

THE COMMON CAUSE, OCTOBER 13, 1910.

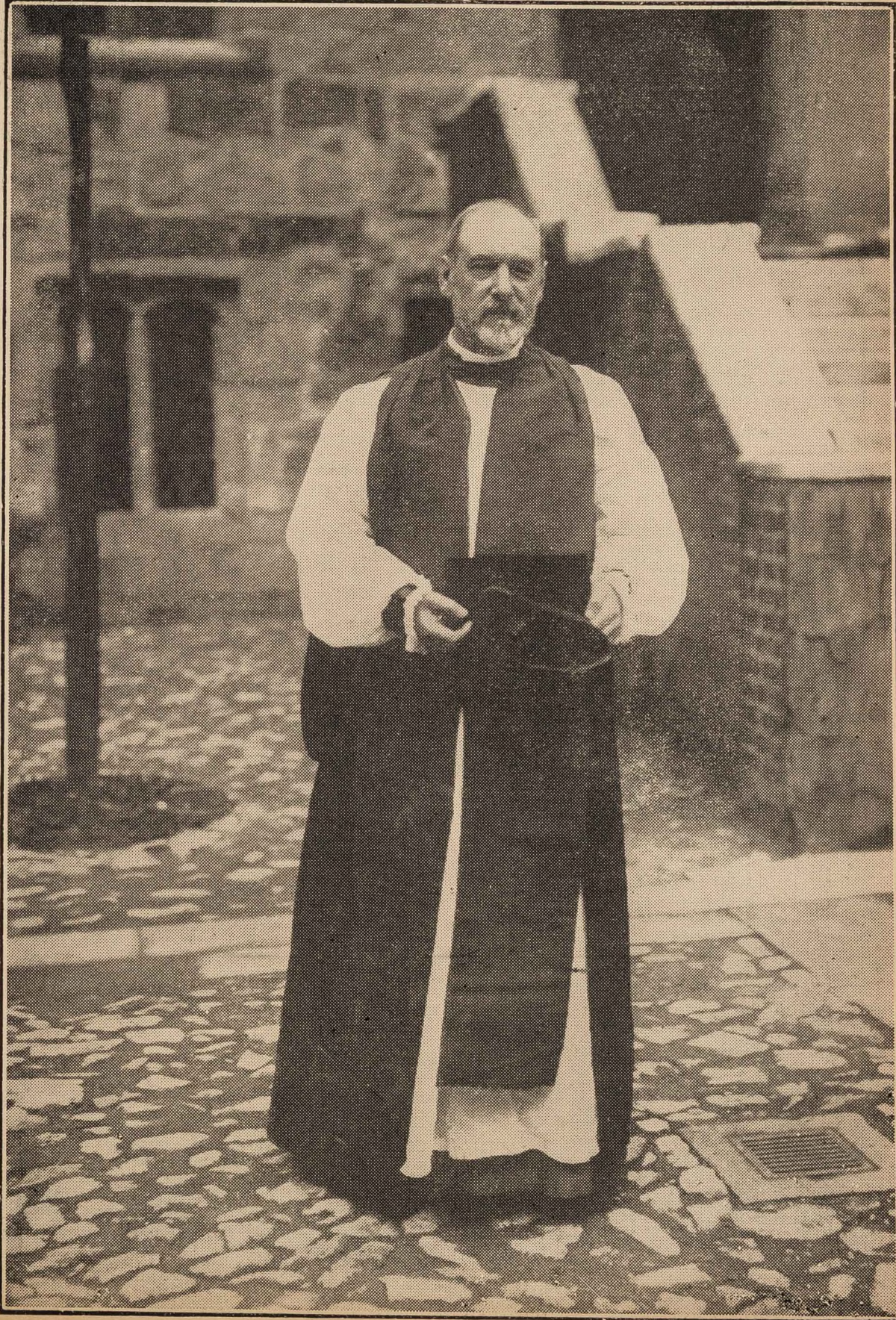
# The Common Cause.

The Organ of the Women's Movement for Reform.

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OCTOBER 13, 1910.

ONE PENNY.



## The News of the Week.

### Mr. Balfour and Mr. Haldane.

Two front-bench men made important speeches last week. We do not know whether anyone expected Mr. Balfour to say anything about Women's Suffrage in Edinburgh. We did not, and we were not disappointed. He took the line about this as about other pressing questions that "we are not the physicians now called in to prescribe."

Mr. Haldane has spoken repeatedly. On the 7th, at East Linton, he made the usual reference to Women's Suffrage, and stated that it was "impossible to raise it as a party question," and women would "have to work and influence public opinion." That's all very well, and we do influence public opinion; but we look to Mr. Haldane to influence opinion in the Cabinet. He proceeded to say that he was sometimes asked how to influence public opinion, but he was remarkably shy about this, only stating that there were some ways in which it must not be done. "Nagging" was one of these ways, it seems. Here is a fine instance of the power of a name; what is "heckling" in a man is "nagging" in a woman. Mr. Haldane made his audience laugh by suggesting an analogy between the Suffragist and the wife who asked her husband, "Why didn't you bring home double the amount of money you did yesterday?" Indeed, if the husband brought back nothing, we agree the wife would be foolish, for the double of nothing is nothing still. Suffragists have not asked for the double of no votes; they have asked for *some* votes, to be going on with.

### An Early Dissolution.

On Saturday, at Haddington, Mr. Haldane foreshadowed a speedy dissolution, and the letter written by the Chief Liberal Whip to the chairman of a meeting in the Peebles and Selkirk Division also points in the same direction. Every effort must be made, therefore, to keep our question before the minds of politicians, and we hope that Societies are actively prosecuting the arrangement of deputations to local politicians. It is not easy to steer a clear path between the neglect to "influence opinion" on the one hand and the dire danger of "nagging" on the other. But a tactful secretary will know how to remind the best of friends that we *still* want the Suffrage, and that, while we are much obliged to him for his past efforts in our cause, we hope he will redouble them in the future. Above all it is essential for all communications to show exact knowledge of what the gentleman in question has actually said—and done.

### Is it Safe to Revolt?

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, speaking at a conference of the I.L.P. on unemployment, stated that the social unit that had to be protected was not the individual man, nor the individual woman, but the family. The State must protect the child. So far we are in hearty agreement with him, but when he went on to state that "young middle-class women in revolt" were an unsafe guide, we think he was taking upon himself to suggest, if not actually to say, what is misleading. Revolt is never "safe." It may be salutary; it may be necessary. In the main it must be carried out by the young, and it is "safer" to have it organized by those whose sense of wrong is not so extreme and so bitter as those who suffer the last outrages of subjection.

### Municipal By-Election.

We are glad to know that Mrs. Redford is standing again for the Manchester City Council, this time for Chorlton-cum-Hardy, where she lives, and where she has been a Poor-law Guardian for fourteen years. She stands as a non-political candidate, and will be opposed by a Liberal.

### Women Medical Officers.

An echo of the wretched Hull Sanatorium case appeared in the papers last week, when a city councillor raised the question whether local medical men might not create difficulties in meeting Miss Butler, the resident medical officer. She is an M.D. of London, and is said

to have done her work admirably in a situation of exceeding difficulty. We are glad to read that a resolution was unanimously passed that the medical practitioners in the city should be informed that when desiring to visit a patient at the hospital they must first communicate with the resident doctor.

One of the great advantages which the presence of at least one medical woman on every hospital staff would undoubtedly have is the improved tone which she would bring in the relations between the nurses and the staff and students. Many a thoughtless young man would be ashamed of certain lapses if he knew a woman colleague was a witness.

### The Post-Office.

We wonder why girl messengers in the Post-office are to have 1s. less than boy messengers. No one can say the boys have a wife and family to support, nor that their clothes are more expensive, nor that the girls are slower or less conscientious, more rude or more troublesome. It must be merely on the humane principle of "beginning as you mean to go on," and teaching the girls to know that (until women have the vote at least) they must not expect the Government to give equal pay for equal work. If they were not brought up in this wholesome knowledge, they might "revolt" when they came to be employed as women.

### The Chain-Trade Dispute.

The strike fund at Cradley Heath now amounts to £3,034, and if the subscriptions come in as well as they have been coming, the strikers will be able to hold out until the six months have elapsed, after which the Trade Board's minimum wage will be compulsory.

### Women's Education in Egypt.

An interesting interview with Prince Ahmed Fuad Pasha, published in the "Morning Post" of October 8th, describes the new Egyptian College at Cairo. Last year a ladies' section was formed, where Mussulman and European ladies meet, and Prince Ahmed Fuad is reported to have said: "For an Oriental country, where the women are not emancipated and where, of course, they still wear the face covering called a yashmak, this was rather venturesome (*un peu risqué*), but I am thankful to say that, by the blessing of Providence, people were very little scandalised, and so success was assured." We can imagine there may have been here and there an Egyptian who said: "We may put up the shutters of the nation!"

### Women in the Baptist Church.

At the Baptist Autumn Assembly held in Glasgow last week, a resolution admitting women to the Council of the Baptist Union on the same terms as men was carried unanimously. The women received this advance with enthusiasm, and it is very favourably commented on in the "British Weekly."

### Welsh Liberal Women.

The Welsh National Conference of Liberal Women on Suffrage will be held on Thursday, November 3rd. Sir Alfred Thomas, M.P., chairman of the Welsh Parliamentary party, will attend the evening meeting; also Mr. Walter Roch, M.P., and Mr. Brailsford, and other Welsh Members of Parliament. Mrs. Lester Jones will preside over the Conference. Mrs. Glen Wade and Miss G. S. Milner are joint organizers. We hope the Conference and subsequent meeting may be productive of much good.

### The Anti-Woman Suffrage League.

Recent announcements of this strange association of fair women and brave men have been printed as above, and we commend the courage and truthfulness of the departure. The following anecdote illustrates it:—

Overheard in a Leeds tramcar, returning home from the debate:—

Man (to friend): "No, I dined at the club, spent a quiet evening, and then I strolled in to the Woman Suffrage Debate. Didn't hear any of the speeches, but arrived just in time to vote *against the women*."

## Beginners' Column.

### What is the National Union?

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is a big Union of more than 200 Societies scattered all over England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Its President is Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., and it is proud of being the oldest Union in the country, having started in 1867. This paper is the organ of the National Union, which takes no sides in politics at all, because, before women take sides, we think they ought to be recognized by Parliament.

### Suffrage First.

We say that women must put Suffrage first, because without it they are powerless. It is true they can speak and write and try to persuade men, but they find that Members of Parliament are too busy to listen to anybody except those who have got votes, and so whatever women know or want has to be first told to a man elector and then he has to pass it on to the Member of Parliament. A woman knows that if she gives a busy man a letter to post or a commission to do, he is not so likely to remember or to do it thoroughly as she is herself. Well, it is just the same thing with the making of laws. With the best will in the world, men can't be expected to attend to their own business and the women's as well, and so we ask men to give women the vote, which is simply giving them the same right as the men have to say what they know and what they want. An ounce of fact is worth a pound of theory, so I will give you an example of the sort of thing women mean, when they say that the vote is necessary.

### The Voice of Motherhood.

No one will deny that child-bearing is a woman's business. Some people talk in such an exaggerated way about it that you would think it was a woman's *only* business; but sensible people don't go so far as that. We are all shocked at the terrible mortality in time of war, but consider this: during the years of the last Boer war, *more English women lost their lives in child-bearing than English men in fighting*. And this mortality is going on in time of peace; and side by side with it is the terrible death-rate among the babies.

Now there are many causes for this, and I hope to say more about them. But the chief thing to remember about them is that most of them could be prevented, and it is only a bad habit we have got into which makes us talk of women's sorrows as "necessary evils."

One of the chief causes of the death-rate is that women in their hour of need have been attended by ignorant women. It took twelve years of very hard work and constant disappointment before Parliament made a law that women who were risking their lives to bring forth life must have skilled attention. Long before that, it had been settled that no one might practise as a doctor without proper qualification, but women were supposed to be able to go through their hard job with no help but that of a woman as ignorant as themselves.

At last Parliament settled that no one might practise as a midwife without having at least a certain amount of training, and the midwives are also inspected. In several ways the Act works badly, but there is one omission in it which is calling for immediate remedy, *because it touches people's pockets*.

If the case has special difficulties, the midwife has to say that a doctor must be called in, and the Act makes no provision for the payment of the doctor. A Bill has now been brought forward in the House of Lords, and passed, saying that the Board of Guardians shall pay the fee, and Lord Sheffield (who is an Anti-Suffragist) said that it was hoped this would "deter" women from sending for the doctor.

Unless the friends of women are stronger in the House of Commons than in the House of Lords, this Bill will pass into law and proclaim to all the world that when women are engaged in one of the most "dangerous trades" there is, and upon which the very existence of the nation depends, they are to be "deterred" from claiming protection from the nation.

### This Week's Motto.

If you want a thing well done, do it yourself.

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

ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday.

LONDON AGENT.—Communications referring to advertisements may now be addressed to our London agent, Mrs. H. A. Evans, 10, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C. Friends in London desirous of helping to get advertisements will kindly communicate with her.

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

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

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

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

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

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## Premature Burial.

Two members of the People's Suffrage Federation have been writing to the papers "as individuals" with the object of burying alive the Conciliation Bill. It will reflect little credit on the Federation if this individual action should be endorsed by the whole body. For, what is the situation?

The People's Suffrage Federation exists to secure votes for all men and all women on the basis of three months' residence. The National Union and all the Women's Suffrage Societies exist to secure the vote for women "on the same terms as men." The Conciliation Bill does not fulfil the whole of either of these requirements; it was devised to meet a somewhat curious and instructive situation. Women Suffragists were absolutely unanimous, ardent, and single-hearted in demanding the removal of the sex-disability. Having, by forty-three years of arduous propaganda, secured a large and constant majority in the House of Commons for the principle of the enfranchisement of women, they were faced by the difficulty that, of the Suffragists in the House, a number wished to give them more than they asked for and a larger number wished to give them less. Under these circumstances, what was the prudent and practical course to pursue? Should Suffragists drop their moderate demand for a vastly greater one, which did not command a majority in the House? Or should they consent to press for the immediate granting of an instalment, which did command a majority of 110 in the House? Being absolutely single-hearted and also sensible of the extreme

urgency of their claim for an immediate settlement, the Suffragists had no hesitation in backing the Bill which commanded the majority. This Bill did not categorically disfranchise married women living with their husbands, but as a matter of fact this is the only "class" of women (if you can call them a "class," which we regard as a misuse of language) which would be under-represented. The thousands of married women in the Suffrage Societies were willing to defer their claim, if thereby a million and a half of their sisters could get the vote at once; the dog-in-the-manger attitude did not appeal to them, and even the Chancellor's attempt to set woman against woman failed. If the actual choice were, "votes for all women now" and "votes for a million and a half women now," there would be something to be said for the choice of the first alternative, but how is it possible for a genuine Suffragist to hesitate between the offer, "votes for a million and a half women now" and that of "votes for all women—in the dim and speculative future"? Mrs. Acland does not even hesitate; she positively declares in a letter to the Press, dated October 5th, that, seeing there is "only a majority of thirty against a fairly democratic Bill," Liberal Suffragists should drop the Conciliation Bill which has secured a majority of 110 in its favour and work to make the "necessary sixteen converts." Venus wasn't in it with Mrs. Acland, for the setting of useless tasks!

Mrs. Acland has been influenced, probably, by Mr. Lloyd George's remarkable series of statements on the subject. We dealt with several of these last week. We will examine a few more to-day. In his remarks at Criccieth, he is reported as exclaiming that he didn't know why on earth the Prime Minister's pledge hadn't been "given a chance." What was the Prime Minister's famous "pledge"?

On May 20th, 1908, in reply to a deputation of Liberal Members of Parliament, Mr. Asquith said he would bring in a Reform Bill before the dissolution of that Parliament, and to that Bill it was open to Suffragists in the House to move an amendment enfranchising women, which the Government would not oppose. Mr. Asquith never again voluntarily alluded to this Reform Bill either in the House or in the country, and Parliament dissolved without his introducing it.

On December 10th, 1909, in the Albert Hall, Mr. Asquith declared that our cause "so far as the Government is concerned shall be no worse off in the new Parliament than it would have been in the old." There were ungrateful women who were disposed to ask how it could possibly be worse off; but he added: "The Government has no disposition or desire to burk this question; it is clearly one on which a new House of Commons ought to be given the opportunity to express its view."

On June 23rd, 1910, in the House, he said that "the Government recognize that the House ought to have opportunities, if that is their deliberate desire, for dealing effectively with the whole question," and on the 29th August he interpreted this cryptic utterance by explaining that this Bill, being only a partial one, precluded the raising of "the whole question," and therefore the House could not be allowed to deal effectively with it.

These three utterances are the sum total of Mr. Asquith's "pledges," and we are at a loss to understand in what way they have not been "given a chance." Did Suffragists prevent the Prime Minister from redeeming his pledge and bringing in a Reform Bill in the last Parliament? On the contrary, they clamoured incessantly to see "the colour of it," and were told by Mr. Asquith, in reply, that their questions referred to the "dim and speculative future." Have they obstructed Mr. Asquith in his laudable desire that the new House should "express its views" on Women's Suffrage? Far from it. Mr. Asquith himself refused time for the second reading of the Bill and was only brought to grant it by the persistent and overwhelming pressure of the majority in the House, supported by the feeling in the country. Lastly, did Suffragists hinder or obstruct Mr. Asquith in raising "the whole question"? Nothing would have pleased them better than to have it "raised" by the Government,

and what, except the absence of goodwill, prevented them from raising it? "The whole question" has been once raised by a private Member, when in the last Parliament, with its huge Liberal majority, Mr. Howard's Bill secured a majority of 35.

Mr. Lloyd George says that if he could be satisfied that the Conciliation Bill is the only one which will pass the Commons he will—reconsider his position! But there is sufficient evidence to satisfy him now without killing the Bill, in order to conduct a post-mortem. To take another simile: Mr. George is like a gardener who should pull up all his seedlings in order to see which would grow, and finding all but one diseased at the root, should say, "What a pity. That one would have lived if I hadn't pulled it up."

Then, says Mr. Lloyd George, "I say frankly that I care less for the cause of the Liberal party than the cause of the people from whom I have sprung. I am fighting—in my own way—the battle of the poor and the oppressed." Out of his own mouth we answer him: "My conviction is that you will never get really good effective measures for housing, for temperance or for other social reforms until you get the millions of the women of the land to co-operate in such legislation." Thus spoke Mr. Lloyd George in the Albert Hall, and he was right then if ever man was. If you cannot get on with your social reforms without the help of the women—and God knows you cannot, Mr. Lloyd George!—then make haste to call in the women and end the vanity and vexation of spirit that are the just reward of trying to do good "in your own way."

### Home Science and Economics.

The pioneers of the movement for making the subject which, so far as it has been educationally treated up to the present time, has been known as Domestic Science, into a study which the Universities might suitably take up have to meet criticisms of a double-edged character. To the Reformers they appear retrograde, to the Conservatives revolutionary. Some of the friends of Higher Education discern an insidious attempt to differentiate between the education of men and of women, and to drive women out of the equal fields of fair opportunity, which even the latter nineteenth century opened to them. Those more devoted to older ideals fear to see approaching the final attack on what they thought to be their safest stronghold. If the glare of science is to be turned on to the centres of daily life, and the paraphernalia of Higher Education introduced here, what place is left for that spirit which is beyond all system and not to be captured by the most perfect method, for those gifts of nature which have always been best developed by the forces of interest, earliest association, personal devotion, rather than by instruction?

Fuller reflection on these objections, which, especially the latter, are not less felt because they are not always very articulate, discloses that both the idea of education itself and that of equal opportunity are in some danger of becoming stereotyped, and need a liberalising touch. If this movement can compel a fearless reconsideration of some over-hasty inferences from these fundamental principles, it will serve a purpose larger perhaps than that upon which the thoughts of its originators were set. With regard, for instance, to the securing of equal opportunities and an equal strength, or if unequal, at least not so by force and exclusion of women from the best means of strengthening their best powers, it was right that the most obvious positions should first be carried. By entrance upon the high road of intellectual training, as laid down and perfected through many generations of the education of men, and by successful advance on this way, women had to show that they had no mental disabilities. And if practical logic had not led them first in this direction there were other resistless forces. It was the world of culture, of Greece and Rome they asked to enter, the spirit of Science, of Galileo, Newton, and

Darwin they desired to learn, they wished to know in youth what it was to receive

"the shock  
Of mighty thoughts, on simple minds  
With a pure natural joy."

The right of exercising their powers and functions in these fields having been demonstrated, the next step might well be both to aid in the improvement of the standard type of intellectual training, whether for men or women, and to apply the best educational principles to all spheres of work upon which the human being is accustomed to enter. To dread the inclusion amongst these spheres of one which is peculiarly the province of women would surely be to show a want of faith in the universal value of Higher Education, the efficacy of knowledge, the influence of the trained mind.

In thus expressing the vague distrust of which we are sometimes conscious, I am perhaps stumbling upon the root of the most rational and weighty objection this movement has to encounter. The woman of cultivated mind has fortunately long been present in home life, both before and since the admission of women to Universities. Home science will not bring her there for the first time. As was excellently said by Mrs. Sidgwick, at the Conference on this subject at the Japan-British Exhibition, it was the hope of the early promoters of the Higher Education of Women that the more intellectually disciplined persons who would come out of the University Colleges would be in this as in other spheres better qualified for their functions.

I do not believe that this hope has been abandoned by the advocates of a more thorough scientific training in their special department for the women who are mainly interested in the organization of home-life. I do not admit that there is cause for its abandonment, and yet I am convinced that there is a great and urgent call for the education which has been described as Home Science. The term, by the way, which has been severely criticised, is not completely felicitous, but is not easy to replace. It is a little misleading if we forget that the facts of home-life must enter, so to speak, into everything. They must be the beginnings of every energy, however vast, the inspiration of every labour, however sublime. It is the life of all civilization with which these facts are concerned.

The need for this education is first seen when we reflect that there certainly exists a particular kind of knowledge not included in the general cultivation of the mind, and not readily acquired without special and highly scientific study, the possession of which not only is of immense value in household management, but greatly adds to the interest of the housekeeper, or head of the household. It is a better understanding not only of her physical, but of her psychical world that the woman in question needs; it is the laws of economics in this sphere, the history of women's work, and in studying these subjects in special relation to the organization of the basis of home-living, she acquires a point of view which I believe to be of true value.

But, secondly, if we have to admit inadequate progress of any kind in connection with the work of women in the present day, it seems that the most sensitive point is very near to the Englishwoman's castle. From one end of the social scale to the other there is an impression that something is lacking, some value has been lost, and this would be part of the answer to those who fear the injury to an older ideal in the advance of the armies of Higher Education upon this field.

The methods by which the Home Science movement would endeavour to meet the problem of loss of cohesion and perfectness, as well as of comfort in home-life, some of the causes of which are inevitable—e.g., those necessary conditions which send so many women and girls out of their homes to work,—may seem to be either hopelessly unimaginative or extravagantly visionary. Unimaginative, they may be held for assuming that knowledge can recreate what has been lost in vital interest, can take the place of intuition, feeling, and the other indescribable gifts of the artist of living; visionary for hoping

that the setting up of the knowledge that concerns household management on a pedestal beside the humanities and the pure sciences can initiate a reform throughout all households, small and large, and liberate a spirit chained to iron conditions. If the friends of Home Science must plead guilty on either of these counts, it is perhaps on the second. The danger is not that the movement should be too utilitarian. It may be judged less innocent on the charge of idealism. This character it shares, however, with some larger movements, and it is not altogether a drawback in early days. In the confidence placed in reform by education, as influencing ideas and prejudices, the hope of arousing a passion for reconstruction by this means (amongst others), the supporters of this movement may appear to be falling too credulously into that old Socratic faith, cherished by modern states, that virtue is knowledge. And yet it is, if we can interpret knowledge rightly, and here Socrates and the Education Bills of the last half of the nineteenth century had the root of the matter in them. For, to return to those critics who fear the introduction of Science amongst the Lares and Penates, it is possible to make education a power that affects the whole attitude of the student to life and purpose, and this it is at which all educational idealists at the present time must aim. To accept the older established as the only valuable methods, because the movement for the Higher Education of women found them already in the field, would surely be incompatible with the spirit of that movement. It is showing not weakness, but strength, by its tolerant and even friendly consent to shed its illumination on yet another sphere of activity, and that, at first sight, the sphere farthest removed from the kind of study with which the Higher Education of Women began in this country.

HILDA D. OAKELEY.

<sup>1</sup> "There was much reading of scientific works, for our first lectures were on astronomy."  
History of the scheme of the North of England Council for lectures to women, 1867.—Memoir of Anne J. Clough, chapter v.

### Women's Suffrage and the Dublin Corporation.

At the meeting of the Dublin Corporation on Monday, the 3rd of October, Alderman McWalter, M.D., presiding as *locum tenens* for the Lord Mayor, moved: "That the Corporation of Dublin approve of the Conciliation Bill introduced to give the Parliamentary Franchise to women such as already have the Municipal Franchise, and which has already passed the House of Commons by a majority of 110; and they request the Government to give immediate facilities for its passage into law."

In doing so he said he thought it was not necessary to say anything to commend the resolution to their favourable consideration. It was well known that lady voters were the best judges of good members, and if they were good enough to vote for members of the Corporation they ought to be perfectly able to vote for members of Parliament. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Nannetti seconded the resolution, observing that he regarded this question very seriously, and he hoped they would lead the way in showing that it had their sympathy. Women had carried out the public duties entrusted to them with efficiency and zeal. He challenged any man here to say were they prepared to take back the privileges given to Ireland of having women on their Poor Law Boards and Lunatic Asylums. If he had his selection, he would give his vote on many occasions for women to come into that Council rather than some of his male colleagues. (Applause.) The work done by women on many Boards had been all for the advantage of the poor, and as they paid rates and taxes they were entitled to equal rights with men. (Applause.)

Mr. Sherlock said the real issue underlying the claim of votes for women was the necessity of regulating the legislation dealing with women's employment. The present Bill did not go far enough, but they should support it. The lady Guardians at the North Dublin Union had assisted to make that Board one of the best

conducted Boards he had ever been at. And if he might mention one lady—Mrs. M'Dowell Cosgrave—her services had been productive of very great good to the women who were in that institution. (Hear, hear.)

Alderman Farrell said it was a ridiculous thing that in England a lady could be a Queen and could wipe out Parliament, but she could not vote for a member of Parliament.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

We understand that there is a possibility of this resolution being presented at the Bar of the House, since the Dublin Corporation has that privilege. Glasgow and Dublin have led the way in this matter; we hope the city councils of England and Wales will not lag far behind.

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

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

*Hon. Secretaries:* MISS EDITH DIMOCK. *President:* MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. *Hon. Treasurer:* MISS BERTHA MASON (Dyó Tem.).  
MISS BERTHA MASON (Parliamentary).  
*Telegrams:* "Voiceless, London." *Secretary:* MISS T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A. *Telephone:* 1900 Victoria.  
*Offices:* Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

### Executive Committee.

With the view of trying to convince the Government and Members of Parliament of the intense earnestness of all Suffragists in their determination that the Conciliation Bill shall be allowed to go through its further stages, the National Union is arranging a Suffrage demonstration week in London from Monday, November 7th, to Saturday, November 12th. All Societies which advocate Women's Suffrage have been invited to co-operate, and several have announced their intention of doing so. The idea is that large public meetings shall be held during the week, one arranged by each of the Societies taking part in the demonstration, if possible, leading up to a monster culminating joint demonstration in the Albert Hall on Saturday evening, November 12th, when all the Societies joining in our "Suffrage week" will take part.

Plans are still only in the rough, but as the time is so short, we shall have to push on the arrangements very quickly, and a sub-committee is now sitting frequently for this purpose. For the Albert Hall meeting we are asking all the Societies taking part to send a representative to sit on the committee for working out details. The separate meetings arranged during the week will each be entirely in the hands of its own Society. The programme, which is, however, not yet nearly fully arranged, will be somewhat as follows:—Monday, November 7th, public meeting held by the Women's Freedom League; Tuesday, 8th, meeting, possibly by the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association; Wednesday, 9th, the Actresses' Franchise League are arranging a matinee; Thursday, 10th, is being left free because of the W.S.P.U. Albert Hall meeting; Friday, 11th, not yet settled; Saturday, 12th, demonstration by the Men's League in Trafalgar Square in the afternoon, and the joint culminating meeting in the Albert Hall in the evening, in which the National Union Societies, the Women's Freedom League, the Artists' Suffrage League, the Men's League, the Church League, the Actresses' Franchise League, the new Constitutional Society, the Women's Liberal Federation, the Conservative and Unionist Franchise League, and others will take part. We have not yet received replies from all the Societies invited. The Women's Social and Political Union has decided not to take part in it. The decorations for this demonstration will, as usual, be undertaken by the Artists' Suffrage League, and the bulk of the organisation in London itself will necessarily fall on the members of our London Society, aided by the representatives from the other Associations. But we shall require all possible help from all our own Societies as well. Details will be sent as soon as possible, but meantime the Societies may be sure that large contingents should be organised to

### Dundee Town Council.

Intimation has been received that, at the meeting of the Town Council of Dundee on 7th October, at which a deputation from the three Suffrage Societies in Dundee was present, the Council resolved to petition in favour of the Women's Suffrage Bill.

### North Berwick Town Council.

The Provost moved, and Mr. Nelson seconded, that a petition be sent to Mr. Haldane by the Council, asking him to give his support to the Conciliation Bill, and this resolution was passed, with two dissentients. It is expected that a considerable number of Scottish towns will follow the initiative of Glasgow.

send up to London on November 12th. If any of them can arrive in time to be present at the men's demonstration in Trafalgar Square in the afternoon also, so much the better.

The Executive Committee feel that a mighty effort must be made, standing shoulder to shoulder, to push the Bill forward, and that all we can do must, and shall be done.

I am writing from Keswick, and those of us who have been at the Provincial Council here know how heartening has been the kindly welcome and considerate arrangements of the Keswick Committee and their friends: and how the beautiful scenery has seemed to make our struggle sweeter. I know we all feel that the first Provincial Council has been an unqualified success. We have come to such close grips with each other in this smaller and therefore more intimate gathering, and have discussed in much more detail than is possible at a large general Council meeting the relative merits of various schemes for pushing forward. It is nice that three more Federations, the "Kentish," the "West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales," and the "North and East Ridings of Yorkshire" were able so far to complete their organization as to entitle them to send delegates to the Council meetings.

EDITH DIMOCK.

### Treasurer's Notes.

CONTRIBUTIONS.	
September 24th to October 8th, 1910.	
	£ s. d.
Already acknowledged .....	2,071 0 8½
Subscriptions:—	
Miss M. Whishaw .....	0 5 0
Mrs. Wilkinson .....	0 10 0
Mrs. Lewis .....	0 2 6
Miss M. B. Alden .....	1 0 0
Donations:—	
Profits of Meeting at Newtownmore (additional), per Mrs. Fawcett .....	0 11 0
Miss T. Gosse .....	0 2 6
Actresses' Franchise League (profits of Matinee) .....	4 0 3
Miss Lightman (percentage on Sale of Lavender Preparations) .....	0 3 5½
Mrs. Davidson .....	0 10 6
Leith Hill W.S.S. .....	5 5 0
Election Fund:—	
Mrs. Shields, per Mrs. Timpany (collection)	0 8 8
Affiliation Fees:—	
Worthing and Littlehampton W.S.S. ....	0 14 0
Greenock W.S.S. ....	0 15 9
Oxted and Limsfield W.S.S. ....	0 5 0
Southampton W.S.S. ....	0 19 6
Beverley W.S.S. ....	0 15 0
Hastings, St. Leonards and E. Sussex W.S.S. ....	1 0 0
	£2,088 8 10

### MILLION SHILLING FUND.

	£ s. d.
Already acknowledged .....	1,694 9
Mrs. Gerard Dowson .....	21 0
Miss M. S. Woods .....	10 0
Highgate Branch L.S.W.S. (profits of Miss Bertha Mason's Lantern Lecture) .....	20 0
	1,745 9

### TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEMONSTRATION.

	£ s. d.
Already acknowledged .....	119 11 4
Balance of Donations, etc., from L.S.W.S. ....	5 2 11
	£124 14 3

### QUEEN'S HALL DEMONSTRATION.

Already acknowledged .....	£1,570 19 6
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The amount of the contributions already acknowledged differs slightly from the amount given in "The Common Cause" of September 29th, as some of the items have been placed under the heading of the special funds.

BERTHA MASON, Treasurer.

### Provincial Council at Keswick.

We have had the great pleasure of entertaining the first Provincial Council here this week. The Councillors numbered 29—11 members of the Executive Committee and 18 representatives of Federations,—and Suffragists from various parts of our North-Western Federation came to spend the week-end in Keswick. Amongst the latter was Mrs. Kitchen, of Gosforth, one of the veteran Suffragists who supported Miss Lydia Becker in the early days of the movement.

Our programme opened with a reception on Friday evening to welcome our visitors. Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Swanwick, and Miss Ford made three inspiring speeches, which will not soon fade from the memory of those who heard them. The prevailing note was that of hopefulness and the joy of working for a great cause, which is advancing every day now towards victory.

On Saturday the Council sat from 10.30 to 1.15 and from 2.30 to 3.30. The Councillors and their hostesses were entertained to luncheon at the Queen's Hotel, and met again at tea on Derwent Island, by invitation of Mrs. John Marshall. Lady Beatrice Kemp entertained the Keswick Committee and those Suffragist visitors who were not members of the Council at Lingholm, and Mrs. Frank Marshall asked all who were remaining over Sunday to tea at Hawse End on Sunday afternoon. The Clerk of the Weather, who has hitherto shown decided Anti-Suffragist sympathies, has apparently been converted at last, and has smiled upon our Council meeting.

On Saturday evening there was a public meeting in the Pavilion, with Mrs. Fawcett in the chair, and Miss Ford and Miss Royden as the speakers. They had a large and keenly sympathetic audience, and the three magnificent speeches were followed with rapt attention. We are not very demonstrative in the North, but it was obvious that the majority of the men and women were deeply moved. The local branch of the Anti-Suffrage League was there in force, and their questions at the end of the meeting gave our speakers opportunity for driving some of their points yet further home. The resolution was carried with enthusiasm, and a good collection was taken. Miss Knight (hon. secretary of the Keswick Society) moved, and Miss Highton (hon. treasurer) seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman and speakers, and Mrs. Fawcett moved, and Miss Robertson (of Manchester) seconded, a vote of thanks to the Keswick Committee for entertaining the Council.

The thanks of both the Council and the Keswick Committee are due to Mrs. Pape, of the Queen's Hotel, where the reception, the Council meeting, and the luncheon were held; her kindness and excellent arrangements contributed greatly to everyone's enjoyment. It is Mrs. Pape, too, who kindly lends us our market stall every week. The stall stands immediately opposite the Queen's Hotel, and looked very gay on Saturday with a beautiful banner in the N. U. colours, specially worked for the occasion by Miss M. Benson, hon. secretary of the Kendal Society. Miss Bendelack and her staff of helpers did a brisk trade in literature, postcards, and badges.

The thanks of the Keswick Society are also due to the other Societies of the North-Western Federation who kindly lent their banners for the occasion. They made a brave show—14 of them—at the reception and the public meeting.

### BUSINESS MEETINGS.

The Provincial Council had a long agenda. The discussions were eminently business-like and fruitful in the interchange of ideas. Reports were received from the North-Western, the Surrey, Sussex and Hants, and the West of England Federations, and a brief summary of what is being done in South Salford was given.

A long and detailed discussion was held upon the question of suitable constituencies in which to run Independent Women's Suffrage Candidates, and the impending by-elections in South Shields and Walthamstow were considered. The use and value of women's petitions were thrashed out; the "Common Cause" was discussed; the appointment of Press Secretaries recommended, and their work most admirably described by Miss Catherine Marshall.

### By-Elections.

#### SOUTH SHIELDS.

Organiser—Miss C. M. Gordon.

Committee Rooms—57½, King Street, South Shields.

Owing to the elevation of Sir William Robson to be a Lord of Appeal, there is to be a by-election in South Shields. The contest will probably be a three-cornered one. The probable candidates are:—Mr. F. D. Acland (L.), Mr. Vaughan Williams (C.), and Mr. Will Crookes (Lab.). Miss Gordon sends us the following report:—

The retirement of Sir William Robson causes a vacancy in South Shields. At the time of writing no candidates have been adopted, and it is even uncertain whether or no there will be a three-cornered contest. Whatever the political parties may decide, the first duty of the National Union is clear. We have to prevent an Anti-Suffragist from being returned to the House of Commons, and the electors of the constituency must be awakened to a thorough realisation of the women's demand and of the provisions and the supporters of the Conciliation Bill. Miss Margaret Dickenson has undertaken to keep the committee rooms entirely, thus setting free the organiser for other work. Miss Gordon and Miss Mein open the campaign in the Market Place on Monday night, and meetings will be held daily. All offers of help—whether money or personal service—should be sent to Miss Gordon at the committee rooms.

#### WALTHAMSTOW.

Candidates: { Mr. J. A. Simon (L.),  
Mr. J. Stanley Johnson (C.).

In consequence of Mr. J. A. Simon's appointment as Solicitor-General, there will be a by-election in Walthamstow.

### Federation Notes.

#### Kentish.

The first committee meeting of the Kentish Federation was held on Wednesday, October 5th, at Tonbridge. The rules of the Federation were considered, and it is to be hoped that good work for the cause will be done in the county. Delegates from the following Societies were present:—Tonbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks, Folkestone, Ramsgate, and Dover. Miss Taylor, of Tonbridge, kindly consented to act as hon. secretary and treasurer, and it is to be hoped that Miss Lucy Deane (president of the Sevenoaks Society) will become chairman of the Federation.

#### North-Western.

This has been a busy week for the North-Western Federation. On Saturday, October 1st, we had our first Federation committee meeting at Penrith. On October 3rd and 5th the Kendal Society held meetings at Carnforth and Milnthorpe. The Penrith Society had a meeting at Penrith on the 5th, Carlisle one on the 6th, and Keswick one on the 8th. Next week Kendal has a meeting in Kendal on the 10th, and Keswick one on the 11th. The first Provincial Council met on Saturday, October 8th, in Keswick.

#### Midland.

Miss Phillips, the Midland organiser, has spent the last week in Nottingham and West Bromwich, speaking at meetings on September 28th and October 6th, and calling on the unconverted. She is now in Burton-on-Trent for a week, helping that Society to prepare for a public meeting, at which Lady Frances Balfour is to speak, on October 27th. On October 13th she goes to Leamington to work up their public meeting, at which the speakers are Miss Abadam and Mrs. Fawcett.

Midland Societies have already made engagements for Miss Phillips up to June, 1911, and it is hoped that great progress will be made in Midland Suffrage work during the next nine months.

The Birmingham Society would be very grateful for any contributions towards their bazaar, to be held on November 29th. Part of the profits are to be devoted to the Federation funds. Gifts of china, pottery, baskets, home produce, leather and metal work, toys, sweets, foreign toys and curios, and all kinds of needlework will be most gratefully received by Miss Noël Wright, 10, Easy Row, Birmingham, on or before November 24th.

The Federation will be represented at Keswick by Mrs. W. E. Dowson, of Nottingham (vice-chairman of the committee), and Miss Noël Wright (hon. assistant secretary).

**Manchester and District.****GREAT DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL.**

Members are asked to concentrate their energies for the next ten days on making the demonstration in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, a great success. It is to take place on Tuesday, October 25th, at 7-30 p.m., and the speakers will be Sir George Kemp, M.P., Lord Lytton, the Lady Betty Balfour, Mr. H. N. Brailsford, and others. Tickets—price 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s.—may be had on application to the office, 85, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester; or after October 17th, from Messrs. Forsyth Brothers, 126, Deansgate. We are particularly anxious to have a crowded hall, as there is to be an Anti-Suffragist meeting three days later, and Suffragists must show that they can easily fill the largest hall in Manchester to demonstrate the support of the Conciliation Bill. We want, too, to show our appreciation of the work done for our cause by Lord Lytton and Mr. H. N. Brailsford. If any member of the Society has not yet applied for tickets on sale or return, we would remind him or her that time is now getting short, and that it is incumbent upon everyone to do something to contribute to the success of the demonstration.

The Leigh Society has now come into being. At a very enthusiastic meeting on October 4th, at which Mr. Stephen kindly took the chair, and Miss Leadley Brown, Mr. Ireland, and Miss Robertson spoke, 38 people gave in their names as intending members; and when, on Thursday night, a small meeting was held for the election of the committee, between thirty and forty people were present. Miss Hindshaw was elected secretary, and Mr. Bark treasurer. The new treasurer entered upon his duties promptly and effectively, collecting the subscriptions of those present. More than six dozen "Common Causes" were sold at Tuesday's meeting, owing to the valuable help given by local ladies in stewarding, and it is hoped that there will be many new subscribers to the paper in Leigh.

**Scottish Federation.****Mrs. FAWCETT AT COLDSTREAM.**

On September 23rd a large crowd gathered in the Mechanics' Hall, Coldstream, to hear addresses by Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., and Miss Alice Low. Sir Francis Blake presided. The following resolution was proposed by Mrs. Fawcett, seconded by Miss Low, and carried unanimously:—"That this meeting of the inhabitants of Coldstream hears with satisfaction the declaration of the Prime Minister that the House of Commons has the right to deal effectively with the subject of Women's Suffrage, and, therefore, earnestly prays H.M. Government to grant time in the coming autumn session for the further stages of Mr. Shackleton's Bill, which was read a second time in July last, and passed by the large majority of 110."

Mrs. Fawcett answered the various objections to the Conciliation Bill—that it was undemocratic, etc.—and then went on to state some of the ordinary objections that were brought against Women's Suffrage. She said Mrs. Humphry Ward said the political ignorance of women was irreparable and imposed by nature, and yet, at the last general election, she undertook to give voters in her son's division instructions how to give their vote. She said she quite agreed that woman's place was the home, but she should also give a thought to that wide field outside the home. Nearly all social questions that Parliament dealt with vitally concerned the home. She denied that government depended entirely upon physical force—the ultimate basis was moral force.

Miss Low said that only those who are acquainted with the conditions under which women work realise the preferential treatment meted out to the male workers. She alluded to the Edinburgh printing-trade dispute and to the Osborne case, and said Women's Trade Unions were little better than useless unless they had the power of the vote behind them.

**Work in East Cornwall.**

We have finished our campaign in this district with three splendid meetings this week.

On Monday it was the annual fair in Liskeard, which is also a holiday for all the countryside for miles around. Hundreds of people flocked into the town, and we felt it an opportunity not to be lost for having a Suffrage meeting. Amidst the attractions of a conjuror, a performing black man, a ventriloquist, and a cheap-jack we fixed our wagonette, and some hundreds of people soon gathered round to hear what I had to say. They gave their serious attention to the subject, and for an hour or more forgot their holiday mood. A few questions were asked, and many men who had been at our village meetings were interested and eager to hear more about the movement. "The Common Cause" sold readily, and we all felt that the secretary's inspiration to take advantage of the fair had been a very happy one.

On Wednesday Miss Williams, Miss Caunter, Mrs. Blight, and I went down to Fowey and did a house-to-house canvass. Miss Morse, of Fowey, met us and gave very valuable help. We advertised our meeting for 6-30. It was the first Suffrage meeting that had ever been held there. To our surprise over four hundred people assembled on the Town Quay soon after 6-00. It was a splendid meeting—the audience was interested and enthusiastic. Many questions were asked, and

a lively discussion followed, the crowd cheering the speaker when the questioner had obviously tried to corner her and not succeeded. Many "Common Causes" were sold, and we hope to form a good branch of the N.U. in Fowey during the winter.

On Thursday we had a meeting in the school at St. Pinock. The meeting had been advertised beforehand by Miss Glubb. Mrs. Steale, of Doublebois, kindly took the chair. At the close the resolution urging the Government to give facilities for our Bill was passed without one dissentient.

On Friday three of us went to Lostwithiel, and canvassed the town. The crowd that assembled at 6-30 was the least sympathetic we have had in the district, to begin with. Many came to scoff, and some expecting fun, but they stayed to listen, and were interested in spite of themselves. The crowd grew in numbers until there must have been quite five hundred people present—mostly men. The little outbursts of merriment were quickly checked by the many who desired to listen; and at the end we felt the meeting that had had a most unpromising beginning, had proved a great success. We were sure of their interest by the way they bought "The Common Cause."

The Suffragists in this part of the world must feel very grateful to those whose generosity has enabled us to have such a successful campaign. Six weeks ago the meaning of the woman movement was almost unknown in this constituency, and now I think from one end to the other almost every village and town knows something of our aims and ideals, and, I feel sure, is eager to hear more. Much of the success is due to the untiring enthusiasm of the Misses Williams, Miss Caunter, and Mrs. Blight.

Before I leave I hope to have arranged a series of monthly meetings in Liskeard to keep alive the interest during the winter.

M. NORMA-SMITH.

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

President: THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN.

Tickets for the At Home at Steinway Hall, October 26th, at 8 p.m., speaker Miss Olive Christian Malvery, are being sold rapidly. Members of the League who wish to secure seats should apply at once to the secretary (reserved seats 1s. 6d. and 1s., a few balcony seats 6d.). The hon. secretary regrets to say that, acting under medical orders, he will be unable to make any further speaking engagements for some time, but will have to confine himself to secretarial work.



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Volunteers for the Church League procession to the 3 o'clock service at Westminster Abbey on Monday, November 14th, are requested to send in their names as soon as possible to the offices of the League, when further details of the arrangements will be forwarded to them. Meetings are arranged during November at Oxford, Kenilworth, Leamington, and Willesden Green, and on November 24th a meeting will be held at Eastbourne dealing with the Suffrage question from the Church point of view. Attention is once more called to the meetings at Lewisham on October 15th, and Anerley Town Hall, October 20th.

October 15—Inauguration of the Greenwich and Lewisham Branch—Eton House, Dacre Park, Lee, S.E.—Chairman, Archdeacon Escrict. 5 p.m.  
October 20—Anerley Town Hall—Lady Constance Lytton. 8 p.m.  
October 26—Steinway Hall—Miss Olive Christian Malvery. 8 p.m.  
November 14—Procession to the Service at Westminster Abbey. 3 p.m.

**Free Church League for Woman Suffrage**

A meeting was held on Wednesday, Oct. 5th, at 133, Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, E.C., to consider the advisability of forming a League of Free Church men and women. There was a good attendance. The Rev. Miss Hattie Baker gave an inspiring address, in which she deplored the fact that while many prominent ministers and laymen in the Free Churches are warm personal friends of the Suffrage cause, the Churches as such, which have been pioneers in most good causes, have held aloof from this one, failing to recognise the spiritual and moral force behind it. There are disadvantages attending the multiplication of leagues, but these were felt to be outweighed by the solid gain to both the Churches and the Women's cause. Mrs. Holman moved a resolution advocating the formation of such a League, which was unanimously carried, and a small provisional committee was appointed. Miss Hattie Baker kindly promised to serve as hon. secretary *pro tem.*, and Mrs. Holman as treasurer. Communications may be addressed, for the present, to 133, Salisbury Square.

**The Anti-Suffragists.**

LEEDS DEBATE.

By the invitation of the Leeds Institute Parliament, Miss Fielden debated with Mrs. Archibald Colquhoun on Tuesday, October 4th, at the Leeds Institute, on whether the Parliamentary Franchise shall be granted to women on the same terms as men. The Parliament had arranged for the debate to be held in the large room which is generally used for the opening debate of the session. However, some time before the advertised hour, it was apparent that the room could not possibly contain the audience. There was a little delay while messages from the authorities were sent to the chairman; the corridors, staircases, and platform were packed, consequently causing many people to go away. Finally, the Albert Hall was opened, and the whole meeting was transferred there, where a good crowd already awaited it. Mr. W. H. Saville (Speaker) took the chair, and, after a few introductory remarks, introduced Miss Fielden, who met with a very hearty reception.

Miss Fielden began by stating that the debate was to be on the principle of Women's Suffrage, and not on any particular Bill. She then rapidly sketched the Franchise Laws, showing that women were absolutely qualified to vote, and that there was no argument brought against the women which could not be brought against the men who at the present time exercised the vote. From that she passed on to the one-sided legislation, alluding more particularly to the difference between the punishment meted out to the offences against the person as against the offences against property, and quoted many examples under the law. She then dealt with the laws, but, unfortunately, her time limit had been seriously interfered with through the impossibility of finding accommodation for the huge audience, and the bell rang, and she was obliged to close with a pointed allusion to the fact that it was impossible to consider the question of payment of members out of the taxes and the registering officers' fees out of the rates before the vote was granted to the women who paid them. (Prolonged applause.)

Mrs. Colquhoun, who had already interrupted Miss Fielden during her speech, began by flatly contradicting that the married mother is not by law recognised as the legal parent of her child, and quoted the Guardianship Act, 1886. She then stated that men alone had the right to vote since the days of Adam. There had been savage tribes, she pointed out, which had given their women equal power with the men, but they did not survive—they were wiped out. (Laughter, and cries of "Australia.") There were countries in which the Suffrage had been granted, with small populations and a great majority of men, but no measure was practicable unless it gave the franchise to the mothers of the country. She said that married women could only be enfranchised by Adult Suffrage, and then attempted to depict the unfairness of the limited franchise, following this by contradicting herself and describing the awful results of transferring the government of the country to the hands of women.

An excellent discussion took place, and, to our amusement, a working-man rose in the audience and expressed his plea-

sure that Mrs. Colquhoun was, like himself, an Adult Suffragist. (Laughter.) The discussion had to be closed somewhat abruptly, as Mrs. Colquhoun had to catch a train. A clergyman came on the platform and asked to be allowed to speak, but his request could not be granted. Mrs. Colquhoun then rose for her final reply, and finished up by picturing the contemptible position of men under petticoat government. Miss Fielden, who on rising received quite an ovation, replied very effectively to as many of Mrs. Colquhoun's arguments as possible, and concluded by appealing to the audience to give her the vote, as it meant so much to her and so little to her opponent.

The vote was put first in the affirmative, and a perfect forest of hands arose. The negative was then put. The Chairman then declared the "Ayes" had it, which brought forth a fine burst of applause. The voting was about in the proportion of four to one in our favour.

**HOW TO DEAL WITH AWKWARD QUESTIONS.**

A meeting was held by the local branch of the Anti-Suffrage League in Whitby on the evening of Monday, October 3rd. Members of the Whitby and District Women's Suffrage Society attended the meeting to ask questions, and Suffragists staying in the town were also present.

Mr. Macmillan was in the chair, and Miss Fothergill and Mr. Newman were the speakers. Miss Fothergill dwelt on her experience of work amongst the poor in the East of London, the result of which was her conversion to the Anti-Suffragist side.

During both Miss Fothergill's and Mr. Newman's speeches too frequent interruptions were made by a male supporter of our cause, which unfortunately gave our opponents legitimate ground for complaint. It required, however, some self-control to listen quietly to the misrepresentations of fact made by the second speaker. In response to his assertion that women were a privileged class under the law, Miss Pringle asked if he could give any idea of the percentage of men who suffered through the legal privileges enjoyed by women compared with the percentage of women who suffered through the inequality of the divorce laws and the laws concerning the relations of the sexes, as this, she said, was the crux of the whole question.

The Chairman, in reply, said that such questions could not be discussed before a mixed audience with young girls present. (There were, so far as the writer of this report could see, three girls present aged about 17 years.) The President of the local branch of the Anti-Suffrage League also said that it was the rule of that branch not to discuss that point. Miss Pringle replied that no woman in that audience ought to be left in ignorance of the laws under which she lived; but the meeting was cut short at this point by the playing of the National Anthem, in spite of repeated calls for "resolution." A voteman in the audience proposed a resolution in favour of votes for women, which was seconded, and a large number of hands were held up in support.

**Men's Committee for Justice to Women.**

By the courtesy of the International Women's Franchise Club, an important meeting of this Committee was held in the club premises on Friday evening, 7th, the chair being occupied by Mr. Albert Dawson, president of the Committee.

After referring to the aims and origin of the Committee, the Chairman called upon Dr. Bather, F.R.S. He sketched the history of the Committee, the many cases of injustice to women in which it had taken a protective interest, and appealed to men to join the Committee and to support its efforts with funds. Mr. H. N. Brailsford, hon. secretary of the Conciliation Committee, next addressed the meeting, and gave many interesting particulars of the accumulation of evidence to be submitted to the Prime Minister in response to the latter's request to be furnished with proofs that the desire for the enfranchisement of women is general and widespread. Among this evidence are petitions in favour from city councils and corporations, and a memorial in favour of the Conciliation Bill from its Conservative supporters in the House who opposed its relegation to a Grand Committee merely on the objection entertained by that party to this treatment of all Bills of major importance.

He explained at length the reasons causing his committee to limit the Bill to occupiers, and also explained that this restriction would be removed if guarantees were forthcoming that the Government would provide facilities for the full discussion of the broadened Bill; or his committee would accept an amendment on that point, the possible loss of which would not endanger the Bill; and, finally, that no effort would be spared to meet every honest objection.

A general discussion on the policy and future work of the Committee ensued, in the course of which reference was made to the very large number of Suffrage societies now in existence, each one of which had its own special function, and usefully occupied itself with its own department of the great work. The desire was also expressed that some federation of all these societies should be formed, so that the disconnected work of all should be combined and focussed, and thus become a more efficient and powerful instrument.

### Heard at the Freedom League Demonstration.

"Anti" Gentleman: "I don't like to see it, I tell you—women walking about in the street."  
 "Pro" Ditto: "Why not, if it's necessary for what has to be done?"  
 Anti: "Well, would you like your mother and sister to do it?"  
 Pro: "If my mother thought it was right, I should wish her to do it."  
 Anti: "Oh, well. Perhaps you belong to the serving class, and do not mind what your women do. Now, I am speaking of my own circle. We, my own family, do not belong to that class. I've too much respect for women. I like them to be delicate."  
 Chorus of Angry Males: "Oh, that's the class you belong to, is it? You do, do you? We like women to do what they think right."  
 Anti: "Well, I wouldn't have my women behaving in such ways."  
 Several of the Chorus: "And Mrs. Despard there—isn't she a true lady?"  
 Anti (rather pale and nervous): "Oh, well—I—I—of course, I suppose by birth—er—er."  
 Chorus: "We are not discussing birth. Is she a refined woman or not?"  
 Anti: "Oh, well—er—er—" (and here the silent spectator withdrew, having been throughout well content to leave him in the hands of twelve good men and true. Chivalry is dead—long live chivalry!)

### Foreign News.

A GERMAN SUFFRAGE MEETING.  
 I was staying in a small German University town this summer, and went to its first Suffrage meeting. A young and enterprising professor's wife had got it up, and invited a well-known professor from a neighbouring town to read a paper. The small hall was crowded. A fair number of professors and their wives, a great many undergraduates, and a sprinkling of women students were the audience. The speaker was lengthy and persuasive; he seemed to foresee every possible objection and to tackle it; but many of the objections he treated at length seemed hardly worth the tackling. He spent a good deal of time in trying to convince us that the whole duty of women was not to look pretty. On the whole he was very sound, and, in spite of the length of his paper, an animated discussion followed. The feeling of the meeting was evidently strongly in favour of the franchise, and this surprised me a little, considering it was Germany and an opening meeting—the first, too, in the town. The speaking on our side was very good; one of the professors of the University spoke, indeed, excellently. I wish now I had taken notes of the speeches. I only remember that he told us how he had at first distrusted the idea of women in politics, simply because it had never played a part in any civilisation of the past, and how he had come to realise that that was not an argument against it, since our modern civilisation was continually advancing along its own untrodden road. The opposition remarks came from a few undergraduates and were not well reasoned, but their strength lay in the fact that one felt they voiced an attitude which is still the attitude of the average German man and woman. One felt they were thoroughly approved by the block of students standing at the back, if not quite so unreservedly by the small group of British and Americans on my left. The whole matter, too, was so obviously treated from the male point of view, as if there could be no other; no other, I am sure, occurred to the majority of the audience. It was for men to decide whether it would be good for their women to have the vote. Only one German woman spoke, besides the young professor's wife. It irritated me, and I had to reflect that in Germany the women who wanted the franchise were probably a small minority.

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The discussion was eager; no sooner had one speaker at the desk finished than another announced himself by holding up his hand, and walked up to take his place, while the professor in the chair called out his name. All of a sudden I heard the chairman speaking; he took no notice of the eager hands. He said that, as one of the speakers had mentioned the English movement, they would all be exceedingly glad if one of the English ladies would say something about it.

Deadly pause! I really had not thought him capable of such baseness; he knew that we two English girls sitting at the very back, out of his sight, were the only "English ladies" there. The meeting was waiting expectant. We two were whispering: "I say, you might go." "No, I can't possibly. I haven't a word in my head." "Oh, do go, I shan't." I still consider it base of her not to have gone; because, though I had studied German more thoroughly than she had, I had only just been a week in Germany, and she had been a year, and ought, of course, to have had it all on the tip of her tongue! I had never spoken in public in my own language, much less in German, and was in a horrible fright. The British and Americans were looking at us with interest, but I wasn't going to make a fool of myself.

Just then one of the nicest of the German women students, who sat on my other side, whispered, "I beg you. It is needed," in such an earnest tone that I got up and marched down to the desk with a perfectly blank mind, while those generous Germans clapped like thunder.

Well, I did make a fool of myself, of course; and very mortified I felt afterwards when I reflected that good things I could have said if I had only taken notes or kept my head. The only thing I managed to say clearly was that the majority of English women did want the vote, and therefore no one had the right to deny it to them, and that I believed it would come in the next Parliament. After all, it wasn't to the point to argue; as I comforted myself afterwards, the Germans could do that so much better, and, at least, I'd shown them we were keen. On the whole I was awfully glad afterwards I had spoken. It was certainly some time before I heard the last of it, and one German student assured me it made an impression because no German girl would ever have dreamt of getting up and speaking! I think he was wrong, for my earnest friend on the right was preparing notes to speak when the words were, so to say, taken out of her mouth by a youthful countryman. But then she and her fellow women students are something of pioneers—pioneers of the better time that is certainly coming,—citizens of the strong, good Germany that will be.

M. T. REES.

### The Testimonial to Mrs. Elmy.

The fund has reached £163 5s. 9d. Having been started in the middle of the holidays, subscriptions have been slow in coming in, but people are waking up now, and they should send at once to Mrs. Martindale, Horsted Keynes, Sussex.

### Miss Gawthorpe.

We are very sorry indeed to hear that Miss Mary Gawthorpe remains seriously ill, and has been for some time confined to bed. Miss Gawthorpe has poured out her strength in such lavish service that she probably gave herself a poor chance of completely recovering from the effects of a blow received in the Manchester Free Trade Hall some years ago. She underwent an operation as a result of the blow, but she

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was so eager to get back to work that she did not rest long enough. There never was a gayer, sweeter, keener fighter than Mary Gawthorpe, and we hope she will soon recover physical strength, though it can never match her spiritual.

### Obituaries.

#### THE MASTER OF CHRIST'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

Another of the best friends of women has died this week. Dr. John Peile worked for many years, in conjunction with Dr. Henry Sidgwick, for the education of women, and in 1897 made a serious endeavour to get the University to grant women the degrees for which they are qualified. Dr. Peile was president of Newnham College, and the new building which has just been opened there is named Peile Hall after him and his wife, who survives him, and is also a member of the Council of Newnham College.

#### MRS. ISABEL THORNE.

We announce with regret the death of Mrs. Isabel Thorne, of 148, Harley Street, who for more than 30 years was honorary secretary to the London School of Medicine for Women.

Mrs. Thorne spent several years of her early married life in China, and while there turned her thoughts to the need of medical women in India and China. She returned to England in 1868, and tried to obtain a medical qualification. At this time no medical school would admit a woman, and there was no qualifying examination in Great Britain open to women. With one or two other women Mrs. Thorne gained admission to various classes in Edinburgh, but as the examinations were not open to them, graduation was impossible. The next step was to start a school of medicine for women in London, and Mrs. Thorne became its honorary secretary. She spent more than 30 years in the work of creating a first-rate medical school for women; this school has been recognised for some years past as one of the leading medical schools in London.

### The National Union of Women Workers.

This week the annual conference is sitting at Lincoln, the subject for discussion being "The Problems of Child Life and Educational Ideals." At the business meetings of the National Council of Women motions will be brought forward relating to continuation schools, exemption from school, street trading, and the better care and control of the feeble-minded. There is also a proposal to alter the name of the "National Union of Women Workers" to that of "National Council of Women." Over 500 delegates are in attendance. We hope to publish a short account of the proceedings next week.

### Reviews.

#### IMPORTANT.

#### MR. BRAILSFORD'S LATEST PAMPHLET.

THE "CONCILIATION" BILL, an Explanation and Defence. By H. N. Brailsford. (Garden City Press. 1d. Pp. 15.)  
 Mr. Brailsford is really a marvel of steady, slogging energy. Point by point he meets the enemy; patient brick on brick he builds the wall that defends his position. This week he has issued a 15-page pamphlet with the above title, and there is not a Suffragist who can afford to be without this temperate and lucid statement of the whole case.

He begins by a history of the Suffrage movement in the last Parliament, showing plainly how the changes there have been due to the chicanery of parties, and never to any marked change in the country or any change at all on the part of women. He analyses the divisions on the various Bills—Mr. Stanger's, Mr. Dickinson's, Mr. Howard's,—and shows how the experience gained by these helped the Conciliation Committee to find the line of least resistance. Concessions were made to both parties, the women's demand being whittled down to the minimum, in deference first to Liberal and then to Conservative objections.

He explains how the faggot and the plural vote were bit by bit eliminated, and how the "intelligible principle" of the Bill, which Mr. Asquith professes he cannot find, was "to remove the insulting disqualification of sex," "to make household Suffrage a reality." He shows, by figures derived from that patient investigator, Mr. Charles Booth, and from leaflets published by the People's Suffrage Federation, that the occupiers and householders' register gives a very fair sample of women of all classes, and he points out that married women are not disfranchised as such, that wives of soldiers and sailors might have the vote, and that widows would be a large section—perhaps the largest.

Referring to Mr. George's statement that he "fights for the best," Mr. Brailsford asks, "What does he risk? He compared this question to that of Home Rule, and asked the women to put their faith in the Liberal party with as great

a patience as Irishmen have shown. Mr. Gladstone staked on Home Rule the fortunes of Liberalism, made it a Government question, faced a rift in his Cabinet and a schism in his party, and went gallantly into the wilderness for his convictions. Mr. Lloyd George will not do that. Liberalism is to monopolise the credit, while it refuses the risks. It is to veto a non-party settlement, while it declines to use its resources as a governing party to impose a settlement on party lines."

He ends with a plea for one week of Parliamentary time before party hostilities break out again, and lays on the shoulders of those in power the responsibility of refusing to give time for the will of the majority to deal effectively with this burning question. There is no rhetoric; it is close, firm reasoning and statement of facts, and gives a weapon that will not break in your hand.

#### MEMBERSHIP CARDS.

The Leeds Society has issued an excellent member's card in the colours of the National Union. In the centre is the well-known figure of the bugler girl. At the top of the card and in the two bottom corners are inset small portraits of Mrs. Fawcett, Florence Nightingale, and Josephine Butler, with apposite quotations from the two latter. It is a very bright and effective card, and could be adopted by any society within the Union. The Leeds Society would be glad to supply it.

#### SUFFRAGE LITERATURE.

The Cardiff Society has had printed in leaflet form Mr. Brailsford's letter in the "Manchester Guardian," and they will be pleased to supply societies with copies of it at 9d. per 100. Address Miss Nautet (Literature Sec.), 108, Richmond Road, Cardiff.

#### THE MAGAZINES.

In *The Commonwealth* for October Mr. Kenneth Richmond dissects "What's Wrong with Mr. Chesterton?" In reply to Mr. Chesterton's contention that "tradition has decided that only half humanity shall be monomaniac," and that that half shall be male, Mr. Richmond concludes that "if men are the monomaniacs and women the universalists, it is clearly the women who must govern," but "tradition has decided nothing of the sort." He protests against the grossness of Mr. Chesterton's view of women, and shows clearly how intimately the interests of women and the home are bound up with the interests of the State, and how absolutely

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essential to proper development of women it is that they should have freedom of choice.

#### THE PRESS.

There seems little doubt that the Scottish Press is disposed to be fairer to us than the English. In the *Aberdeen Free Press* of September 30th appeared a spirited leader commenting on the pastboard lions, the "political property lions," in the path conjured up by Mr. Lloyd George, and remarking that "the cause of the poor and the oppressed" for which he is so active is "bound up in the Suffrage question." The article ends by characterizing his excuses as "petty and pitiable."

The *Inverness Courier* of September 27th had over a column and a half of an admirable letter from Lady Stout, answering Mr. Bryce, point by point, from her own experience as wife of the Chief Justice of New Zealand.

### Correspondence.

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

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

#### A GENERAL STRIKE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Though on the opposite political side from your correspondent, "A. M. Street" (September 29th), may I warmly endorse her views re "A Strike of Liberal Women." Six leading ladies withdrew last winter from the Winscombe Liberal Association, including president and committee members, finding it impossible under the present position of women, to continue work in party politics. Like your correspondent, we find it difficult to get any letters or articles urging this line of action accepted by the press, and we are continually reminded of the well-known "Conspiracy of Silence" during Mrs. Josephine Butler's campaign.

Non-militant weapons are so few, and the efforts and self-denial of Suffragists so great, that surely political women of both parties will be willing to use this the most logical, though often the most difficult, one.

(Mrs.) MADELINE GRUBB (late President Winscombe W.S.A.).

The Down, Winscombe.

#### LAYWOMEN AND THE CHURCH.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—There is a great and increasing danger that the position of women with regard to the Church of England is altering for the worse. We hear much of the advantages of increased representation of the laity, but, owing largely to the iniquitous arrangement by which, in the case of women only, the qualification for a vote for the election of members of the Lay Representative Council is not membership of the Church, but the occupation of a house, the representation of women is purely nominal; if, indeed, it can be considered to exist at all. Indeed, in reading Church newspapers, one finds that the word "laity" has a purely masculine meaning, unless the collection of money is in question, in which case it never fails to change automatically to a common gender.

What is needed, and indeed essential, unless women are content to be regarded as a negligible quantity in the Church, is the formation of a central society with wide-spread branches, which would give to Churchwomen the same opportunity for the expression of a corporate opinion as the C.E.M.S. provides for men. At present it appears to be nobody's business, for instance, to represent to the Church authorities the intense repugnance which an increasing number of women are coming to feel to the use of the word "obey" in the Marriage Service. In the numerous discussions over alterations to the Prayer Book, no allusion is ever made to this subject. Such a society would be able to represent the woman's point of view to the clergy, and we should be saved the painful experience of listening to addresses which, though well meaning, too often show a complete ignorance of the subjects with which they deal.—Yours,

C. M. B.

(The two letters above were held over last week.)

#### WOMEN AND THE FACTORY ACTS.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Mr. Peacock, in a letter of August 25th, draws attention to the attitude of opposition which many women of the advanced movements take towards factory legislation as it affects women, and points out the use which the opponents of Women's Suffrage make of such opposition. The whole question is of such importance that I hoped to see a considerable correspondence on it. Without attempting to answer Mr. Peacock's admirable questions, I should like to comment on the point he raises.

Factory legislation has benefited the workers by shortening hours of toil and safeguarding (to some extent) their health and life. Where men and women have been engaged in the same work, or in branches of the same trade, these benefits

have often been given first to women, and afterwards extended to men, with the result that individuals have suffered for the ultimate benefit of the many.

We grant that for the good of the community restrictions on labour are necessary. That we may have a healthy race the hours of toil must be restricted; that life shall not be unduly shortened, dangerous trades must be regulated; that the children born may have a fair chance of vigorous life, the work of mothers must be restrained. But we do not grant that for these benefits to the community the individual should pay. We have reached such a stage in community organisation that it should no longer be necessary to demand a sacrifice from the individual for the common good. I would suggest, therefore, that women of advanced thought can oppose factory legislation making for the general betterment of labour conditions only when no compensation for individual loss is allowed. Let the community bear its own burdens.

The Anti-Suffragists will find many harmless straws with which to whip us. Do not let us put a lash in their hands by opposing any measures which will tend to a general amelioration of the conditions of labour on any smaller ground than the one I have indicated.—Yours,

ROSE MAHANY.

92, Harborough Road, Streatham.

[As Suffragists it would appear that we have quite enough reason for opposing all legislation restrictive of women's work until women have the vote. It is hard enough to find out what voters want; it is impossible for men to understand the needs of women while they muzzle them.—Ed., "C. C."]

#### MARRIED WOMEN AND INCOME-TAX.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—A legal luminary has laid down the dictum that "the Legislature is to be regarded as an ideal person who does not make mistakes, and it must be assumed that it intended to say what it has said," which is comforting for us. Mr. Lloyd George also declared a few weeks ago that "the business of the able officials at Somerset House is to administer the law of the land."

The way in which these able officials administer the law of the land relating to married women is exceedingly curious to contemplate, for, as a matter of fact, they compel married women to pay income-tax on a heavier scale than any other member of the community.

I know of cases where the wife's income is as low as £10, yet 11/8 out of this little sum is taken for income-tax, which she is not permitted to recover.

But as if this were not sufficient to make a worm turn, a great deal of the tax paid by married women is coolly handed on by the Revenue officials to the husbands! In other words, the wife is compelled to pay tax, not to the Revenue, but to her own husband, the money passing out of her pocket into his pocket, through the obliging medium of "the able officials at Somerset House." This feat of legerdemain can be performed without the wife's consent or even her knowledge, the husband's signature being all-sufficient.

A married lady asked me to recover the tax on her income. I told her that the Revenue never returned any money to married women, but that she would no doubt find it had been returned to her husband. On making inquiry she found it was so. She was surprised. (By the way, so was he.)

An appeal has now been made to Mr. Lloyd George to take cognisance of these unlawful practices, and to put an immediate stop to them. Married women who are paying illegally charged income-tax will no doubt await his reply and note his attitude with considerable interest, for is not he the self-constituted champion of the rights and interests of the married woman?—Yours,

ETHEL AYRES PURDIE, A.L.A.A.

#### CHURCH DISCIPLINE AND RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I note with great regret in this week's "Common Cause" your resolution to avoid discussion of Church discipline and religious authority and of the teaching of St. Paul. Thereby is let slip, I fear, a great opportunity of reaching what is, perhaps, to many minds the root of the matter of the Suffrage—namely, the belief that the subjection of women to men is a thing ordained by Heaven, and therefore too sacred to be assailable. We have to teach the teachers, and few of the average clergy, and fewer of the subordinate religious instructors, are masters of the higher criticism. Some male minds find it pleasant to stop short at the impression produced by superficial Bible reading, that woman is under a divine command to obey and admit herself man's inferior. Who has not, in conversation with the classes I have named, found the difficulty of combating this view, and at the same time avoiding offence to their religious susceptibilities? Nay, even devout Suffragists are sometimes troubled by Genesis and St. Paul. We need all the help we can get in distinguishing the wheat from the tares, especially tares so pleasant to the average male palate. Indeed, while total indifference to the rest of sacred writ is not seldom found, there generally remains an enthusiasm (easily understood) for this particular tenet! This matter goes deeper than the Conciliation Bill, and a column of comments, however wise, on the ephemeral

utterances of party politicians might not unfittingly give place to this. Let those who are able teach us through the columns of our own Press.—Yours,

E. M. GUEST.

Llandudno, October 7th, 1910.

[We insert Dr. Guest's letter because we are most anxious not to suppress any point of view. We find ourselves, however, reluctantly compelled to abide by our decision. It is not a case of "one column," but of twenty! A single letter received last week would, alone, have taken two columns. Church teaching and discipline are matters too highly controversial and specialised to be adequately dealt with in a small general paper, and to deal inadequately would be to deal unfairly.—Ed., "C.C."]

#### CONCENTRATION.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I enclose a copy of my reply to an appeal from the Civic League of Help, and I intend answering in similar terms all appeals to help in any social or political work. If all Suffragists would do this, I think it would help men to realise that we mean business.

"I regret that I am unable to join the Civic League of Help, as all my spare time and energy are given to Women's Suffrage work. When we get the vote, and I am free to work for social reforms, I shall be glad to do what I can for such an excellent work as the Civic League of Help."—Yours,

K. A. G. JONES.

#### WOMEN AND REAL ESTATE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—My attention has just been called to a rather remarkable statement which appears in a letter in your issue of September 29th. Mrs. Ayres Purdie, in her letter on the taxation of women, says that "real estate . . . cannot descend to women." Where is her authority for this extraordinary idea? If land happens to be entailed on heirs male, then, of course, it does not descend to women; but all land is not entailed on heirs male; on the contrary, much of the land now in possession of great English landowners has passed through women to the present possessors. Unentailed (unless otherwise disposed of by will) land passes to the sons; if they die without issue, to the daughters. Should the son inheriting have a daughter, unentailed land would pass to her in preference to her father's brother. Land can be willed to either man or woman at the pleasure of the testator; land can be entailed on the heirs of any specified person without reference to the sex of those heirs. Really, before we abuse "men's muddle-headed goings-on," we should be clear in our facts.—Yours,

A. B. WALLIS CHAPMAN.

[We took Mrs. Purdie's statement as referring to the real estate of a man dying intestate. Without such qualification her contention is certainly open to criticism.—Ed., "C. C."]

#### ELECTION POLICY.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Your space is valuable and limited. Is it necessary (perhaps I, too, may venture to speak "in the name of thousands" of members of the N. U. Societies) that so much of it should be devoted by your correspondent, Miss Hooper, to groundless attacks upon the *bona fides* of those who do not agree with her, especially upon the Executive of the N. U. This body has happily, whatever else it lacks, a saving sense of humour, and can bear much; but let us remember that it is a body upon which sit women as distinguished and as devoted as any in the Suffrage movement, and yet neither it nor the N.U. Council meeting has as yet been able to take the view pressed upon them by Miss Hooper. This being so, the situation must have an inwardness not immediately apparent. The Council and the Committee may be right, or they may be wrong, but may it in future be accepted as a fundamental in debate that they are neither fools nor knaves? The present position of the movement is critical, and needs debating upon. At our forthcoming special Council meeting we shall need wisdom and courage to decide rightly upon our future policy. But a spirit of faction and distrust of our leaders will not, and never can, lead to a right decision. It is the glory of the N.U. policy that it is progressive and elastic, and can move with the times, but the serious mistake is to make a fetish of any particular policy.

Agreed that "it is desirable to make all parties feel we have to be reckoned with," and that "Suffrage should come before party," and that "the Government in power should be pressed," these are axioms in the opinion of the controllers of the N. U. But *how*? If any person, or any society, knew *how*, the vote would even now be won.

In the meantime we must adopt a tactical position that brings out our full strength and hides our weakness, if weakness exists. We must not put ourselves instead in a position where we appear as a body of screaming women, out of touch with the right thinking of our own sex, and out of touch with the voting strength of the country at large. Now, I do not say that an anti-Government policy would put us in such a position, but I do say that some of its less responsible advocates continually ignore the fact that Suffragists need

not only the grace to "put Suffrage first," but also the sagacity to study the science of political dynamics. Again, it is not sufficiently understood that there are more than two possible policies; there is our present policy (of which its critics are often curiously ignorant), there is the "Keep the Liberal out" of two well-known sister Societies, and there is *x*. It is all three that need consideration at our next Council meeting. And may I say, Madam, that a few letters from leading politicians in our Union on this subject would be welcome, though in my opinion they should be reserved in tone, and anonymous for reasons that need not be specified. Also, may we drop the "Suffrage or party" myth; it is a childish begging of the question that obscures the whole issue.—Yours,

A. H. WARD.

#### ELECTION POLICY.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—With the apparent certainty of an approaching general election, I write to urge the National Union to consider the possibility of changing its policy.

Many Suffragists, though feeling they cannot conscientiously subscribe to an anti-Government policy, yet feel very strongly that a "strike" policy of some sort, on the part of all sincere Suffragists, is the only truly logical (as also the most efficacious) course to pursue. Cannot the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies adopt a "stand-aside" policy?—a policy by which its members would definitely refuse to take their stand in the political field until women are possessed of political rights.

Until women are represented in Parliament and thus granted the privileges of political citizenship, surely the only way of maintaining their dignity is for them to decline to do the work of a political citizen?

So long as women acquiesce in being slaves to men and their political parties, so long will they be kept in political slavery.

Hoping this appeal will bring forth other letters, better expressed, in the next issue of "The Common Cause."—Yours,

B. CANDLER.

"Rochford," Bexhill, Sussex, October 2nd, 1910.

[The Union, as a Union, has always "stood aside." We understand our correspondent to mean that the Union should now exact a pledge from all the members of Societies and of the Executive Committee that they will take no share in party politics.—Ed., "C. C."]

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

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

(The following were unavoidably held over last week.)

#### REDHILL, REIGATE AND DISTRICT.

We have had a two days' visit from Mrs. Stanbury. On Wednesday, September 21st, she spoke for us in the open-air in High Street, Reigate. This was a somewhat disappointing meeting, as the attendance was small. Certainly "early closing" night is not the best day to choose for the town. The meeting the following night in the village of South Park was much more lively and successful. Canvassing for the petition is going on slowly. We are hoping to send a strong contingent to take part in the united demonstration at Guildford on October 29th.

#### THREE TOWNS AND DISTRICT.

At the Plymouth Chambers on Friday last Miss Norma Smith inaugurated the first of a series of monthly meetings that we intend holding during the coming winter. She spoke on the change hat had come over the social and economic aspect of women's lives. She said it was not revolution but evolution that made women demand votes. She then spoke on the Conciliation Bill, and pointed out how really democratic this measure was. A resolution was moved: "That this meeting calls upon the Government to grant the facilities necessary for the passage of the Conciliation Bill during the next session." This was seconded and passed unanimously.

Questions were asked and answered, and "Common Causes" were sold. A vote of thanks to the speaker and to Dr. Mabel L. Ramsay, chairman, concluded the proceedings.

Workers were obtained for our next big meeting, at which Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., has promised to speak, at the Corn Exchange, on October 11th.

#### TONBRIDGE.

Our first members' meeting was held here on September 30th; Miss Taylor, L.L.A., a vice-president, was in the chair. It was decided that we should join the newly formed Kent Federation. After business had been finished, Miss Helga Gill addressed the meeting. The attendance was small, but Miss Gill's most clear and able address was appreciated to the full by all. A resolution was passed praying that facilities be granted for the Bill, and copies were sent to the local Member, Captain Spender Clay, to Mr. Brailsford, to the Prime Minister, and to the leaders of the three parties.

The Lady Frances Balfour comes to us on November 4th, when Mrs. Hedges, a vice-president, will take the chair at a public meeting. All offers of help, however small, will be gladly welcomed by the secretaries for November 4th.

The name of the retiring Secretary should have been given as Miss G. E. Moseley.

## WALLASEY AND WIRRAL.

In spite of bad weather there was a very fair attendance of members at the annual meeting of the above Society on September 28th at the Fairhaven Institute, Liscard. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and adopted, and the officials and committee were chosen. On an appeal by the Chairman the debt on last year's work was wiped out in five minutes, so that we begin our new year on a financially sound basis. The scheme of work was fully discussed and adopted. This includes the canvass of the women municipal voters in Wallasey, West Kirby, Port Sunlight, and as many of the other villages in the Wirral Peninsula as possible. Then it was settled that a permanent home for the Society was to be taken, and a shop, 70, Rowson Street, New Brighton, was decided on. Here we shall hold our monthly At Homes, a sewing party for the benefit of the Society, and here also our social study circle will meet. We also hope that the Men's League will use the shop, and that it will be as successful as our committee-rooms were during the election. Suffrage literature and "The Common Cause" will be on sale regularly.

Already a bureau, ottoman, and chairs have been promised, and we feel sure that our members will assist in making the rooms attractive. Our scheme of work also includes the formation of branch Societies in at least one or two of the most populous parts of our very scattered area.

Before our meeting closed the supply of "Common Causes" was exhausted, and three new members joined the Society.

## WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON.

The monthly meeting of this branch was held on Friday afternoon, September 30th, at the Masonic Rooms, by kind invitation of Mrs. Alfred Hill. There was a good attendance, and an appeal for help in the distribution and sale of tickets for the public meeting at the Town Hall on October 20th met with a ready response. Mrs. Dykes presided, and Mrs. Ring, secretary of the Birmingham Society, spoke on the industrial position of women. She moved the following resolution, which was carried unanimously, and has been forwarded to the Prime Minister and Mr. Pollock, the Member: "That this meeting urges the Prime Minister to grant facilities for the further consideration of the Conciliation Bill."

## WHITBY AND DISTRICT.

Owing to the kindness of Miss Helen Ward, who volunteered to speak for us whilst on her holiday in this neighbourhood, we held an open-air meeting in Whitby on the evening of Monday, September 12th. Miss Pringle introduced Miss Ward to the audience, who listened with much interest to her speech on the Conciliation Bill. Miss Wiseman seconded, and the resolution was passed with only four dissentients. Leaflets explaining the Bill were distributed, current numbers of "The Common Cause" sold, and back numbers, kindly supplied by our President, given away.

## YORK.

The first of a number of meetings which have been organized to be held in the various wards of the city took place on Thursday evening in Nunery Lane, Micklegate Ward. The chief object of these gatherings is to meet the women occupiers, and to teach them how

they should value their municipal vote and how important it is they should use it. Mr. Edwin Gray gave a most instructive address to a deeply interested audience, showing how the duties and responsibilities of the municipal vote naturally lead up to the Parliamentary vote and furnish a training for its exercise. He said the Conciliation Bill, conferring the Parliamentary vote upon women already qualified for the municipal vote, was a perfectly logical development of the existing order of things, and should be supported. Afterwards a discussion took place. A resolution in favour of this Bill was passed by the meeting without a dissentient.

## ALTRINCHAM.

This Society held a public meeting in the Drill Hall, Lymm, on October 3rd. Miss Frances Sterling (London) made an admirable speech, which delighted the audience and held their close attention for fifty minutes. The resolution was seconded by Mr. W. M. Beckett, of Lymm, and carried by a large majority, only four persons voting against it. About 150 were present, but a considerable number did not vote. The Altrincham Society has already a few members in Lymm, and it is hoped that this successful meeting will be the means of adding to their number.

On the afternoon of October 5th the annual business meeting of the Society was held. Miss Courtney was present, and members are very grateful for her lucid explanation of the work and organization of the federated districts.

## BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT.

The annual meeting of members was held on October 4th at "Garryowen," by kind permission of Mrs. Conran. The financial report and the Secretary's report were read, passed, and considered quite satisfactory. A resolution was also passed begging the Government to grant facilities to pass the Bill this autumn, and the Hon. Secretary was asked to write to the Member for the constituency to ask him to use his influence with the Cabinet to further this end. Miss Dorothy Edwards announced that she had secured Mrs. Rymbird as chairman for the ensuing year, and Mrs. Paul Springman, of Ichel Manor, and Miss Brandon, of Crookham, as vice-presidents.

## CHELTENHAM.

Following a suggestion of the President, Mrs. Swiney, this Society is arranging to engage a newspaper boy for several hours on Thursday and Friday each week for a month, to sell "The Common Cause," "Votes for Women," and "The Vote," in the principal streets. Thursday being market day, many country people come in, and it is thought three dozen may be sold. If copies are left, the Society will have the option of taking them over. This is being done by arrangement with one of the leading newsgents, Banks, Promenade. Five Cheltonians represented the town at the Bristol demonstration.

## COLWYN BAY.

The first meeting of our winter session was held on Monday evening, October 3rd; it took the form of a social, with short speeches on "Why I am a Suffragist," and a little music, contributed by members and friends. We intend holding meetings the first Monday in each month at 8 p.m. at Cartmell's Café. All interested men and women, are cordially invited to attend these meetings. Several members have kindly offered their drawing-rooms for afternoon meetings, so we hope to do some useful and much-needed propaganda work during the winter months.

## HULL.

Active preparations are being made for the winter campaign, which begins on October 19th. A drawing-room meeting and sale of work will be held at 273, Beverley Road, and in the evening Miss Cicely Corbett will address a public meeting in Owen Hall, Baker Street. During the summer months successful At Homes have been held every Thursday afternoon at the office, 17, Jameson Street, to which women citizens and shop assistants have been especially invited.

On October 1st a sewing meeting was held at Dr. Murdoch's, 102, Beverley Road. We discussed Suffrage and the woman's movement while deft fingers ceaselessly manufactured dainty and useful articles for the sale of work. Great satisfaction was felt that Dr. Murdoch was able so happily to welcome us again after her long illness.

## NORTH OF ENGLAND—EAST MANCHESTER.

From October 17th to 21st inclusive this branch will hold a five days' campaign at the corner of Devonshire Street and Stockport Road. The Secretary, Mr. Richard Bates, 22, Devonshire Street, Ardwick, will be glad to hear of anyone who can come along and render a little help in the meetings by giving out literature and talking to the people afterwards.

(We are obliged to hold over most of the reports of Societies this week.)

## Other Societies.

## ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

A highly successful meeting was held under the auspices of the above League on Friday last. The Grand Hall of the Criterion was more than full, and the speeches of Mrs. Boulnois and Miss Martin, Chairman and Secretary of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, Sir William Chance, Bart., and the Rev. Dr. Cobb were closely followed by the large audience, many of whom seemed to have attended a Suffrage meeting for the first time. The beautiful singing of Lady Sybil Smith was also deeply appreciated by everyone.

The Actresses' Franchise League are arranging to have local Hon. Secretaries in the provinces. Will Suffrage Societies please note that Miss Cicely Leadley Brown, The Idle Hour Club, 2, Church Street, Liverpool (Telephone: 60 Herswell, or 3934 Royal), has kindly consented to act in Liverpool; and Miss J. Harvey, St. Aubyns, Carlisle Road, Eastbourne, is taking up the work in Eastbourne? Both these Hon. Secretaries will be glad to answer any inquiries about the League. They will also be glad to get in touch with members of the dramatic, musical, and music-hall profession in these towns who are desirous of joining the Actresses' Franchise League.

## Forthcoming Meetings.

## OCTOBER 13.

Altrincham Society—Free Library, Sale—Miss Abadam. 8.0  
London—Sutton—Annual General Meeting and Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Close (Hostess), Miss Bompas. 3.0  
London—Clerkenwell—Garnault Place—Open-air Meeting—Miss C. Corbett. 8.30  
Newcastle—Tilley's Restaurant—Dinner to Mrs. Fawcett. 7.30  
Wrethenton—Open-air Meeting—Miss Lina Johnson. 7.30  
Worcester—At Home—Miss Martin, Lady Isabel Margesson. 7.30  
Bristol—111a, Whiteladies Road—Speakers' Class. 7.30

## OCTOBER 14.

Gateshead—Bewick Hall—Mrs. H. Fawcett, LL.D., Mrs. Spence Watson. 7.30  
Cardiff—Park Hall—Reception—Lady Grove.  
Disley—Public Meeting—Miss Abadam.  
Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—At Home—Mrs. More Nisbett. 8.0  
London—N. Hackney—Annual Meeting—Miss Rinder. 8.0  
Bristol—Mrs. Pobjoy's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Baretti, Mrs. W. C. H. Cross. 3.30  
Watford—Co-operative Hall—Miss Campbell. 3.0  
London—Stroud Green—Open-air Meeting—Miss Cockle, Miss Thomson, B.A. 8.0  
North of England—85, Deansgate Arcade—Members' Meeting—Miss Ashton, Mrs. Swanwick.

## OCTOBER 15.

Cheadle—Public Meeting—Miss Abadam. 8.0  
Norwood—Suffrage Offices—Miss Raleigh, Miss Green. 7.0  
Huddersfield—St. George's Square—Open-air Meeting—Miss Siddon, Miss Fielden. 3.30  
London—Highgate—High Road, E. Finchley—Open-air Meeting. 8.0  
Harrogate—Crown Hotel—Mrs. Fawcett. 8.0

## OCTOBER 17.

North of England—East Manchester—Miss Ashton. 8.0  
Stockport—County Restaurant Assembly Rooms—Miss Abadam. 7.30  
Disbury—Public Meeting—Mr. L. Housman.  
Birmingham—Handsworth—Meeting. 7.30  
Barnsley—Arcade Hall—Mrs. Henry Fawcett. 8.0  
London—Clerkenwell—Open-air Meeting. 8.0  
Basingstoke—Women Only—Miss D. Edwardes. 8.0  
Watford—Clarendon Hall—Public Meeting—Lord Robert Cecil, Miss Frances Sterling. 8.0  
Edinburgh—Aln Lodge—Drawing-room Meeting.

## OCTOBER 18.

North of England—East Manchester—Miss Courtney, Mr. Brierley. 8.0  
London—Baling—At Home—Miss Lowdes. 8.15  
Nelson—Weavers' Institute—Public Meeting—Miss Abadam. 7.30  
Wilmslow—Public Meeting—Mr. Housman.  
Wakefield—Hatfield Hall—Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.  
Haslemere—Fernhurst Village Hall—Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell. 8.0  
Edinburgh—Iona Street, Leith—Open-air Meeting—Miss Low, Miss Gordon.

## OCTOBER 19.

North of England—East Manchester—Mrs. Miter Wilson. 8.0  
York—Exhibition—Miss Margaret Ashton. 3.0  
Grayshott—Meeting for Rate-paying Women—Mrs. Marshall. 3.0  
Leeds—Harehills Liberal Club—Miss Fielden. 8.0  
Salford—Women's Meeting—Miss Abadam. Afternoon  
Walkden—Public Meeting—Miss Abadam. Evening  
Marple—Trinity Hall—Mr. Laurence Housman, Miss Maude Royden.

Edinburgh—Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Betts Brown.  
Hull—Drawing-room Meeting and Sale of Work—Miss C. Corbett. 3-6  
Hull—Owen Hall—Miss C. Corbett. 8.0

## OCTOBER 20.

North of England—East Manchester—Miss Robertson. 8.0  
Dublin—Irish W.S. and Local Government Association—Committee Meeting.  
Leamington—Town Hall—Public Meeting—Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Abadam. 8.0  
London—Camberwell—The Tabernacle, Rye Lane—Miss I. O. Ford. 7.30

Hitchin—Town Hall—Earl of Lytton, Mrs. Swanwick.  
Birmingham—Harborne—Miss Phillips.  
London—Clerkenwell—Open-air Meeting. 8.0  
Leeds—Ackworth School, Pontefract—Debate—Miss Fielden.  
Edinburgh—69, Leamington Terrace—Drawing-room Meeting.  
Edinburgh—42, Upper Gray Street—Drawing-room Meeting.

## OCTOBER 21.

North of England—East Manchester—Mrs. Rogerson, Miss Walshe. 8.0  
Woking—Duke Street—Open-air Meeting—Miss Corbett, Miss Thomson.  
Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—At Home.  
Birmingham—Northfield—Mrs. Osler, Rev. A. Pinchard.  
Birmingham—Solihull—Miss Phillips, Mrs. Ring.  
Haslemere—Beacon Hill Hall—Public Meeting—Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P. 7.30

Altrincham Society—Bowdon—Assembly Rooms—Amateur Dramatic Performance. 8.30  
Ramsgate—Meeting for Women Municipal Voters and Members—Miss Macaulay. 7.45

## OCTOBER 22.

London—Highgate—High Road, E. Finchley—Open-air Meeting. 8.0  
Altrincham Society—Bowdon—Assembly Rooms—Amateur Dramatic Performance. 8.0  
Leeds—Mrs. Duncan's Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Parrish, Miss Fielden. 3.30

## OCTOBER 24.

London—Sutton—Freemason's Hall—Public Meeting—Mrs. Fawcett. 8.0  
Edinburgh—Oddfellows' Hall—H. N. Brailsford, Esq.  
Birmingham—Edgbaston—Meeting.  
Haslemere—Schools—Public Meeting—Mr. Laurence Housman.  
Wakefield—Olympia Garage—Open-air Meeting—Miss Fielden. 8.0  
London—Camberwell—Station Road—Mrs. Meyer. 7.30

## OCTOBER 25.

Edinburgh—Music Hall—Lord Lytton, Miss Abadam.  
North of England—Free Trade Hall—Lord Lytton, the Lady Betty Balfour, and others.  
London—Wandsworth—Town Hall—Miss B. Mason, Mr. Walter McLaren, M.P. 7.45

## OCTOBER 26.

Birmingham—Town Hall—Lady Frances Balfour, Lord Lytton.  
SCOTTISH FEDERATION FIXTURES.  
October 17—Melrose—Lady Frances Balfour. 8.0  
October 17—Aberdeen—Miss Mason. 8.0  
October 21—Dingwall—Miss Mason. 8.0

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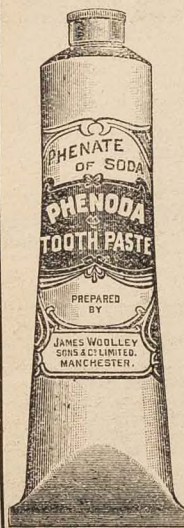
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