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THE VOTE,
March 13, 1914.
ONE PENNY.

WILL HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF?

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1914.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

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.

THE OFFICIAL LIE.

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Will History Repeat Itself?

The Prime Minister has capitulated to militancy. Men will not be bullied, women are told, when they insist in keeping their Cause to the front and pressing it upon politicians in season and out of season. We do not admit that it is ever "out of season" to demand justice. But, as Mr. Lansbury said at our political meeting last Friday evening, it is Sir Edward Carson with his army who has successfully bullied the Government into yielding, and "for the sake of peace" suggesting that Ulster may vote itself out of the Home Rule Bill for six years, and stay out afterwards if the Imperial Parliament consents. It is militancy triumphant. Noble lords and less noble commons who hold up hands of horror at militant women are prepared to become law-breakers and violent militants to prevent Ireland from governing itself. They are ready to take any action that may seem desirable, in resistance to law which they do not approve. Lord Roberts says the army cannot be depended upon to keep law and order; indeed, it will only obey orders when it suits it. This is no longer passive but active resistance, and as determined law-breakers we are surely in good company!

The long-expected statement of the Prime Minister in the House of Commons last Monday on concessions to Ulster and the way in which it was received by the various political leaders makes significant reading for suffragists. One point specially interests us; it was emphasised by Mr. William O'Brien. "If the Bill is to be recast along the Prime Minister's lines to-night," he said, "it will be a new Bill from top to bottom as to every vital principle of it." The words sound strangely familiar! If a Home Rule Bill for Ireland changes its vital character by becoming a Home Rule Bill for part of Ireland, will the Speaker intervene and the Government withdraw it? Mr. Bonar Law, who asked the apparently innocent question as to whether, if women were included in a Franchise Bill, something new would be introduced which would vitally change its character, and obtained the Speaker's famous ruling that it would, did not find an insuperable objection of that kind in the "vital change" in the Home Rule Bill of leaving Ulster out; he only declared that there was nothing for his Party to do but to support Ulster's resistance in refusing to be "unjustly oppressed"—till after a General Election. It did not matter in January, 1913, that women, long "unjustly oppressed" and denied justice, were urged to go on quietly working and patiently waiting for chivalrous men to consider at some future and convenient time their claims for citizenship. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's speech is an interesting study; he, who protests so strongly against women's militancy, foresees the Labour Party becoming militant if Ulster appeals to arms and the Tory Party encourage law-breaking in trying to undo "the decision of a majority of the House of Commons."

An Argument for Men.

The Prime Minister's peroration, however, is a fine example of the sentiments of politicians where men are concerned. He talked in grandiose fashion of "the corporate sense of common interests and responsibilities," of "the union of law and liberty," of the "sacrifice of prejudice and prepossession," even of "aims and ideals for the paramount good of the whole." His concluding sentences ran thus:—

If we have been as a nation, as we may claim without boasting to have been, the pioneers in the world of popular government, it is because our people, keen, tenacious, combatant, self-reliant, learned in the stress of controversies, the most acute and apparently the most irreconcilable, to respect one another and to renounce the falsehood of extremes. This is a testing case. The best traditions of our past, no less than the undisclosed and fateful issues of the future, appeal to us to-day with imperious accents to pursue, if we can, the way of unity and peace.

"Unity and peace" with Ireland because a hundred thousand men are militant. Then let these fine senti-

ments be applied to women; let the Government make "unity and peace" with them "for the paramount good of the whole"!

Men Only.

Another electoral Bill is being promoted for the benefit of men. Soldiers are to be given "facilities" for voting in places where, owing to a change of garrison, they have not resided long enough to vote, but have left a previous station before an election arrived. Time, of course, will be found for this as for the Plural Voting Bill. Anything to bribe the existing electorate to vote for the Government will have time provided for it; and men will go on squeezing out of Government after Government more and more for themselves and their own advantage, while women are bidden to go on waiting, to be patient. This is a process vulgarly known as "greasing the fag pig's tail"; and will add resentment and energy to the women's movement.

We Told You So.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has had to admit that though the Insurance Act is working within the actuarial estimates so far as men are concerned, the excess of illness among women was "giving concern." We could have told, and did tell, him so from the first. It was patent to the meanest intelligence that to deal with women's work and women's ailments wholesale, without consulting women doctors, nurses, organised women, hospitals for women, or any authorities whatever on the subject; or going into figures whatsoever that would throw real—not biased—information on the subject of the burden of unnecessary ill-health working women groan under, would be childishly futile, and was bound to recoil on the head of the author of this unfair, ill-digested piece of legislation. We are delighted the women's estimates are giving trouble; the working woman is showing a fine spirit in not bearing her burden meekly, as is always expected of her; but in coming down on the callous, neglectful State that for so long has ignored her very existence, with a rousing claim for damages and arrears. The sweated woman finds it pays her just as well to be out of work ill as toiling on bad wages and worse food. The victim of an immoral husband makes "thumping demands" upon that husband's "approved society"; the wickedness of its dealings with women is coming home with a vengeance to the State that has connived at and acquiesced in the misery of women. Any inquiry into the failure of the Act, as applied to women, will reveal the dreadful conditions of women from overwork, underfeeding, improper maternity and contagious disease; and high time too!

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

Rubber Pads. Round rubber stamps, one inch in diameter with the wording, "Votes for Women, Women's Freedom League," may be had, neatly packed in a leather board box containing an ink-pad, for 1s. 6d., post free 1s. 8d.

Larger Rubber Stamp. 2 inches by ¾ inch, also packed in box, containing tube of ink and brush, may be had for 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 8d. The pads will be found most useful, and will last a long time before fresh ink is needed.

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WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—6146 CITY.
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Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
International Department—Mrs. HARVEY, 4, Cleveland Gardens, Ealing, London, W. [Kindly note change of address.
VOTE Street Sales Organiser—Miss P. LEAHY.

AT HEADQUARTERS.

Discussion Meeting.—Monday evening, March 16, at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, Mr. E. B. Lloyd will speak on "Who are the White Slave Traffickers?" to be followed by a discussion in which members of the audience are cordially invited to join. All who heard Mr. Lloyd's address on a kindred subject a few months ago will be glad of this opportunity of listening to him again, and those who were not then present would be well advised to come next Monday evening. The chair will be taken promptly at eight o'clock.

Caxton Hall Meetings.—We regret to state that Miss Margaret Macmillan, owing to illness, will not be able to keep her engagement with us next Wednesday afternoon, but we have been able to secure Mrs. George Baxter, of the Authors' Producing Society, to speak for us on "The Stage as a Moral Education." As our readers will remember, the Authors' Producing Society was responsible for the recent presentation of "Damaged Goods" at The Little Theatre, and Mrs. Baxter will probably have a good deal to say about Brioux's Plays. Miss Nina Boyle will also speak, and the chair will be taken at 3.30.

The following Wednesday we shall have the pleasure of listening to Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., who has chosen as her subject, "The Century of the Child."

Mrs. Fisher will be pleased to meet members of the League at this office on Wednesday mornings at 11.30 who are willing to go with her to distribute handbills and in other ways to advertise our afternoon meetings.

F. A. U.

ORGANISERS' FUND—APPEAL FOR £500.

The success of the Women's Freedom League in Bethnal Green and Poplar has been continued at Leith Burghs. Leith Burghs has the advantage of being near Edinburgh, where a very strong Branch keeps up unremitting Suffrage propaganda.

With additional organisers the strength and enthusiasm of other Branches will quickly increase, new ones will appear, and all parts of the country will show similar successes.

We therefore again appeal to our members and friends to help us to complete the £500 wanted for this purpose.

E. KNIGHT.
F. A. UNDERWOOD.

"VOTE" POSTER PARADE.

A most successful VOTE Poster Parade left Headquarters at 6.30 p.m. on March 6. After visiting the theatre queues the paraders proceeded to the Caxton Hall where the Freedom League was holding a political meeting, and as we marched round the hall the audience showed their appreciation by a warm burst of applause. This is one of the best parades we have had, and THE VOTE Brigade has received hearty congratulations on its enthusiasm, a tribute being specially paid to the new members. Messrs. Bell and Whittington kindly marshalled the parade, and our sincerest thanks are tendered to Mrs. Bell for her kindness.

A "Rally" will be held to-day (Friday) at 7 p.m. Brigades are asked to be in good time as our "Captain," Mrs. Despard, has an appointment which will necessitate her early departure.
P. LEAHY.

THE OFFICIAL LIE.

First a denial and then a lie, is the usual official procedure when scandals in the administration of the law are complained of. Mr. McKenna has an unenviable reputation for lying; he is not second even to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in this doubtful accomplishment. There is the notorious case of the prisons' vans standing as the witness to his unreliability, and he has now capped that by his denial of the truth of Mrs. Harvey's statement as to her treatment in prison.

Lord Robert Cecil put the question and Mr. McKenna has given Mrs. Harvey the lie. All who know the condition in which Mrs. Harvey left Holloway, and the grave and prolonged anxiety it gave to her friends, will understand our deep indignation at the Home Secretary's effrontery. On the top of it, he has informed Miss Sidley's family that her statement about the presence of a man in the van conveying her to Holloway on February 11 is also untrue. That is another lie. The Freedom League is invariably in a position to make its statements good; and is prepared to do so, as usual; but the serious feature of conflicts such as this—between, that is to say, actual facts and official denials—is, that a callous public does not seem in the remotest degree concerned that its highest officials should be found out in such flagrant impropriety and should be utterly unashamed.

At the meeting of the Men of the North in the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, a very fine and statesman-like speech was made by Mrs. Cavendish-Bentinck. Her text was the indignant rebuke administered by Mr. Lloyd George, at the Albert Hall, to a questioner who ventured to doubt the value of Mr. Asquith's pledge to the united deputations in November, 1911. To doubt the value of this pledge involved, according to Mr. George, "an implication of such deep dishonour" that he refused to discuss it, for the Prime Minister's pledge had been made not only on his own behalf but on behalf of the Cabinet. The event proved that because of Mr. Asquith's own drafting of the Bill with the full assistance of the legal advisors to whose enormous salaries we are called upon to contribute, the Bill did not fulfil the pledge made, not only on behalf of the Prime Minister but of the whole Cabinet—a pledge whose possible failure involved an "implication of such deep dishonour" that Mr. George could not even discuss it. And Mrs. Cavendish-Bentinck asked whether the national sense of honour had fallen so low as to accept the position so plainly indicated by the Prime Minister's chief colleague.

Beyond a doubt, implications of deep dishonour have ceased to stir the nation. Beyond unreal and unproductive party recrimination, the national resentment does not reach. We have, therefore, to ask whether the nation really has no sense of honour—whether that has been slain by the party system; and whether it is the fault of the Government or the fault of the people? Has the people's slackness induced an indecent disregard of honour in Governments, or have Governments by their misconduct induced in the minds of the people a cynical lack of expectation of honour from the Government?

Whichever way it may be, the result is equally lamentable. The utter destruction of public confidence in the clean dealing or truthfulness of its most responsible servants is a loss nothing can replace. No Minister now can give a reply to any query that can be believed, and accepted as a statement of fact. Answers to questions in the House of Commons are no longer looked upon as information elicited for the benefit of the people's representatives, but as information ingeniously denied to said representatives. And recognising these startling facts with grave concern, we may be forgiven for our reserve in dealing with all information officially supplied to us. Mr. McKenna has informed Miss Sidley's family that a "regulation" has recently

been passed, making it obligatory to take the finger impressions of all prisoners who refuse sureties; but we shall treat this extraordinary statement with as little confidence as we treat the denial of Mrs. Harvey's claim to redress, until we have information from a more reliable source than the Secretary of State, who is responsible for more false information than anybody else in the State.

C. NINA BOYLE.

CONCRETE EXAMPLES.

The following letters have been received by Mr. J. W. Sidley, who wrote to the Home Office and the Prison Commissioners to know why Miss Marguerite Sidley's finger prints were taken when she was in Holloway recently, and why male prisoners were in the van in which she was conveyed to prison.

From the Home Office.

Copy.]

March 5, 1914.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 16th ultimo, I am directed by the Secretary of State to inform you that Miss Sidley's finger prints were taken under the authority of a Regulation made on September 1 last, which applied the Regulations as to the taking of finger prints to persons imprisoned for default of finding sureties.

The Secretary of State is informed by the Commissioner of Police that there were no male prisoners in the van in which Miss Sidley was taken to prison.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

(Signed) E. BLACKWELL.

J. W. Sidley, Esq.

Mr. Sidley's Reply.

Copy.]

Littlethorpe, Furze Hill, Burgh Heath,
Surrey, March 6, 1914.

Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of 5th inst., replying to mine of the 16th ult.

Will you kindly furnish me with the following information:—

1. By whom was the Regulation of September 1, 1913, made?

2. What are its exact terms?

3. Where can an authoritative copy be inspected?

With reference to the information supplied by the Commissioner of Police, I have to state it is contrary to fact. There were seven men in the van at the time it conveyed my daughter to Holloway Prison. She saw one herself through the openings in her and his doors respectively.

It is this kind of untruthful statement by the police and other public servants which has for a long time been engendering grave dissatisfaction with and distrust of the integrity of those who have executive duties to perform—a condition which does not make for the commonweal—and I strongly commend this aspect of the authorities' attitude towards the public to your most earnest consideration.

I must now call upon you to cause further inquiries to be made with reference to the Commissioner's statement, which my daughter characterises as untruthful.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

(Signed) J. W. SIDLEY.

E. Blackwell, Esq.

From the Prison Commissioners.

Copy.]

Prison Commission, Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.
March 7, 1914.

Sir,—I am desired by the Prison Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., and, in reply, to inform you that they have not considered any reply to your letter of the 16th ultimo necessary, in view of the fact that you addressed a similar letter to the Secretary of State, and received a reply to it.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

J. W. Sidley, Esq. (Signed) J. WINN, Secretary.

And Yet Again!

On Monday, March 2, in the House of Commons, Mr. Keir Hardie rose to put a question concerning the case of Mrs. Sarah Savage. The Home Secretary replied: "By some mistake, in the post or otherwise, the hon. Member's notice has not reached me. I am unable to give an answer to his question, but I will inquire into the circumstances of the case."

Mr. Keir Hardie: I gave instructions for the notice to be posted on Saturday.

Mr. McKenna: I certainly have not received it.

On Tuesday, March 3, Mr. Keir Hardie rose to repeat the question, "of which I have given private notice."

Mr. McKenna: My hon. friend is mistaken in supposing that he gave me private notice yesterday. Neither then nor since have I heard from him, nor has he repeated his private notice.

Mr. Keir Hardie: I received yesterday afternoon from one of the officials of the Home Office an acknowledgement in the name of the Home Secretary of the receipt of my question of yesterday. I think, therefore, I am entitled to some explanation of the extraordinary answer of the right hon. gentleman.

Mr. McKenna: Yes, sir, my hon. friend is certainly entitled to some explanation. As soon as I am acquainted with the facts I shall be most happy to give them to him. I inquired yesterday at the Home Office, and was told that no such letter had been received from my hon. friend. I inquired again yesterday evening and received the same answer.

POLITICAL NEWS.

Adult Suffrage: The Labour Party's Bill.

Mr. Arthur Henderson's Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to all men and women, and to amend the registration and electoral system, provides that every person not under twenty-one years of age (whether male or female, married or unmarried), who is a natural-born or naturalised British subject, and is not disqualified by any subsequent provision of the Bill, shall, subject to certain qualifications mentioned, be entitled to be registered as a voter for a Parliamentary election.

With regard to the constitution of the register, the measure provides that this shall contain the names of all persons entitled to be registered as voters at a Parliamentary election, who have, during four weeks preceding any registration day, resided within the same constituency.

"One person—one vote," is another stipulation in the Bill, whilst the abolition of University representation is also provided for, i.e., no university or combination of universities shall return a person to serve in Parliament.

Smiths and Woman Suffrage.

The Amalgamated Society of Wheelwrights, Smiths and Motor Body Builders has passed the following resolution with regard to Woman Suffrage: "That this meeting calls upon the Prime Minister immediately to redeem his pledges by introducing a comprehensive Franchise Bill; it further demands the inclusion of women in this measure, and calls upon the Parliamentary Labour Party and all other true democrats in the House of Commons to vote against the Bill if women are excluded."

Sir Edward Carson's Arguments.

War has been declared on Sir Edward Carson as a result of his evasion of pledges of votes for women in a Provisional Government for Ulster. After picketing his house for several days, some Ulster Suffragists were admitted and elicited the following statement, according to *The Times*, as to the position of women:—"Sir Edward Carson, in his reply, said that the Ulster Members who had selected him to represent them on the Irish question were divided on the matter, and he could not allow it to divide the party so long as the Home Rule question was before them. It was perfectly true that the Provisional Government and the Constitution was drawn up in such a way that women would have votes. They looked upon the devolution of business from the Imperial Parliament as an extension of local government, and they certainly thought that under an extension of local government the proper franchise to have would be the ordinary local government franchise, a franchise in which women had votes. The question of votes for women in Ulster was only part of the general demand for votes for women, and until the question was decided as a whole it would not be reasonable or possible for any Government to accept that they should have a different franchise in one part of the United Kingdom from that in the other. The thing he respected the Ulster women for was that they had ever done work well worth all the best that men had done, and they had been willing to sink all their differences on all questions in view of the common danger of Home Rule. When the Provisional Government was set up then would be the time for the Ulster people themselves to determine whether they desired any alteration to be made. For the present they looked upon the franchise for the Imperial Parliament and the franchise for the Provisional Government as two different things."

The Free Church—Fearful.

On Friday the Press gave the information that a manifesto was to be issued that day to 12,000 Nonconformist ministers protesting against the introduction of the question of Woman Suffrage into purely religious bodies. Signed by Sir Walter Essex, M.P., and Lady Essex, Mrs. Mary Dow, the Rev. J. G. Greenhaugh, the Rev. R. Grimson, the Rev. M. Hartley, Mr. R. M. Hyslop, Mr. J. Massie (Oxford), the Rev. D. G. Morse, the Rev. J. S. Roose, Mrs. E. M. D. Rose, the Rev. J. H. Thomson, Mrs. Edith Trappell, the Rev. W. L. Watkinson, and Lady M. Walton, the manifesto says:—

"The advocates of 'Votes for Women,' as the redeeming agency of the age, are thrusting their question, in season and out of season, into bodies political and non-political, and at the present time are devoting their energies to bodies distinctly religious. Many Free Church ministers have had unfair pressure brought to bear upon them by the advocates of Female Suffrage

with a view to their signing petitions to Parliament, and otherwise identifying themselves with the Suffragist Movement."

The long document declares that women are by nature unable to undertake the male responsibility of national defence, that they often escape full responsibility for breach of the law.

This one-sided privilege of governmental power without proportionate responsibility," say the signatories, "is to be awarded to women for the very doubtful reason that their vote will remedy the injustice which still remains for the sex (just as injustice remains still for man also) and which has been largely and continuously remedied by male legislation; while husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons are being slanderously spoken of as incapable of serving the interests of wives, daughters, and families generally.

"It is then by means of an emotional advocacy which inflates and perverts facts, and of prophecies which experience has proved the vote cannot fulfil, that there is demanded for women a political equality which must be full of privilege for them, and which, to their final disadvantage, must be balanced by a reassertion of men's natural position before the existing sex war is over. Women, in the nature of things, are a protected, and in many respects a preferentially treated, sex, and such a sex cannot as a sex justly and properly claim imperial government."

The Rev. Fleming Williams, hon. general secretary for the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage, immediately replied in a strong letter to *The Daily News*. Rebutting the charge of "unfair pressure," he says:—

"It is obvious from the whole tone of this singular production that the manifestants are alarmed at the astounding increase in the number of supporters of Woman's Suffrage within Free Church circles. The explanation of this, however, is not to be found in the effect of 'undue pressure,' but in the better understanding of the moral and spiritual implications of the woman's uprising, by all whose personal experience has familiarised them with spiritual phenomena. . . . The ancient delusion that sex determines the limit of human freedom and growth—that one sex should be free and grow, grow illimitably, and the other should be denied freedom and the right to grow—is seen to be as inconsistent with the primal rights of the human soul, as with the highest welfare of human society."

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Rearrests of "Mice."

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst was re-arrested in London last Sunday; Mrs. Pankhurst was re-arrested after a great struggle at a meeting at Glasgow on Monday; the police entered the hall to seize her. Miss Mary Richardson was arrested at the National Gallery, London, on Tuesday, after having seriously damaged the "Rokeby Venus," by Velasquez, as a protest against the Government's treatment of Mrs. Pankhurst. She appeared at Bow-street on Tuesday afternoon and was committed for trial; bail was not allowed.

THINGS THAT COUNT.

The members of the Middlesbrough Branch of the Women's Freedom League spent what the local Press termed an "introspective" evening at their "At Home" on February 23, at Hinton's Café, when Miss Winifred M. Jones opened a discussion on "Things That Count." Looking at the question from a philosophic standpoint, Miss Jones said that the one thing which counted was life—the life which is touched by imagination, related to the original purpose of the universe, hinted at in art, sung by poets, the highest expression of which is to be found in Bergson and mystic writers. This life is impossible to-day in a world in which the real things are ignored and worthless things exalted.

A well-sustained and interesting discussion followed. Miss L. Mahony thought that the Women's Suffrage movement counted as the most important question of the day, and the things which had counted most in achieving its success were the enthusiasm and passion for work of women. Miss A. Mahony considered that what counted most was active work, and that the more humble forms of it, such as chalking pavements, distributing bills, were as necessary to the success of the movement as public speaking or the writing of books. Mrs. Crow thought that courage and hopefulness were essential qualities in achieving success. Miss Hayton emphasized the value of the sale of literature, and especially the street sales of *THE VOTE*, as a way of reaching a public otherwise untouched.

Mrs. Conroy supported the advocates of active propaganda, and thought that what had counted most in the progress of the Woman's Movement was the breaking down of barriers.

The best thanks of the Branch are given to Madame Richardson for arranging the musical programme, to the Misses Davies for their songs and duets, which were so thoroughly appreciated, to Miss Dawson, who sang the "Awakening," to Miss Richardson, our ever-willing accompanist; also to the waitresses in the Café, who arrange the room so prettily for the "At Homes," and whose deft service has largely contributed to their success.

JAEGER BLANKETS FOR SLEEPING SALOONS.—The last word of comfort and elegant luxury has been spoken in the construction (by the L. & N.W. Rly.) of the West Coast Joint Stock Railway's new sleeping saloons. After describing conveniences and artistic features without number, we are told, in *The Railway News*, "the bed in each sleeping compartment is supported on a spring mattress. On this is placed a vi-spring mattress and then a hair-stuffed mattress. The bedding consists of the usual sheets and pillows, and the whole is covered with a Jaeger blanket." Is not that the "last word"?

Dainty Silk Crêpe de Chine Nightdress.

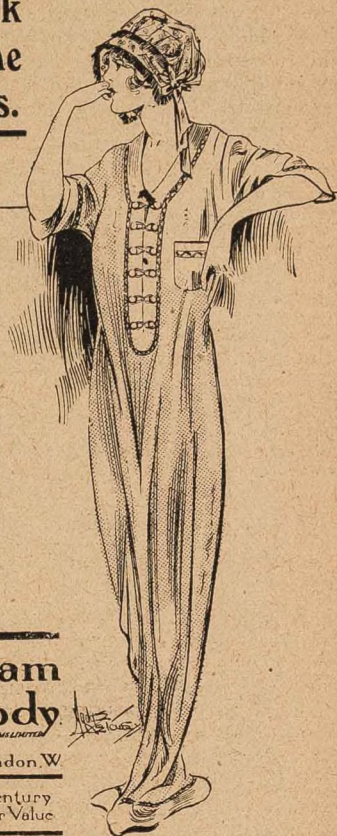
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SHAME!

Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, has earned unenviable notoriety as one of those reformers and philanthropists whose sympathies are enlisted by the alien rather than by what lies at her own door. She has raised a very successful clamour about ill-used Portuguese political prisoners, and secured, we are—more or less reliably—informed by *The Daily Mail*, the passing of an Amnesty Act. We have neither sympathy nor admiration for a British woman who, at a time like this, can raise an agitation about men in foreign gaols, when there are women political prisoners being ill-used in our own gaols; and Portugal is much amused. A Portuguese paper has reproduced a picture of the forcible feeding of a suffragist, and states—and we well believe the statement—that this would not be tolerated in Portugal. We regret that Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, cannot find objects nearer home for the exercise of her projects on prison reform; perhaps, however, Portugal will now step in and agitate for the cessation of brutal assaults on British women in British gaols, and bring "the great weight" of Portuguese "public opinion to bear on" the British Government "to put an end to a disgraceful state of things."

THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Miss Gore Booth presided over a meeting of this society recently, at Caxton Hall, when Mrs. St. Clair Stobart gave an interesting account of "The Women Convoy Corps Hospital at Kirk Kilisse in the Balkan War." The work that these women did—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick pointed out other women were also prepared to do it—makes us rather contemptuous of the critics who contend that women should not have the vote because they cannot take any part in national defence. Miss Esther Roper dealt with "The Present Position of Women in the Post Office and the Holt Report," and showed conclusively how entirely unsatisfactory is the whole position of voteless women compared with that of men voters in the Government service.

F. A. U.

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WOMEN WHO WERE SINNERS.

She dreaded the Law. She knew it only in the guise of its livery, as worn by policemen. As thus represented, it ran you in—or ran your husband in, for she was sober herself—when drunk, ran you in if you slept in the open, told you to move on if you sat too long on doorsteps. It gave you a husband—though this was done somehow by a parson, not a policeman—and because you were his wife by law, you couldn't get away if he beat you. That didn't matter, because, as long as he was there, the Law didn't seize upon the children. But when he died, when the Law, in the form of the Parish, had buried him, then indeed that vague omnipotent force became a terror which no woman with children to care for could face. For it would take the children away from you. It would come, cruel, strong, relentless, and take from you the creatures you clung to and who clung to you. Now that the husband It had given you was gone, It would take the children too—unless—unless you pretended that there were no children to take.

Difficult to cheat it, that Law, because there was so much of it, policeman and parsons and the Parish; and fear makes your head go round, especially if you're hungry, so that it was not easy to hit upon a plan. But this—that she had no children—this surely would do; no children but one; the Law would let her keep one, surely; yes, this was the plan.

She took a room and said to the landlady that she had one child, a girl of seventeen; and having got the room, a hiding-place, a strong-box for her only treasures, somehow, when the Law and the Landlady were not looking, she smuggled those treasures in. Once in, the rest, comparatively speaking, was easy. You must pretend, of course, always—always, every day, when you were working out or trying to get work, you and your child of seventeen, that there was nobody in the room the door of which you locked before starting; but you can pretend, can learn to pretend wonderfully well, can think of and carry out all sorts of deceptions and safeguards when you are a woman with children and have to keep them from the Law.

And the children can learn too. No, they will not make a noise, will not speak above a whisper, will wait in darkness, in dirt, in cold and semi-nakedness, lest that awful thing, the Law, should come while mother is out and take them away before she comes back to feed them. Somehow she managed to get them food; dirty, perforce neglected, she succeeded in keeping them fairly well nourished. To her, it seemed that that was all that mattered. That they needed, these creatures who were growing older every day, light, fresh air, teaching, use of their voices, exercise of their limbs, was a consideration that hardly occurred to her. They were fed and they were hers; everything else that other people's children had could be had only at too great a risk. She led them towards imbecility, she kept them in wretchedness, she did pretty well everything she ought not to have done, and left undone most of the things that civilisation and the Law would have had her do. Nature, blinded, thwarted, terrified, urged her to grasp and to protect; with feeble brain and sinking heart she fought to save her children from the Law.

For some two years the Law menaced her, and she outwitted it; for two years she escaped the thing she feared and hated. Then the dread that had dogged her took concrete form; the Law found her out and the horror she had fled from was upon her. For the Law was as bad as she believed it to be, as strong, as terrible, as merciless; nay, incomprehensibly, shatteringly worse. Not only did it take the children, but scolded her, scorned her, punished her, because she had tried to keep them for herself.

QUALITY AND VALUE.

A perusal of the illustrated catalogue of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company, Ltd.—which can be obtained post free from 112, Regent-street, London, W.—convince me that purchasers of gem jewellery and gold and silver plate may obtain the utmost value for their money.

Six months imprisonment; six months shut away where she could not hear of them, could not know . . . Who would care for them, who work for them, starve for them? Questions these to beat in a dazed brain. And to the questions one agonising answer; an answer to throb in a bruised, cowed, desolate heart. The children she had loved not wisely but too well were in the hands of that dreaded Thing, the Law.

There was another woman, confronted with Justice in the form of a Judge. Now some judges love their jokes, but this was no joking matter; for the woman had turned upon a man, and everybody knows that a crime of that character is a very serious crime indeed.

This woman also had loved not wisely but too well; she had loved, not children but a man, with passionate devotion; which of course she had no right to do, as the Law had not made him her husband. Indeed, she would seem to have been a foolish woman as well as a bad one, for she first put herself outside the protection of the Law and then broke it. She was twenty when she went to live with the man who wanted her to live with him, and she lived with him for six years. She was a woman and therefore fallen; he was a man and therefore could not fall: he had independent means; her means were dependent upon him. At the end of six years he did not want to live with her any longer, and so he managed to get rid of her. She had no claim upon him, yet he was generous: she had given him only passionate devotion; his gifts to her were threefold; £500, some furniture and, it is alleged, a vile disease. Nay, she owed him even more than this; she owed to him, when she left him, the prospect of motherhood.

With this prospect, the money and the furniture she passed weeks or months. A reasonable woman would have been grateful, for in the eyes of the Law he owed her nothing, and perhaps she was grateful; perhaps also she was lonely; perhaps, when she met him again and he invited her to take up the old relations, she was glad. Anyhow, she did what he wanted. And then one night this woman, nervous, passionate, excited with drink, and with the history of another woman fung in her teeth, turned upon the man who tormented her.

Small, slight, delicate looking, "in serious ill-health due," it is alleged, to quote from a daily paper, "to her relations with the prosecutor and that she is expecting to become a mother," she stood before the judge. She had had a revolver; she had meant to murder her lover—unless, indeed, she had meant to murder herself; but that of course could not be, since suicides are always of unsound mind and this girl was sane. There could be no doubt that she was guilty.

Guilty, yet something there was about her which appealed to the jury of men—all men—whose task it was to decide upon her innocence or her guilt; they recommended her to mercy. Whose mercy? The mercy of the Law, vested in the person of the Judge.

There are judges who love their jokes, but there are times when even the most jocular of judges must not unbend, times when Duty, and Duty alone, must be considered. The sense of duty was strong in this judge. He took into full consideration the recommendation of the jury, but he did not think he would be doing his Duty to the public if he did not pass the sentence he was about to pass, and the Law and Duty commanded him to give the woman seven years penal servitude.

A savage sentence? Oh no! That same judge gave that same sentence to a man for setting fire to a corn rick; nothing savage there was or unusual about it all. Mercy is all very well when a woman's virtue is destroyed or a child's virginity; but when a man is attacked, or corn, or hay, or other property, judges must do their duty. Sin, real sin, must be put down at all costs, for what saith the Scriptures? "The wages of sin is death." Strange how the verse goes on, passing strange, when taken in connection with some of the sentences of to-day: "The strength of sin is the Law." G. COLMORE.

THE WATCHER BEHIND THE GRILLE.

FRIDAY MARCH 13: AN IMPORTANT DAY FOR NURSES.

With strained attention, and tense feelings, the Watcher listened and looked from behind the gilded bars of the gallery. Eagerly she watched every gesture, and every face—some obviously hostile, others friendly—and listened to every word of the men below, in whose hands lay the destiny of the great Cause for which she had worked so strenuously for twenty-six years! The circumstances were so far favourable. The House was full, the Front Benches crowded; listeners at least were there. Not attracted by a mere Woman's Bill, oh no! a thin House would probably have been the result if that had been the only work of the members that afternoon.

The chief attraction, we are bound to admit, was the Home Rule Bill; important truly, because a decision has to be made between Peace and Civil War. The momentous decision was, however, not then made, but merely the promise of one. That cleared the ground, and gave the opportunity. The psychological moment for the Watcher had now arrived; she saw Dr. Chapple rise, and ask leave to move:—

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to regulate the qualifications of trained nurses and provide for their registration.

Then Dr. Chapple, in an able speech, spoke the truth about the movement, explained the exigency, the aims and objects of the projected and much over-due Reform. Mr. Booth opposed the Bill, he discounted the stories of the abuse of the nurse's uniform, which he called by the undignified term of "cock-and-bull stories." But this easy and illogical form of opposition does not abolish evils, neither does it establish truth. We are not voters, neither are we members of Parliament, but our knowledge of these matters is far greater and more reliable than that of the honourable member, and we know these stories to be lamentably true. Mr. Booth did not want to hear the truth; he called for a division, and in doing so, defeated his own aim. The heart of the Watcher recorded its applause by some tumultuous thumps. This Bill had been introduced into the House for ten consecutive years, and never before had there been a chance afforded like this of testing the feeling of the members. A bell was rung—"Division" shouted—suspense—joy in the breast of the Watcher. The result was 311 for the Ayes, 82 for the Noes. Majority 229! All the Labour Members, all the Nationalists went into the Aye Lobby. This is significant and encouraging, and may be taken by optimists as a "portent augural" of the mind of the majority in respect of another Bill which we know must come into the House before long.

The ideal embodied in the demand of Nurses for State Registration, is that health is a grace; that the fine art of trained nursing must comprise the finest qualities of heart, mind and brain to be used in the service of humanity, in the preventive, alleviative and curative sense, that the mind must be trained to the appreciation of the sacredness of life, and reverence for the human "Temple of the Holy Spirit" of God.

This is the spiritual aspect of nursing; this is the stage of evolution to which we have reached. This is the sacrament of nursing. No mediocrity in training must be tolerated. The best and nothing but the best for poor and rich alike. Above all, and before all, order must be brought out of chaos. There must be suitable soil found for the growth of the new plant. Weeds must be uprooted, and the ground tilled and cultivated. This plant cannot grow in the dark like the counterfeit plant of commercialised nursing. In other words, the bogus nurse must go, the bogus "Nursing Institutions," the degradation, the dishonour, and the infamy, which have for so long tarnished the fair name of nursing, must be swept away. One curriculum, one professional standard, one moral standard, one statutory examination; one central authority controlled by the State.

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This is the end for which we are striving. This is at once the aspiration and the inspiration. These thoughts must have passed rapidly through the active brain of one of the most active women of our day—The Watcher behind the Grille—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who is the founder, the leader, the inspirer of this altruistic movement; founder, too, of that great confederacy—the International Council of Nurses. And the nursing profession, aye and the laity too—whom it equally concerns—owe her a debt which they would not desire to cancel; namely a debt of gratitude.

An order was given that the Bill be read a second time on March 13. The Watcher came down from her vantage point, with joy in her heart and confidence for the future.

BEATRICE KENT.

NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS. Annual Conference: Easter.

We remind our readers of the Easter Conference of the National Union of Teachers which will be held at Lowestoft from Wednesday, April 8, to Thursday, April 16. Woman Suffrage is becoming more and more an important question at the Conference, and we confidently expect that the keen interest shown last year at Weston-super-Mare will be largely increased this year at Lowestoft.

We are arranging a vigorous campaign during the whole of the Conference. Miss Alix M. Clark, whose recent successes in the Montgomery Boroughs campaign have roused enthusiasm where none existed for Votes for Women, will be in charge of the organisation. The St. Albans Hall has been engaged for Tuesday evening, April 14, for a public meeting at which Miss Anna Munro and Miss Eunice Murray will speak. Efforts are also being made to secure a well-known speaker, who has rendered excellent service to our Cause both in Parliament and outside. Open-air meetings will be held daily.

A successful campaign cannot be run without financial support and personal service. We make our appeal early to all friends, and hope that a substantial and ready response will result. All contributions and offers of help should be sent to Miss Alix M. Clark, 11, Severn-street, Newtown, Montgomery Boroughs.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.
Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, March 13, 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.

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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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OF PRESSING NATIONAL CONCERN.

So many matters, and matters of such urgent importance, are forcing themselves on the attention of our harassed nation at present that, when one takes up a review containing quotations from such persons as Bishops, Archbishops and high medical authorities all agreeing that one special question, on account of its threatening character, demands special prominence, one begins to wonder what it is.

We find, as usual, that it concerns woman. The birth-rate is declining—that means that she is not doing her duty. The Archbishop of Canterbury will not discuss the question, which has some difficult aspects. He is convinced, however, that "we are confronted by a formidable danger." Father Bernard Vaughan thinks it is time "to read the Riot Act" to women, and speaks gravely of "Racial Suicide." The Bishop of London has spoken in the same strain, and Dr. Trimble, C.M.G., calls the declining birth-rate "A National Catastrophe."

All of which sets us thinking seriously. It is the limitation of families to which these "grave and reverend signiors, our very worthy and approved good masters," object. Families in Great Britain, we gather, ought to be large. Into the condition of the big family, or the life that must necessarily be led by the women who bear and rear them, if they happen to belong either to the hard-working or poorer professional class, these sapient persons do not enter. Nor do they seem to have any thought for the babies and little children who, through the gates of disease, with which, in many cases they have been actually born, pass out into the invisible. All they appear to be concerned with is that, for the honour and glory of our country (so, at least, we presume) many babies shall be born.

To us, in the woman's movement, this is one more indication of the truth, so often pleaded, that the woman's voice is needed in the counsels of the nation.

Apart altogether from statistics, which we know may be made to prove anything, it must be manifest to all who think logically, that while, in our ordinary life we realise the necessity of regulating our business, of making good use of our resources, of preparing ourselves, physically and mentally, for any great work to which we may be called, and of fitting our annual expenditure with our annual income; when it is a question of bringing human life into the world, there must be no forethought, no particular preparation, no fitting of means to end. Nature says: "Be fruitful and multiply." "The witness of the Church," says the Archbishop of Canterbury, "is short and clear. Marriage was ordained for the procreation of children. Therefore—no need for thought! Be as reckless as you like!"

It is one of the great results of our movement that women are taking up this question; and they, after all, are most deeply concerned. If the fine, well-proportioned girls whom we meet now-a-days, not only in sea-side resorts and places of recreation, but in working-girls' gymnasias, in clubs, in lecture halls, aye, and even in the better sort of factories and shops, having seen what marriage means to many of their sisters, refuse to enter into it; if those who are married decide that

a small and well-conditioned family is better than a large family, doomed, from the outset to low vitality or premature death; if, above all, when disease shows itself, mothers would decline, even at the cost of the breaking up of their homes to bring any more sad babes into the world, would these grave, very much aloof persons, dare to blame them?

Our answer to their criticism is, consult the woman; give to their demand such equality of citizen-rights of moral standard and of industrial and marriage-laws, as will enable them to marry in confidence, and to bring up their children—as many or as few as they may desire to have—in comfort, and they will provide the young material that is necessary to the life of the community. As things are, if women are wise they will think twice before they take upon themselves the grave responsibilities of motherhood. Why, after all, should not they "down tools" as well as the men?

We would that the Primate of all England and those who are like-minded with him, could see a little more deeply into the real needs of that human life, concerning which they profess to know so much. Then it would not be the diminishing birth-rate that they would put forward as "A Pressing National Concern."

What are the things that really concern, that vitally concern, the nation? Great Heavens! What changes, revolutionary in the deepest sense of the word, would sweep over the country if our people generally could and would consider these.

A diminishing birth-rate? Put against that, great pastors and masters, the slaughter of the innocents that is perpetually going on. He, whom you call "Lord and Master," gave, as His parting command to one who professed to love Him, "Feed My lambs!" One of the great Roman pontiffs in the Middle Ages ordered that he should himself be scourged because, in the City of Rome, one human being died of starvation?

We may say that our Bishops and Archbishops have no civic power. That is true, but they are supposed to be purveyors of truth; and not one of them can be ignorant of the fact that myriads of the babes whose month or year-old lives swell the birth registers, die of inanition or of preventable disease.

But that is not their business. It is not a "Pressing National Concern." Nor, we presume, is the miserable pay that is given to women and girls for their work, or the insanitary conditions under which they work and live. Crowded dwellings, tainted air, adulterated food, famine prices for such necessities as coal, and milk, and vegetables, the crushing out of the free spirit of childhood by early and exhausting work. No: the nation is much too busy to attend to any of these things. The relations between the two Houses of Parliament; the relative strength of rival parties; how to treat those who venture to rebel against the present order with Home Rule; Welsh Disestablishment and the amending of an Act which is proving unmanageable—these are the vital issues; and if one of the faithful, but powerless Commons manages to force a Bill of some moment to a second reading, he considers himself fortunate.

Mr. Galsworthy has done well in calling the attention of those who see and cannot help to the miserable futility of Parliament. What is to happen?

There are times in the body physical when a galvanic shock is needed to restore dormant vitality. It would almost seem that, to our nation, such a moment would have to come. "Our prophets prophesy smooth things," and our people listen and, like lotus-eaters, dream on. "After all," we hear them say, "what can we do? These"—meaning the party to which they have tacked themselves—"are doing their best."

Are they? and, if so, in the name of Heaven, for whom? Not certainly for us—the women of the country, who are commanded by ecclesiastical dignitaries and national authorities to bring babies into the world, and then to stand aside and see them perish!

Great Britain is not alone. In her brilliant lecture given to the Women's Freedom League at Caxton Hall

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NORWAY.

The generous gift of money from the Norwegian Storthing, voted by that body for the dependents of the Irish lifeboatmen who lost their lives in rescuing the crew of the Norwegian vessel *Mexico*, has raised feelings of gratitude towards the members of that Northern country's Parliament. In Norway all men and women of at least 25 years of age and five years' residence in the country have full and equal franchise, without any property or income qualification whatsoever, provided they have not been disfranchised as criminals or for receiving poor-relief. Visitors can see in this little country, in spite of its sternness and its barrenness, its long months of darkness, its ice and its snow, the full and fervent development of a pulsing democracy, endowed with the complete machinery of representative and constitutional government, and taking the lead in the forward social movement of Europe.—H. Spender.

The Norwegian Woman—as Judge.

Norway is the first country to acknowledge the equality of men and women in this very practical way. Fru Screnson is the daughter of a clergyman. She was born in 1877, and in 1895 she entered a University and succeeded in obtaining a lawyer's degree, which calling she followed in Christiania with great success. From that town she went to Hammerfest, in the north of Norway, and there she was elected as a judge. This is not the first time that Norway has shown her belief in women in practical fashion, as we already know the first woman diplomat is a Norwegian.

The Canadian Woman—as Judge.

In connection with the above information from Norway, it is interesting to note that Canada has just appointed her first woman judge—Mrs. R. R. Jamieson, president of the Local Council of Women of Calgary, Alberta. She is vested with full powers as judge and police magistrate in the Juvenile Court, and will deal only with offenders who are under the age of 18.

The Canadian Woman—as City Clerk.

Miss Esther M. Jones, of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, enjoys the distinction of being the first woman to hold the office of city clerk in a Canadian city. The new charter providing commission government for Lethbridge also provides for equal suffrage. At the last city election in Lethbridge there was a registration of more than 600 women voters. The moral effect of the new element in the municipal electorate is probably reflected in the selection by the city commissioners of Miss Jones for city clerk. She is a native of Samia, Ontario, and has for the last three years been a stenographer in the Lethbridge city offices.

Austrian Suffragists Demonstrate in Vienna.

The Austrian Social Democratic Party arranged an imposing demonstration in favour of Women's Suffrage on March 8 in Vienna; in the industrial centres in the provinces hundreds of meetings were convened by the party and largely attended by women. A resolution was unanimously adopted expressing the indignation of the women of Austria that the parties in power have so far not made the slightest attempt to give women political rights, although they have to pay taxes, and emphatically demanding absolute equality and political rights for women and men—that is, the introduction of Women's Suffrage and the granting of the right to sit in Parliament, the Provincial Diets and on Town Councils.—*The Daily News*.

A Woman Suffrage Experiment in France.

In order to decide whether, and in what proportion, French women desire to have a Parliamentary vote, the *Journal* makes an interesting suggestion to its readers. At the General Elections, in April, the *Journal* proposes to provide urns wherein every woman may go and deposit her vote for the candidate she has chosen. The votes thus recorded will be collected and counted by a duly organised staff. This trial election will prove, says the *Journal*, how many women in France take an interest in politics, and if women voted, what change would it involve?

The experiment will be a reply to the objection of the opponents of Women's Suffrage, especially the Socialists, that woman's vote is bound to be reactionary.

The Money Goes on the Cow.

In America many years ago, out West, there was a debate in the school-house on this remarkable subject:—"Resolved, That for a man on a backwoods farm a cow is of greater value than a woman." The debate ran about even until the affirmative speaker made this remarkable argument. He claimed that "value" meant money and nothing else, and that, if the crops failed and the man could not pay interest he could sell the cow while the woman would be an additional expense. This won the debate for the cow. The judge made his decision as follows:—"My sympathy is with the wimmin, but the money goes on the cow, for, as we all know, sympathy don't pay any mortgage or buy groceries." A woman, her face shining with indignation, jumped up in the audience and told how she had with her own hands, supported a lazy husband and fed a cow and five children, but the judge decided her argument did not count, as she was not one of the selected debaters.—*The Woman's Journal*.

[Next Week: GERMANY.]

on the declining birth-rate in France, Mrs. Cunningham has the same story to tell. France, it appears, rather more alarmed than England, has taken certain measures. A committee of men, a hundred strong, are sitting in Council. Proposals have been made for better housing, and a better knowledge of baby's needs is being spread abroad. "In surroundings unfit for Baby to live his mother is lectured on how to manage him." Meantime, the Houses of Parliament are too busy raising their own salaries, looking after armaments, and forcing long years of conscription on their boys to have any time for their women's demands. France is being crushed by taxation, prices of food are rising, and the prudent and thrifty French woman stoutly declines to become the mother of a large family.

So France, like England, though she may see a little more clearly, fails to understand what are the matters that press for national care.

These things might well make us despair, were it not that we are privileged to see the other side. There is coming into political life a new element. In France, in Great Britain, in America, in our Colonies, East and West, North and South, that new element is being felt. Woman, practical, determined, unswerving in her efforts, unfaltering in her aim—woman, who has seen through the clouds of party intrigue and politicians' disguises what are the matters of pressing national concern, and who is resolved to force them upon the attention of "what-ever powers may be," is entering—a new element and power—into politics.
C. DESPARD.

CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAYS."

Mrs. Huntsman, presiding over an enthusiastic meeting at Caxton Hall last Wednesday afternoon, declared that we were demanding votes for women on the same terms as men. We could not demand more because, until we were in a position to play the game, we could not attempt to alter the rules of the game. In discussing the proposed Order of Merit for Women, Miss Boyle said we did not want special honours for women, but free access with men to all honours and orders. In the meantime, the Women's Freedom League was working to gain the parliamentary vote for women. We should probably soon be in the midst of a General Election and she urged that all our members should be prepared to add to our resources both of money and of service to carry out the policy to be decided upon at our Annual Conference.

Mr. Cameron Grant discussed the wages of working women which, he said, was a sad subject to deal with. Miss Mary Macarthur had stated that there were five and a quarter millions of wage-earning women, two and a quarter millions working in factories, and that their average wage was 7s. 6d. per week. The most extreme anti-Suffragist said it was nearer 10s. But, generally speaking, the average wage of women was less than half the lowest wages paid to men. An agricultural labourer got 15s. a week—working women's wages should equal this, and he considered that as they did not, women were being robbed of £37,000,000 annually. Women were the great spenders of our Nation; if the working women had this £37,000,000 to spend among them, there would be a marked difference in the conditions of our country. We lived at the present time under a gold or payment system; everything turned on the amount of gold we could get into our pocket, and the working women of this country existed on about half of what was necessary for their efficiency and well-being. This was bad not only for the women, but also for the children and our race.

Before the meeting closed, it became known that Mr. Crawford and Mr. Watson, two South African deportees, were among the audience, and Mr. Crawford was invited by the Chairman to address the meeting. He said that the majority of the workers were in sympathy with the women's Cause. He himself had worked for it on every possible occasion for the last ten years. There were women militant in spirit in Johannesburg. They had come into the market square on Saturday nights; their banner had been seized, and they had bravely faced the attack of their 'chivalrous' opponents. They had stuck to their Cause, which had now passed beyond the stage of ridicule. The militant women of England had inspired men all over the world to resist oppression and to fight for their freedom.

OF INTEREST TO SUFFRAGISTS.—The Rev. W. S. MacGowan, D.D., rector of St. Anne's, Soho (near Piccadilly-circus), whose recent sermons on consecutive Sunday evenings on eminent women—among them Florence Nightingale and Elizabeth Fry—and their service to the nation, drew such large congregations, is to give a course of sermons on Sunday mornings, March 22, 29, and April 5 on "The Christian Ideals," and will deal with the position of women. Dr. MacGowan's sympathy and understanding ensure a wise and interesting treatment of the subject. The music at St. Anne's is always excellent.

JUSTICE.

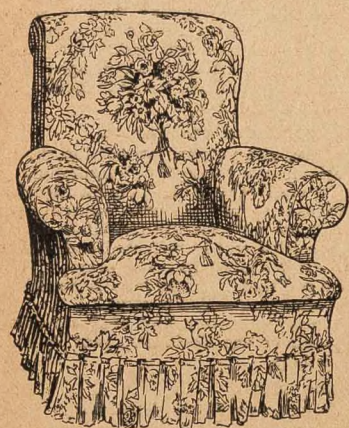
We call special attention in our column "The 'Protected' Sex," to the grave disparity of the sentences inflicted on Julia Decies, who shot her unfaithful lover under sordidly tragic circumstances; and on the man Henderson, whose brutal conduct towards his wife made her life unendurable. Twelve months for the Man, and seven years for the Woman, is indeed a strange difference, seeing that the offence was, in nearly every respect, the same, except that the man Henderson had not been heavily wronged! We call further attention to the different treatment of the Man who evaded the Poor Law; and the Woman.

Sarah Savage, keeping three children on 10s. a week, shut them away in a single room—where they were found, verminous and mentally unsound—so that the Poor Law should not take them from her. She had endured many things at the hands of an intemperate husband, now deceased, and had found herself once before in the clutches of the law, accused of "neglect," because the man did not provide them with the necessaries of life. She gets six months.

A caretaker at Woodford, whose wife had been ill for twenty years, had kept his house locked against the relieving officer. The woman was allowed to die; and at the inquest, the Coroner is reported as having said the husband seemed to have a suspicion that the Poor Law authorities would try to take his wife away, so he kept her locked up, evidently out of kindness! (Reynolds, March 8).

Mrs. Savage, it will be remembered, said exactly the same thing. The family was terrified of being separated; and the reason the children kept so quiet was not that they were afraid of their mother, but afraid of being taken from her. Her elder daughter testifies to this. There is, apparently, no one to bear out Mr. Eade's story that his wife refused to go to the infirmary, or to have any medical care or attention. But he acted

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"out of kindness," and let his wife die; Mrs. Savage is hauled before the Courts and given six months.

These favourites of the law are to be found on every side. The death is announced of Cargill, the trawler-owner of Hull, released from prison because he had an incurable complaint. His crime was outrage on a young girl. Not a serious crime, that, for a rich man; only a nine months' sentence, of which he served five weeks; but the labourer, whose crime was theft, had three years' penal servitude and was allowed to die by inches of a terrible malady, in a convict prison. No release for crimes against the idol Property.

These iniquities, however, pale before a horror which Sunday's Press brings to our notice—a wealthy American engineer, resident in Sussex and London, charged at the Sussex Assizes before Mr. Justice Bray with incest, the two chief "witnesses" being his two daughters. The case being *sub judice* we will not comment on its details; but what we must comment on is the fact that the ordinance under which these cases are tried declares that they must be tried in closed courts. This means that no woman will be allowed to be present to support the wretched "witnesses," who will have to tell their hideous tale to counsel, Bench, and jury of men alone. It is time this shameful travesty of justice were abandoned. The ordinance is only a few years old—the time is very recent when no law existed to deal specially with this, the grossest of all offences; and it never should have been passed in its present form. Its only possible result is to give protection and secrecy to a filthy form of offence; it does not in any way protect young girls and children, who suffer just as acutely in telling such a tale to two or three dozen men as a whole courtful.

The extent to which it may protect the offender may be gauged from the fact that fifteen hearings of this case have already been held of the preliminary inquiry before the magistrate at East Grinstead—and hardly anyone knew of it. No one will have the slightest notion of how bad such a case may be, or what horrors a girl or a child may have inflicted on her without the slightest power to protest or escape. And yet quite short sentences are given for these crimes!

While on this topic, allusion must be made to the narrative sent by Miss Hare, Hon. Secretary of our Brighton and Hove Branch, whose spirited action in forcing a way into the Court deserves the greatest praise. She calls pointed attention to the presence of young boys at a case from which grown women were excluded. It is this utter contempt for, or neglect of common decency, let alone common-sense, that is so powerfully stirring women to protest against the amazing claim of the male sex that they alone are fit for authority and control.

C. NINA BOYLE.

THE "PROTECTED" SEX

Killed.

Alice Amelia Hansen, West Ham, found dead in an empty shop in Plaistow. Supposed illegal operation. The premises were in a filthy condition. Verdict of manslaughter returned at inquest against Triggs, a chemist's assistant.

Violet Dash, Plumstead, brutally murdered by an old sweetheart from whom she had parted. Had got her to go for a walk, and in a lonely spot attacked her with a razor, almost severing the head from the body. Then committed suicide.

Murderous Assault.

Annie Henderson, Darlington, constantly threatened by her husband, and took refuge with another man, called Coates. Accused her of misconduct with a lodger of the name of Griffiths. She declared she would go to the workhouse to escape him, as she was in fear of her life. He said: "If I cannot have you no one else shall." He attacked her with a knife, and she was badly cut about the neck. Sentenced at Durham Assizes to twelve months.

Compare: Julia Decies, whose lover left her for other women, she being an expectant mother and said to be suffering from disease contracted from him. Henderson had repeatedly threatened his wife's life; Decies had only threatened to take her own. Henderson had suffered no injury beyond by his own actions alienating his wife's affection and driving her into other men's company for protection; Decies had suffered irreparable injury. Henderson is found guilty of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, which we venture to think is a

totally inadequate description of his crime; Decies, of "attempted murder." Henderson, for trying to murder a woman and a wife, gets twelve months; the wronged and infected girl, seven years. We are entitled to describe this sex favouritism as wholly infamous.

Brutality.

At the honourable acquittal of Francis King, arraigned at the Monaghan Assizes for killing his father, a terrible tale was told. The father drank heavily; his daughter deposed that for so long as she could remember he has systematically soaked, and abused his family. When violently drunk, he had put his wife out of the house at three in the morning on November 29, and attacked his daughter who refused to give him money, bit a piece out of her neck, and tried to strangle her. The son Francis came at her screams, and hit the infuriated man with a hatchet to save his sister. He died a month later from the effects of the blow. The Lord Chief Justice entirely concurred with the jury in finding the son Francis Not Guilty.

James Grose, of William-street, Hampstead-road, was sentenced on March 9 to two months' hard labour for violently assaulting his wife because she refused to kiss him when he came home drunk. His wife, who was granted a separation order, with custody of her two children and 10s. a week, declared, "I could write a book about my husband. I am just like a battered old tin can. He has had I don't know how many times three months for assaulting me, and I go in fear of him because he carries vitriol."

"Living on the Earnings."

Archibald King, living on the immoral earnings of Ruby Raymond and Marie McKay, to whom he gave false names and representations, and from whom he borrowed money. Two sentences of twelve months, to run concurrently.

Sydney Smith, same offence, nine months and 25 lashes.

REFUSED—THEN ADMITTED.

Miss Hare describes her experiences thus:—

8, San Remo, Hove, March 4, 1914.

Mrs. Nicholls and I went over to Lewes to hear the case against the chauffeur Willmont of criminal assault on a little girl of thirteen. The case was to come on at 10.30—and we arrived at 10.15, when the police refused absolutely to let us into the court as they did not know whether the judge would allow women in. We asked if the "Public" was being admitted then, and on being told yes, we said we were part of the public, and must insist upon going in too—but to no purpose. We were able to make a good protest in the hearing of all those waiting about, on the iniquity of excluding women when a little girl was to be cross-examined, and the spokesman of the police seemed to think it quite reasonable that we should be shut out, as the child would not be allowed to have any woman relation with her in the court. We naturally explained that was all the more reason why we should be there. (We met with perfect politeness from the police.) He also told us that if they let us go up, we should only be turned out by the judge—and was much astonished when we told him that was what we had come for—in order to protest. But orders had evidently been given beforehand, and our arguments were of no avail. We then asked if he would take in a note if we wrote our protest and to this he consented, assuring us it would be useless. We had nothing but one of my visiting cards to write on, but on this we said that, as members of the British public we urged our right to be present, more particularly in a case where one of our own sex was involved.

The Under Sheriff then came out to interview us and asked were we friends of the girl and if not, why did we want to go in. We answered we were women, she a girl, and there were only men in the court. He re-entered and evidently gave our answer, and then, with many bows and flourishes and swinging wide of doors, we were ushered into a gallery, and there we remained until the court rose at six, with an interval of half-an-hour for lunch at 1.30.

The other galleries were full of men and boys, and it seemed to us abominable that the latter should be allowed to listen to such cross-examination and evidence—so vile was the greater part of it. It was an awful ordeal for the poor little girl, and sometimes the counsel couldn't persuade her to reply to the horrible questions put.

As for the jury, the least said about them the better! The

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case is not over. We heard all the women witnesses and we hoped they knew we were there, but we were put behind them, but they heard all our altercations downstairs and saw us go up in triumph.

We cannot understand how it was we got in—the police were evidently amazed, for they said no such concession had ever been made before, and they were astonished into treating us with great deference.

We intend to follow up this kind of case whenever there is one, and shall hope another time to be able to make our protest from inside.

M. HARE.

W.F.L. POLITICAL MEETING, LONDON.

The arrival in force of THE VOTE Brigade, fresh from their Poster Parade in the West End of London, was a welcome and novel beginning to the Political meeting at the Caxton Hall on March 6, and gave an opportunity for the enthusiasm of the audience to express itself from the outset; there was no slackening in this expression throughout the meeting.

Mrs. Schofield Coates presided, and spoke of the enthusiasm for votes for women which prevailed in the provinces; Middlebrough, converted to woman suffrage, not only kept the Cause continually before the public but also kept a sharp eye on its Member and his doings in Parliament.

Miss Boyle, in an interesting speech, said that pressure must be brought to bear on that obstinate old gentleman, the Prime Minister, and force him to do justice to women. The real value of women as citizens and race makers was not understood. She spoke of the importance of women to the community as mothers, teachers, nurses, domestic servants, as producers, consumers, caterers, as humanisers, and pointed out how great was the moral disadvantage to the nation in refusing the capable citizenship of women. Physical force, she added, was a great force, but masterly inactivity was greater, women would gain by solidarity.

Mr. Lansbury, who received a most enthusiastic welcome, declared that the sentences passed on Mrs. Savage and Julia Decies should compel all women to join the suffrage movement; he urged his hearers to talk about them, to build up a body of opinion to protest against them, and said such a travesty of justice would be impossible if there were an equal standard of value and of morality for men and women. It was no argument against woman suffrage to say that women were ignorant, and had no initiative; many men were as bad; it was due to environment, and men would become worse and worse unless their mothers lived in better conditions. He said he was present in the House of Commons during the debates on the Insurance Act; only scanty attention in a thin House was paid to women; no one knew anything; Members found it easier to earn £400 a year at the time on the Terrace or in the dining-rooms. Parliament needed complete reconstruction. The present situation with regard to the Home Rule Bill was due to militancy. Those who condemned women's militancy did not scruple to say that the Army would only obey orders when it suited them, and Lord Roberts had declared the Army was not to be depended upon to keep law and order. Governments only yield to force—and plenty of it. In view of the coming General Election, Mr. Lansbury urged immediate attack on Liberal seats where the majority is small; the present Government, he said, had betrayed its principles and dealt most treacherously with the women's Cause. He spoke of the growth of feeling in favour of votes for women all over the country, and maintained that though women's help is sorely needed in the Labour movement and other great causes, the imperative business of women is first to win political freedom. "The glory," he said, "is in being in the fight. We must compel society to recognise that a woman's life, body, and soul are of as much value as a man's."

Mrs. Tanner, speaking of the position of women, said that the passing of the Education Act of 1870 was the root of the present agitation for woman's suffrage.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

W.F.L. logo. Fri. Mar. 13.—CROYDON, W.F.L. Office Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Tawney. W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C. Vote Brigade Rally, 7 p.m. REGENT'S PARK 9, Titchfield-crescent, North Gate, Drawing-Room Meeting (by kind invitation of Mrs. Walter Carey), 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Annesley Kenealy. Chair: Mrs. Hyde. TUFNELL PARK, 202, Brooknook-road, Branch Meeting, 8.30 p.m. Sun., Mar. 15.—REGENT'S PARK (weather permitting), noon. Mon., Mar. 16.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, Discussion Meeting, 8 p.m. Subject: "Who are the White Slave Traffickers?" Opener: Mr. E. B. Lloyd. Admission Free. Discussion. CATFORD, 312, Brownhill-road, Drawing-Room Meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Sneek), 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. CLAPHAM, St. Luke's-road, Open-Air Meeting, 8 p.m. Tues., Mar. 17.—KENSINGTON, corner Portobello-road and Blenheim-crescent, Open-Air Meeting, 8 p.m. Wed., Mar. 18.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. George Baxter. Subject: "The Stage as a Moral Educator" (Brieux's "Damaged Goods"), and Miss Nina Boyle. Admission Free. 1, ROBERT-STREET, Adelphi, Mid-London Branch Meeting, 7 p.m. Business: Instructions to Conference Delegates. Thurs., Mar. 19.—PECKHAM, Collyer Hall, High-street, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Tanner, A. H. Bell, Esq. Chair: A. Pierpont, Esq. Admission free. Some reserved seats, 6d. Fri., Mar. 20.—1, ROBERT-STREET, Adelphi, Mid-London Branch Meeting, 7 p.m. (if adjournment of Wednesday's meeting necessary). Sun., Mar. 22.—REGENT'S PARK, Open-Air Meeting (weather permitting), noon. Mr. Kennedy and Mrs. Mustard. Mon., Mar. 23.—PALMER'S-GREEN, Avondale Hall, Public Meeting (arranged by Bowes-park Branch), 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard (Mrs. Nevinson and Mrs. Mustard. HAMPTSTEAD, 120, Adelaide-road (by kind invitation Mrs. Oswald), Drawing-room Meeting, 3.30-5 p.m. to meet Miss Lind of Hageby. CROYDON, Small Public Hall, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. Tues., Mar. 24.—CRIPPLEGATE INSTITUTE, Golden-lane, Barbican, E.C., performance of Hiawatha by the H. C. M. Dramatic Society, 3 p.m. Admission 3s., 2s., 1s., and 6d. Wed., Mar. 25.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., "The Century of the Child," and others. Fri., Mar. 27.—CROYDON OFFICE, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Cobden Sanderson. Sat., Mar. 28.—W.F.L. ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CAXTON HALL, 10 a.m. Sun., Mar. 29.—CAXTON HALL, Reception to Delegates, 3.30 p.m. Mon., Mar. 30.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C. Discussion Meeting, 8 p.m. Miss L. H. Yates, "The Spending Sex." Discussion Free. CATFORD, 53, Torrion-road, Drawing-Room Meeting, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Chisholm. Tues., Mar. 31.—BROMLEY, Literary Institute, Widmore-road, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss C. Nina Boyle.

PROVINCES.

Fri. Mar. 13.—Liverpool, St. Luke's Parish Hall, Liverpool-road, Waterloo Branch Birthday Party, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Andrews. Sat., Mar. 14.—Southampton, Morris Hall. Social Afternoon for Members and Friends, 3 to 7 p.m. Tickets 6d. Mon., Mar. 16.—Portsmouth, Unitarian Schoolroom, High-street. Jumble Sale, 3 p.m. Burnage, 22, South-avenue, Branch Meeting. Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café. Miss Cook (West Hartlepool). "Some Thoughts on the Divine Comedy." Thurs., Mar. 19.—Gravesend, St. James's Institute, Debate arranged by Branch. "That it is just and expedient that the Parliamentary Vote be given to qualified women." Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A. (affirmative), Miss Mabel Smith (negative), 8 p.m. Chair: H. E. Waldegrave, Esq. Admission Free. Some reserved seats, 6d. and 3d. Fri., Mar. 20.—Liverpool, Picton Hall, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Rev. Herbert Dunning. Mon., Mar. 23.—Liverpool.—Norwood Congregational Church, Woman's Meeting. Speaker: Miss C. E. Andrews. Tues., Mar. 24.—Liverpool, Norwood Congregational Church, Men's Meeting. Speaker: Miss C. E. Andrews. Wed., Mar. 25.—Chester, "The Nag's Head Hotel," Whist Drive and Dance. Tickets 2s. 6d. from Suffrage Shop. Thurs., Mar. 26.—Chester, Brown and Co.'s Sale Rooms, Branch Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers will be announced later. Mon., Mar. 30.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, "At Home," 7.30 p.m. Mr. Charles Coates: "The Housing Question."

SCOTLAND.

Tues., Mar. 17.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, Lecture, 2.30. Dr. Aimee Gibbs: "Our Boys and Girls: How to Build up a Pure and Healthy Race." Ten. Admission 2d. Wed., Mar. 18.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, Meeting, 8 p.m. Councillor John A. Young (Convener, Public Health Committee): "The Housing Problem." Thurs., Mar. 19.—Dundee, Mr. George Mitchell, M.A., "Some Pages from History," with lantern illustrations. Wed., Mar. 25.—Dunfermline, Masonic Hall, Social. Speech by Miss A. B. Jack. Thurs., Mar. 26.—Cowdenbeath, Parker's Hall, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. W. Watson. Fri., Mar. 27.—Lochgelly, Social and Dance.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Fri., Mar. 13.—BUCKHURST-HILL, Mission Hall, Meeting for Working Women, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner. Tues., Mar. 17.—CHINGFORD, Spicer Memorial Hall, Debate, 8 p.m. Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A. (affirmative), West Essex Women's Franchise Association. NATIONAL UNION OF CLERKS, Brixton Branch Meeting, at Trade Union Hall, 30, Brixton-road, S.W., 8.45. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner.

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

We accept Announcements of Suffrage and kindred Meetings for this Column at the rate per single insertion of 2s. for 24 words, i.e. 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.

A PERFORMANCE of IBSEN'S "GHOSTS," arranged by Mr. J. T. GREEN for the New Constitution Society, at the COURT THEATRE, Sunday Evening, April 26, under the direction of Mr. LEON M. LION. Artistes: Miss BESSIE HATTON and Miss DOROTHY DRAKE, MESSRS. LEON QUARTEMAINE, J. FISHER WHITE, STACY AUMONTIER.—Particulars from Miss MALLY, 8, Park-mansions-arcade, Knightsbridge.

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