

# THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE).

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ONE PENNY.

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## EDITORIAL.

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## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

### Courage all Round in Bermondsey.

One quality has characterised the women's struggle in Bermondsey: courage. There has been the splendid courage of the strikers, who have almost taken their lives in their hands, for sheer and desperate want stared them in the face, and the children were crying for bread. It needs true courage to go on with a fight in such circumstances. There has been the courage of the helpers, some of them women who, having dared and suffered, knew what the struggle meant in physical as well as mental distress. There has been the courage of the men who stood valiantly by the side of the women, sharing their sorrow and encouraging them with the hope of victory. And what shall we say of the courage, yes, and self-restraint, of hungry people and a mere handful of helpers when it came to the distribution of bread? Nothing would have been easier than to have overwhelmed the two or three men and women giving out the loaves, and thus made havoc of this work of mercy. It takes courage for hungry ones to remain outside a distribution of bread. No trouble of this kind occurred. We pay our tribute of respect to such self-sacrificing courage. We are justified, too, in recognising that the admirable courage shown by the women strikers has been the outcome of the woman's movement. It is they who have dared; but they have felt behind them the strength of woman realising herself, coming into her own, standing firm.

### Solidarity and Union.

One great progressive result must be chronicled: the women have seen the advantage of co-operation. Hitherto women's strikes have frequently been disappointing because they were isolated. Sunday's great demonstration in Southwark-park to celebrate the victory was impressive evidence that thousands of women and girl workers saw the value of a uniting organisation. This was the theme of the three women factory workers who spoke so well to the great gathering. That "Union is Strength" has become a reality to them. It is proved by the large additional membership to the National Federation of Women Workers, and Miss

MacArthur, Secretary of the Federation, whose work during these trying days at Bermondsey has been simply heroic, reports that more than twenty unions have been established in the district, which now seems likely to become a centre of women's trade unionism. Out of the many touching incidents of women standing by each other, irrespective of their actual trades, one of the most touching, surely, is the gift of forty-nine farthings to the Federation, with the message: "A working woman's savings."

### History Repeating Itself.

No one can read the story of last week's struggle of the railway men, and the steps taken to deal with it, without being struck by its similarity with the woman's struggle. History, indeed, is repeating itself. The one word which dominated the situation was "recognition"—the recognition of the men's leaders by the companies; but until almost the last moment, when something like civil war threatened, the managers would not meet the men. The policy of the Government in being a go-between, instead of bringing the two contending parties together, has been aptly described as "medieval imbecility." How could the Prime Minister, however, if he is to be consistent, urge the companies to meet the men when he has continuously refused to meet the women in their struggle? The attitude of the companies has been exactly that of the Prime Minister; no good purpose would be served, everything was known! Yet when the masters and the men's leaders did come together, it was soon discovered that entrenchment behind the "no good purpose would be served" theory was impossible. Grievances had been denied, yet it was agreed to set the Conciliation Boards to work at once to dispose of them, as well as to take other vital steps to reach a settlement. Everyone is now recognising that the dislocation and serious loss of last week would have been averted if the directors had agreed earlier to meet the men. A quotation from a speech by Mr. Burns particularly emphasises the fact that the situation would have been ludicrous if it had not been tragic. Speaking at Southwark Park, Mr. Burns said:

In the past the men have been unable to face their masters, and they have had only the one weapon, the cruel arbitrament of a strike. Between those men and masters I had to walk from one room to another no less than fifty times, whereas had they been face to face there would have been no movement of that kind, and the thing could have been settled in a tithe of the time and with greater clearness. Nothing gave me greater pleasure last night than to see some of the masters with some of the men.

### Settlement with the Women.

Surely, too, of women it may well be said that they are sick of delay and yet the only offer made to them for long years was more and more delay. Has Mr. Asquith, even during the few years of his Premiership, ever attempted "to get at the minds of" the women? Had he long ago met them "face to face," the justice of their case, as happened with the railway men last Saturday, would have been made real to him. He insisted, however, on a policy of non-recognition, and the woman's revolt ensued. The futility of such a policy is being brought home to the Prime Minister in an unexpected way. Will he learn wisdom and deal fairly with the women? We rely on him to keep his promise, and assure him that delay or disappointment will not fail to drive women again to revolt.



## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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### WHICH BILL ?

All Suffragists understood that the promise given by Mr. Asquith for facilities next session applied to the Conciliation Bill, but doubt has been thrown on this by Mr. Lloyd George's reply to a question in the House. We give the official report of what took place:—

Mr. LEIF JONES asked the Prime Minister whether he is aware that his promise of facilities for a Women's Suffrage Bill next Session is being claimed exclusively on behalf of the Bill introduced this Session by the hon. Member for North-West Manchester; and whether he will now state if the promised facilities will equally be granted to any other Women's Suffrage Bill which secures a Second Reading and is capable of amendment?

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: The promise referred to was given in regard to the Bill introduced by the hon. Member for North-West Manchester, and read a second time on May 5, which appeared to the Government to satisfy the tests which they had laid down as the conditions for granting such facilities. One of those tests was that the Bill should be so framed as to be capable of free discussion and amendment. The Government clearly cannot undertake to give facilities for more than one Bill on the same subject, but any Bill which, satisfying those tests, secured a Second Reading, would be treated by them as falling within their engagement.

Mr. PETO: Is it a fact that any other Bill connected with women's suffrage can possibly have been before the House at the time that that answer was given?

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: I have said so, that the promise referred to the Bill before the House at the time. That does not say that there will not be any other Bill before the House next Session on the same subject.

Mr. LEIF JONES: Is not it a fact that the first promise of facilities in connection with a Women's Suffrage Bill was made to a deputation of Liberal Members, and that it was merely owing to the fact that the Bill introduced by the hon. Member for North-West Manchester secured a favourable place in the ballot, that the claim for facilities was offered by the Prime Minister?

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: That is so.

Mr. CHANCELLOR: Is the meaning of the word "again" in the passage "next Session when the Bill has been again read a second time," that it applies to any Bill?

Mr. PETO: If the right hon. Gentleman refers to the words before "again," he will see that it refers to the Bill under discussion.

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: It must have reference to a Bill which has secured a Second Reading and complied with the tests laid down by the Prime Minister on behalf of the Government. Any Bill that secures a Second Reading and conforms to those tests will be a Bill which will come within the undertaking given by the Government.

Mr. SNOWDEN: Is not it a fact that the promise was given, not only for a Bill which was read a second time, but which was agreed on by the Conciliation Committee, and did not the Prime Minister give this promise?

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: That is not the only undertaking he gave. The Prime Minister did not give an undertaking that he would favour one Bill more than another. What he promised to do was on behalf of the Government to give facilities to any Bill which would conform to the test which he laid down: that is, that it must be a Bill which is capable of amendment.

Mr. ROCH: Was not the last undertaking on this subject given by the Prime Minister in a letter to Lord Lytton on June 16, in which he made specific reference to the Bill then before the House, and no other?

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: That is exactly the question put by the hon. Member for Blackburn, which I have answered.

Mr. KEIR HARBIE: May I ask whether the reply of the Government would not apply only to the Bill which obtained the consent of the Conciliation Committee?

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: It will apply to any Bill which will satisfy the tests I have mentioned.

It must be remembered that the question was answered by Mr. Lloyd George, in the absence, through illness, of the Prime Minister, and it is probable that the obscurity of his reply is due to ignorance of Mr. Asquith's intentions.

The treatment of our forty-four years' agitation by the House of Commons has been so dishonest that we are naturally inclined to fear the worst from Mr. Lloyd George's words; but, fortunately, he is not Prime

Minister, nor can he have been speaking for the Cabinet in this matter.

Last year Mr. Lloyd George tried to defeat the Bill on its second reading, and failed hopelessly, and a few weeks ago his efforts to persuade Liberal Members to drop the Conciliation Bill were equally unsuccessful, and we think this attempt to twist Mr. Asquith's promise will share the same fate.

If Mr. Lloyd George were speaking for the Cabinet, of course next year's promise would be practically valueless; but until we have his words confirmed by Mr. Asquith, Sir Edward Grey, or some other reliable Minister, we shall refuse to believe that they have any weight whatever.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

### WOMEN AND INVENTIONS.

We give this week a short list of the patents applied for by women. Women have entered the world of invention, and their experience in many occupations reveals to them defects which they are fully capable of remedying. There is room for inventions by women in connection with their dress—a considerable amount of money has been made recently by patent devices for holding up lace collars. Mrs. Wood, many years ago, was the inventor of a material for covering ships' bottoms for preventing incrustation, and this was popularly called "Woodite." An American girl invented a device, which was added to sewing machines, for cutting and making buttonholes. The lists which we propose to give from time to time may encourage others to turn their attention to remedying defects that come under their notice. The following patents have recently been applied for:—

Lucy Ford Broadbent, Scalp anointer; Lucy Lynch, skirt supporters; Clara Anne Darlington and Bertha Mathilde Gardner, support for a collar, belt or bow; Sarah Ellen Stringer, cording as used for supporting pictures, birdcages, &c.; Madeline Burnett, detachable dress-shield; Clara Hedwig Martini, process for regulating the temperature of rooms heated by central heating plants; Elisabeth Gertrude Morley, invalids' bed-rests. Particulars may be obtained from Messrs. Rayner and Co., 37, Chancery-lane, W.C.

### THE WOMAN MOVEMENT IN FRANCE.

Not long ago a Frenchwoman, writing to an English friend, remarked: "We French are watching England, and when you have won the vote we shall certainly follow your example." It is well known that in many ways France has taken the lead in recognising the work of women; in a country where women lawyers appear professionally in the Courts, and play so important a part in the commercial world, their enfranchisement should not be long delayed, even though a woman is not yet accepted as a candidate for Parliament.

France, an artistic nation, has produced great women artists, but they have not enjoyed the unfettered freedom of their masculine colleagues. For the first time in the history of the Villa Medici, the French School in Rome, a woman, Mademoiselle Heulvelmons, has won the prize for sculpture. There has been some discussion as to whether she will be permitted to enter the School at Rome, because up till now no women have been allowed to live there. Indeed, if a prize-winner was married, that fact was considered a bar to his admission. Men artists, says *The Throne*, are rejoicing over Mlle. Heulvelmons' success, for they believe that the hard and fast regulations which have governed the Villa Medici in the past will be done away with. The Institute of France now finds that it will have to move with the times. Women will not only be permitted to study at the French School in Rome, but men prize-winners who are married will also have that privilege. To the victory of the woman must be ascribed the credit for bringing about these important changes.

## WHY WE WANT THE VOTE.

### THE WOMAN NURSE.

By BEATRICE KENT (late Night-Superintendent, Guest Hospital, Dudley.)

The woman *in* the nurse. Above all things, and before all things, a woman—a womanly woman. This briefly and comprehensively sums up the spirit of the woman nurse.

She is not a *person*, she knows her place better than to make such a bold claim!

Some day, if she is good, she may become one, but that cannot be without an Act of Parliament. Seeing that it is her duty at all times, and under all circumstances, to be cheerful—and cheerful people are usually optimistic—she hopes and believes that it will not be long before she is endowed with that legal status.

The urgent need for this will be apparent to all thinking women, lay or otherwise, as I hope to prove by the following remarks.

In my opinion no class of woman requires and deserves the power and protection of the Parliamentary vote more than trained nurses. I use the adjective advisedly, and this leads me to a side issue, which, although not strictly relevant, has its bearing upon the subject.

Long before the modern agitation for Women's Suffrage began to make its appeal to the sex, trained nurses were fighting for *professional* enfranchisement. The leaders of this movement—headed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick—have been strenuously working against persistent organised opposition to obtain State registration for nurses for more than twenty years. I must give very briefly the reasons for this most important reform in order to show its bearing upon the subject of this article. In the title, "The Woman Nurse," the word *trained* is implied. It will be admitted by all that women who undergo efficient training, and become skilled in their professional duties, are entitled, as guardians of the nation's health, to State recognition, seeing that their profession is the handmaid of the medical profession, which has long enjoyed the protection and honour of State registration. The reasons are:—

1. To safeguard the sick public against the untrained nurse;

2. To safeguard the trained nurse against unfair competition; and

3. To raise the standard of the nursing profession.

Opposition only strengthens purpose and stimulates endeavour, and reformers are never really down-hearted; but when it comes to fighting two battles at once it requires high courage and invincible perseverance to "fight the good fight with all one's might." Of course, a large number of nurses have joined the ranks of the Suffragists—the great historic procession of June 17 bears ample witness to that fact.

Why? Well, because they can't help it; they have put two and two together and they find they make four! Their long fight as voteless women has shown them, as nothing else could, that had they been armed with that powerful weapon—the vote—they would have been victorious long ago. Some wise writer has said: "No race or class or sex can have its interests properly safeguarded in the legislature of a country unless it is represented by *direct* Suffrage." (The italics are mine.) This truth is being proved every day in the case of male voters.

### The National Importance of the Nursing Profession.

Seeing, then, that every race, class, and sex is dependent in time of sickness upon skilled nursing quite as much as upon medical attendance, and seeing also that trained nursing is intimately bound up with the health and life, and therefore with the comfort and happiness of the nation; putting aside for the moment the question of justice, does it not appear that the State *needs* the nurses' vote?

It is a commonplace, but one that will bear repetition, to state that the health of the people is the nation's

greatest asset; and it would be wise as well as fair to give to these skilled professional women a voice in the making of laws, so many of which affect the maintenance of health.

Nurses belong to all classes, but a large number of them are highly-cultured women, some with an intellect considerably above the average, which intellect would be of enormous practical value to the State. To give a recent example of the intellectual capacities of trained nurses, I should like to recall to the memory of the readers of *THE VOTE* the event of last February, when "a pageant and masque on the evolution of trained nursing and the right of life to health" took place in the Connaught Rooms with brilliant success. The words of this classic production were written by Miss Mollett, and the designer was Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; both of these ladies are nurses.

Nursing has been called by one writer a "social force," and this it undoubtedly is. Of late years it has expanded its usefulness enormously; it plays its part in almost all branches of social and industrial life. Besides hospital, private, Army and Navy nurses, there are district nurses, factory nurses, school nurses, Territorial nurses, health visitors, sanitary inspectors, County Council lecturers, dispensary nurses, prison nurses, and quite recently nurses have been appointed lecturers to the Voluntary Aid Detachments for men and women under the auspices of the Red Cross Society. Wherever people are gathered together in large numbers there will be found the ubiquitous nurse. At the King's Coronation they were stationed in and outside the Abbey. At play centres, or children's vacation schools, they are there to bind up cut fingers and to attend to sundry and diverse casualties. Then, in the time of war, the gentle art is set in motion. The nurse is to be found working hand in hand with the doctor on the battlefield. "Woman can't fight," so of course she ought not to be there! And yet there she is fighting a harder and a finer battle than the soldiers, for her fight is with death, while theirs is with life; she tries to save life, while they destroy it.

### The Ethical Side of a Nurse's Life and Work.

The demands made upon her moral qualities are very considerable. All the graces and cardinal virtues in the Christian calendar are looked for in a nurse—poor thing. Undoubtedly, without some measure of them she will not succeed. Perhaps the most essential are *adaptability* and *tact*, illimitable tact, "the touch faculty." "The greatest study of mankind is man," and the trained nurse has need of such study quite as much as the poet and the novelist.

The nurse is a fallible creature, but I honestly believe that the conscientious ones set themselves a high standard, and strive to give as generous an output of the required virtues as they possibly can. These virtues required of the sick individual, and in the homes of the sick, are also required by the nation's home—the State. It is the mother spirit in women which gives to many the vocation of nursing, and inspires them with that passionate desire to improve social conditions and uplift the human race.

The nurse's point of view of the Suffrage movement is, of course, mostly the health point of view, and the health point of view is largely the moral point of view.

The most important and most beautiful part of the nurse's duty is to prevent *preventable* sickness and disease, and no woman knows so well as she does—by painful experience—the awful results of vicious indulgence upon the health of the nation. The health, if not the lives, of thousands of innocent wives, are sacrificed every year, and infants born and unborn have to pay the penalty in their innocent bodies of the uncontrolled passions of men. A good woman once said to me, "It makes one dumb with anguish."

Politically dumb we are, but as sure as I write this, I believe the time is near, very near, when the enfranchisement of women will be an actuality, and then,



but not *until* then, with our fetters removed, we shall, with this powerful weapon, attack the strongholds of vice, and insist upon legislation which will raise the standard of national purity and, as a consequence, national health. I cannot resist giving one concrete example of this diabolical indulgence. An infant aged one week was taken to the hospital to save its eyesight. That hapless child was one of two others, one was quite blind, and the other was an idiot! That alone is sufficient to make the heart of a true woman bleed.

Is there anything more beautiful among the works of the great Creator than a sound and healthy infant? And yet man—who is intended to be only a little lower than the angels, makes himself a great deal lower than the animals, and mars the beautiful work of "the Lord and giver of life.

Again, if nurses had the vote, they would soon remove the disgrace that belongs to London, with its five million inhabitants, and no municipal lodging house for women! And then we dare to talk about fallen women. If nurses had the vote they would heartily co-operate with other women in abolishing a double standard of morality, and the Divine command, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" should be made to apply to men as well as women.

The modern woman nurse, therefore, plays an important and very active part in the life of the nation, and she is fully alive to the sense of corporate responsibility of her profession. A nurse who has recently joined the Church League of Women's Suffrage, remarked that she had just begun to live! Would that all nurses would do likewise, and come in their thousands, and join this great spiritual movement. And O, ye wobblers, don't hesitate, and talk in frightened tones about "methods" because a few excited girls have thrown a stone or two and never injured anyone. Think of all the magnificent *methods* of self-sacrifice which are being used to win the day. All those who take no part in the battle will assuredly feel conscience-stricken when the hour of victory has come.

#### The Economic Aspect.

This article would scarcely be complete without some reference to the economic side of the nursing profession, seeing that economic pressure is the driving force behind most reforms. Hospital nurses are badly paid, and the earnings of all nurses are, for obvious reasons, very precarious. There is not—as there should be—a standard percentage charged by all Nurses' Co-operative Societies. There are a few run on straight and honourable lines, but there are many more run merely for commercial purposes, where the percentage charged is so high that the nurses attached to them have a hard struggle to live. Much more could be said upon this matter, but I fear I have already exceeded the limit of space. There is a great deal of satisfaction and happiness to be found in the life of a nurse, but the future has to be provided for, and this occupation affords less opportunity for so doing than very many others; however, when the double fight is won, a better day will dawn for the servants of the sick.

#### THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT IN JAPAN.

The world-wide movement for the emancipation of women has taken so great a hold on Japan that the women there are joining in the Suffrage movement. In Tokio, the capital, there is a woman's magazine, entitled *The Twentieth Century Woman*, the pages of which are filled with contributions by Japanese women. It takes the most advanced stand in regard to woman's rights, its editor, Miss Uta Imai, being an earnest radical, who demands perfectly equal rights for the two sexes. The woman's movement in Japan has reached not only educational and social circles, but also the business world. The women are to be found in offices, shops and factories, doing work similar to that done by women in America and Europe. The movement has also spread to the Japanese colonies in America.

EVERY WOMAN CAN HAVE "THE VOTE"—if she will order it from her newsagent. See that it is delivered, with your daily paper, every Thursday morning.

#### ON THE LIBRARY TABLE.

##### THE LADY WITH THE LAMP.\*

Mrs. Marion Holmes, whose recent "Cameo Life Sketch of Josephine Butler" has already run into a second edition, has done a service to the cause of womanhood in writing this appreciative account of Florence Nightingale's wonderful career. It forms the second in the series of "Cameo Life Sketches of the Great Women of the World" which is being brought out by the Literature Department of the Women's Freedom League.

There is real art in clever condensation. This little brochure gives, in nut-shell form, all the stirring episodes in the life of *The Lady with the Lamp*—the lamp which not only cast its beams on the wounded soldiers who lay suffering in what Kinglake called "the hell—the appalling hell—of the vast barrack wards of that hot-bed of pestilence, the hospital at Scutari," but which sent its illumination far beyond the Crimea, showing to the world pictures of death and desolation which were the outcome of official ignorance and neglect, and flashing a signal which was understood and answered to practical purpose by a large section of the thinking community in our nation.

Mrs. Holmes draws a picture of the condition of affairs at the seat of war when Florence Nightingale, who had gone through a course of systematic rigorous training in nursing on the Continent and in her own country, was called upon by the Government to organise and take charge of a nursing staff for the Crimea.

"The wounded," she says, "were dying untended, the sick were uncared for. The Army administration had proved itself utterly incapable of meeting the real test of efficiency—war. Gross neglect and mismanagement were exhibited in every department. The commissariat had broken down. Stores had been landed some hundreds of miles away from the seat of war and were rotting there, while soldiers and wounded were starving for want of them. Clothing and medical requisites had been packed in the holds of vessels beneath ammunition, and could not be got at when required. The surgeons were often without lint and bandages, and other necessities for ambulance and hospital work. *The Times* war correspondent, William Howard Russell, braving the obloquy which he knew would follow his 'glaring indiscretion,' wrote home heart-breaking accounts. 'The commonest accessories of a hospital are wanting; there is not the least attention paid to decency and cleanliness, and for all I can observe the men die without the least effort to save them. There they lie, just as they were left gently down on the ground by the poor fellows who brought them on their backs from the camp, with the greatest tenderness, but who are not allowed to remain with them.' The wounded accumulated in appalling numbers after the battles of Alma and Balaclava, and the staff of army doctors, unassisted by trained nurses, was insufficient to deal with them. The only helpers they had were the male orderlies who were accustomed to give a sort of rough and ready assistance in the military hospitals. The healthiest of these, however, were needed at the front, and those who were left behind to assist were often only a little less sick than the patients they were supposed to tend."

This was the position when Miss Nightingale, braving the conventions of the day, which were unquestionably opposed to the exhibition of anything like independence of thought or action on the part of women, arrived with her "Angel Band," as Kinglake calls them, in his "History of the Invasion of the Crimea," at Scutari, the day before the battle of Inkerman. Of the revolution she wrought, how she brought order out of barbaric chaos in the wards, how, in ten days, she fitted up a kitchen to supply the invalids with well-cooked food and established a laundry, for the benefit of the hospital, giving some of the wives of the soldiers employment in it, how she drove a "coach-and-four" through the red-tape restrictions which bound on all sides the serving out of the Government stores, how she stood for twenty hours at a time in the blood-stained operating room, and how she earned a love and gratitude from the stricken soldiers which almost amounted to worship—is told by Mrs. Holmes in picturesque and vigorous English. Her self-sacrifice and devotion on the field of

\* "Florence Nightingale: A Cameo Life Sketch." By Marion Holmes. (The Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C. Price 3d. net.)

battle were only equalled by her modesty in refusing public honours when she returned to England.

Florence Nightingale was, all her life, a convinced suffragist, and the author draws attention to the fact that the North of England Society for Women's Suffrage is the proud possessor of her signature to an address to Mr. Disraeli, thanking him for his favourable vote in the House of Commons, and begging him to do his utmost to remove the injustice under which women householders suffered by being deprived of Parliamentary representation.

In a future edition of Mrs. Holmes's booklet it might be interesting to record that in 1868 Florence Nightingale's name was added to the list of members of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, where, says Helen Blackburn, in her "Record of the Women's Suffrage Movement," published in 1902, "it remains to this day," and that in April, 1871, a memorial was conveyed to Mr. Gladstone from the Woman Suffrage Conference, held in London, setting forth the constitutional basis of the claim for the immediate extension of the electoral franchise to women householders and ratepayers, which was signed by two thousand women, the first amongst them being Florence Nightingale, Mary Carpenter, Harriet Martineau and Frances Power Cobbe.

It is to be hoped that every member of the Women's Freedom League will make a point of possessing this admirably written appreciation of one who was the pioneer of scientific nursing and the embodiment of true womanliness and magnificent heroism.

LOUISA THOMSON-PRICE.

#### OUR OPEN COLUMN.

\*\* Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—Mrs. How Martyn's dictum that the "utter insincerity" of certain Members is "shown" by refusing to carry into law a Suffrage Bill which does not include most married women, while supporting an Insurance Bill which does not include them, is not a statement of fact, but a questionable deduction from very imperfect data. Your readers know that to work for including married women in the Insurance Bill, while excluding most of them from the Suffrage Bill, is consistent with perfect sincerity. It is a question of opportunism and practical politics.

They have a right to demand that the best possible construction shall be put on their conduct. So it is with your opponents. Will you, demanding the franchise as a right, stultify yourselves by denying this right to your political opponents? The most eloquent or rational plea for justice must lose force when the speaker is unjust. More than the form of your argument is the spirit in which it is put forward and the character of the speaker. If I may say so, there is generally a fine manliness about your speakers, a generous confidence, which puts an audience into the proper state of mind to see things from your point of view. Beware of letting the controversy fall to meaner levels where moral force is less effective. I think in this respect it specially behoves your leaders to set a good example to young and inexperienced missionaries.—Yours faithfully,

HERBERT H. PRESBURY.

Oak Cottage, College-road, Dulwich.

DEAR MADAM,—I can only repeat what I said before, that Mr. Presbury and I look at the matter from two entirely different points of view.

To us it is a question of Justice, and we regard with distrust and dismay that "opportunism and practical politics" which almost always means losing sight of the woman's point of view.—Yours faithfully,

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

[This correspondence is now closed.—Ed.]

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#### WHAT MEMBERS ARE DOING.

A powerful dramatic sketch, entitled "A Child of the Mutiny," to be given at the Camberwell "Empire" next week, should attract all members of the Women's Freedom League to see it, for it is the work of well-known colleagues. Mrs. Marion Holmes, whose name is well known as an eminent speaker for the Freedom League and as a writer on the Suffrage question, is the author, and the leading part of "Nasibun," the ayah, is to be taken by Miss Mary Pearson, who has been a member of the Women's Freedom League since its foundation, and has worked hard for us, both in militant and other ways. Miss Mary Arfwedson, who is producing the sketch, and also playing the part of "Mrs. Gresham," is the secretary of the Ibsen Club, a society which has for its aim and object the production and popularising of Ibsen's plays. Miss Arfwedson is a well-known translator of the Norwegian playwright, and has produced some of his lesser-known works for the first time in this country. She is a lecturer, too, as well as a talented actress, and, needless to say, as a student of Ibsen, a convinced Suffragist. We sincerely hope that this trio of clever members will have a pronounced and gratifying success.

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## THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

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Directors—Mrs. C. DESPARD, Mrs. E. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc., Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. L. THOMSON-PRICE, Mrs. M. H. FISHER.

SATURDAY, August 26, 1911.

### WOMEN STRIKERS.

During the last week the daily papers have been sounding out one note, whose sensational quality seems to have drowned everything else—"Railway-workers' Strike! War declared! 200,000 Men Out! 250,000 Men Out!"

Then came news that the military forces were being mobilised, and by Saturday some districts of London were like an armed camp. None who were in the streets that day, before or immediately after the great storm that at six o'clock swept the city, could have failed to be impressed by their unusual aspect—the crowds, not in haste, but moving slowly—the dead hopelessness, the absence of any sort of joy, with the presence of a tense anxiety, brooding even over the little children.

On Sunday the tension was relieved. Word came to hand that the Government had intervened, and that pending their inquiry and decision, the railway-men would resume their work.

With the reason for this Labour-war, its meaning and its issue, we cannot deal here.

It is probable that none of the combatants have, as yet, any distinct ideas on these points. Many of us have foreseen the crisis. When compromise succeeds to compromise and smooth words are given where prompt action is demanded, there is bound to be dangerous deadlock.

What to us is still more significant than the strike-movement amongst men is the rapidity with which women are responding to the cry raised by their brothers. Revolt—righteous revolt against intolerable conditions, is in the air, and is increasing every day in volume and strength.

For years we have watched that spirit growing. Strangely slow the growth has been; but now it can no longer be restrained. The smouldering fires have broken out into flame. Women as well as men have declared war against injustice.

It may be said that what has been happening is no new thing; and that, in a sense, is true. During the last few years there have been sectional strikes of women-workers; and, through these, various advantages have been gained, not the least of which is that they have seen the value and power of combination. But now, for the first time, workers in many trades are standing together.

This is made possible by the National Union of Women Workers, formed about five years ago, which contains now no less than 15,000 members, and which has already carried through some splendidly successful campaigns.

The Labour disputes with which this Union is now dealing began in South London.

Years ago, a woman Guardian, serving on a Poor Law Board in that district, was moved again and again to exclaim indignantly against the abominable injustice done to women, who, working ten hours a day or more for employers made rich by the fruit of their labour, were obliged to come humbly before a Board of Guardians to ask for such relief as might enable them and their children to live. Others made the same complaint, but their voices were lost in the wilderness of indifference, and the miserable process of exploitation went on.

The men, by the way, who are now objecting loudly to Woman's Suffrage, did not realise what they were doing when they admitted women to Boards of Poor Law and Education. Lacking imagination, they failed to see what the task of administering their laws would

be to women, or how kicking against the pricks of a quick set hedge of ignorant cruelty and stupid convention would awaken one after another to a sense of her political helplessness and to a firm resolve to break the barriers that hold her back from service.

That this spirit is spreading the events of the last few days in Bermondsey give triumphant evidence. The public Press, indeed, with one or two exceptions, has given us scanty notice. It has been completely taken up with the docks and railway strikes and the Parliament Bill. But to us it has seemed sometimes as if a revolution were in progress. To north and east and central London the agitation has spread. It is like an electric current flying through the land, touching the downtrodden and bidding them arise. Every post brings letters of complaint, news that in certain firms women are coming out, and requests for help and advice. The Strike Committee, under their gallant secretary, Miss MacArthur, are sitting all day long at the Labour Institute, Port-road, Bermondsey, enrolling members, receiving and sending out deputations, arranging for meetings, and distributing food to women and children.

The work has been phenomenal, and we may say the same of its success. Already, so far as Bermondsey is concerned, the trouble may be said to be over for the present, more than twenty firms having made advances in wages, ranging from sixpence to five shillings a week; while other grievances have been redressed. We say that the settlement is for the present, as there can be no doubt that these women, aroused to a sense of their strength in union, will not sleep again. Like the hosts in the Suffrage Movement, they are finding out the meaning of that grand word "solidarity." The campaign has been full of pathetic and interesting incidents.

Early in the fray there was a distribution of bread. This was made in a chapel adjoining the Labour Institute. On the first day, though we had money, it was impossible to get up the bread quickly enough for our need, and in that chapel, all through the grilling heat of the day, young and old women, and mothers with babies in their arms, to the number of several hundreds, waited in sad patience. One of us was told off in the afternoon to talk to them, and try to amuse them. Heaven knows it was a hard task!

Was it wonderful that, when news came that the van with loaves had arrived, there was a rush, which made the heart of the order-keeper tremble? Yet at the cry "Let the women with babies go first" there was a pause.

But let us consider what it meant—this pitiful wait—this rush for bread!

After these many years of male law makers and male administration, thousands upon thousands of our people, live so literally from hand to mouth that if for a few moments the hand of labour is paralysed, there are no resources from which to draw. Piteous hunger it must be or piteous relief until the old cruel round of hard work and miserable pay begins again. Amongst that crowd of strikers there were girls who never earned more than five and ninepence a week, while, when other things were slack, their earnings fell as low as three, and sometimes two, shillings and sixpence, and these are expected to keep quiet and to live respectably. Has not the time come for a minimum wage for women? Whatever an employer who takes such base advantage of his workers may think of himself, however virtuous he may be in the eyes of his neighbours, in naked reality he is a marauder; nay, worse, a murderer, who, for his own sordid purpose, is slowly draining away the lives of his victims. WITH SUCH THE LAW SHOULD DEAL. Instances we have had of heroic courage and loyalty, proving to those who have eyes to see that a new spirit is abroad. Forewomen, well paid, have joined the strikers, and with them women who were able to earn sixteen shillings a week, and who said they had, personally, no reason to complain. One brave little woman—a born leader—

was offered by her manager a rise of three shillings if she would keep quiet. "Don't be a little fool," he said, "consider your own interests!"

"How about the others?" she asked.  
"What do they matter to you?" said the manager.  
"If you gave me three pounds, I wouldn't desert them," said she.

And a man we remember, one of many standing outside the chapel railings and watching the distribution of loaves. He is young, with possibilities of strength and comeliness; but pale and strained. "Missus," he said, to one of the distributors, as he pointed to the rapidly diminishing heap of loaves, "Couldn't I have one of them? I'm hungry."

The helper knew that to give to one out of those hungry men would be impossible. With a catch in her voice, she answered, "These are for the women with green cards. I'm sorry."

He saw the trouble in her face, "It's all right," he said, and he smiled.

These are but two out of many incidents which prove to any who are able to see below the surface that a spirit, not new, indeed, but brought newly into the light of day, is moving amongst our people.

It has been roughly calculated that the increase of wages in South London alone, on the new scale of pay, will amount to £6,000 yearly. That is great gain to the women-workers, but it does not compare in value with the discovery they have made of their solidarity. For this is the spirit that lies behind the present restlessness. Women, conscious for the first time of the glory of their womanhood, are rising to a keener sense of their duties; to one another; and men and women are beginning to see that the movement which

is abroad belongs to neither sex alone, that it is human, that it makes for a larger, wiser, and more righteous social order of our responsibility towards our sisters, our nation and ourselves at this hour of crisis. Of the political significance of Women's Trade Unions there is no space to speak in this article. As the subject is of deep importance we propose to deal with it again in our next issue.

C. DESPARD.

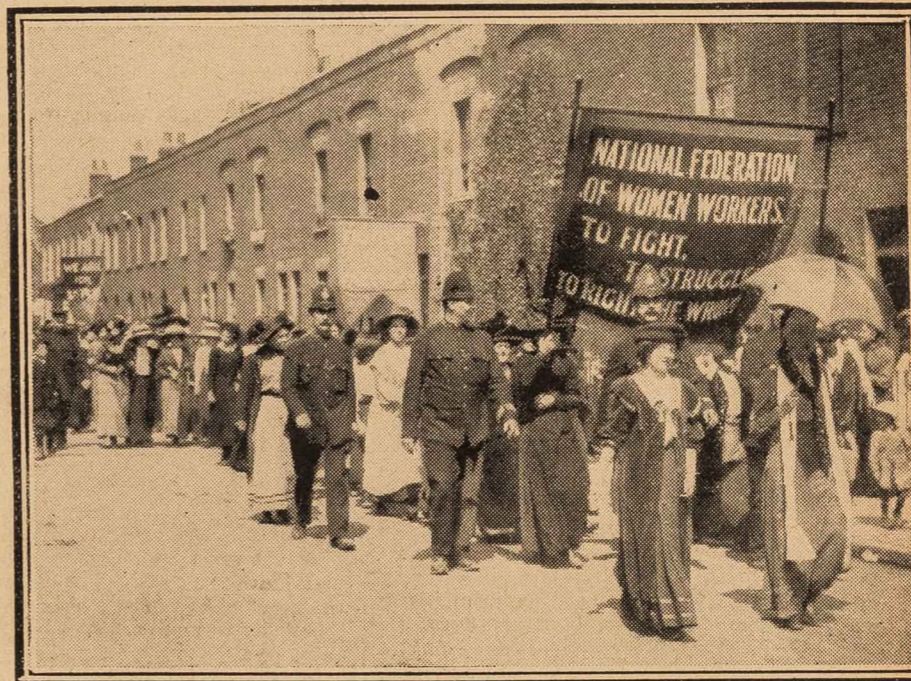
### A NEW HONOUR FOR A WOMAN.

At the opening last week of the annual Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health in the Examination Hall of Trinity College, Dublin, the Countess of Aberdeen, the new President of the Congress, held a reception and delivered her presidential address. The Lord Lieutenant and the Lord Mayor were present. Sir W. H. Lever, the outgoing President of the Congress, took the chair at the outset. Lady Aberdeen, in the course of her address, said she regarded her appointment as a flattering recognition of the work of women in the cause of public health. Professor Smith, Principal of the Royal Institute of Public Health, in the absence of Earl Beauchamp, the President of the Institute, conferred the honorary fellowship of the Institute on Lady Aberdeen, remarking that was the first time the honour had been conferred upon a woman.

### THE PRIME MINISTER'S METHOD.

Suffragists, who have had good cause to complain of Mr. Asquith's attitude towards them, have not failed to observe that he has come badly out of the strike trouble. Even the Liberal Press does not hesitate to criticise him severely. "No attempt was made to get at the minds of the men," says *The Nation*, in reference to Mr. Asquith's attitude when he lectured them, almost as naughty schoolboys, and presented an ultimatum to them in the form of a tedious Royal Commission. "Mr. Asquith has probably little experience in labour disputes," remarks the Liberal weekly, "and his great abilities do not include the gift of insight into situations in which strong human passions are stirred. He is, perhaps, apt to forget that men who have taken their livelihood into their hands, as strikers do, are not fit subjects for treatment in the legal manner, and are apt to be exasperated rather than conciliated by hardness of tone and thinly veiled threats."

Exasperation is a mild word to apply to what women



Photo, Fuller & Osborn

### WOMEN STRIKERS MARCH THROUGH THE STREETS.

[By courtesy of the "Daily Sketch."]

have felt when they, too, with their strong passion for service, have been put off with delay, and yet more delay; and all the time their Cause has been vital to the needs of the nation. The Prime Minister has been charged with want of heart, and the charge rests upon evidence which last week's events support. We prefer, however, to think that the charge is not wholly true. We express our sympathy with him in what must have been a most distressing delay on Saturday evening when, hurrying to London to take part again in averting a disaster which would have been a serious blow to his Government, his heart kept him at Newbury Hospital waiting an hour and a-half for news of the girl cyclist accidentally, but seriously, hurt by collision with his motor-car.

### ICELAND IN ADVANCE OF ENGLAND.

The two Houses of the Icelandic Parliament have unanimously given the vote to every man and woman over twenty-five years of age. They have also given women full equality before the law, and the right of holding every office in the State.

MISS JULIA MARLOWE is a Suffragist "because no woman who works can do otherwise than believe in the Suffrage Movement."



## THE YOUNG IDEA. A MODERN LOVE STORY.

BY C. DESPARD.

John: That was his name; hers was Mary. He was managing-clerk in a firm of solicitors. He was thought well of in his business; his salary had just been raised, and he was promised further promotion. The note of his character was prudence. Men said of him, "That young fellow will get on." John intended to get on. Mary was the only daughter of a gentle mother and a wise father. The mother had been brought up in a conventional school; she had not much initiative, or, rather, perhaps such initiative faculties as she might have possessed had been crushed out of her in her girlhood. If her husband had chosen to dominate her, she would have submitted. He chose another course, and the result was happy.

He was a journalist, in a comparatively small way. His independence of thought and scrupulous conscience prevented him from making any great success, and he lacked the overmastering genius which forces certain writers to the front, in spite of the unpopular nature of their theories.

A lover of liberty, and a student of John Stuart Mill, he had pledged himself in his early youth to the woman's movement; and Mary had been trained to look upon herself as an independent human being, a unit in the national wealth, and responsible to humanity, her nation, her family and herself for her life and the use she might make of it. She inherited her mother's gentleness and her father's love of liberty.

Her training had been practical. Money, skill and love were freely expended on her early education. At the age of eighteen, her father in return for certain valuable services she was able to render to himself and her mother, gave her a small allowance in money and encouraged her to seek employment. She was now twenty-five years of age. She had her own hours, her latchkey, so that she could come and go at pleasure, and complete economic independence. All this had, at first, alarmed the mother; but, long since, she had agreed that it was best, with, however, one invariable comment. "It wouldn't do for everyone. Our Mary is an unusual girl."

At the depth of her soul there was a little uneasiness. Girls so unusual do not attract men. Would Mary marry?

Happily, the question of marriage did not trouble Mary in the least. She went on her own way fearlessly, and when her mother, a little timidly, put it to her that nice girls generally married, and that, if her father died, she would find life difficult, Mary answered: "I haven't seen any man yet I could think of marrying, dear little mother," and once she added, laughingly: "When I do, I will let you know."

The promise was a hasty one; for she did not keep it. She met John one day. He came to see her father on business, and stayed to supper. She liked his appearance, his way of talking, and his manner to herself and her mother. John was tinged with Socialistic ideas, and he looked upon women as comrades. He did not talk down to Mary. Rather, he seemed anxious clearly to understand her point of view on the subjects under discussion. Business brought him several times to the house of Mary's father, and upon each occasion Mary liked him better. She went about her work as usual; she did not mope; she had no illusions; but something within her began to say: "If ever I marry, it will be someone like John."

By this time her father's visitor was "John" to him, and Mary thought of him so.

One evening she went into her father's study when he and John were having what appeared to be an animated discussion. She sat down by the fire and listened. John was the speaker.

"But," he said, "do you think your theories would

always work out well? Surely there must be one head in the family. Think of the confusion if husband and wife both wanted to rule."

"I don't think I quite approve of the word 'rule' in that connection," said Mary's father. "Men and women, when they reach years of discretion, should be able to judge for themselves about their actions; neither should restrain the other, and love and wisdom will make this possible. As regards the family-life, they would have their separate departments."

"Oh! yes, naturally; but the man, who is, of course, superior in strength and brain-power—"

"Is he?" interrupted Mary's father, with a quizzical glance at his daughter.

"Do you doubt it?" asked John.

"I go further than doubt. I refuse to acknowledge it. Differences there are, of course, of function, of training, of point of view. But superiority, inferiority—No."

John looked puzzled. "Surely yours is a singular view."

"Singular to-day, it will become general to-morrow. I hope so, at least."

Mary's father was surprised that she had taken no part in this discussion. She belonged to one of the Suffrage Societies, and was accustomed to debate these questions with opponents. But this evening she sat quite silent, gazing abstractedly into the fire. Presently she heard her mother calling her, and went out.

Truth to tell, Mary was a little vexed with herself for having left her father to fight out the question alone. If it had been anyone but John! She was still more angry at this thought. "Good heavens!" she said to herself, "I am getting morbid."

A Suffrage meeting had been arranged for that night, and she was one of the speakers. She spoke rather more forcibly than usual, and was gently rebuked by her leader. "I like girls to be independent, dear," she said. "You are gloriously independent. But you needn't be so hard upon the men. Some of them are our very good friends and helpers."

"Some of them!" said Mary; but immediately pulled herself up. "I think I was a little cross to-night. Thank you for telling me. I won't do it again."

"Father," she said, when she returned home and found him alone in his study. "Is John an anti?"

"Oh! by-the-bye," said her father, "that reminds me of something I wanted to ask you. Why didn't you help me when we were discussing—what was it? Woman's place in the home, I think—this evening?"

"I don't know. I think I was a little tired. He is an anti, then."

"Not at all. He is in favour of woman's suffrage. I had a long talk with him about it. It is man's superiority he insists on."

"I am sorry. Superiority is such a foolish word," said Mary.

"That is precisely what I say, Mary. Give John the benefit of your ideas. He is worth converting."

There was a brief pause, during which the father and daughter looked into one another's eyes. Then Mary spoke.

"Father, be straight with me! Why do you say that?" He took her hand and held it in a light, firm grasp.

"Yes, dear," he said, "you and I have been straight with one another always from the first. We will be straight now. I like John. I want you two to be friends. Till this evening I thought you liked him. If you don't—"

"I do," said Mary, in a low voice. "But—"

"I understand. Thank you, dear. Now, go to rest. Think well, and, remember, you are not thinking only for yourself, or only for happiness. You are thinking for the young world, for the future; good-night. John will meet you here to-morrow evening."

"And you will be present, father?"

"Yes; I will be present."

She stooped and kissed him. "Good-night, darling. I don't think I shall ever love anyone as much as I love you."

"Ah!" he said, stroking her face, which was a little hotter than usual, "that remains to be seen."

(To be continued.)

## HOLIDAY CAMPAIGNS.

### THE CARAVAN.

Our final meeting at Brentwood quite came up to our expectations. A large and most attentive audience gathered round the Monument. Militant methods was our theme on this occasion, and, suitably enough, the Monument beneath which we stood was erected to the memory of one of those martyrs to the Christian faith who had dared to read the Scriptures for himself and put his own interpretation upon them. For this he was burned at the stake.

At Ingatstone we found ourselves in a little Paradise for Suffragettes. Everyone was kindness itself, perfect strangers going out of their way to help us. Here, again, we found a most charming pitch for our caravan. We were discovered even before the arrival of the Caravan by the Misses Rock (W.S.P.U. members), who took us to their home for baths and a meal every day of our visit to Ingatstone. Mrs. Rock and her daughters proved themselves very real friends to the Cause, with their goodness to us, and canvassing their friends to get audiences for us. We had three very good meetings and were loth to leave, but we had to continue our journey to Chelmsford.

Miss Madeline Rock came over and found our pitch for us in a most convenient meadow on Friday morning. As it was market day, we decided to try a meeting for the farmers. After some inquiries we found that the most suitable time was 3.30, so accordingly we set to work to chalk our evening meeting. At 3.30 we held a very good meeting at the Cannon. The farmers showed very great interest in our work. One of them told Miss Henderson: "Oh, I know that young lady (referring to the speaker), she climbed into the waggon at Ipswich." We had the extra assistance at this meeting of the Misses Rock and Miss Chappelow. At night we had another excellent meeting—the best we have had so far on our tour. At Brentwood, Ingatstone and Chelmsford we have passed resolutions calling upon

Captain Pretyma, M.P., to withdraw his opposition to the Women's Enfranchisement Bill. The first rain of the tour fell on Saturday night, just in time to prevent us from holding our meeting.

A great disaster has come upon us! One of our large tyres has suddenly given way, and we have had to send the wheel away for a new tyre. This will cost us about £4 10s.—a very heavy expense for the campaign to bear. We hope that every caravan lover will send donations to the office to help us in paying for this most unusual tax. MARGARET A. SIDLEY.

### ON THE CLYDE.

At last the weather is improving, and glorious sunshine is the order of the day, instead of the perpetual rain of last month. In Rothesay, our 8 p.m. meetings, which have been carried on every night without interruption from the beginning of July, are quite an institution. Whenever we unfurl our banner our audience is waiting. The audience themselves give the specific aspect with which they wish me to deal. One evening it will be the moral effect, another Adult Suffrage, again the Insurance Bill, and immediate legislation. The heckling at the close is often remarkably keen, but the crowd have little patience with the silly questioner, the speaker being often advised not to answer.

Mrs. Crabbe, of Edinburgh, who has given us a very effective week's work, making her debut as chairman, has left us, but her daughter comes to take her place. Miss Rollason and Miss McIntyre are giving able assistance with speaking, collecting, and selling literature.

At Dunoon meetings have been held on the Castle Hill, under the shadow of Burns' "Highland Mary," one of the few statues to women in the country. Miss McIntyre has been speaking at considerable length, and was heartily applauded by the crowds who, as our meetings progressed, became very enthusiastic, especially some of our Paisley mill girls still on holiday. Mr., Mrs., and Miss Shaw, of Edinburgh, have most kindly entertained us as well as co-operated with us at all the Dunoon meetings.

A sign of the popularity of our meetings is evidenced by a Scottish firm having produced picture postcards of our gatherings on the Castle Hill; they are sold at all the stationers. ANNA MUNRO.

CARDINAL MORAN, Cardinal-Archbishop of Sydney, Australia, whose death was cabled last week, was always a great believer in Woman Suffrage and an able writer on the subject. His loss will be keenly felt.

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## BRANCH NOTES.

**NATIONAL OFFICES, LONDON.**—1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

**Anerley and Crystal Palace.**—Hon. Sec.: Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road, Anerley.

Sympathisers and friends are asked to do all they can to make the Garden Medley, on September 5, a success. Tickets, 6d. each, can only be obtained from the Hon. Sec., or of the members of our Branch of the W.F.L. or of the C.L.W.S. A list of attractions will be given next week. As many of our friends will be out of town in September, it is hoped that others will rally to our help. Our usual open-air meeting will be held on Wednesday next at the Triangle, Penge.

**Mid-London.**—Hon. Secretary: MRS. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing, W.

Owing probably to the fact that our lorry was drawn up under the trees, we had on Sunday a remarkably good audience. Miss Benett, and Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, Hon. Sec. of the Men's League, were the speakers. Miss Benett explained how her public work in the Potteries and elsewhere had been hampered by her unfranchised position. Mr. Malcolm Mitchell held the close attention of the crowd. A pamphlet to which he referred, "Colonial Statements and Votes for Women," was eagerly asked for. A resolution calling on Mr. Asquith to fulfil his pledge, and pass a Bill enfranchising women next year, was enthusiastically carried. As no collection can be taken at these meetings, the organiser, Mrs. Hyde, would be glad to receive donations towards defraying the expenses.

**Herne Hill and Norwood.**—Hon. Sec. (pro tem.): Mrs. ADA PRESBURY, Oak Cottage, Dulwich.

On Thursday, August 17, a successful garden meeting was held by invitation of Mrs. Wright, 90, Croxted-road, West Dulwich. As Mrs. Wright and her daughter, Miss Kathleen Wright, are quite new members of the League, the thanks of the Branch are due to them for thus generously coming forward so early in their membership. Mrs. How-Martyn made a delightful speech, and showed the great need for the possession of the vote by women, instancing the sad condition of the women of Bermondsey now on strike, and the injustices to women contemplated under the Insurance Bill. Our chairman, Mrs. Fowler-Shone, read the following resolution, which was carried unanimously, and copies of it forwarded to Sir H. Kimber, M.P., and Mr. Asquith: "That this meeting regrets that Sir Henry Kimber did not vote for the Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill this year, thereby showing that he does not recognise the national importance of this question, and calls upon him to give his support so that the Bill may be carried into law next Session." Mrs. Wright delighted us all by her spirited rendering of "The Awakening." Copies of THE VOTE, some literature and badges were sold, and a good collection taken. Three new members joined our Branch. Members and friends please make a special effort to support Mrs. Despard on Thursday, August 31, when she will meet us at the house of Miss Davies, 161, Croxted-road, West Dulwich, at 3 p.m. prompt. Please note also that meetings are being held on Friday evenings at 8 o'clock near the Fountain, West Norwood. Last Friday, owing to the railway strike, our principal speaker did not arrive. Nothing daunted, however, we decided to hold our meeting, and Miss Winifred St. Clair and Mr. Presbury bravely addressed their maiden speeches to a fair-sized gathering. A. P.

**Eastbourne.**—Hon. Sec. (pro tem.): Mrs. FRANCIS, 51, Buckingham-place, Brighton. Hon. Treas.: Mrs. ALLEN, 18, Upperton-gardens, Eastbourne.

A garden meeting was held on Saturday, August 12, at 22, Arlington-road, by kind permission of Mademoiselle Specht. Miss Hare, of Hove, gave the address, and Miss White, of Brighton, presided. Earnest attention was given by the audience to Miss Hare's subject, "The White Slave Traffic." The speaker outlined some of the causes of what is known as the "social evil," and gave authenticated instances of the traffic in girls and young women. It was painful hearing, but the earnest conversation that followed showed that the audience realised what had been pointed out by Miss Hare, that the first step towards remedying the evil was to spread a knowledge of the dark and tragic facts. The importance of the vote was emphasised as a means of bringing pressure to bear on Members of Parliament in relation to a subject which male electors seem content to leave severely alone. Drawing-room meetings for September and October have also been arranged.

**Chester.**—Hon. Sec.: Miss WOODALL, 13, Abbey-square.

The Hon. Secretary will be pleased to lend to any Branch that will pay carriage the following: 8 yds. rich deep wool fringe (green and gold), 3 doz. fairy lamps (green, white and gold glass), a quantity of artificial flowers in the colours.

**AN ATTRACTIVE BIRTHDAY PRESENT.**—One of the most useful birthday presents a suffragist can send to a friend is Volume III. of THE VOTE, complete with index, and beautifully bound in art-green and gold. It can be sent from THE VOTE Office, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C., for 4s. 5d., post free. A few copies of Volume II. are still to be had at the same price.



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## OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

**The Church League for Women's Suffrage.**—President: THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN. Offices: 11, St. Mark's-crescent, Regent's Park, N.W.

During the Church Congress at Stoke-on-Trent (October 2 to 6) the C.L.W.S. will hold open-air meetings daily at twelve, and office meetings at other times. There will be two big evening meetings at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 3, and Thursday, 5. On the latter date the Earl of Lytton will be one of the speakers, and the President of the League, the Bishop of Lincoln, has expressed a hope that he may also be able to be present. The C.L.W.S. has sent to press a revised and enlarged edition of Dr. Helen Hanson's popular pamphlet, "From East to West." The Brighton Branch held its fortnightly open-air meeting on the beach, opposite the Bedford Hotel, on Tuesday, August 22, at 6 p.m. The speaker was the Rev. Vicars Boyle, President of the Branch and Vicar of Portslade.

**The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.**—Hon. Treasurer: Miss MONICA WHATELY, 75, Harcourt-terrace, The Boltons, London, S.W. Hon. Secretaries: Miss KENDALL, 22, Wilberforce-road, Finsbury-park, N., and Miss GADSBY, B.A., 5, Carlton-road, Tuffnell Park, London, N.

Catholics staying in Devonshire are asked to communicate with the Hon. Treasurer, who is staying at Sunny Side, York-road, Babbicombe, South Devon, as we hope to get up a meeting in Torquay. It would be a great help if all members, wherever they are staying, would do the same; many people would gladly join if they knew of our Society. We must not forget that even though we are on holiday Suffragettes never entirely rest from work, and we have each to get our six new members before the autumn. Ladies are asked to volunteer to lend their drawing-rooms for meetings in the early autumn.

We sent two of our members to the Congress at Newcastle; they had great success. Twenty new members were made, including priests and bishops interested, and the papers gave us notices. Our thanks are due to our two zealous members, Miss Gadsby, M.A., and Miss O'Sullivan, who represented us there. Members staying in Bexhill are asked to communicate with the Hon. Sec., and members in Devon to write to Miss Monica Whately, Sunnyside, York-road, Babbicombe, South Devon, as we are hoping to get up a meeting there. We wish to make a special appeal for funds for the autumn campaign, and the Hon. treasurer will be glad to receive subscriptions at once. Badges may be had price 2d. Pamphlets, "The Views of the late Cardinal Moran and the late Cardinal

Vaughan on Woman Suffrage," published by the N.U.W.S.S., price 1d.

**Cymric Suffrage Union.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. E. DAVIES, 57, Racton-road, Fulham, London, S.W.

We wish it to be understood that women of every nationality residing in Wales are eligible to become members of the Cymric Suffrage Union. We also wish to impress on all members that they should apply for membership forms, and take them with them to the Welsh holiday resorts. Badges can now be obtained 6d. each, post free. Will members also get men voters to write to the Welsh Members in all the Parliamentary divisions to get their views on the Conciliation Bill? Welsh women have been interested in the recent National Eisteddfod and have shown that women are capable of carrying out onerous duties, such as being Presidents of Eisteddfodic meetings and leaders of choirs. Apologies are due for the delay in sending out badges, but it will soon be rectified now that the strike is over. Will members of the Freedom League who are visiting Wales ask for our leaflets, &c., to distribute?

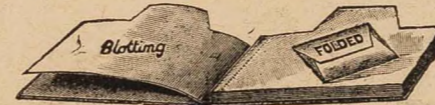
**The Actresses' Franchise League.**—Organising Secretary: Miss G. M. CONOLAN, Adelphi Terrace House, 2, Robert-street, W.C.

In consequence of prolonged absence from London, Miss Joan Dugdale has resigned her position as Organising Secretary to the Actresses' Franchise League. All letters and communications should now be addressed to Miss Conolan, who has succeeded Miss Dugdale. Members are asked, whenever possible, to send in their touring lists in good time, in order that provincial Suffrage societies may avail themselves of their services. Many kind acknowledgments of the help rendered by members of the league have been received.

## SUFFRAGE ACTIVITY AMONG COLOURED WOMEN.

The coloured women of Wisconsin have formed a Branch of the Political Equality League; it is the first organisation of coloured people in the progressive State. The coloured women intend to work for suffrage for the coloured population of the State. The editor of *The Weekly Defender*, the official organ of the State Coloured Industrial League, has pledged his support and the support of his paper to the movement. The league consists of well-informed men and women who are known throughout the city as workers for the betterment of social conditions in problems affecting their race. They propose to carry the campaign into the counties of the State among the coloured people to enlighten and to instruct them upon the suffrage question.

## EXAMPLES OF OUR VALUES IN STATIONERY.



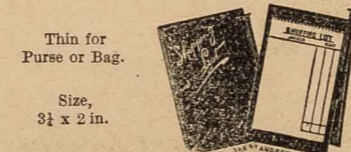
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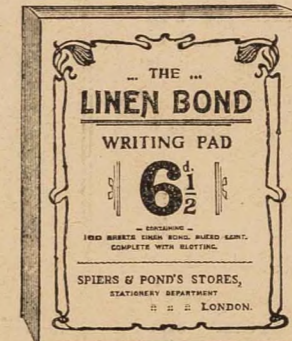
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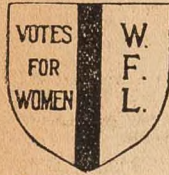
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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

### LONDON.



**DARE TO BE FREE.**

- Thurs., Aug. 24.**—Highbury Corner 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Hyde.  
Tottenham, 8 p.m. Miss Busby.
- Fri., Aug. 25.**—West Norwood Fountain, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Hyde.
- Sun., Aug. 27.**—Hyde Park, 12 noon. Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, J. Y. Kennedy, Esq. *Chair:* Mrs. Hyde.  
Brockwell Park, 3 p.m.
- Tues., Aug. 29.**—West Hampstead, 8.30 p.m.  
Hampstead Heath, 8 p.m.
- Wed., Aug. 30.**—The Triangle, Penge, 7.30 p.m. Mr. Arthur MacKinlay.
- Thurs., Aug. 31.**—161, Croxted-road, Dulwich, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard.  
Highbury Corner, 7.30 p.m.  
Tottenham High-street, 8 p.m.
- Fri., Sept. 1.**—1, Robert-street, 2.30 p.m. National Executive Committee.  
West Norwood Fountain, 8 p.m. Mrs. Sproson.
- Sat., Sept. 2.**—1, Robert-street, 10.30 a.m. National Executive Committee.
- Sun., Sept. 3.**—Hyde Park, 12 noon. Miss Anna Munro.
- Tues., Sept. 5.**—Garden Medley, 149, Croydon-road, Anerley, 3 to 10 p.m.
- Sun., Sept. 24.**—Mid-London Branch "At Home," Caxton Hall, 4 p.m. Miss Cicely Hamilton.
- Thurs., Sept. 28.**—Hackney Branch "At Home," 7 p.m. Mrs. Despard.
- Wed., Oct. 4.**—Small Queen's Hall, 8 p.m. Mr. G. K. Chesterton on "Female Suffrage—The Last Blow to Democracy."
- Tues., Oct. 10.**—Highbury Branch "At Home." Mrs. Despard, Mr. H. G. Chancellor.
- Wed., Oct. 11.**—Essex Hall, Essex-street, Strand, 8 p.m. S. K. Ratcliffe, Esq., "The New Puritanism."
- Thurs., Oct. 19.**—Hampstead Branch "At Home."
- Mon., Oct. 23.**—Herne Hill Branch "At Home."

### PROVINCES.

- Thurs., Aug. 24.**—Caravan Meetings, Witham.
- Fri., Aug. 25.**—Caravan Meetings, Mark's Tey.
- Tues., Aug. 29.**—Caravan Meetings, Coggleshall.
- Mon., Sept. 4.**—Caravan Meetings, Braintree.
- Thurs., Sept. 7.**—Caravan Meetings, Great Dunmow.

**Sat., Sept. 9.**—Caravan Meetings, Bishop's Stortford.

**Mon., Sept. 25.**—Bournemouth, St. Peter's Hall, 8 p.m. Lecture on Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound," by Mrs. Despard.

### SCOTLAND.

Scottish Council West Coast Holiday Campaign.—Head-quarters, Rothesay. Meetings at Rothesay, Millport, Largs, Dunoon, and other places. At noon and 4 p.m. Miss Anna Munro, Miss Pemberton, Miss McIntyre and others. Rothesay Pier Head, 8 p.m., every evening.

### AN ENGLISHWOMAN'S WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA.

#### Grateful Appreciation.

Miss Emily Hobhouse, who has been in Italy suffering from a tedious illness for the last year and a half, has just received the following letter of sympathy and expression of gratitude from the women of the Orange Free State, amongst whom so much of her work was done. The letter, which is illuminated and bound in a large folio album containing the signatures of thousands of women from every district of the State, is signed on behalf of the committee by Mrs. Steyn, Mrs. Blignaut and Mrs. Fischer. It is thus translated:—

"Beloved and honoured Miss Hobhouse,—We women of the Orange Free State have heard that you are ill. This has so filled us with anxiety that we are constrained to let you know. We feel that if all is not well with you then neither is it well with us. We cannot forget you. Your name will always be linked with the women of our land. When in the dark pages of our country's history we see the picture of our women and children in their misery, then amongst them also arises the vision of yourself like an angel of mercy bringing a ray of light into the darkness. We cannot forget what you did for us, and still less shall we forget what you had to suffer for us. As a monument to your honour there remain the spinning and weaving schools which you have called into existence in our land.

"These institutions have accomplished something higher than if they had been mere profit-gaining industries; they have saved our girls from their useless existence and imbued with fresh hope those who dragged out an aimless life exposed to great moral dangers. We want to assure you of our deepest sympathy with you in your great suffering. It is our earnest prayer that God may speedily restore you to health—perhaps sooner beneath the cloudless skies and bright sun of our beloved South Africa, which is so deeply indebted to you.—We have the honour to be your loving friends,

"R. T. STEYN,  
"C. J. BLIGNAUT,  
"ELLA FISCHER."

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