

28-1-14

THE VOTE.  
January 23, 1914.  
ONE PENNY.

AMERICAN WOMEN AS ADMINISTRATORS.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. IX No. 222.

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TWENTY]

Edited by C. DESPARD.

[PAGES.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

# JUSTICE.

OUR CAMPAIGN

KVINDELIG  
LÆSEFORENING

against the

PROTECTION OF CRIMINALS.

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## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

### John Burns: Guilty.

Where is the long-promised Pure Milk and Dairies Bill, for which Mr. John Burns is responsible, but which year by year suffers the monotonous and ignominious fate of being crowded out at the end of the Parliamentary session? Women have again and again demanded its passage, but as they cannot enforce their demand by votes, it remains on the Government programme simply as window-dressing. Of the consequent risks which the nation runs—risks evidently regarded with supreme indifference by the Government—the following facts will give some idea:—

John Hawes, dairy farmer, of Oakley, Brill, Buckinghamshire, who was fined 20s. with 17s. 6d. costs at Brentford last week for supplying adulterated milk to London dairymen, said his men told him it was a Buckinghamshire custom to throw the water with which they had rinsed the pails into the fresh milk.

A cheerful and convenient custom, no doubt, to those who profit by its practice at the expense of the victims of this abominable mixture! Further evidence of an appalling nature is to be found in the current *British Medical Journal* in a long article by Dr. A. Philp Mitchell, resident surgical officer at the Sick Children's Hospital, Edinburgh, on "The Infection of Children with the Bovine Tubercle Bacillus." He gives the results of his investigation of seventy-two consecutive cases of tuberculous glands in children of Edinburgh or the neighbourhood; in 90 per cent. the bovine bacillus was present. Can we wonder when, with regard to one of the cases, the following facts are given. He writes:—

I elicited from the mother the following appalling history:—The baby had been bottle-fed with milk obtained from a small dairy farm. The mother had been informed by the child's grandfather, who worked on the farm, that soon after the birth of the child one of the cows had "gone wrong." He told how the animal had rapidly wasted, become so weak that it was unable to stand; it was actually milked lying on the ground, and this milk was used for human consumption! By this time it was thought expedient to call in a veterinary surgeon, who, finding the animal suffering from generalised tuberculosis with marked involvement of the udder, at once ordered its destruction and burial.

Tuberculosis among dairy cows could be practically eliminated, writes Dr. Mitchell, by providing throughout the United Kingdom an adequate and regular veterinary inspection. The men who pose as statesmen to-day are too busy to attend to a measure which should not be seriously "contentious" when the nation's health is concerned, and could, if they wished, soon find its place upon the Statute Book. According to Lord Beaconsfield's dictum, national health is a foremost responsibility of statesmen. If Mr. John Burns had fulfilled his duty in this respect—and in others—he would have cut a more dignified figure as a Cabinet Minister than in acting as General-in-command of the stewards at his meeting at Streatham Town Hall last Monday in the work of ejecting suffragist interrupters demanding attention to things that matter.

### Inspired by Women.

We are constantly being told by men, and all anti-suffragists, that women stultify their claim to the Parliamentary vote by the poor use they have made of their municipal privileges and responsibilities, and that they should turn their attention to work in the municipalities and rural areas. We do not agree that the cases are comparable, nor that women are the chief sinners in this respect; the question of administering existing law is entirely different from the right to choose law-makers, which the Parliamentary vote affords, and there still remains a persistent prejudice against women's work in public service. We call attention, however, to an admirable article in the current *Englishwoman*, which is always full of good things, on "Women's Work in the Municipality," by L. Keyser Yates. The writer shows how, time after time, women have been pioneers in public service, but men have reaped the honours and rewards. To mention but a few of the examples given: For the Midwives Act of 1902 a body

of lay-women worked continuously for twelve years; the first expression of the need for the National Care of the Child came from a woman—Mr. Benjamin Waugh's name is honoured, Miss Hesba Stretton's is forgotten; Miss Margaret McMillan's work for the school children; Mrs. Hoare's efforts on behalf of the "half-timer," to which tribute was paid by Sir John Gorst; technical education for girls brought to fruition by the Women's Industrial Council; Miss Octavia Hill's work in "slum regeneration"; Mrs. Mary Higgs in lodging-houses for women, and Miss Margaret Ashton's—her name being given to the first municipal lodging-house for women opened in England; the inspiration and impetus given to garden suburbs and town planning by Mrs. Barnett and Miss Sybella Gurney. There are many others—some well known, such as Florence Nightingale and Louisa Twining; some little known, such as Mrs. Way and Mrs. Catherine Wilkinson, an obscure working woman of Liverpool, to whom is due the establishment, in 1842, in Liverpool, of public wash-houses. Such a record speaks volumes, but as it has passed almost unrecognised and unhonoured, charges of want of public spirit can still be flung at women.

### Truth Will Out.

Even Mr. Spencer Leigh Hughes, M.P., the funny man of the Liberal party and Press, cannot keep it in. We now know—for he told the Authors' Club so when they entertained him to dinner on January 19—that "there are several forms of truth" in the House of Commons. It was a touching confidence, and received with great hilarity by a masculine audience. There is the "contingent" truth; the "complex" truth; the "formal" truth; these varied forms are most prevalent and serviceable, so he assured his hearers. Their use seems to be the facility with which they may be twisted into any shape to fit the need of the moment—in the assembly of wisdom which women are called upon to honour and obey. But Mr. Harry Furniss, the humorous artist, went even further in declaring the cold truth concerning our law-makers when they are at work—not at play. He said that if he were to draw all the excitable scenes he had witnessed in Parliament, he would have to portray scenes that were quite unfit for publication. Yet we are told that women are too excitable and emotional even to choose their representatives in Parliament. Hon. Members, hearing these home truths, are doubtless praying to be saved from their friends even when they are funny men.

### Impertinence.

For once Mr. McKenna appears to have contented a woman's deputation which waited upon him last week, but while he promised the Orange Women of Drury-lane that they were to be allowed to carry on their ancient calling, their tenure does not appear very secure. He pointed out that the streets remain narrow, while the people who use them become more numerous, and "we have to see that there is room for these people to pass by." How long the joy of the Orange Women will remain is problematical. We protest strongly, however, against the impertinent reference of the introducer of the deputation to the personal appearance of the women compared with Nell Gwynne. No doubt it was only the strangeness of their surroundings that prevented an immediate and effective reply by the women to this uncalculated and completely irrelevant jest at their expense.

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## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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### ORGANISERS' FUND: APPEAL FOR £500.

Thanks to many good friends and to their efforts to support their League, a good list of contributions was ready for this week's Wednesday "At Home."

The next list will be published this day fortnight—each list must be bigger than the one that precedes it.

Now is the opportunity for every member of the Women's Freedom League, and for every friend of Justice to Women, to give and collect her or his share towards the sum for which we ask—£500—and it is necessary to have this amount before March.

E. KNIGHT.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### AT HEADQUARTERS.

**Our Southern Campaign.**—The South is often compared unfavourably with the North for its want of enthusiasm and effort for the Cause of Woman Suffrage. We feel sure, however, that the meetings arranged during this week by our Branches at Southsea, Southampton, Winchester and Bournemouth—at all of which Miss Nina Boyle is to speak, and at two of which, Southampton and Bournemouth, Mr. Laurence Housman will speak—will prove conclusively that there has recently been no lack of enthusiasm, certainly no lack of effort on the part of our members to bring the Women's Freedom League and its policy before the public.

In London our work is in full swing, and will be carried on strenuously until the close of the Parliamentary session. Next Wednesday afternoon we shall hold our usual meeting at Caxton Hall, when Surgeon-General Evatt, C.B., has kindly promised to give us a lecture on The Life and Work of Miss Nightingale. He was personally acquainted with this marvellous woman, and those who are interested in the struggle against prejudice and convention which women who wanted to do effective work in the State have had to face, are cordially invited to attend this meeting. We hope, too, by that time that our President will have returned to London, and we look forward with eagerness to the possibility of having her with us on Wednesday afternoon. The chair will be taken at 3.30.

The following Monday evening at this office, Mrs. Nevinson will open a discussion on the subject "That Men, having Sole Political Power, are to Blame for the present Muddle of Society." The audience will be invited to take part in the discussion. With Mrs. Nevinson as our speaker, and this subject for discussion, we fully expect that our Office will be taxed to its utmost to accommodate all those who wish to be present. Admission is free and we make an appeal to our friends to be as punctual as possible.

**London Branches Council.**—During the past year this Council has spared neither the time of its members nor its money to supplement the work of Headquarters in and around London. Through its efforts new Branches have been formed and successful meetings held. The Council is anxious to replenish its funds for further work and has arranged to hold a Jumble Sale on Saturday afternoon, January 24, at Tolner's-square Institute, Drummond-street (a turning out of Hampstead-road), N.W., at 3 o'clock. All friends who have any goods of any description to give away are urged to send them

at once to this office. Helpers are urgently wanted from 3 to 4.30 p.m., and volunteers are asked to send their names to Mrs. Fisher. F. A. U.

## JUSTICE.

### OUR CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE PROTECTION OF CRIMINALS.

A statement of the case of the child Violet Parrott has been printed in pamphlet form for distribution to the public. The greatest difficulty has been found in getting it printed, as the ground taken up by the Women's Freedom League involves charges which may be construed as libellous, and as contempt of Court. Everyone, therefore, who sells or distributes these leaflets and pamphlets will be liable to prosecution, from the Political and Militant Department onwards, as this piece of our work is militant, it must not be undertaken by anyone who is not prepared to face the possible consequences—arrest and imprisonment.

It is the intention of the Women's Freedom League to engage the attention of Parliament to this matter. The Home Secretary, and the member for South Hackney are the persons mainly responsible, the one because it is his work, the other because it is his constituency. The pamphlets, leaflets, and an appeal for friends to help are being sent to every member of the House of Lords, to every member of the House of Commons, to every K.C., to every Judge, to every newspaper, and to the Police. Our Branches, if they desire, will also be supplied. And we will make it plain and make it public, once for all, how women and children are "protected."

A dastardly attempt has been engineered, by persons who should have known better, to prove that the late Mr. Parrott, on his deathbed, denounced his devoted wife as the cause of much of his trouble. Documentary "evidence" was offered us—for this precious piece of news was conveyed by letter to the Political and Militant Department of the League. We challenged these people to produce their documentary evidence; but it is not forthcoming; and unless a written disclaimer is received, we shall advise Mrs. Parrott to take legal action. Readers of THE VOTE, will be glad to hear that she is

## SIR HARRY JOHNSTON

(The Famous Explorer) and

## MISS LENA ASHWELL

WILL ADDRESS A

## PUBLIC MEETING

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leaving Homerton, and that her brother has found her satisfactory work and quarters. Her daughter will keep house for her.

A campaign to rouse the residents to protest against the Home Secretary's complacency in the Protection of Criminals is being prosecuted in Homerton, and Miss Sidley and Miss Munro have started work this week. Volunteers are needed to help in the canvassing—not necessarily in the distribution of the pamphlet—and Miss Sidley will be glad to receive names of members and friends for work between now and the opening of Parliament.

The following covering letters accompany the copies of the Wetherall pamphlet distributed to members of the House of Lords, Bishops and Clergy, and the Press. To the House of Lords:—

January 22, 1914.

My Lord,—I have the honour to forward you a statement of the case of Rex v. Wetherall, tried before the Common Serjeant last September, and published by the Political and Militant Department of my League.

The House of Lords has for some time past been engaged in a serious difference of opinion with the House of Commons as to whether the controlling power of the State should be vested in the Upper House. I might point out that your House has long ceased to retain its hold upon the affection of the people, because of its well-known indifference to their rights and welfare. The enclosed case will give the Lords temporal and spiritual an opportunity of taking action to secure for the public an elementary degree of justice and protection. I have the honour to be, Your Lordship's obedient Servant,

C. NINA BOYLE,

Head of the Political and Militant Department.

To the Archbishops and Bishops, and similar letters to the Clergy:—

January 22, 1914.

Your Grace,—I have the honour to forward you a copy of the pamphlet issued in regard to the case of Rex v. Wetherall. We would point out that this form of protection of crime is being practised all over the country in the so-called Courts of Justice, and that being so, we feel with deep indignation the utter hypocrisy of the condemnation that has been showered upon militant suffrage women by members of your sex. May we ask, if your reprobation of militant conduct be indeed sincere, and not purely hypocritical, that you will reinforce our demand for justice by either attending on the opening day of Parliament at the House of Commons and pressing this request home upon the Home Secretary, or by writing to him and to any other member of Parliament upon whom you can bring any influence to bear, and by urging all your clergy and influential members of your diocese to take action in the same way on the same occasion? I have the honour to be, Your Grace's obedient Servant,

C. NINA BOYLE,

Head of the Political and Militant Department.

To the Press:—

January 22, 1914.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I beg leave to forward you a copy of our statement of the Rex v. Wetherall case, published in defiance of the Law which allows such atrocities to be perpetrated with impunity. Its publication renders us liable to action for contempt of Court and libel.

Copies have been sent to all members of both Houses of Parliament, His Majesty's Judges and Counsel, the leading ministers of the Churches, and other prominent persons. The enclosed letter was addressed to each member of the House of Lords. Faithfully Yours,

C. NINA BOYLE,

Head of the Political and Militant Department.

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## THE HOMERTON CAMPAIGN.

Committee Room.—91, HIGH STREET, HOMERTON. Nearest Station, Homerton (North London Railway).

The campaign in connection with the case of Rex v. Wetherall, reported in our issues of September 19th and 26th, last is now in full swing. Leaflets and our pamphlet, published by the Political and Militant Department of the Women's Freedom League, describing this most distressing case of criminal assault, are being distributed throughout the district. Meetings are being held daily, and, from our smart little shop in the High Street, the Freedom League is opening the eyes of the neighbouring public to the impossibility of securing any sort of justice or protection for little girls, until women are recognised as citizens. Such a campaign is necessarily expensive. Already we have spent a considerable sum in printing and in posting to upwards of two thousand public men, copies of our pamphlet. In addition, there are the ordinary expenses of any special campaign. We invite donations from all who are interested in obtaining some measure of protection for such most unfortunate and cruelly wronged little girls. Contributions should be sent to Mr. Knight and marked "Special Justice Campaign Fund."

Helpers are urgently needed in the district, chalkers, bill-distributors, chairmen, speakers and canvassers, all will be welcome. This special campaign will only last three weeks, so do not delay your offer to help, either financially or personally.

MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY.

## POLITICAL AND MILITANT.

In pursuance of a decision of the National Executive Committee, to approach Mr. Bonar Law, as head of the Unionist party, by deputation, and ask him what steps a Unionist Government would take to secure the enfranchisement of women in the event of the Liberal defeat at the next General Election, a letter was addressed to that gentleman from the Political and Militant Department.

This step was considered advisable in view of the increasing probability of a general election in the near future.

A reply has been received from Mr. Bonar Law to the effect that in his opinion, no good purpose can be served by receiving such a deputation at the present time.

This attitude may be regarded as indicating the contempt with which politicians view the demands of self-respecting women who claim the right to be informed by those who govern the country, what arrangements are contemplated in respect of the affairs of women.

## FOR FREEDOM.

Madame Aino Malmberg interested her audience very much last Monday evening at the first of this season's Discussion Meetings at Headquarters, in her account of the struggle for freedom which has taken place in Finland and Russia, and the comparisons she drew between it and the women's fight for freedom in this country. She told how the stage of peaceable means, during which by meetings, petitions, etc., the people of Finland set forth their grievances, was followed by the passive resistance stage, and then by terrorism. Finland won back her rights in 1905, and the Tsar, who is Grand Duke of Finland, reaffirmed his Coronation oath to respect her laws, but since that time there has been continued repression of Finland, and the political situation is now exceedingly threatening. Madame Malmberg, however, ended on a note of confidence in the ultimate victory of all who are striving for freedom. She said Finland welcomed the women's movement in this country as it has helped English people to understand the revolutionary movement in other countries. She answered many questions as to general facts and personal experiences and told of the wonderful "Freedom Songs," which have been composed in Russian prisons. "They are all forbidden, but every one sings them!" There was a most hearty response to the vote of thanks to Madame Malmberg, proposed by Miss A. A. Smith from the chair.

## CLAMOUR.

To the women whose quest of their rightful heritage of free citizenship has been forced into militant channels there is intense humour in the national situation to-day. The pettish and peevish rebukes administered by so many ill-conditioned, ill-informed, and illogical masculine critics—there are many feminine ones too, but as a clever woman says, there is no sex in fools—all too frequently resolve themselves into this: "How can you expect people to attend to you unless you behave yourselves?" And acting on that principle, one would look round at the general situation, expecting to find that the portions of the community which had conducted themselves with the greatest discretion are those which are receiving the greatest share of the Government's attention. This would be strictly in accordance with logic, and with the sounding morality set forth by the loftily superior Persons who express themselves on militant Suffragism. Nothing, however, could well be further from the facts than this fancy picture of how things should be managed; and it is regrettable to find that our self-constituted censors render lip-service only to their own creed. The world, in fact, civilized or uncivilized, is governed by clamour.

Unless the public is sufficiently clamorous, none heeds its agony or its need. Riot, arson and bloodshed were needed—not, if you will, to get votes, but to draw attention to the need for them in days gone by. Gaunt, starving men, with blackened faces in gangs devastating the land, called attention to the need for repealing the Corn laws; fenians, moonlighters, dynamitards, land league assassinations, and cattle-drivings and maimings announced the woes of National Ireland; Ulster advertises her plight with the tramp of drilled regiments, the throb of the distant drum. Industrial agitation provoked nothing but ridicule and repression, until the strike was accompanied by picketing and intimidation; it is not until bombs are thrown and police officers murdered, that the unrest in India secures anything but contempt. What chance would the Indians in South Africa have of gaining the Imperial ear, were there not the mutterings of a storm in India? For how long did the Uitlanders in the Transvaal bleat of their wrongs before the Jameson raid? What will occupy the attention of the Government when the House reassembles—the peaceful prosperity of New Zealand, or the martial proceedings of Mr. Botha's burghers? Who would bother about the question of Japanese or Chinese immigrants and their rights or wrongs, were there not a mailed fist at the gates of the East? What was it that engaged the Concert of Europe so long and so earnestly—the pitiful wail of massacred villagers or the gathering of armed forces in the Balkans?

Women find it difficult to compete with men when it comes to raising sufficient clamour to reverberate in the dulled ear of masculine complacency. The dark lanes and bye-ways through which Progress has had to grope her struggling way, are slippery with blood; the rocks over which she stumbled are encumbered with whitening bones; at the crossways still stand the gibbets erected for the martyrs of each fresh cause—thinkers, reformers, friends of humanity, lovers of freedom, souls greater than the common herd could brook. Against the common herd, the tyrants and the parasites, the heedless and the ruthless, clamour out of the common is needed to make any sort of impression. When women find a weapon which, while suited to their hand, will yet produce the requisite stir, they will gain the ear of Governments; and that is what we must now seek. Some means of securing attention which, while different from the methods used by men, shall yet be stern enough to commend attention, is the need of the hour; for with the gathering bitterness distilled in Orange Ulster, the cloud of Krugerism darkening in South Africa, the European menace looming blacker and blacker, while the race for naval

supremacy continues, the gentler voice of even the most militant of suffragists will likely go unheeded.

The attention of Parliament will be concentrated on the storm-centres of Ulster and South Africa, and the well-behaved sections of the community will be left to look after themselves. The possibilities of the situation involve some points which it would be well for suffragists to examine closely. The danger to internal reform, which such a calamity as a European war would inevitably mean, is so obvious that it need not be dealt with; other possibilities include a general election.

A general election, resorted to as the only means of inducing the Unionist party not to support an armed rebellion in Ulster, would in all probability, result in a return of the Liberal-cum-Nationalist coalition, but with a decreased majority. This would render the Government far more vulnerable to attack, and is the best hope that suffragists can cherish. On the other hand, should the Unionists win, it would in all probability be by a small, but solid majority. Such a Government would not waste its strength and split its forces by giving a Government measure for Women's Suffrage, and women would again be thrown back on the chances of a private member's bill. Some ardent spirits seem imbued with the idea that the Unionists, if in power, would have the foresight to pass the Conciliation Bill—not a very likely contingency, but possible. It would be in the last degree rash, however, to build on such a slender chance.

A general election resorted to because of the indignation roused by Lord Gladstone's action in South Africa, would probably secure the defeat of the Government. It would, indeed, seem on the face of it as if the wholesale denial of the rights of public meeting, freedom of speech, and the disposal of one's own work, would rouse even a sluggish Liberalism to something like

## THE NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

NON-PARTY AND CONSTITUTIONAL.

(Founder and Hon. Organiser: Mrs. ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT.)

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at the

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A few reserved seats at 2/6, to be obtained on and after January 26 at the Actresses' Franchise League, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi; and the Secretary to the Convention, 6, Wellington-road, St. John's Wood, London. Also at the Hall.

Further particulars as to Speakers, etc., will be announced.

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indignation—especially as the victims were men. To train a machine gun on to a building filled with unarmed men, who had committed no act of aggression, and to order under the pains and penalties of martial law that no striker shall leave his home, and that no one shall supply him with food, appears likely to annoy even the most ardent Liberal; and while we are not in any way concerned to bother our heads about the way men treat each other, until we get our rights, it certainly makes one stare. It is quite possible that the action of their indiscreet and most autocratic friends, the Boers, may drive the Government to the country and to their well-earned fate; but under those circumstances, the Conservative majority would probably be a strong one.

A defeat would mean the final departure of Mr. Asquith from the leadership of the Liberal party; and there can be little doubt that his successor would place Women's Suffrage on the party platform. One of the results of this might be the secession of the anti-Suffrage Liberals to the Unionist ranks, as was the case over Home Rule; and this would give an Anti-Suffrage Unionism a great access of strength.

Dispassionately reviewing the situation, we recognise that we must find means to raise a clamour that cannot be disregarded; and so long as Government is directed to clamour only, it must be our business to see that in making it we are not outclassed.

C. NINA BOYLE.

#### MRS. WATSON'S THANKS.

As Mrs. Edith Watson is not able to write to all friends who have sent her books, flowers, and other aids to convalescence during the nine weeks she has been in the Royal Free Hospital, she desires to express her gratitude and thanks through THE VOTE. We are very glad to carry out her wishes, and to add the welcome news that she is making good progress. We look forward to the day when we shall again have the advantage of her valuable work for the League.

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### POLITICAL NEWS.

#### In the King's Speech in Sweden.

At the opening of the Swedish Parliament on January 16 the Speech from the Throne stated that among the Bills to be brought forward is one for granting the Parliamentary franchise to women. The Speech declared that both justice and welfare to the State now demand that the rights of political citizenship be extended to women.

#### Mr. D. M. Mason Too Independent.

The Advisory Committee of the Coventry Liberal Association have intimated to Mr. David Mason, M.P., that, owing to his attitude towards Ministers, they will advise the executive of the party in Coventry to seek another candidate to contest the city at the next General Election. Mr. Mason's relations with the party have for a long time not been of a cordial character owing to the independent attitude which he has taken up on various questions. He opposed the Government on the Franchise Bill because it did not provide for the enfranchisement of women, and he voted against them in the Marconi division. The malcontents, however, are not having it all their own way. Mr. Mason, who at the time of his election, stipulated for independence of action, has strong friends in Coventry who do not agree with the Committee's recommendation.

#### Miners Demand Government Measure for Woman Suffrage.

In continuation of a strenuous campaign in the Parliamentary division, a great Labour and Suffrage demonstration was held at Accrington, at which Mr. Robert Smillie, president of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, proposed the resolution, "That this meeting demands a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women." It was a bare measure of justice, he said, that women should have a voice in the making of the laws they were expected to obey. Many members of Parliament made militancy their excuse for refusing women the franchise, but he believed that had there been no militancy, the women would still be without the vote. The women, by great sacrifice and ability, had raised this question to the front place in present-day politics, and he believed that such women would work with the working class movement for industrial and social reforms. He knew from his own experience that where the conditions of life were bad, the women had the worst of it. They were compelled to study the housing question from within, and would be able to solve it. When they looked at the housing problem—people herded together, as in Scotland and in our large towns and cities—it would not be surprising if revolution broke out. He did not think they were entitled to get manhood suffrage unless women received equal treatment with the men. Miss Margaret Robertson said people were beginning to realise that the forces which were opposed to the Woman Suffrage movement were the same forces which were opposed to the progress of democracy at every stage.

Mr. S. McGurk, miners' agent for Lancashire, supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

#### Woman Suffrage and Oxford University.

The Hon. Lewis Palmer (youngest son of Lord Selborne), writing on "Young Oxford and the Suffrage," in the January number of the *Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Review*, states that undeniably the question of Woman Suffrage has made great progress among undergraduates at Oxford even within the last year, and expresses the opinion that:—"On the whole the prospects of the future are bright, but at Oxford, as everywhere else, a great deal of work and organisation is required to prevent the turmoil of active party politics from sweeping Woman Suffrage out of men's minds and submerging it, of which there must always be a danger with any reform which has not the support of a party machine. Yet if we review the progress we have made in the last year in active organisation, and consider that the suffrage has really come to be a practical question with thinking people in the University, and that a motion in its favour has been passed by the Union Society for the first time, we must come to the conclusion that the position as regards Woman Suffrage at Oxford is extremely satisfactory and that, at last, the tide of public opinion is beginning to set in our favour in no doubtful measure."

#### Time to Make the Experiment.

Captain F. E. Guest, M.P. (Treasurer of the Household), speaking at a Liberal gathering at Poole last week, declared that it was time to make the experiment of Woman Suffrage in some shape or form, and he wanted Liberalism to have the credit and honour of having brought it about. He said that in his election addresses he had always included, if only in a sentence, a statement that he was a supporter of suffrage for women. Captain Guest blamed militancy for the fact that the subject "was not half sufficiently talked out in a quiet frame of mind, but that did not affect the justice of the demand." He was convinced that in the next election the question would play a greater part than it had done in any other election. That issue would be one the electors would have to think over and discuss and eventually to vote upon. He had always voted for Woman Suffrage, but he had never thought it necessary to go out of his way to drop all his other political matters to take up that one question. But, for what it was, he held it as a part of his democratic creed. They would, he considered, gain a great deal of useful material in the legislation of their land by including a good deal of the brains of the women of the country.

### WELCOME BY GERMAN WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS.

Grand Union Hotel, Dresden.

January 17, 1914

Dear Fellow Members and Colleagues,—Our delightful holiday in Engelberg is over. We are spending two days here, another two or three days at Berlin and we hope to return to London next week. In the meantime I am sure all our friends will be rejoiced to hear that the change and rest have greatly benefited Mrs. Harvey; and that both she and I feel invigorated for any sort of work that may open out before us.

It may interest the readers of THE VOTE to know that our visit to Dresden was made the occasion of a very interesting social gathering, which was convened by Frau Stritt, President of the German Women's Suffrage Association, and member of the Council of the International Union. We met in the upper room of a large restaurant and had tea together. I was interested to find that other than suffrage societies were represented; the Women's Temperance Union, and the Society for the Protection of Women and destruction of the infamous Traffic in Women, had sent delegates, both of whom speaking in English, expressed their conviction that no great forward step in social regeneration would be taken until the citizenship of women was recognised.

Frau Stritt—speaking first in German and then in excellent English—opened the meeting. In the name of the women of Dresden she welcomed me cordially: she then told us that, even politically, some advance was being made in Germany. Year after year a numerous signed petition had been placed before the Reichstag, and thrown aside as unworthy of notice. This session, for the first time, it was given over to the Chancellor for consideration. German Suffragists looked upon that as a decided advance. She said further that they were watching, with intense earnestness, the struggle in Great Britain, for they believed that our victory would mean the quickening of the movement all over the world. Before she closed, Frau Stritt referred gracefully to your President's New Year message in THE VOTE. She hoped that we should enter soon upon the shores of the "promised land," and she felt sure that the women of Germany would not be long behind us:

Two other speeches, both in English, followed. As I am not sufficiently versed in German to be able to speak publicly in that language, it gave me great satisfaction to find that English was well understood by my audience, who gave me close and most sympathetic attention while I spoke on the International aspect of the Woman's Movement, on its historic basis, and on its human interest and importance. Then in response to a wish expressed to me by the Secretary of the Association, I gave a brief sketch of the position in Great Britain, outlining the different methods, and endeavouring to make it clear that while our methods might be divergent, our aims were the same, that we desired, all of us, to conquer the rights of citizenship, as a step to that economic independence without which it is impossible for us to give of our best to the service of Society.

After the formal part of the meeting was over, I had some interesting conversation with members of the various associations. I heard to my great pleasure that like the Woman's Freedom League, the German Woman's Suffrage Association is democratic, that all classes are represented, and that women workers are beginning to take a keen interest in the movement. I heard also that the International Congress to be held in Berlin next year, 1915, is being looked forward to and prepared for with great enthusiasm by the German Suffrage Societies. Frau Stritt expects to meet her Council in London, in the month of July, and I earnestly hope that we of the Women's Freedom League will have the pleasure of receiving her while she is there.

In all our work there is nothing more hopeful, nothing

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more inspiring, than its international side; for that is the great feature of our modern time. We have beheld afar off, it may be, but certainly, "the Commonwealth of nations, the Federation of the World."

Yours sincerely,

C. DESPARD.

### IMPORTANT.

NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CONVENTION,

On Saturday, February 14, at 3 p.m.

The platform of the Essex Hall having proved insufficient to accommodate the Delegates from the North, it has been decided to hold the Convention at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street. Admission will be free. A few seats numbered and reserved at 2s. 6d. to be obtained at the Actresses' Franchise League, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, or from the Secretary to the Convention, 6, Wellington-road, St. John's Wood, N.W., and at the Hall. Doors open at 2.30 p.m.

### SARAH BERNHARDT KNIGHTED.

After waiting for many years, Mme. Sarah Bernhardt has at last been accorded the much-coveted Knighthood of the Cross of the Legion of Honour. Her four sister Knights are:—

Mme. Adelina Patti.  
Mme. Tordens, Professor at the Brussels Conservatoire.  
Mme. Bartet, of the Comedie Francaise.  
Mme. Rose Caron, of the Opera.

Nine women of letters and three women explorers wear the ribbon.

## WHERE WOMEN VOTE.

III.—WOMAN AS HOME-MAKER AND CITIZEN.  
BY MARGARET HODGE.

In a book just published by an anonymous author, under the title of "The Home-Breakers," we are given a pathetic picture of some exceedingly conventional and selfish men, who are utterly puzzled and immensely disgusted at the (to them) incomprehensible "new order of things." They no longer find themselves the central point of interest in the lives of their womankind, so in the wonderful evolution of this sex, they see nothing but a poisonous growth. "It's got to be stopped and we've got to stop it," says the hero in vigorous but inelegant English. The title of the book gives a clue to its drift. Of course, Suffragettes are the home-breakers, either directly or indirectly. One of these commits the awful crime of preferring a Suffrage meeting to acting as hostess at a dinner party, but dinner-parties are not an essential of home life; and although, conventionally, she may be accused of a social blunder, she cannot properly come under the class referred to in the title.

All through the book the author shows himself incapable of distinguishing between domestic duties and social amenities—between eternal truths and temporary conventional codes. Yet he fosters the commonly-received notion that the attainment of enfranchisement for women will be the signal for them to neglect all duties save their political ones, and that Suffragettes have already shown that in fighting for their emancipation they are regardless of all other claims upon their allegiance.

The enfranchised lands of the Southern Hemisphere are the best practical disproof of the first singular theory. When the history of these British dominions overseas comes to be written in detail, we may hope that woman's share in the building up of the Empire may be more adequately recognised. For an Empire, if it is to be permanent and really united, must consist of an aggregate of happy and prosperous homes, and the home-makers are in the highest and noblest sense Empire-makers also, rather than those who merely add to our territories or to our subject populations.

To any student of the history of our self-governing dominions overseas there is a wonder of romance and a pathos of tragedy in the woman's contribution to the cause of Imperial evolution, in her courage, self-reliance, self-sacrifice and complete self-effacement. To-day in the Commonwealth and the Dominion we find the most capable of housekeepers, the most judicious of mothers, and the most devoted of wives, yet the very same women are energetic and able politicians and are intensely interested in social questions precisely because their homes are happy, and they want to extend that happiness to those to whom fortune has been less kind. We were always struck by the manifold capacity of the Australian girl when we lived in Sydney, but on revisiting the country, after a four years' absence, our consciousness of her capabilities was made much more vivid. We attended many meetings, too, at which women presided with ability and skill; on one occasion we had a most capable president, who was also the affectionate mother of a very young child, and she apologised for his presence when she rose to address the audience. He stood beside her holding firmly to her skirt and looking wonderingly into her face. All the time he kept as still as a mouse and was learning an excellent lesson in self-control. The presence of little children at nearly all our meetings in the Southern Hemisphere exercised a humanising effect, and the number of weepers who came with their mothers in the women's deputations to the Prime Minister may account to some extent for the kindly reception these had from him.

The Bush homes, widely as they are separated from one another, and remote as they are from the civilisation of the towns, are pleasant and cheery centres of family life, in those cases where the wife and mother

or sister is there to turn the bare shanty into a real home. We used to amuse ourselves, my friend and I, as we walked or coached along the Bush tracks at the back of beyond, by guessing whether the dwellings that we passed were those of married people or lonely bachelors. It was so easy to detect the presence of the home-maker in the pretty little garden, carefully tended, the blinds and curtains, the windows bright with flowers, the washing hanging to dry at the back, and the smoke coming out through the very rudimentary chimney, indicating the fire at which an appetising meal was cooking. "She has given him the basket" is the German idiom for "She has refused his proposal of marriage." It was the custom of bachelors to cover their smokeless and cheerless chimneys with baskets, which were signals of their solitary condition. The inhospitable chimney, which implies a cold hearth, and a chilly meal, should, I think, be so covered, although it is significant and suggestive enough in itself.

The woman, in her capacity of citizen, is a later evolution than in that of a home-maker, and dates from her political emancipation. Her very capacity in household matters, in the feeding and clothing of her children, in their training and in her power of making a home, renders her co-operation indispensable in the affairs of the State and Commonwealth. Since her enfranchisement she has entered into the performance of her political duties with more and more zeal every year, and the steady increase in the percentage of the female vote recorded (from 43½ per cent. in 1903 to 71.54 per cent. in 1913) proves that this vote is not a toy which she cared for as a passing whim and discards when she finds it an onerous duty. One discovery many of the women of the Commonwealth have made: bound by party ties they can accomplish little in the way of social reform, and one by one the women's political associations are separating from the men's, and, in the more democratic states such as Victoria, South Australia, and West Australia, boldly avowing themselves non-party. It has only taken women a decade to discover that the chains of party are the greatest hindrance to liberty, while men, after generations of enfranchisement, are busily occupied in rivetting and hugging more closely these very fetters.

Of one non-party women's organisation, the Woman's Service Guild of West Australia, there is much to record. Such a record is the more necessary because on the subject of their own good works they are most resolutely silent. In West Australia there is a really democratic constitution, for the Upper House (Legislative Council) as well as the Lower House (Legislative Assembly) is dependent on the popular vote. The Council is however, elected for six years while the Assembly is only for three, and each of its members must possess £300 a year. There is, therefore, a longer tenure of office and a property-qualification which makes the Council somewhat more stiff-necked and a little more conservative than the Assembly. A Divorce Bill, securing absolutely equal conditions for men and women had passed the Lower House in the form that the Women's Service Guild advocated. The Upper House was inclined to delay and amend it. The women were determined that it should become law, and a number of the indefatigable Guild attended all the debates on the question. Any unfortunate member who spoke against the measure had to do so under the eyes of these stern judges who were, politically speaking, his masters. No wonder the debates were adjourned again and again to hours specially inconvenient to the irreconcilable and implacable electors in the Ladies' Gallery. These vigilant women always appeared, and at last secured the passing of the Act. The members of the Council declared that they voted for the Bill because they realised that it was a just measure, but such a righteous view may be stimulated by the fear of the loss of a seat.

In much the same way the Service Guild baffled

two attempts to restore the Contagious Diseases Acts, as a clause in the Police or Health Acts. As voters, their numerous deputations were received with courtesy and consideration, and their statement of their intention of educating the public upon the subject of the true meaning of these Acts, was sufficient to convince the promoters of them of their futility and the clauses were abandoned.

(To be continued.)

## WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

## Mr. McKenna Too Busy.

Although the unhealthiness of underground workrooms is common knowledge, the Underground Workrooms Bill still hangs fire. It was introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Salisbury, with the amendments suggested by the Home Office, and was there passed through all its stages, but all attempts to get it passed by the Commons last session were vain. Mr. McKenna promised to give time for its discussion only if he could be assured that the Bill would be unopposed. Unfortunately the determined opposition of Sir Frederick Banbury proved that this was impossible, and the Bill had to be dropped. The chances of a private member's Bill are clearly very poor, and a number of societies and organisations are uniting to urge the necessity of a Government measure. Among these are the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employés, the Amalgamated Union of Restaurant, Hotel and Club Workers, the Anti-Sweating League, the Christian Social Union Research Committee, the Federation of Working Girls' Clubs, the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health, the Manchester and Salford Women's Trade Union Council, the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks, the National Organisation of Girls' Clubs, the National Union of Clerks, the Railway Clerks' Association, the Royal Sanitary Institute, the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, the Scottish Council for Women's Trades, and the Women Sanitary Inspectors' Association. Mr. McKenna has been asked by the Women's Industrial Council to receive a deputation to hear reasons why the Government should adopt the Bill, but declares himself unable to do so. A voteless women's organisation has after all, small claim upon a Minister's time.—*Clifton Chronicle*.

## Women and Architecture.

The *Builder* makes the following interesting announcement of a competition for women:—

We have resolved in the spring, should indications seem to confirm the view that women will give us a lead towards the right solution of the problem of the small house, to institute a competition among women for designs on the following lines. We would lay down conditions on a schedule of accommodation for a house of small size, and would offer premiums for the best designs submitted. The designs so submitted would be accompanied by a short essay, in which each competitor would describe the methods of construction or arrangement by which labour in running a house could be best economised. The designs would be adjudicated by ourselves, with the assistance of a woman nominated by some women's association, and we should make the conditions as to drawings to be submitted as simple as possible, as what we want to obtain is ideas and not draughtsmanship. We may be forging a weapon which will result in depriving men of work they have hitherto carried out, but the interests of architecture and of mankind may necessitate this.

## Fines in Factories: Proposed Bill.

The *Daily Citizen* is informed that the question of fines in factories, particularly in the case of women, will be brought before Parliament next Session, whether the proposals regarding truck promised by the Prime Minister are deemed satisfactory by the societies interesting themselves or not. Mr. Asquith recently stated in a letter to Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, chairman of the Women's Trade Union League, that the Home Secretary hoped to introduce a Bill, but explained that it might be crowded out. Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck now proposes, if the measure is not introduced, or does not contain what are considered adequate clauses, to table a Bill providing for remedial action in the matter of the fines which are a constant cause of vexation in factories.

## Tailors' and Tailoresses' Wages.

The remarkable discrepancy between the wages of men and women in the tailoring trade is shown by the minimum rates of wages which are to come into force in Ireland next month in the ready-made tailoring and some other branches of the bespoke tailoring trade. The minimum for female workers is to be 3d. an hour, and for men 6d. an hour. That is to say for a week of fifty hours' work a woman will receive not less than 12s. 6d., and a man not less than 25s. The difference between the beginning minima for learners is much less. A female learner is to begin at not less than 3s. a week, a male learner at not less than 4s. 6d. The female learner, however, may rise to a minimum of 12s., while the young man may attain to 24s.

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## Charms of Chainmaking.

"Cradley Heath women take to chainmaking as their wealthier sisters take to fancy needlework." This extraordinary assertion was made, according to Mr. W. A. Appleton, general secretary of the Federation of Trade Unions, at an inquiry held by the Worcester National Insurance Committee into the medical service under the Act in that district. Mr. Appleton, in a report he makes to the Federation, says the statement came from a doctor who, with others, repudiated suggestions that the occupation of the women led to increase in sickness. "I pointed out," said Mr. Appleton, "that the anticipated rate of sickness for the country was about 2½ per cent., while in Cradley and Cradley Heath it appeared to be nearer 6 per cent." Cradley, he added, has a population of 7,277, and only one resident medical man.—*Daily Citizen*.

## An Enterprising Woman.

Women in this country who complain of the restrictions and disadvantages under which they labour in the struggle for existence may be interested in the fortunes of a Canadian lady who has succeeded in making a career for herself. Miss E. Cora Hind, of Winnipeg, is nominally the commercial editor of a leading Canadian journal, but she is known throughout Canada and the Northern States as an expert in agriculture—especially as a judge of live stock and of the probable yield of growing grain. Each year she makes a trip, which entails about 1,500 miles of motoring and driving and over 7,000 miles of travel by rail, for the purpose of investigating crop conditions in Western Canada; and her estimates of the crops are eagerly awaited by speculators and others interested in the yields of grain. Miss Hind, it appears, did not choose her career, but drifted into it by easy stages. Her early life on a farm gave her an interest in things agricultural, and after practising for some time as a free-lance journalist she began to make a speciality of reporting live stock conventions, and then became a market reporter for a newspaper. She describes the life as healthy and full of interest.—*Yorkshire Observer*.

THE LADIES' COMEDY, a new play by Mr. Maurice Hewlett, will shortly be presented by Miss Gwen John for a matinee in the West-end. The scene of the play is laid in Venice at the end of the seventeenth century. The cast will include Miss Edith Evans (who will be remembered for her fine performance in Mr. George Moore's play *Elisabeth Cooper*), Miss Haidee Gunn, Mr. William Armstrong, Mr. Everard Vanderlip. The play will be produced by Mr. A. E. Filmer.

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, January 23, 1914.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.  
**Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.**

### EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraph or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. If a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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## WHEN WOMEN VOTE.

"What will you do when you get the vote?" is a question that is frequently asked. We deny the right of the male electorate to ask it. So far as we can learn from the political history of modern times in our country, neither burghers nor mechanics, nor agricultural labourers were ever asked the question at all. It was recognised that they formed an integral part of the community and that they had interests of their own which, through their voting power, they would have the opportunity of pressing upon the attention of the State.

It may be well, nevertheless, for our own enlightenment, and as an answer to those who are tempted to think that the strenuous energy and indomitable determination that have been thrown into our movement might have been more worthily expended, to take up this question ourselves: "When women vote, how will they use their power?"

Let us remember what, to a large extent, the life of women is and where their interests centre. While men, our brothers, have been occupied, naturally, in building up material wealth, women have had as their care the life which through this material wealth might, had it been rightly used, have become fuller, happier, more abundant. Woman is the mother, the nurse, the teacher, the healer in sickness, and the administrator in health and sickness of that which is necessary for boys and girls, for men and women. If it is natural for men to cherish and protect that which they have brought into being, if the Dagon of their worship—property—is dear to them, must it not also be natural for woman to love, cherish and defend life? In looking forward to the future, in trying to forecast these better days when man and woman stand together in the State, as now they stand together in the family, we see life more considered than it is now.

For instance, one of our social problems, spoken of lightly, is infant mortality. We can conceive a time when it will be with us, as it was with the Greek nation in the days of its grandeur and glory. Historians relate that the immature death of a citizen—child or young person—was considered so disgraceful to the family and the nation that the funeral was carried out at dead of night. Naturally this joy and life-loving people would avert by every means in their power a disastrous and, to them impious, waste of human life. How extraordinarily marked is the difference between

the ancient and the modern feeling: the Greek rapture in young life—"the joy of mere living"; the modern indifference. To this pass sex domination and the worship of property have brought us.

We believe that when women vote one of the earliest political results will be the reversal of these standards. Life will take its right and proper place as that to the service of which all material victories over nature's forces must be subordinated; the interests of all the children will be safeguarded, and, in time, the old joy in life will return.

This is no dream. A lesson has come to us from New Zealand, where women citizens, having conquered their political freedom, are busily and successfully engaged upon the work which we in Great Britain are earnestly desiring to take in hand. A Society for the Health of Women and Children has been established in the Dominion. For six years it has been working. In every way the women are helped by the State. Where £1 is voluntarily subscribed £1 4s. is granted by the Government. The society was started by 25 enthusiastic women under Dr. Truby King. They did not attempt to patronize or to preach. They set themselves to learn, to gain information, and to apply and disseminate their knowledge, through members, nurses, meetings, the spread of literature, demonstrations, passing on the life-torch from hand to hand. They had the great advantage of Government support. Lady Plunket, wife of the late Governor, threw herself enthusiastically into the work. Baby-hospitals were established where mothers with sickly infants could become inmates for a week at a time, and object-lessons were constantly given. The Plunket nurses, available free of charge, gave valuable help both in the hospitals and outside. There are now seventy Branches of the society in the Dominion, and the result is that infant mortality, which stood at a little over 8 per cent—the lowest in the world—dropped to 3 per cent. Compare this with three of our great towns—London, Manchester and Liverpool—where the rate of infant mortality is 11, 13, and 14 per cent.

Social reformers ask, Why cannot the example of New Zealand be followed by Great Britain? Let them put their question to women who for these last 10 or 20 years have been breaking their hearts and straining their energies almost to breaking-point over school clinics and care committees.

Have these women had the help and support of the State? No one can dare to answer that they have. While male dissension over party programmes and more or less futile election cries are foisted upon the electorate as real issues, while property is deified and life is held of little value—and this will be the case until woman stands in her own place, until she does her own work in the community—we may not hope to save the infants' lives, or to provide, as a great nation should, for the health of her children.

C. DESPARD.

## AMERICAN WOMEN AS ADMINISTRATORS.

### IN CONTROL OF CHICAGO SCHOOLS AND NEW YORK GAOLS.

In the issue of THE VOTE for December 19 I illustrated the respect shown in various parts of America for the administrative qualities of women by referring to Mrs. Ella Flagg Young. I told how, years ago, Mrs. Young was appointed head of the public schools of Chicago, both because of her capacity as an educator and because the city counted on a strong-minded woman's administration as the best means of clearing graft and nepotism out of the management of the schools. I told also how, recently, unable to prevail with her committee in the matter of adopting a certain text-book on grounds of

## OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

### The Legal Rights of Hungarian Women in a New Citizen Bill.

The lecture given by Dr. Agoston, one of Hungary's greatest sociologists in Nagyvarod (Hungary), on November 28, 1913, deserves to be known all over the world. We owe him thanks for inspiring the Hungarian women with enthusiasm for the great cause. The title itself, as the lecturer says, must be a stumbling-block to those who are fighting for the equal rights of women and men, because the separate mention of the right of women and the right of men already implies a distinction between those who form together "mankind."

The Bill, like other codes made by man alone, is a disgrace to the twentieth century. We cannot wonder at this. Men will not hurry to give equal rights to women, when Governments give rights only to those who fight to keep them in power, and never voluntarily to persons from whom they can gain nothing. It cannot therefore be too deeply impressed upon us that the fruits of equal rights will only be reaped by the women who fight for them.

When the legislator establishes the rights of one man against another he should keep before his eyes the truth that rights are due to all who fulfil their duties. Some decades ago the husband not only ruled the family, but supplied it with all that was necessary to its existence; to-day, when the wife has to share with her husband in the maintenance of the family, the same rights should be given to her as to him. But although the economic change compels the woman to work, the Bill still gives the husband the predominant place.

It is very sad that a Bill constructed in the twentieth century should be so narrow as to secure absolute rights for one part of humanity and none for the other. For instance, the husband manages the wife's fortune, without any responsibility; that is to say, the husband is allowed to spend the wife's money on anything he likes without giving any account to her. He may also withhold his wife from housekeeping. The right of deciding in family matters belongs to the husband.

The husband's rights in the past were due to him because he was compelled to maintain his wife. But such duties of the wife as are recognised in paragraphs 30 and 31 of the Bill—that she shall maintain her husband when he cannot earn his living—do not exist and are not provided for in the old Code. Moreover, she is liable for his debts, even her furniture (paragraph 40 of the Bill) can be seized to pay them. Hence the Bill, as regards woman's citizenship, is a retrograde measure.

In view of these prejudicial paragraphs women must endeavour to do everything in their power to have the disgraceful Bill corrected. As things are, to anyone with eyes open, it must be clear that woman is everywhere and in every matter the prey of man.

Nagyvarod, Hungary.

ELLEN WOHL.

### Women Voters Seek Knowledge.

"The recent enfranchisement of women in several States has brought about a condition hitherto unknown in any country—that of the building up of social centres in every community for the study of civic, social and political improvement.

"Little did we think five years ago that the little red school-house would be transformed into a headquarters for the study of industrial and political conditions by the mothers.

"In practically all countries men have from time to time received a degree of suffrage, but never has it had the effect of producing in them an insatiable appetite for knowledge, as has the recent enfranchisement of the women in America. To those persons and organizations who feared the woman voter because of her emotionalism and conservatism, this has been a surprise.

"While it is true that women have been more religious, perhaps, than men, more humanitarian in their instincts than men, therefore, from the standpoint of the politician, less apt to vote for the material interests of a group or a class, it is also true they are less prejudiced and hide-bound politically than men.

"I have yet to hear a woman boast of voting the Republican ticket because her father did, or voting the Democratic ticket

merit rather than of corrupt interest, she resigned her post, and all the decent elements in Chicago society at once rallied to her aid and insisted on her remaining—and having her own way.

But you always open your morning newspaper in America with the chance of a "thrill." I had no sooner posted my article, and in a day or two forgotten it, than the papers were suddenly aflame with fresh news of Mrs. Young; and for ten days Chicago could think and talk of no one else. It was all on account of the annual selection of a school chief. Mrs. Young had withdrawn her resignation relative to the book difficulty only on the understanding that at the forthcoming re-election by the assembly her name should go through as a matter of course. And now here was a vote of only ten for and six against. In accordance with the distrust of anything but crushing majorities which underlies so much of the machinery of American democracy, Mrs. Young needed eleven votes. She at once refused to proceed to a second ballot. She would have a committee which would not squabble over her policies (she is a war-worn veteran and weary of the waste involved in strife) or not serve at all. Her second-in-command, Mr. Shoop, who had stood as candidate against her, was forthwith appointed in her place. Mrs. Young, with grim humour, handed over the unfinished manuscript of the historic "speller" in process of compilation under her direction, shook the dust of the committee-room off her feet, and departed into the country for a needed holiday, declaring that in no circumstances would she return to superintend the schools.

The uproar was magnificent. At the next city elections the women of Chicago will, for the first time, exercise the vote, and so every politician in Chicago shook in his shoes. Every newspaper demanded the reinstatement of Mrs. Young. *The Tribune* offered her, failing her re-appointment, a high position on its staff. The women held mass-meetings and sent deputations to the Mayor. The teachers—who love Mrs. Young—wept. Mr. Shoop found it difficult to express himself to interviewers, and was, indeed, in such an anomalous position, he may well have wished himself out of it. Everybody insisted that the Mayor himself was at the bottom of a deep-laid scheme to oust Mrs. Young, and, certain members of the School Board who had voted for Shoop being his nominees, and he holding their signed resignations for use at any time he might think fit, the public demand fastened on the Mayor that he should at once act.

Whatever his private opinions, he accepted the situation and acted with a will. His nominees were bundled out, and replaced by men known to favour Mrs. Young. The Shoop appointment was rescinded, Mrs. Young re-instated, and the latest information to hand is that the excellent old lady is back in her office and peace reigns once more. The women's vote has won.

Meanwhile in New York, without any such excitement to give zest to it, something really more remarkable has happened than Chicago's experience in the matter of Mrs. Young. The control of New York's gaols has been placed in a woman's hands. The New York State legislature has already pronounced in favour of votes for women, but its opinion must be ratified in 1915 to make it law. The women in the Suffrage Movement, I find, are far too wise to count on certain success. But here is something like a coming event casting its shadow before. Miss Davis, who is to have wide scope during the next four years for re-organising the prisons of New York, has had large experience in reformatory work, and is a convinced believer in the method of individual treatment as against regimentation. Mayor Mitchell, who has appointed Miss Davis, expressly looks to her to put her own individuality into her task, and it will be profoundly interesting to observe the results of her régime.

G. E. O'DELL.

because she was rocked in a Democratic cradle, or voting the Progressive ticket because her erstwhile leader headed that ticket.

"The non-partisanship of the new woman voter is a sign of the times which portends her participation in the coming revolution. . . ."—*The Party Builder*, Chicago.  
K. HARVEY, Head International Dept.

### THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

#### Brutal Assault.

Catherine Muriel Oakes (16), of Winsford, Cheshire, attacked by a man who threw her from her bicycle while she was riding home from her work as a dressmaker's apprentice. She is in a serious condition, with seven wounds on her head, two fingers broken, and one injured.

She states that the man leapt from a hedge and dragged her by her dress across a field, striking her several times with an iron instrument. She implored him to release her, offering him her bicycle, watch, and money. After a violent struggle she escaped, and was assisted home by a man who had found her bicycle. The police searched the countryside, and a labourer who was found in a hayshed was arrested. A crowbar was discovered in the field.

Mrs. Emily Barrett, of Kersey's Farm, South Benfleet, returning home after shopping, found her home, which is in a lonely situation, in disorder. On entering, a powerful man sprang upon her and, catching her by the shoulders, struck her to the ground and gagged her with a tea-cloth. He searched the premises, demanded money, took what she gave, then threatened to kill her with a large knife, and asked where her husband was, saying he had a grudge against him and wanted to kill him. Although Mr. Barrett was only a short distance away, Mrs. Barrett refused to tell her assailant for fear he should carry out the threat. The man then left the house, and the poor woman was shortly afterwards found by her husband half-dead with fright and the ill-usage she had received. No arrest has been made, but the police have a good description of the man.

#### Criminal Assault.

At Aberdeen Police Court, Bailie Taggart on the bench, James M'Pherson, moulder, Walker-road, was charged with criminally assaulting a woman in a house in Gilcomston-terrace. M'Pherson entered a house in Gilcomston-terrace uninvited, and, locking the door, put the key in his pocket. The sole occupant of the house was a woman, who was sitting reading by the kitchen fire. The man remarked that if she resisted he would "knock her stiff," and in the struggle that ensued her face was cut, her eye discoloured, and her body bruised. The incidents of the assault described to the magistrate were of a most revolting nature. Bailie Taggart found the charge proven, and passed sentence of two months.

#### Emphatic Protests.

We protest emphatically against the reduction of the sentence of twelve months' hard labour passed on Joseph Josephson for assaulting two girl typist apprentices. The Court of Criminal Appeal has considered that justice will be vindicated if he serves three months. It is another instance of man-administered law which women regard as essentially unjust, and likely to remain so till women have votes.

Another case arouses our indignation. Magistrates and judges are very tender to male offenders whose health is not absolutely robust, but they have not hesitated to put Suffragists, weakened by hunger strikes, into the dock. Why was there no postponement of the hearing of the case against Julia Decies (26), of West Kensington Mansions, who was brought before the West London magistrate last week, charged with attempting to murder Basil Piffard? She was carried into the court, and was apparently unconscious of what was going on. The magistrate observed: "She seems to be injured." According to one witness there was evidence of a terrible struggle. The man, seriously injured, was in hospital; the woman was "carried into Court." Yet we are told that women are the "protected sex."

### ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

**Once of the Angels.** By Evelyn Beacon. (Methuen and Co., Ltd. 6s.)

"Do not forget for a moment that the world is full of evil, and ignorance is not bliss. Knowledge wisely imparted is the best safeguard." In these words, put into the mouth of one of her principal characters, Mrs. Beacon expresses her own convictions, and gives the motive underlying the choice of the white slave traffic as the subject of her book.

The dangers arising from the social evil are not overestimated, and the matter has been carefully handled, but, unfortunately, the same restraint has not been exercised in the delineation of the characters. The actors in the story are so overloaded with sentimentality as to seem not only unnatural but unreal. This is a grievous pity; sympathy and help might have been enlisted for the real victims if their representatives had been more skilfully portrayed. The book, too, would have had a justification if it does not now possess, in spite of the good intentions of the author.

Ignorance concerning white slaves, and all that goes to make them, must be dispelled before the horrible traffic is swept away; but it would appear that only a genius can deal effectively with the subject in fiction.

A. W. L.

## The Sign-Post. PREACHING AND PRACTICE.

Never was Reform more talked and written about than in these days. Everyone acknowledges the evils, many suggest remedies, and yet it is strange and wonderful how

### Very little progress

appears in response to talk and theories.

A "Reform" Mayor has lately acknowledged that he is still fighting for the

### Same Things that were on his programme in 1870.

Quite apart from the fact that the things to fight for in this year of grace differ very considerably from the reforms needed in 1870, it is a melancholy confession of how little has been done in those intervening 44 years.

*The Times* allows that the destitution in London is greater than at the end of last century. Paupers, lunatics, out-of-works, consumptives, destitute children, degraded and sweated women, multiply apace! What is being done to check the production of these ills, not only to tinker with remedies?

### To kill the veritable goose that lays these rotten eggs?

We are not pessimists; no Suffragists could be true to any colours and not have hope as a fundamental ray. And we find even the "Gloomy Dean" declaring that the only pessimist is he who exclaims, "Going wrong? Of course, they are!" and does nothing to mend matters.

It is a comfort to turn from so much talk and tinkering as is afforded us by our purely masculine legislature, to a very small sign of the times. In a little village in Dorset there exists a small self-governing Republic called

### "The Little Commonwealth."

It is composed of a few boys and girls, rescued from the beginnings of a criminal career, and planted down on a farm to work out their own salvation.

It is run on purely democratic lines, but—unlike the outside world which talks much of democracy and includes only half the community as members—in this small Commonwealth there exists a natural sense of justice and equality, and together

### the girls and boys manage their own affairs,

being, with the superintendent and teachers, members of the community and really citizens.

They summon their own Courts of Justice, and

### the Judge, for the time, is a girl.

(Shade of poor old Lord Coke! What a shock to your dictum of 300 years ago, which proclaimed that a woman could not enter the intricate paths of the Law!) It may be a consolation to any "Anti," and even some Suffragists, to remember that as the boys outnumber the girls in this community, the little girl judge must have been

### elected by a majority including the boys.

The punishments meted out fit the crimes in very practical fashion, but there is no degradation in the sentences.

### They make laws,

and as they make them, they keep them, and the cigarette habit has been successfully dispelled. The "slacker" has to "Go on taxes" which means living at the expense of the community, and finds him or herself very unpopular in consequence, for wages are paid and all must do their share of the work, the culprit therefore speedily regains his sense of community.

Thus is being evolved in miniature, in simple, natural, healthy fashion, a little state that can practically show the blundering, masculine-managed community outside how good and wholesome a thing it is for

### men and women to live together in unity.

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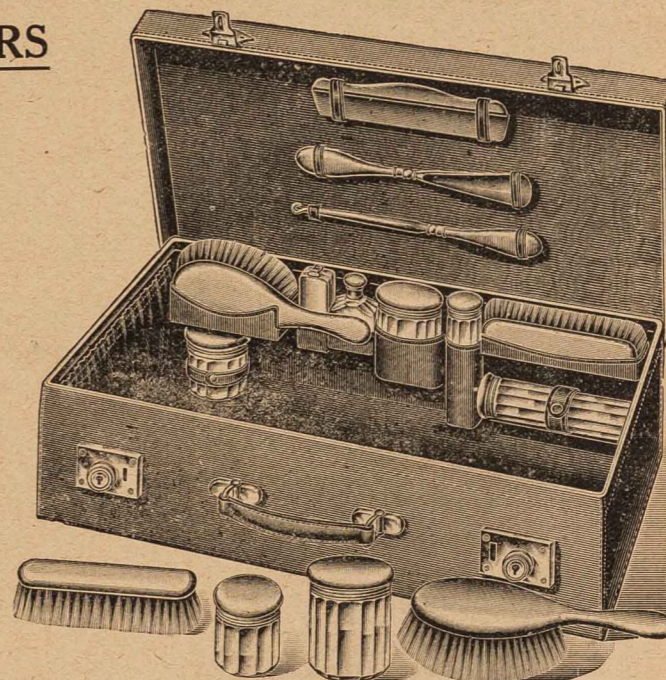
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### "VOTE" APPEAL: WANTED £100.

DEAR READERS,—I renew my appeal to you to help me to make permanent the enlargement of our paper to twenty pages. We are in the thickest of the fight for freedom and there must be no slackening of effort. Through THE VOTE we can reach larger audiences than at our meetings, and I rely on every one of you to help me according to your ability. Thanking very warmly all who have subscribed to the enlargement fund, I am, yours sincerely,

C. DESPARD.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged .. .. .	70	13	6
Miss K. E. Linsell .. .. .	..	..	10 0
Per Mrs. Carey (profits on Lending Library) ..	..	2	0 0
Total .. .. .	73	3	6

#### An Encouraging Fact.

Our colleagues will learn with pleasure that the Branches of the Women's Freedom League disposed of nearly a thousand more copies of THE VOTE in December, 1913, than was the case in December of the previous year. Now that the League is growing so rapidly it should not be difficult quickly to double our circulation, and then double it again! The paper is full of interest sufficiently varied to appeal to those who are not yet in full sympathy with the Suffrage Movement. We call upon all our members to do their utmost in personal effort speedily to bring this desired increase.

#### "VOTE" POSTER PARADE.

A VOTE Poster Parade left Headquarters at 6.30 p.m. on January 16 to offer good literature to the people waiting in the theatre queues. The paraders were numerous and enthusiastic, and the paper sold well. THE VOTE Brigade intends to follow up this success by arranging another parade on February 6. Particulars to be announced later. Members and sympathisers able to join are earnestly requested to send our names to Miss P. Leahy. Best thanks are tendered to our staunch friends Mr. and Mrs. Bell, who are indefatigable in their practical help.

Mrs. Walter Carey invites VOTE sellers to tea at the Office every Thursday from 4.30 onwards. To her also we express our warmest thanks for her continued kindness.

### INSURANCE ACT DEBATE.

The Women's Freedom League has from the first refused to comply with the regulations of the Insurance Act, and has not paid one penny in respect of the insurance of its employees. It is no concern of ours whether this Act is good, bad, or indifferent; we oppose the Insurance Act because it is legislation affecting vast numbers of women, and no woman has a voice in the legislation of this country. We are determined to show the authorities that the government of women without their consent is both a difficult and costly matter.

But we offer our congratulations to the Women's Tax Resistance League for arranging the public debate on the Insurance Act which took place last Monday evening at the Caxton Hall. Sir Edward Busk presided, and Miss Margaret Douglas proposed the following Resolution:—

That this meeting declares that the Insurance Act is undemocratic in character and unjust in operation, and that its hardships press most heavily upon women.

Miss Douglas said that the new elements in our present Insurance Act were compulsion and the card. In theory, the card was a receipt for money paid in; in practice it was a passport for the worker, a means of registration and identification, it was used as a certificate of character, and as evidence against men who came from a strike area in search of work elsewhere. Miss Douglas considered that it was undemocratic to set aside the Truck Act in order to tamper with a man's wages—his wages at any rate should be secure from the greed of the modern social reformers, who should be urged to carry out experiments of this kind at their own expense! The Insurance Act was substituting bureaucracy for self-government. £2,000,000 of hard earned money was being expended on gentlemen who were touring the country in motor-cars, and who possessed extraordinary powers to enforce the Act on unwilling contributors. It was killing the spirit that built up the old friendly societies which were now being forced into competition with Insurance Companies; it was not safe to entrust problems of National Health to people who look at life as a profit making concern. Miss Douglas further contended that this Act was an injustice

to women. This so-called "greatest measure of social reform was careful to leave out those women from its benefits who do their duty by staying in their homes to look after their families; they can only get the accidental maternity benefit on their husband's card. Surely that was enticing women to go out of their homes to find an employer! In the vast majority of cases the 4d. a week contributed by men had to come out of extra economies effected by women in the home.

Sir Victor Horsley in opposing this resolution said that Miss Douglas had given a highly coloured picture of the Insurance Act. The principle of the Insurance Act, was absolutely democratic; and by it the whole nation was taking part in a measure of National Health. It was not a German but an English Act, and it was first brought forward in the House of Commons, nearly one hundred years ago by Mr. Curwen, an ultra-Progressive member for Cumberland. Mr. Lloyd George had shown constructive capacity in financing the movement. What was offered in its stead? A return to the old Contract Club system, which was hopeless. The Insurance Act brought about a redistribution of wealth among doctors, and the poor doctors benefited thereby. It had done away with the sixpenny doctor, and was a boon to the poorest people in our country. Through the Insurance Act, the friendly societies had gained an enormous number of adherents, and the insurance of women was a definite crystallisation of the fact that woman was a separate entity, a separate person. The Insurance Act was an organisation of the forces of the nation against disease.

Several members of the audience took part in the subsequent discussion; with but one exception, all opposed the Act, either in its principle or in its administration. The critic we appreciated most was the young man who mounted the platform and informed the audience that he was a Liberal, an anti-suffragist, and an opponent of the Insurance Act! He then proceeded to urge those who objected to it, to tear up their cards this week end. If only they would do that the Act would be smashed. We hail this young man as a militant!

On the resolution being put to the meeting it was carried by an overwhelming majority, only twelve voting against it.

F. A. U.

SCOTTISH COUNCIL REPORT.

The quarterly meeting of the Scottish Council was held in Edinburgh on January 17. Delegates were present from Glasgow, Dundee, Perth, Broxburn, Edinburgh, and Sattered Members. The secretary reported that since the last meeting much good work both for Suffrage and for the League had been done by Miss Broughton, the Scottish organiser, and that two new Branches had been formed—Lochgelly and Broxburn. In South-West Lanark by-election, Miss Broughton was ably assisted by Miss Read, kindly lent us for the occasion by Headquarters.

The treasurer's statement was very satisfactory, and the Council considered that the funds warranted the appointment of a second organiser for Scotland, and Miss Murray was authorised to make the appointment. The following donations have to be added to the funds:—

Table listing donations: Already acknowledged £163 15 5; Mrs. Andrew Black 10 0; Mrs. Dixon 5 0; Mrs. Courage 5 0; Mrs. Murray 2 0 0; Miss Eunice Murray 2 0 0; Miss McGilchrist Gilchrist 1 0 0; Miss Margaret Moir 5 0. Total £170 0 5.

A. B. JACK, Hon. Sec.

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(Branch and District Funds Not Included.) Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1912, £17,272 4s. 11d.

Table listing contributions: Amount previously acknowledged £ 2,011 8 7; South Lanark Bye-election—Per Scottish Council—Mrs. Wilson 6 8; Miss Jack 5 1; Miss White 5 0; Mrs. Wilson and Friend 4 6; Miss Semple 4 2; Miss Broughton 2 6; Miss Grant, Edinburgh 2 6; Mr. Bryson 2 0; Miss Read 2 0; Miss Herriot 1 8; Miss Johnson 1 8; Miss Steven 1 8; Collections 1 5 9. Total £ 3 5 2.

Table listing contributions: West Lothian Bye-election—Per Miss Broughton—Mrs. Murray 1 10 0; Miss Skene 5 0; An Armadale Working Woman 1 0; Per Miss Jack—The Misses McLaren 1 0 0; Miss H. Harvey 5 0; Miss Husband 5 0; Miss Jack 5 0; Mrs. Thompson 2 9; Miss McLachlan 2 6; Mrs. Bell 2 0; Mr. Andrew Young 1 9; Miss Ireland 1 6; Mrs. Crabbe 1 0; Miss E. Ireland 1 0; Miss Ross 1 0; Mrs. Russell 1 0; Collections 16 1. Total £ 5 1 7.

Table listing contributions: Miss J. L. Buntin 10 0 0; Mrs. Napier 5 0 0; Miss C. Napier 1 1 0; Dr. D. M. Tudor 1 1 0; Miss A. Holmes 10 0; Miss A. Munro 10 0; F. A. Carlton Smith, Esq. 5 0; Mrs. Rhoda M. Carlton-Smith 5 0; Miss M. Haslett 5 0; Miss J. Macdonald 5 0; Mrs. Vatcher 5 0; Mrs. Woodworth 5 0; Madame Marie Armstrong 2 6; Miss M. Bales 2 6; Miss E. J. Coning 2 6; Miss E. C. Hargrove 2 6; Miss M. Murray 2 6; Miss C. E. Price 2 6; Mrs. M. Wonfer 2 6; Miss M. Plowsmith 2 0; Mrs. Swiney 2 0; Mrs. Bavin 1 0; Miss A. L. Bobby 1 0; Miss F. Bridges 1 0; Mrs. L. Harrison 1 0; Mrs. J. Holford 1 0; Mrs. M. E. Roberts 1 0; Miss L. Smith 1 0; Miss H. Symons 1 0; Mrs. E. Wright 1 0; Miss K. M. Wright 1 0; Collections 4 16 0. Total £2,048 0 6.

Table listing contributions for 1914: Additional Organisers Fund—Per Miss Eunice Murray—"Anon." 25 0 0; Mrs. Murray 7 0 0; D. M. 5 0 0; Miss Sylvia Murray 2 0 0; Mrs. McIntyre 1 0 0; Mrs. Westen 1 0 0; Mrs. Johnston 1 0 0; Miss E. M. Gore Browne 6 0 0; Miss H. Fryer 2 2 0; Mrs. John Russell 2 2 0; Miss M. L. Neal 1 1 0; Miss A. Sherwood 1 0 0; Miss E. J. Sherwood 1 0 0; Miss S. G. Barnet 10 0; Dr. E. G. Briscoe Owen 5 0; Mrs. Graves 5 0; Miss M. Rawlings 5 0; The Misses Sprentall 5 0.

Table listing contributions: Miss E. F. Staley 5 0; Mrs. B. Gilbert 2 6; Mrs. Tritton 2 6; Miss A. Underwood 2 6; Mrs. F. G. Richards 1 0. Total £ 57 8 6.

Political and Militant Fund—Mrs. Fulton 0 10 0; The League's Christmas Present—Goods Sold at Office 1 15 4; Christmas Competition—Per Miss Clark 41 2 0.

Table listing contributions: "To Fight Injustice" 30 0 0; Miss K. A. Raleigh 3 3 0; Mrs. Fisher 2 16 9; "F." (towards Bournemouth Expenses) 2 5 0; Miss Mary Anderson 2 2 0; Miss J. Reckitt 2 2 0; Miss A. Stewart 2 1 0; Mrs. Schofield Coates 1 19 9; Mrs. E. L. Forrester Brown 1 1 0; Mrs. H. M. Nidd 1 1 0; J. Y. Kennedy, Esq. 1 0 0; Mrs. Tippett 14 0; Mrs. Huntsman 12 6; Miss Hetty Cowen 10 0; Mrs. Rider 10 0; Miss M. I. Saunders 10 0; Mrs. E. I. Taylor, B.A. 10 0; Miss Woodward 10 0; Mrs. Walter Carey 5 0; Captain Walter Carey, R.N. 5 0; Miss C. E. Lawson 5 0; Per Dr. Patch 5 0; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Thompson 5 0; Mrs. John Russell (Sale of Lavender) 4 0; "Anon." per Miss Andrews 3 0; Mrs. Robinson 3 0; Miss E. D. Bertram 2 6; Miss Booth Scott 2 6; Miss S. M. Davies 2 6; Mrs. Fulton (Homerton Campaign) 2 6; Miss M. Hickman 2 6; Miss Knight 2 6; Mrs. Tritton 2 6; Mrs. Abney 2 0; Miss D. Bellows 2 0; Miss M. Buddle 2 0; Miss Ethel Clarke 2 0; Miss F. Hodges 2 0; Miss Wardell 2 0; Mrs. Lillian Ball 1 0; Dr. Mary Booth 1 0; Miss E. Campbell 1 0; Mrs. M. E. Dunsford 1 0; Mrs. Fletcher 1 0; Miss G. M. Great Rex 1 0; Miss D. Harvey-Smith 1 0; Miss V. Harvey-Smith 1 0; Miss A. Hight 1 0; Miss Ada Kent 1 0; Mrs. Nicholls 1 0; Miss Gwen Nicholls 1 0; Mrs. Pigott 1 0; P. Pigott, Esq. 1 0; Miss A. Rowell 1 0; Collections 4 0; Office Sales 1 9; Branches—Finchley 3 7 6; Capitation Fees—Broxburn 10 0; Brynmawr 13 6; Hampstead 14 0; Ipswich 11 0; Kensington 6 0; Letchworth 7 6; Lochgelly 6 0; Northern Heights 1 4 0; West Hampstead 7 0. Total £166 15 7.

Cheques to be made payable to Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South Western Bank, Ltd."

N. U. T. CONFERENCE.

Since announcing a meeting in Lowestoft for Tuesday, April 14, we have heard from many sources that we must not clash with an important function in connection with the conference that is being held that evening. In consequence, the meeting will be transferred to Thursday, April 16, at eight, in the St. Aubyn's Hall, South Lowestoft. It is up to all Freedom Leaguers to help in making this campaign a great success!

M. KATHARINE TROTT.

IN REGENT'S PARK.

There was the accustomed atmosphere of goodwill and sympathy in Regent's Park last Sunday morning when the W.F.L. held a most successful meeting, presided over by Mrs. Hyde, and addressed by Mrs. Tippett. The keen and practical interest taken by men in the Regent's Park audiences is a most encouraging feature of the gatherings, which are welcomed as a special interest in the park.

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THORNTON HEATH PARLIAMENT.

To Mrs. Pyart's initiative and energy we owe a most successful night last Friday at the Thornton Heath Parliament, when Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Mabel Smith (of the National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage) were called to the Bar of the House to state the case for and against the following resolution:—

"That this House provide for the true representation of the People by granting Votes to Women without delay." Each speaker was allowed twenty-five minutes, and the debate and voting was confined to members only, who maintained a very high level of debate throughout the proceedings.

MISS NINA BOYLE stated that women were asking for equal political rights with men. Representation was the basis of our Constitution; so far back as Edward I. the principle was cited that what touches all should be approved by all. She traced the history of representative government in England, declared that the vote was now a perquisite of sex and that women were out to abolish men's monopoly in the Parliamentary vote. In asking for a share in the government of their country, women were asking for nothing new, but for the restitution of their old rights. As peeresses, landed-property owners, freeholders and burgesses women previously had a voice in the affairs of their nation, but that right had been filched from them. As Sidney Smith said in 1810:—"The enfranchisement of women is the law of the land, not the law but the lawyers keep women from their rights." That was still true. Lawyers decided that women were "people" and "persons" when payment or penalty was exacted, but they were neither when privilege was to be allotted. If representative government was good, the more representative we made that government the better. The vote was a weapon of defence, and when armed with that weapon women would receive better consideration for their grievances than was at present the case.

MISS MABEL SMITH contended that the vote was not what women needed, although some women thought they wanted it. She knew that the world was not an entirely perfect place, but she was not convinced that this was due to the votelessness of women. Women were not a class by themselves; they were in all classes and whenever the men of a class had benefited the women of that class had also benefited. It was nonsense for Suffragists to say that men were tyrants; tyrants could be of both sexes. From her own experience she claimed that just as women were infinitely superior domestically to men, so were men infinitely superior politically to women. Evidence was dead against women having no influence in the country. The Orange women had seen Mr. McKenna and had their grievance redressed; women had influenced the Factory Acts, laundry



legislation, and the case of the barmaids' clause in the Licensing Bill. It was easy to find fault with men's legislation, easier than to know the right way to put things right. Had women used the powers they had on the various Councils, many complaints which Suffragists were now making would have been remedied. Miss Smith declared that economically and ethically it would be a bad thing to give votes to women; economically because we were a commercial nation and to have women voting in the community would not add to commercial confidence in us as a nation, we should be at a grave discount in comparison with other nations; ethically, because if we are to hold our place among the nations what we need first are manly men and womanly women; there must be no fusion but perfection of type. Women were the makers of men and they must insist on having the right kind of men. "It would be better," said Miss Smith, "for us, for men, and for the people who come after us, to let the voting power remain where it now is."

Various members of this Parliament entered into the debate on this question. The MEMBER FOR DARTFORD supported the resolution and expressed surprise that women who felt the injustice of their political inequality with men had remained quiescent so long, especially when they had seen so many grievances of men remedied. As a Liberal, it was a matter of dissatisfaction to him to know that nearly half his countrymen had not the Parliamentary vote; but it was a far greater dissatisfaction to him to know that the whole of his countrywomen were disfranchised.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION complimented both speakers on the way in which they had stated their case. But Miss Boyle had not convinced him that votes for women would be beneficial. After all, the number of women who paid taxes was small in comparison with the number of men who paid them. Women's position in this country was second to none anywhere; the laws were more favourable to women than to men. The women of this country had very much to be thankful for to men, and he agreed with the Prime Minister that to grant votes to women would be a menace to the community.

The MEMBER FOR STIRLING BURGHs contended that the fact that women were now demanding their political or franchise was a proof that we were getting out of the Dark Ages. Woman refused to be considered as a domestic animal any longer, and he applauded the assertion of her right to become a valued individual. The so-called "womanly" women had failed as mothers (loud cries of dissent). "Yes, you are all failures, political failures; your political system is bankrupt. Let us call in at once the last reserve—the women—and see if we cannot together evolve something more human and reasonable in the affairs of our Government."

The LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY agreed that men were dependent in their early days on women, and on that basis he objected to votes for women. The home was the basis of the State. Both sexes had a duty to the State. Women had duties to their homes and children; men were more fitted

for public duties. The duties of the home brought out what was best in women; if they interfered with the affairs of State, which were more peculiarly men's sphere, things would be less well done, we should have a less efficient race, and the whole would be dark and gloomy. During the last seventy years men had made wonderful progress, and in the things that men had gained women had had more than their equal share. Women could never do the same work as men. The vote would not help women to get equal pay with men, at any rate it had not done so in Australia, where women had the vote and where the salaries of women teachers were on a lower scale than the salaries of men teachers.

The MEMBER FOR NORTH SALFORD (British Constitutional Democrat) wholeheartedly supported the resolution. He urged men to be serious about this matter. There were two million women workers whose earnings were less than 12s. a week; and three hundred thousand women were receiving less than 6s. a week. Was that what the Liberal leader called progress? He reminded the House of the saying of an ancient prophet, "In the country where woman is dishonoured it is useless to pray to God!"

The CONSERVATIVE MEMBER FOR WIMBLEDON said that we were living in an evolutionary age, and that the state of a country could be gauged by the treatment its women received. He ridiculed the idea that logic was a monopoly of men, and as for the argument that women were physically weaker than men, he pertinently asked how many of the men present would pass the doctor if they wanted to go into the Army? Women had mind, and Madame Curie had proved that a woman could be a benefactress to her race. A monument had been erected to Boadicea nearly 2,000 years after her death, because she had fought against a foreign foe. Joan of Arc, Florence Nightingale, and Mrs. Fawcett had earned a world-wide reputation. This member also touched on the evils of the White Slave Traffic, and affirmed his whole-hearted support for a measure for the enfranchisement of women.

The PRIME MINISTER disagreed with Miss Smith in her assertion that the British Constitution was a nicely adjusted fabric and considered that her arguments against women's political enfranchisement were a quarter of a century behind the times. "You can't kill the woman's question," he said, "The woman's question has got to be faced by the country." The vote was the rallying point, the standard of revolt amongst women of all nations. All movements had been forced through by minorities, the idea had been originated by a minority of one. Women and men as adults ought to be called into the councils of the nation, and both should share in the work of our Government.

A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Boyle and Miss Smith by the Speaker. A division was taken, and the resolution was passed by 47 votes to 26.

Copies of THE VOTE were in great demand, and Mrs. Pyart sold four dozen single-handed.

### BRANCH NOTES.

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

**LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Bowes Park.**

A business meeting was held at 67, Grovelands-road, Palmer's Green, on January 12. Future work was discussed, and it was decided to hold a public meeting on March 23, at which it is hoped Mrs. Despard will be present. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 26, at 7.30 p.m., at 8, The Lodge Drive, Palmer's Green. A paper will be read by a member. The meeting is open to friends, who are cordially invited.

**East London.**

Will all who are able to help by giving refreshments or lending cards for our forthcoming whist drive please communicate with Miss Nixon, Glencoe, Queen's-road, Loughton? Orders for home-made marmalade should be sent in soon.

**Mid-London.**

Will all members make a special effort to be present at our meeting at Headquarters on January 23, at 7.30 p.m.? If unable to come, will those who have resolutions to propose post them to the hon. secretary at Headquarters, and if seconded by a member present they will be put to the meeting.

**PROVINCES.—Bournemouth.**

The W.F.L. flag is flying in all directions in Bournemouth and district. Addressing a meeting of shop assistants in Boscombe last Monday evening, Miss Read urged upon all the women present the necessity of joining the Woman's Movement to strengthen the forces at work to obtain the Franchise. Sunday evening our organiser visited the Bournemouth Branch of the I.L.P., and explained the W.F.L. policy. After her speech an interesting discussion took place, in which Miss Read was reminded that the W.F.L. had the honour of being the first in the field to send to their Branch a woman speaker. The majority of the audience were men, and the persuasive powers of Mrs. Hume were successful in obtaining recruits for the Men's League. We wish this League success, and hope they will make good use of the new members, which the W.F.L. has brought into their ranks.

**Burnage.**

Our members met last week at 31, South-avenue, and after the business had been dealt with Miss Radford read some chapters from Frances Swiney's book, "The Awakening Woman," to the delight of

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Cotton Bedspreads.**  
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Pillow Cases.**  
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20 by 30 ins. 1/11½ ea. 2/9½  
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42 inches wide,  
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all. A very interesting discussion followed. We hope to have Miss Andrews with us next week, and expect also to enrol many new members.

**Chester.—Suffrage Shop: 45, St. Werburgh-street.**

We record with great regret the resignation of our splendid and energetic secretary, Miss Woodall, who has borne the heat and burden of the day in Suffrage matters. When she first came to Chester, between five and six years ago, there was no Suffrage Society and only one member—Miss Nellie Smith, who is now in Australia. Together they worked and formed a Branch which has now become strong, entirely through their united efforts in those early days, when much patience and persevering zeal were required. Now in Chester we have four societies. We are glad to say it is only through increased work and responsibility in her profession that Miss Woodall is obliged to give up her secretaryship, and only then after very careful consideration. However, she will still remain an enthusiastic member and be able to assist all of us. We wish her every success in her future career. We have pleasure in announcing that Mrs. du Plorgny, who is secretary for the Women's Work Exchange started in connection with the Shop, has very kindly consented to become also Branch secretary for three months at least. All communications to be sent to the above address.

**Ipswich.**

On January 15, Miss F. Vulliamy gave a most interesting lecture on "The Position of Women in China." She spoke of their degraded position in the past and their ill-treatment under the Manchus. Now, under the Republic, the women were in a better position; they showed great quickness in learning and a passionate desire for service and reform. Recently a man had been sent to prison for bigamy through the influence of the women, such an event never having been known before. Miss Vulliamy brought many most interesting curios to illustrate her lecture, and was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

**Middlesbrough.**

A business meeting was held in the Café on January 12, at which Miss Dewhurst presided. The members present sent a message to Miss Dorothy Pounder, whose services have helped to make our "At Homes" so popular, wishing her every success in her studies at the London College of Dramatic Art. Members are reminded that we are holding our monthly "At Home" in the Café on January 26, when the Rev. T. C. Gobat, of Darlington, an ardent worker in the Cause of social reform, will speak on "The Ethics of Woman Suffrage." We hope that there will be a record attendance to welcome him on his first visit to our Branch.

**Portsmouth and Gosport.**

Miss Phillips read an admirable paper on "The Position of Women in Commerce" at our Branch meeting on January 13. She laid great stress on the need for equal pay for equal work. A heated discussion followed. Members are asked to make Miss Boyle's meetings widely known—January 27, afternoon, 3 to 4.30, at 64, Devonshire-avenue; evening, Lower Albert Hall, 8 p.m. January 28, dinner-hour meeting, Dockyard Gates (Unicorn).

**SCOTLAND.—Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road.**

Our first meeting for 1914 took the form of an "At Home," at which Mrs. Murray (Cardross) read a most interesting account of a yachting tour in the Western Hebrides. Mrs. Murray's descriptions of the isles and their people are such as can only be given by one who has felt "the glamour of the Western Seas," and knownland loved them well, while her keen appreciation of the humours of the cruise added greatly to the enjoyment of the audience. A brief but graphic account was given of the adventures of "Bonnie Prince Charlie," and of the heroic part played by Flora McDonald, a number of Jacobite songs were sung to illustrate this part of the paper. We are glad to be able to announce that Dr. Aimée Gibbs has agreed to give a series of Tuesday afternoon lectures, beginning in February, the subject being "Healthy Homes and a Healthy Race." We have to acknowledge a generous donation of £2 from Mr. Robert Mitchell, who desires that copies of Miss Eunice Murray's two excellent pamphlets shall be sent to teachers. Now that holidays are over, Miss Ireland hopes to have more volunteers for VOTE selling in the streets and at all public meetings.

**Lochgelly.**

Since the Christmas holidays Miss Ada Broughton has been working in the new branch at Lochgelly, and has devoted considerable time to systematic visitation among sympathisers. She found an exceedingly friendly spirit, and new members were gained through the visits. On January 7, through the kindness of Mrs. Ness, members met at her house; plans for future work were discussed. To raise funds a social was arranged, which took place on January 13 in the Co-operative Hall. It proved a splendid success; the hall was crowded, and many gentlemen were present. An excellent programme was given by local artistes, including Mrs. Small, Miss Margaret Morris, Mr. Peter Morris, Miss McConnell, Miss Ewing, Mr. David Kerr, Mrs. Lochhart, Miss Jean McCallum, of Duntermline, and Miss Kennedy. Miss Broughton spoke briefly on aims of the W.F.L., and new members joined in response to her appeal. Refreshments were generously provided by members, and a clear profit of £2 was realised as a result of the most enjoyable evening.

**Mid-Caldar.**

At our Branch meeting on January 12, a very interesting and instructive paper was read by Miss McLaren, of Edinburgh, on "The Puristy of the Child." The appalling facts she gave made a great impression on the audience, and all joined in the discussion which followed. Mrs. Small presided, and expressed the hope that Miss McLaren would visit us again.

**OTHER SOCIETIES.**

**The Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage.**

A meeting was held by the Northern Men's Federation last Sunday afternoon at the Mound, Edinburgh. Mr. Shaw presided over a large audience. Mr. Brunton referred to the prominent part many of the leaders in the Suffrage movement had taken in helping social reform, and instanced the action of the Suffrage women, notably Mrs. Despard,

(Continued on page 223.)

Chapter 8

## What Some Folks

call clean, others don't.

The particular woman wants her clothes  
"a nice colour."

That's why particular women like Fels-  
Naptha.

It not only takes out the dirt and stains,  
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It's a new way of washing clothes  
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Seems strange, but so did matches at first.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

**Fri., Jan. 23.**—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., Mid-London Branch Meeting, 7.30. Business: Resolutions for Conference.

**Sat., Jan. 24.**—Tolmers-square Institute, Drummond-street, N.W. London Branches Council Jumble Sale, 3 p.m.

**Sun., Jan. 25.**—REGENT'S PARK (weather permitting), noon. Mrs Hyde and others.

**Mon., Jan. 26.**—BOWES PARK, Open Meeting, at 8, The Lodge-drive, Palmers Green, 7.30 p.m. Paper by member. CATFORD, 14, Kingstead-road, Drawing-room Meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Knight), 8 p.m.

*Speaker:* Mrs. Tanner. Friends invited.

**Wed., Jan. 28.**—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m., Sur.-Gen. Evatt, C.B.: "The Life and Work of Florence Nightingale." *Chair:* Mrs. Tanner. Admission free.

**Fri., Jan. 30.**—CROYDON W.F.L. OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. Tanner.

**Mon., Feb. 2.**—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Discussion Meeting, 8 p.m., to be opened by Mrs. Nevinson. Subject: "That men having sole political power are to blame for the present muddle of Society."

**Tues., Feb. 3.**—CLAPHAM, 37, Honeybrook-road, Clapham Park, Branch Committee Meeting, 8 p.m.

**Wed., Feb. 4.**—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30. Mrs. Nott Bower: "Reforms urgently needed in Criminal Law."

**Thurs., Feb. 5.**—CAMDEN ATHENAEUM, Camden-road, N., 8 p.m., Public Meeting.

**Fri., Feb. 6.**—HIGHGATE, Drawing-room Meeting. Mrs. Despard.

**Sat., Feb. 7.**—CAXTON HALL, Tango Practice Class, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., under the auspices of the London Branches Council. Tickets, 2s. (including tea) from Mrs. Huntsman, W.F.L. Office.

**Mon., Feb. 9.**—KENSINGTON, 6, Argyle-road. Drawing-room Meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Brend), 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Boyle. CATFORD, Drawing-room Meeting, 8 p.m. Miss Anna Munro.

**Wed., Feb. 11.**—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Mr. John Scurr on "Go Home and Mind the Baby." CAXTON HALL, Political Meeting, 8 p.m. W.F.L. Speakers and others.

**Fri., Feb. 13.**—CROYDON W.F.L. OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade, Public Meeting, 3.30.

**Mon., Feb. 16.**—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi. Discussion Meeting, 8 p.m., to be opened by Miss Hodge. Subject, "The General Effect of the Women's Vote in Australia and New Zealand."

**Tues., Feb. 17.**—CLAPHAM, 1, Imperial-mansions, Bromells-road, Clapham, Branch General Meeting, 8 p.m.

**Wed., Feb. 18.**—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. The Rev. Moritz Weston, D.D., on "Christianity and Mary Magdalene."

**Wed., Feb. 25.**—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. M. Cunningham: "The Race-Bearers and the Falling Birth-rate in France."

**Fri., Feb. 27.**—CROYDON W.F.L. OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade, Meeting, 3.30 p.m.

**Mon., March 2.**—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, Discussion Meeting. *Opener:* Dr. C. V. Drysdale. Subject: "The Population Question and Women's Suffrage." 8 p.m.

**Tues., March 3.**—CRIPPLEGATE INSTITUTE, Performance of *Madame Marcella*, by Miss C. Maud, and *Courage* (a Dutch play), by K. H. (evening).

**Tues., March 24.**—CRIPPLEGATE INSTITUTE, Performance of *Hawaitha* (afternoon).

### PROVINCES.

**Mon., Jan. 26.**—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 7.30 p.m., "At Home." Rev. T. C. Gobat (Darlington): "Ethics of Woman's Suffrage." Vocalist, Miss Ruth Dawson. Burnage, Garden Village, Branch Meeting. *Speaker:* Miss Andrews.

**Tues., Jan. 27.**—Southsea, 64, Devonshire-avenue, Reception to Miss Boyle, 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. *Hostess:* Mrs. Whetton. Portsmouth, Lower Albert Hall, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. *Speakers:* Rev. G. W. Thompson and Miss Nina Boyle. *Chair:* Mrs. Whetton. Liverpool, Girtonville College Hall, Social Evening. *Speaker:* Miss Andrews.

**Wed., Jan. 28.**—Portsmouth, Dockyard Gates, Dinner-hour Meeting. *Speaker:* Miss Nina Boyle. Southampton, Morris Hall, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speakers:* Miss Nina Boyle and Mr. Laurence Housman. *Chair:* Mrs. Rothwell.

**Thurs., Jan. 29.**—Winchester, Masonic Hall, Parchment-street, Public Meeting, evening. *Speaker:* Miss Nina Boyle. *Chair:* Mr. Grove Jones.

**Fri., Jan. 30.**—Bournemouth, St. Peter's Hall, Hinton-road, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. Mr. Laurence Housman and Miss Nina Boyle. *Chair:* Miss Underwood.

**Mon., Feb. 2.**—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m. Business Meeting. Ipswich, St. Laurence's Hall, Green, Gold, and White Fête. Opening Ceremony by Miss Nina Boyle, 3 p.m. Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speakers:* Miss Boyle and Mrs. Tippet. Dramatic entertainments, Cake and Candy and Work Stalls. Burnage, Garden Village, Branch Meeting.

**Mon., Feb. 9.**—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Alice Dewhurst. Subject: "Child Study." Burnage, Garden Village, Branch Meeting.

**Mon., Feb. 16.**—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Mr. Kelsall. Subject, "Anomalies of Present System."

**Thurs., Feb. 19.**—Chester, Brown and Co.'s Sale Room, St. John-street, 8 p.m., Meeting. *Speaker:* Mr. John Morris. Subject, "Why Men Should Support Women's Suffrage."

**Mon., Feb. 23.**—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 7.30 p.m., "At Home." *Speaker:* Miss Winifred Jones. Subject, "Things That Count."

**Tues., Mar. 3.**—Chester, Crane House, Drawing-room Meeting, 3 p.m. *Hostess:* Mrs. Crosland Taylor. *Speaker:* Miss Eunice Murray.

**Fri., Mar. 6.**—Chester, Masonic Hall, Hunter-street, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speakers:* Mrs. Despard and Miss Eunice Murray.

### SCOTLAND.

**Wed., Jan. 28.**—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 8 p.m. Dr. Aimée Gibbs, "The State and Venereal Disease." 9.30 Members' Meeting.

### OTHER SOCIETIES.

**Tues., Feb. 3.**—WOOLWICH L.R.A. 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.

**Sun., Feb. 8.**—KINGSTON HUMANITARIAN SOCIETY, 7 p.m., Miss Munro.

**Tues., Feb. 17.**—WEST ESSEX WOMEN'S FRANCHISE SOCIETY, Buckhurst-hill Hall, 8 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle, W.F.L.

**Tues., Mar. 17.**—NATIONAL UNION OF CLERKS, Brixton Branch Meeting, at Trade Union Hall, 30, Brixton-road, S.W., 8.45. *Speaker:* Mrs. Tanner.

**Tues., Mar. 24.**—THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York-street, St. James's, S.W., 8.30. Miss Boyle (W.F.L.) on "Some Reform Bills."

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### On Thursday Evenings in February:

Feb. 5th, at 8.15 p.m.—"Sex and Social Evolution."

" 12th, at 8.15 p.m.—"Psychological Aspects of the Struggle for the Franchise."

" 19th, at 8.15 p.m.—"The Genesis of the New Woman."

" 26th, at 8.15 p.m.—"Feminist Politics and the State."

TICKETS, 1/-, 2/6 and 5/-. To be obtained at the Box-office, Queen's Hall, or the International Suffrage Shop, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C., or by letter containing remittance from Miss Schartau, 170, Piccadilly, W.

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### OTHER SOCIETIES (Continued from page 221).

who assisted to raise a fund to buy new boots for the "Black Country Marchers." Mr. Colbron, ex-councillor of Kelso, maintained that this country was behind the times, and referred to the fact that California had passed sixteen Bills dealing with social reform since the women secured the vote. White Slave traffic existing to our shame in this country, would receive a blow from which it would never recover, once the women were enfranchised. He had determined not to vote for any party—Liberal, Conservative, or Labour—which did not promise a Government Measure for Woman's Suffrage. Councillor Crawford spoke of the Convention of the Federation to be held in London on February 14, and new member responded to his appeal to the men present to come into the Federation.

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

At an entertainment kindly arranged by the Actresses' Franchise League, and given at the "Union of the Four Provinces Club," 16, John-street, Adelphi, Strand, among many interesting items was a duologue from Olive Schreiner's "Life on a South African Farm," by Miss Inez Bensusan and Mr. Geoffrey Goodhart. Miss Iris Rowe contributed two graceful dances, and in the interval Miss Frances Weste, of the Japanese School of Jujitsu, 31, Golden-square, Regent street, W., assisted by Professors Garrud and Pape, gave a fine demonstration of her art, showing how easy it is for a woman with knowledge of this effective means of self-defence to render her assailant powerless. Miss Weste will be pleased to give a few trial lessons free to any woman who desires to prove the value of jujitsu, if she makes an appointment at 31, Golden-square.

### Women's Tax Resistance League.

Dr. Heanley was summoned at the East Ham Police-court, on January 15, for non-payment of the insurance tax for her servant. Dr. Heanley explained that her objection to paying was due to the fact that she, as a voteless woman, had no voice in the government of the country. The magistrate was sympathetic, and admitted that though he might have reasons against paying taxes, they would not be so weighty as hers! In addition to the arrears, a fine of £1 and costs 10s. was imposed. A very sympathetic audience listened at an open-air meeting addressed afterwards by Miss Margaret Douglas and Miss Amy Hicks. An account of the Insurance Act Debate arranged by the League will be found on page 217.

### EDINBURGH PRESBYTERY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND AND VOTES FOR WOMEN.

After some discussion of a lively kind on the question of Votes for Women, the Presbytery of Edinburgh decided to receive a deputation from the Men's Northern Federation of Women's Suffrage and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, to ask the Presbytery to petition the general assembly of the Church of Scotland to declare itself in favour of Woman Suffrage. The anti-suffragists had addressed a letter to all ministers, in which they deprecated the action of the Glasgow Presbytery, which had a short time previously passed a resolution in favour of Woman Suffrage, and they earnestly begged the Edinburgh ministers to refrain from taking part in a political controversy. The Rev. Dr. Burns moved that the Presbytery should not interfere in the question, which he thought was one entirely beyond their scope, being a highly controversial matter, and one upon which many men and women in the Church were divided. So though outside of the Presbytery Court he was a strong supporter of Woman Suffrage, he begged them as a body to oppose the reception of a deputation. Professor W. P. Paterson said he wished to move an amendment, and should do so if he stood alone, his motion was that the deputation be received. Dr. Burns, he said, had raised an objection which was often heard in these degenerate days, that the Church should have nothing whatever to do with anything that bordered on politics. Shades of John Knox! Why, even Dr. Burns, he understood, was chairman of the Knox Club, he mentioned this as showing the contradictions which could dwell in the same capable and acute mind. The fact of the matter was that the argument that the Church was not to touch political questions was clutched at only when they did not happen to like the political question at issue; they did not care a snap of the fingers if the matter happened to be the other way. Could they really separate political from moral and religious questions? he asked. The whole history of Scotland was evidence that the separation was impossible in principle. He moved that the deputation be accorded a hearing. The Rev. Gavin Lang Pagan said the difficulty of the woman's suffrage question was to get away from it. It was being introduced into every corner of their life, public and private, and to-day it was more discussed than any other question. People were forced to think about it whether they wished to do so or not. Finally the Presbytery agreed by thirty-two votes against twenty-five to Professor Paterson's motion that the women's suffrage deputation be received.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

The Presbytery of Irvine, after a lengthy discussion on a letter sent from the Northern Men's Federation for Woman Suffrage, carried by 12 votes to 4 a motion of "hearty sympathy with the desire of women for their political rights." The Rev. H. Ranken said it was a matter of justice, and he did not know that justice was a political question.

A REPORT from France states that an important amendment has been added to the Bill providing for the trial of youthful offenders. Those under thirteen have been removed from the jurisdiction of the public law courts. The Senate has voted almost unanimously that women shall be eligible for the duty of holding the preliminary inquiry and reporting to the courts



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We accept Announcements of Suffrage and kindred Meetings for this Column at the rate per single insertion of 2s. for 24 words *id.* every additional word; four insertions at the price of three. All Announcements must be Prepaid, and, to ensure insertion, should reach the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, VOTE Office, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi London, by the *First Post on Tuesday Morning*

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### LITERARY.

**HAVE YOU READ?—"LIBERAL CANT,"** by EUNICE MURRAY, *Id.* "PREJUDICES OLD AND NEW," by EUNICE MURRAY, *Id.* "WHAT IS WOMANLY?" by LAURENCE HOUSMAN, *Id.* If not, send to the LITERATURE DEPARTMENT, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

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