HUDDERSFIELD.

By the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Lockwood a very successful garden party and meeting was held at Blackbrook House on Saturday, August 20th. Owing to the rain the meeting was held in a large wool warehouse, which was made gay with artistic posters designed by the Artists' Suffrage League, and the

wool bags were covered with banners in red and white. Mrs. Lockwood, President of the Council, presided, and referred to the various reforms that have been a direct result of the woman's movement for reform, notably the municipal lodging-house for women to be opened in Manchester, and the Divorce Commission. Miss Fielden moved a resolution calling upon the Government to give facilities for the passing of Mr. Shackleton's Bill, which she defended ably as an instalment of justice long overdue. Miss Kate Kilburn seconded the resolution in a witty speech, and it was supported by John Sugden, Esq., J.P., and Councillor Beaumont, and passed unanimously. A hearty vote of thanks was moved to Miss Fielden and to Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood by Miss O. May, seconded by Miss Sharp, and carried with acclamation. Twenty-six "Common Causes" were sold, and literature was distributed.

INVERNESS.

On August 18th a public meeting, presided over by Mrs. Hunter, was held in the Queensgate Hall. The speaker was Miss Helen Fraser, who spoke on "Women's Suffrage and the Present Political Situation." Miss Fraser received a most hearty welcome, and her address was followed with keen interest by a large and enthusiastic audience. The resolution asking for further facilities for the Bill was moved by Miss Fraser, seconded by ex-Provost Ross, supported by Dr. Hunter, and unanimously carried. As a result of Miss Fraser's address a number of new members joined the Inverness Society. "Common Causes" found a ready sale.

Meetings were held last week at Foyers and Drumnadrochit, when Mrs. Hunter spoke to the resolution asking further facilities for the Bill. In both villages the resolution was carried unanimously, and the meetings were large and interested.

#### LEEDS.

On Monday, August 22nd, Miss Fielden spoke in the Miners' Institute at a meeting of the Women's Labour League, East Ward. The audience listened most sympathetically, many joined the Leeds Branch as associate members, and the resolution was passed unanimously. The following evening she was the speaker at a meeting held under the auspices of the Holbeck Tariff Reform Club. This was one of a series, and a paper should have been read on Women's Suffrage by one of the members. This gentleman very kindly retired, and in his place Miss Fielden spoke to a most interested audience. Dr. Ladell was in the chair, a very good discussion followed, and, at the speaker's request, with the consent of the officials, the Chairman put the resolution, which was carried by an excellent majority.

The Adel Grange garden party on Wednesday was excellently attended. In spite of the depressing weather prospects, and the absence from home of so many members, there was a muster of fully two hundred guests. We had several stalls with books, literature, cakes, sweets, flowers, and fancy articles, and the financial results were excellent. The event of the afternoon was the debate between Miss I. O. Ford as Anti-Suffragist, and Mrs. Kitson Clark as Suffragist. Some time previously we wrote to the Anti-Suffrage Society to ask if one of their representatives would kindly meet us in debate, but unfortunately they were all otherwise engaged. "Where there's a will there's a way!" Miss I. O. Ford stepped into the breach, and the Anti-Suffragist arguments had the opportunity of their lives in being put forward by a practised speaker. Miss Emily Ford took the chair, and explained the design and meaning of the beautiful cards of membership of the Leeds Society, at which she and Miss Foster have been working so hard. Miss I. O. Ford then opened the case against Women's Suffrage by reading a pamphlet recently issued by the Anti-Suffrage League, and trying to explain the reasons why women ought not to have the vote. She was followed by Mrs. Kitson Clark, who put the case for Women's Suffrage in an excellent speech. An animated discussion followed, and here, alas! Miss I. O. Ford had the novel experience of failing to answer questions—many were asked but few were answered, at least to our satisfaction. She made a charming apology, and explained that the Anti-Suffragists did not always allow questions at their meetings. The resolution in favour of the Suffrage was carried. Miss Fielden spoke on the work of the past, and particularly of the future, and many members promised help in organizing a petition from the women municipal voters.

On Saturday, Miss Fielden was the speaker at the garden party of the Farsley Branch of the Women's Liberal Federation. She met with a most kind reception, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

#### LLANDUDNO.

Miss Nantel is devoting a fortnight of a hard-earned holiday to work here. The work chiefly consists of informal talks to groups of visitors, distribution and sale of literature, and house-to-house visitation of members and non-members. As a result of this, unsuspected sympathizers have been found, the number of members increased, and

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wanderers brought back to the fold. A considerable number of "Common Causes" have been sold in the streets, and the number of permanent subscribers has been more than doubled. Two newsagents have promised to stock "The Common Cause," and one to exhibit a poster weekly. A good many badges have been sold, the purchasers promising to wear them habitually.

## LONDON—CAMBERWELL.

In view of the campaign to support the Conciliation Bill we have resumed our weekly open-air meetings. The first of the autumn series was held on August 23rd at Colyer Place, Peckham Rye. Mr. Yaldwyn, of the Men's League, had promised to speak, but was unfortunately prevented. Miss Dawson and Mrs. Smith, however, both spoke, and an excellent meeting was held. Several members of the branch were present, and more than two dozen copies of "The Common Cause" were sold. An open-air meeting has been arranged for each week in September, and several members of the London Society and the Men's League have offered their services as speakers.

## LONDON—HIGHGATE AND NORTH ST. PANCRAS.

As we are anxious to enlarge our field of action and gather in members from the more distant parts of the Hornsey division, we have taken our weekly open-air meeting into the Finchley district, where, hitherto, but little Suffrage work has been attempted. "Tally-Ho Corner" in the High Street, is a well-known spot, and here we have taken our stand on the last two Saturdays. The educative work is evidently much needed there, for our reception has differed from that to which we are usually accustomed. There is a lack of sympathy at present in the audiences, and a jeering, cynical opposition rather than a reasoned one. On August 20th, Mrs. Merivale Mayer very generously volunteered to give up some time from her holiday to come up and help us, and Mr. C. Yaldwyn also helped after a busy week. Rather unusual difficulty was experienced in getting a crowd together—owing to the keen and gusty wind—but ultimately a very large audience gathered and listened to Mrs. Mayer until past eleven o'clock.

On August 27th Miss Speedwell Black and Mr. Simpson were our speakers. The noisy attitude of the crowd made a reasoned address very difficult, and we compliment Miss Black on her pluck in holding on so bravely in spite of discouragement, and we look forward with pleasure to again welcoming her. We purpose continuing at the same spot at present, and should be glad if other friends would volunteer help.

## MANSFIELD.

Our Society organised a successful series of meetings from August 23rd to 26th. Mrs. Mayer (National Union Organiser) was our speaker. Her speeches were most convincing, and her knowledge of the States of Australia and New Zealand, where women are already enfranchised, carried great weight. Meetings were held in the Market Places at Mansfield, Mansfield Woodhouse, Shirebrook, and Sutton-in-Ashfield, and resolutions in favour of Mr. Shackleton's Bill were carried unanimously at every place, with the exception of Mansfield Woodhouse, where there was only one dissentient. The meeting at Shirebrook was a very enthusiastic one; there were about a thousand people present. A vote of thanks was given to the speaker, and the hope was expressed that she would soon visit Shirebrook again. Particulars of the meetings and copies of the resolution will be forwarded to the four Party leaders, to the members for the Mansfield and Chesterfield Divisions, and to Mr. Brailsford.

## NORTH OF ENGLAND.

The North of England Society is organizing a vigorous campaign in support of the Conciliation Committee's Bill; open-air meetings will be held during the month of September, then a series of indoor meetings, concluding with a great demonstration in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, at which Lord Lytton has provisionally consented to speak. Last week successful open-air meetings were held in East Manchester and at Tyldesley, Miss Robertson being the speaker on both occasions. Owing to the initiative of Mr. Richard Bates, we hope shortly to have a strong Society in East Manchester, and Miss Ashton will address an open-air meeting on September 9. This week Miss Ashton and Miss Robertson will speak at Leigh, where Mr. Park is organizing a meeting, and Miss Robertson and Councillor Johnston in North Manchester, where the preliminary work has been done by Mrs. Briefley.

If any members of the Society can undertake to organize open-air meetings in their district, they are requested to apply to the office for a speaker. We are giving away thousands of handbills explaining the Conciliation Bill, and it should be thoroughly understood in Manchester and Salford before Parliament meets.

## WORK IN SOUTH SELFORD.

Miss Darlington returned from her holiday on August 22nd, and work has now been actively resumed in South Salford. The first meeting of the Women's Suffrage Club will be held on September 1st, when arrangements for regular meetings will be made. It is also proposed to open the club premises as an office every day, and meetings for women will be held there once a week. Office hours, 10 to 12. A public meeting will be held in the Trafford Road Board Schools on September 12, at which Miss Ashton and Miss Robertson will be the speakers, and other meetings are contemplated.

## NORWICH.

The first of a series of garden meetings, held under the auspices of the Norwich Women's Suffrage Society, took place at the Acle Rectory on Thursday, by the kind invitation of the Rev. R. R. and Mrs. Young. The meeting, which was chiefly composed of those who had not hitherto come into touch with the work of the Society, was most successful one. Mrs. Young took the chair, the chief speakers being Dr. Mary Bell and Mr. Laurence Tooth, LL.B.

## NORWOOD AND DISTRICT.

The Norwood and District Society has recently taken a large shop and offices, where it is hoped to hold numerous meetings and to get through a great deal of propaganda work. The undertaking involves a great initial expense, and the need at present is to provide the rooms with the necessary furniture. The Society is, therefore, collecting "Morning Leader" coupons, hoping it may have the good fortune to gain one of the furniture prizes. The Secretary, Miss Emily Green, will be very grateful to any friends who will assist by sending coupons, signed or unsigned, to her, and addressed to the offices, 42, Anerley Road, Upper Norwood, S.E.

## SEAFORTH.

A very successful meeting was held at Seaforth Hall, by kind permission of Dr. Muspratt. Mrs. Solly presided. The chief business was the adoption of the rules and election of officers, and a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill was passed with unanimous consent. Miss Ellen Robinson, Poor Law Guardian, spoke to the resolution, and made some original remarks on the subjection of woman, based on Scriptural authority. She said St. Paul's words, "Let the woman be silent, etc." had been much misinterpreted. We must remember he was a Jew and an Eastern, and women there and at that time were kept veiled and in a harem; she contrasted St. Paul's words and actions with those of Christ, the Divine Teacher, Who always gave women respect and gave His divine message to them.

As this was a farewell meeting to Mrs. Solly, who is about to leave England for her work in South Africa, a hearty vote of thanks was given to her for her generous and unstinting efforts in the formation of the Society. Her time, talents, and money were placed at its disposal, and all its members feel that whatever success it attains will be greatly due to the wise counsels of its first president.

## WEST DORSET.

A new branch of the N.U.W.S.S. has been started in West Dorset, owing to the energy of Mrs. E. Rendall, of Bridport, and Mrs. Duncan, of Charmouth. The inaugural meeting was held at Bridport on Wednesday, August 17th, at the Town Hall. The hall was packed to the utmost, and every member of the audience listened with attention. Mrs. Edward, the Mayness, took the chair.

It is intended to hold educational meetings in West Dorset during the autumn and winter, and Mrs. Duncan will welcome any help from Suffragists living in the neighbourhood. They are asked to write to her at Dunerac, Charmouth, and to interest all friends in the new branch. The subject is something of a novelty in West Dorset, and some erroneous ideas are prevalent. It is of great importance that all local sympathizers shall join the new branch, and communicate as soon as possible with Mrs. Duncan. The speakers who addressed the meeting were Athelstan Rendall, Esq., M.P., Mr. Ransom, Miss Ransom, and Miss Baker.

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AT HOME AT TODDINGTON PARK, BEDFORDSHIRE.

Miss Barton, of the London Society, sends us the following report: On Friday, August 19th, Colonel and Mrs. Mercer did great service to the cause of Women's Suffrage by giving an At Home to their friends, at which Mrs. Corbett, Woodgate, Sussex, made a very clever address in a most charming manner. After the address questions were invited by the chairman, and most ably dealt with by Mrs. Corbett. Both Suffragists and Anti-Suffragists warmly thanked the speaker for her delightful speech.

Literature was distributed, and copies of "The Englishwoman" and of "The Common Cause" were sold.



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## Forthcoming Meetings.

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London—Enfield—Women's Co-operative Guild—Miss Rinder.

Castle Cary—Town Hall—Mrs. Mayer.

North of England—Droylsden Market Place—Open-air Meeting—

Miss M. Robertson.

Glastonbury—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Mayer, Miss Wheelwright.

Meltham—Market Place—Open-air Meeting—Miss M. Fielden.

SEPTEMBER 3.  
London—Highgate—Tally-Ho Corner, Finchley—Mrs. Garnett.

Glastonbury—Assembly Rooms—Mrs. Mayer.

SEPTEMBER 5.  
North of England—Heywood—Open-air Meeting—Miss M.

Robertson.

Bath—Oldfield Park—Baptist School—Mrs. Mayer.

SEPTEMBER 6.  
Chester—Winchcombe—Abbey Terrace—Open-air Meeting—

Miss Helen Fraser, Miss Wheelwright.

SEPTEMBER 7.  
Cheltenham—Winchcombe—Assembly Rooms—Public Meeting—

Miss Helen Fraser, Miss Wheelwright.

London—Camberwell—Triangle, Rye Lane—Miss D. Brown.

Farnham and District—Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bury's Garden Meet-

ing—Professor John Cox.

Worthing—Broadwater A Suffrage Fête—Entrance 6d., after

6 p.m. 3d.

North of England—Wimborne—Open-air Meeting—Miss M.

Robertson.

SEPTEMBER 8.  
London—Camberwell—Grove Lane—Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, Mr.

John Manson.

North of England—Salford Suffrage Club—Miss M. Robertson.

SEPTEMBER 9.  
North of England—Devonshire Hotel, E. Manchester—Open-air

Meeting—Miss M. Ashton.

SEPTEMBER 10.  
London—Highgate—Tally-Ho Corner, Finchley—Miss Thomson.SEPTEMBER 12.  
North of England—Trafford Road Schools, Salford—Public Meet-

ing—Miss M. Ashton.

SEPTEMBER 13.  
Bath—Holy Trinity School—Rev. C. Huskisson.SEPTEMBER 14.  
Bath—Saw Close—Miss Royden.SEPTEMBER 15.  
Wells—Town Hall—Miss Royden, Miss Wheelwright.SEPTEMBER 17.  
Bristol—Durdham Down—Open-air Demonstration—Miss

Abadam, Mrs. Cooper.

SEPTEMBER 22.  
London—Camberwell—Collyer Place—Miss Thomson.

7.30

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