



VOL. II.—No. 29.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1909.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

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Notes.

THE press has not been slow to realize and utilize the presence in our midst of two exceptionally interesting figures. Madame Malmberg and Miss Tekla Hultin, Doctor of Philosophy, Secretary of the Statistical Bureau of Finland, and member of the Finnish Diet, have won all hearts. The latter has been much interviewed; but in case our readers may not have seen her answer to the question how far Parliamentary duty interferes with the domestic obligations of women in Finland we append it:—

"We have not yet found that the possibilities you contemplate have in any way interfered with the smooth course of legislation. Somebody asked me how the women members could look after their children if they were attending to their work in the Diet; but I might point out that the Diet does not meet until 6 o'clock in the evening, and the time the political women devote to the nation is time which the average woman might be expected to employ at the theatres and dances."

WE have read with great interest the first number of the occasional magazine, entitled *The Hour and the Woman*, published by the Women's Freedom League.

The articles uniformly show that high standard of writing which we have always expected from the members of the League; and we shall look forward with pleasure to these occasional papers, which will undoubtedly contain instances of that wonderful incisiveness and wit which we expect from the same writers in our own pages.

WILL our correspondents kindly permit us to answer, through our columns, one of the points raised. The request for the gift of the paper to the National Union was contained in a letter dated December 23rd, and signed by the Secretary on behalf of The Executive Committee.

IT perhaps is well also to inform, through our columns, the lady or gentleman who kindly forwarded cuttings from *The Clarion* that our paragraph re the editorship of *The*

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Weekly Numbers, 1½d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; half-yearly, 3s. 3d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. All Subscriptions must be paid in advance. Back Numbers can still be obtained at the Office.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,
13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

Woman Worker was by no means meant to express approval of all contained in that paper.

We are surprised that, considering the very wide field of helpful activity that the paper has, its space should be taken up, as well as the time of its supporters, by criticisms of other organizations.

THE *Christian World* Pulpit reports that, in his review of 1908, Dr. Clifford "stoutly defended" Votes for Women, and that Archdeacon Wilberforce, on a similar occasion, said: "During 1908 the old conflict between civilization and savagery had been going on everywhere. In this country our miserable man-destroying drink system had been smothering us—it has given evidence that it is the only real and strong power in the nation, and will continue so until women get the vote."

IN the plate containing portraits of 'Famous Masters of Hounds,' published in last week's *Illustrated London News*, we see no fewer than five ladies here portrayed: Evelyn, Countess of Craven (Ashdown Park); Miss Pyman, Deputy Field Master (Goathland); Lady Gifford (Lady Gifford's Harriers); Mrs. Cheape (Bentley Beagles); and Mrs. Pryse Rice (Mrs. Pryse Rice's Harriers).

WE have received from Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett 4s. towards the publishing expenses of this paper.

WE shall be glad to receive as soon as possible the quarterly (1s. 8d.) or half-yearly (3s. 3d.) subscriptions which are now due; also can any of our readers let us have Nos. 29 and 31 (January 16th and 30th) for which we shall be grateful.

We have been requested by the CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION to insert the following communication:—

It is evident that the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association has met a great want, for since we formally started in November the work has been very heavy, and our Chairman and Honorary Secretary have been busy all day. We have had letters and telegrams from many parts of the United Kingdom, wishing us success and volunteering help. Our list of vice-presidents, which is already a large and influential one, includes ladies who take a prominent part in political affairs, in the learned professions, and social life. We have established offices at 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, where the work of the Association is now being carried on, and to which address correspondence to our Hon. Sec., Mrs. Gilbert Samuel, should be sent.

Our first important meeting, which took place early in December at 33, Belgrave Square, was most successful. The rooms were crowded, and those who came late were unable to gain admittance. Lord Robert Cecil, Lady Doughty, Mrs. Ashworth Hallett, and Miss Tuke's excellent speeches were heard with the deepest interest, and we sold much literature and many badges. Our President, Lady Knightley of Fawsley, presided, and Mrs. Percy Boulnois, Chairman of our Executive Committee, described our aims and objects, and made an appeal for funds, wherewith to furnish our new offices and to extend our propaganda work. Miss Packer's series of lectures at the Women's Institute on 'The Story of our English Franchise' were also most successful, and the many questions put at the close of each lecture proved how interested the large audience was in the subject. We have also held a satisfactory meeting at Canterbury, when Mrs. Percy Boulnois spoke to a large gathering, and we received many offers of help. We are arranging for various meetings to be held in different parts of London and the country, and we shall be glad to hear from any ladies who will lend their drawing-rooms for this object. Arrangements have been made for a large meeting on February 18th at the Westminster Palace Hotel, which has been most kindly offered by one of our members, and for which we hope to obtain influential speakers.

We would remind our members that 1d. and 2d. sample packets of literature can be obtained on application to the Secretary, and the leaflets can be bought separately at the following prices: 'A Reply to the Anti-Suffragists,' 5d. a dozen; 'Why Conservative and Unionist Women want the Vote' and 'A Reply to the Anti-Suffrage Manifesto,' by an Old-fashioned Conservative, 4d. a dozen; 'Conservative Leaders' Opinions on the Enfranchisement of Women,' 'An Appeal to Conservative and Unionist Women,' by Lady Knightley of Fawsley; 'To Conservative Women,' and 'Conservative Women and Women's Suffrage,' at 2d. a dozen. Our badges, price one shilling each, have met with general approval. They are made in England, by English workmen, and are in blue and white enamel with gold lettering.

In giving this brief outline of our work, up to the present time, we would impress upon our members, and upon all our friends, the importance of interesting those women of the Unionist Party who have, so far, held aloof. The great success which we have already met with in our initial work at the close of the year makes us full of hope and encouragement for the future.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

AUSTRALIA.—The victory in Victoria has been hailed with enthusiasm by the women who have worked to bring it about. The following resolution was sent to the Premier by Miss Vida Goldstein, President of the Women's Political Association, from the Woman Suffrage Declaration Committee: 'This committee rejoices at the overwhelming victory achieved by the women of Victoria in the Legislative Council, when the Woman Suffrage Bill was passed by 23 votes to 5. The committee warmly thanks all who contributed to this victory—the Parliament, Labour Party, the private members in both Houses, who have kept the Woman Suffrage flag flying when the Government remained passive, the men whose chivalrous action in sinking all party differences to form a Man's League for Woman Suffrage helped the committee so materially; the Premier and members of the Government, who having hitherto opposed Woman Suffrage, had the courage to admit that public opinion was against them, and hastened to retrieve the long injustice done to Victorian women by introducing a Woman Suffrage Bill, and carrying it through both Houses by enormous majorities.'

The *Melbourne Age* speaks of the Act as "the sweeping away of a wrong. The woman's vote has never been revolutionary. It is not easy to see how it could be. Woman is as much a part of the human family as man is. Her aspirations and desires are much the same; her aims and ideas of happiness so intermingled with those of man as to be practically identical. She is a taxpayer in the same way as her brother; she consumes dutiable goods, and pays rates where she has property; and on the principle that there should be no taxation without representation, it has been a pure piece of masculine oppression which has denied to her an equal status before the law and the law-makers. . . . Woman will come into her heritage in this state, as she has long since come into it in the breezier atmosphere of the Federation. She will do very little even in the Liberal revival, for which most patriotic citizens yearn. But, at least, in shedding the old Franchise and in placing our mothers, wives, and sisters on a political equality with ourselves, we have left behind us another of the disabilities of a darker age. . . . We should have received Woman Suffrage twenty years ago thankfully; we accept it now as a long overdue payment of a just debt."

Finland in 1906, Norway in 1907, Victoria in 1908. Which of us is destined to draw a prize in 1909?

BELGIUM.—Here, as in France, women have obtained recognition in the boards known as *conseils de Prudhommes*. On December 19th the law dealing with these councils was modified by the Chamber, and by sixty-two votes to twenty-nine the right to vote and to be elected were conferred on women. The elections are to be on the lines of proportional representation and the vote is compulsory. It is also laid down that there must be a certain proportion of women among the representatives. In these respects the Belgian law is in advance of the French.

A. ZIMMERN.

Women Graduates Honour their Counsel in the House of Lords.

A WOMEN graduates' lunch was held on January 9th at the Women Students' Union, Edinburgh, in honour of Miss Chrystal Macmillan, M.A., B.Sc., and Miss Frances Simson, M.A., in recognition of the energy, patience, and ability with which they have conducted the Women Graduates' Appeal to the House of Lords, and the able manner in which they pleaded the case.

Representatives were present from the four Scottish Universities. Dr. Elsie Inglis presided; Miss Nairn, M.A., was also present; the fifth appellant, Miss Frances Melville, M.A., was unavoidably detained in St. Andrews.

Miss Hutchinson Stirling, M.A., in proposing the health of "The Guests" said that all supporters of the Women's Suffrage movement had fully sympathized with the women graduates in their claim. Miss Chrystal Macmillan, in responding, delivered a message to the Scottish Women Graduates from the women of England. She reported how enthusiastically she had been received as their representative at a great meeting of industrial and professional women in the Queen's Hall, London, as showing how they appreciated the work which it had been made possible for Scottish Women Graduates to do. Miss Simson impressed on those present the importance of scientific study of the question.

Dr. Inglis, proposing "The Cause," emphasized the fact that women of all sections were at one in this demand, and that it was the most important national question of the day. Dr. Marion Gilchrist (Glasgow), in replying, said women should work so enthusiastically for the cause as to have no time to criticize the methods of other Suffragists.

Dr. Inglis then, in the name of the Scottish Women Graduates, presented Miss Macmillan and Miss Simson each with a small pendant in commemoration of their appearance at the bar of the House of Lords.

After lunch a reception for present students in Edinburgh was held, at which Miss Macmillan outlined the proposed scheme for the formation of a Scottish Women's University Suffrage Society, which is to be discussed at a meeting of graduates on January 16th. Miss Simson urged upon the students the necessity of fitting themselves for the duties of the citizenship, which she hoped would not be long withheld from them.

Afterwards the students present formed themselves into an Edinburgh University Women's Suffrage Society.

House of Lords—Scottish Women Graduates' Appeal.

DONATIONS TOWARDS THE DEFICIT OF £150.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	17	12	6
Miss M. Kemp	1	0	0
Anonymous	2	2	0
Miss A. C. Freeman	2	2	0
Miss Agnes Britchard	0	2	6
Miss C. W. Haig	0	10	0
Miss Annie M. Black, M.B.	0	10	0
Miss E. S. Hooper	1	1	0
Miss I. C. Green	0	10	6
The Misses Young	0	8	0
Mrs. W. E. Dowson	0	3	0
Mrs. I. S. Brown	0	2	6
Mrs. A. M. Beddor	0	5	0
Mrs. Norman	1	0	0
Anonymous	0	2	6
Dr. A. E. Porter	0	4	0
Mrs. Hertha Ayrton	5	0	0

This leaves a present deficit of £117 4s. 6d. We appeal to Suffragists to help to wipe off this deficit by sending donations to the Secretary at Corstorphine Hill House, by Murray Field, Midlothian.

CHRISTAL MACMILLAN, Hon. Sec.

The March of Women.

OUT of Lethe she comes with healthy mien,
With buoyant step and vision clear,
Freedom's creature, calm, serene,
Cleansed from morbid, hopeless fear,
A human being, taking her share
In building the world on Promethean plan,
Feeling the weight of sin and care,
Which retards the progress 'tween man and man.
Climbing with him an illimitable height,
In Nature's mysterious book she reads,
Marching from chaos into the light,
Her life is an epoch of worthy deeds.
Then, on ye brave! for victory's nigh,
Justice and Truth are winning the day;
The dawn of Hope arises on high,
Inspiring and cheering you on your way.

ALICE G. COLLINGE.

Bolton.

Book Notice.

The Human Woman. By Lady Grove. (Smith, Elder & Co.) LADY GROVE'S contribution to the literature of the movement is a valuable and closely reasoned one. If it loses somewhat in continuity—as, indeed, owing to the method of its compilation (several chapters have previously appeared as essays in the critical reviews) it could scarcely fail to do—it lacks nothing in utility as an addition to the debater's armoury. Though it is still constantly necessary to state the A B C of the Women's Suffrage case, there are also occasions when special aspects of it need to be specially considered, and for such, this is a most helpful and welcome book. From the preface, wherein we are encouraged with "plodding pertinacity patiently to set forth our case as best we may," through 'The Three K's,' 'The Ideals of a Woman's Party,' 'Objections to Women's Suffrage Considered,' 'War and the Woman's Vote,' to chapters on 'Women in Assemblies,' 'Newspapers for Women' (a particularly interesting study of this phase of the question), 'The Present Disabilities of the Women of England,' and the admirable Index, which completes the book, an intelligent grasp of the facts and uncommon lucidity in setting them forth is revealed. We could wish nothing subtracted from the book, though, if space permitted, we should have welcomed still further strengthening of some of the arguments advanced.

Overheard.

I SAT silently and listened to this conversation between two men—both ardent Anti-Suffragettes:—

No. 1 (a Member of the Urban District Council). We are going to ask Mrs. Smith to be a member of our Old Age Pension Committee. She has time and energy, and will do the work well. It will be rather thankless work, and we on the Council will be glad to secure her help.

No. 2 (his friend). I suppose you will give her the vote afterwards?

No. 1. Of course not. Why? Her business will be to prepare all the facts, sort out impostors, investigate cases, and submit the results to us in Committee. We will hear the results of her investigations and decide.

No. 2. Why don't you do the investigations yourselves?

No. 1. We are busy men, it is tedious and tiring work, and a clever, capable woman will do it far better than a man could. Why should not she do some of the rough work for us? But she is a very managing woman, and we must be careful to keep her in her proper place.

No. 2. You ought to do the work yourselves. You train women like Mrs. Smith, and then abuse them for wanting a vote. Let Mrs. Smith stop at home. If she is out all day doing your disagreeable work for you she will be teaching herself to require and use a vote. You call her a managing woman, give her nothing to manage outside her home, and this silly clamour for a vote will die out.

A Song of the Perplexed.

With apologies to R—d K—g.

The Press throws ridicule on names
Of Suffragist and -gette;
And when in Parliament their claims
For justice they would set,
What rude excitement fills the House,
And makes men dream o' nights!
'Tis strange it should such passions rouse
When women talk of rights.

And such a lot of opposites
In woman are combined
As would o'ertax e'en critics' wits
In author new to find.
Chameleon-like she changes hue
To every gazer's sight,
"She's black," "she's white," "she's green," "she's
blue,"
A woman's never quite.

"An angel," when she nurses men,
A plaything when they choose;
But let her seek her own—it's then
Another pair of shoes.
"She's prone to mercy—so unjust,"
"She's flippant," "cruel," and "hard,"
"She's wise," "you can't her judgment trust,"
"A woman's sight is marred."

"A devil," or "a fribble," she,
"Her wits are all abroad,"
"It's dangerous to make her free,
She's such a howling fraud."
"She's china, of too frail a make
To treat as common delf,
So we, respectful, for her sake,
Place woman—on the shelf."

"A woman's voice should ne'er be heard,
Though folks say she can speak,
Her claim to teach is quite absurd,
Her logic's far too weak."
"To pay her taxes let her mind,
Nor seek a franchise right,
(Though soldiers lose their votes we find,
For women may not fight."

But when election time comes round,
Men's logic here we note,
"Let women's syren voices sound
And tell men how to vote."
So thus, for gain they may not share,
Of work they bear the brunt!
It's "women here" and "women there,"
And "women to the front."

Seats booked, what promises abound,
To tickle women's ears,
"A place for them shall now be found;
Discarded be their fears."
But when is launched the car of State,
No outstretched hand they find,
For promised room they idly wait,
It's "women, walk behind."

'Tis strange, a woman now may take
High honours, as we've seen;
Her mark in art and science make,
Or reign, a statesman Queen.
Philanthropist or saint may be,
A name for men to quote,
Yet for a man to voice her plea,
A woman may not vote.

N. A.

Correspondence.

The Proprietors of 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE' do not necessarily identify themselves in any way with the opinions expressed by their Correspondents.]

SIR,—As one of those who invariably wear the badge, and who urge it upon others, I am interested in the letter which appeared recently on the subject.

I think, however, that the writer overlooked the principal object of wearing a Women's Suffrage badge, which clearly is to attract attention; not to avoid notice. It is of little service to the Cause that we should be able to recognize each other by a kind of masonic sign. We chiefly need to impress the fact of our numbers and importance upon the opposition, or on the indifferent. If all members, men and women alike, of all the societies, wore a noticeable badge when in public, one of the objections still made by our enemies, that we "do not want the vote," or that "no one of any importance asks for it," must be fully answered.

The pretty little badge recommended by your correspondent bears a motto in Latin, "not understood of the people"; and its words are almost invisible. Only a close inspection, most unusual in a passer-by, could reveal the object of the tiny brooch.

A better badge for the purpose is either the well-known white medal, bearing on it "Votes for Women"; or the coloured bit of ribbon with the same inscription—to be obtained at 4, Clement's Inn.

Another excellent badge can be bought at 25, Victoria Street: a dark-red bar, inscribed with the words "Woman's Suffrage." I am, yours faithfully,
G. C. HAY.

Alderman Tyler's Friend and Lady Clerks.

43, Mitchell Street, St. Luke's, E.C.,
January 9th, 1909.

DEAR SIR,—Alderman Tyler's friend is unique, not to say unfortunately so, in only being able to procure lady clerks who "scrutinize their features in the mirror."

Probably trade is bad in the case of Alderman Tyler's friend, and there is little else to do in the office. How comes it there are mirrors in that unique and peculiar office?

I should like to point out that in the business in which I am a partner, we have had at various periods in its history to dismiss several male clerks, not so much for incompetence as for lack of stability and sobriety; quite lately an old male clerk, of many years' service, was, at the cost of much personal distress to the proprietors, and after years of repeated warnings, obliged to be dismissed, he having become a positive danger to the firm, and requiring a lady clerk constantly told off to check his errors, and it is a strange coincidence that our particular office is, from sheer expediency, now "manned" by women, because they require less supervision.

Now whose fault is this particular condition of things in this particular office? The steady woman's or the unsteady man's?

We do not select women because I, as a partner, am a Suffragette; the selection of the clerks is not within my province; they are selected because they require less supervision and never get intoxicated. I hear no complaints of mirror-gazing—but then the office is fitted as an office, and affords no opportunities for the pastime.

I should like to write to *The Times*, to cheer them up, as an antidote to the sad case of Alderman Tyler's friend, but *The Times*, being so strongly opposed to Woman's Suffrage, is not likely to insert any letter from an unknown name on the subject unless it is a damaging one to the woman's cause.

You are not so "impartial" as *The Times* prides itself on being, and consequently are more likely to be just.

Might I ask you to publish this letter, for the sake of Alderman Tyler?

Yours obediently,

MAUD ARNCLIFFE SENNETT,

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OBJECT.—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men.
The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A. Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON
Hon. Secretary: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. Organisers: MISS E. M. GARDNER, B.A. MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON, B.A. MRS. COOPER. MISS HELEN FRASER.
Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON." Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA.

OFFICES: 25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.
The Union will send Organising Agents, Speakers, or Literature to any place requiring them, its desire being to form a Women's Suffrage Society in every County and Borough. All persons interested in the movement, or desiring information about it, are requested to communicate with the Secretaries. Increased Funds are needed for the growing work of the Union, and Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. McLAREN.
MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT, M.P. MRS. BROADLEY REID
MISS MARGARET ASHTON THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR MISS EDITH DIMOCK HON. BERTRAND RUSSELL
MISS FLORENCE BALGARNIE MISS I. O. FORD MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN
MRS. ALLAN BRIGHT MISS MARTINDALE, M.D. (Lond.) MISS LOWNDES
MISS WARD LADY STRACHAY
And the Hon. Officers, ex officio.

Current Topics.

MRS. ARNOLD SHAW is sending a copy of *Women's Franchise* every week to the Wolverhampton Free Library.

It would be very helpful if the societies in the Union which have made any new departure in methods of work, would exchange their annual reports with each other, if possible, before the secretaries' meeting at Brighton on Jan. 26th.

'The Social Status of Women Occupiers,' a reprint of the article of Miss Clara Collet, M.A., in the September number of the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, is on sale at the National Union offices, price 2d. The purpose of the pamphlet is explained in the first sentence: "In view of Mr. Asquith's declaration that any proposal to extend the Suffrage to women must be on a democratic basis if it is to secure adoption by the Government, any data are of interest that throw some light on the proportions of women who belong to different social strata."

In connexion with the Annual Council Meeting at Brighton an exhibition of banners will be held in the Hove Town Hall on Jan. 26th, at 3 P.M., when Lady Frances Balfour will open the exhibition. Tickets, 2s. 6d.; tea, 6d. In the evening, 8.30, admission will be by payment of 3d. at the door. On Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 27th, the exhibition is open at 3-5.30, when admission will be by payment of 1s., tea, 6d. The tickets can be obtained from Miss Isabel Basden, 21, The Drive, Hove, and Miss F. de G. Merrifield, 14, Clifton Terrace, Brighton, and at the door. Admission free, by ticket, to delegates only.

5,000 Guineas Fund.

Miss Collyer	..	..	..	..	£1 1 0
Miss D. Martyn	..	..	..	..	0 8 0
Miss Rosalind Paget	..	..	..	..	0 5 0

Reigate and Redhill.

A LEITH HILL branch of the Redhill and Reigate W.S.S. has just been formed, and has every prospect of becoming a great strength to the cause in that district, which includes Dorking, Westcott, Gomshall, Shere, Mickleham, and Holmwood. An informal meeting of those interested was held at the Rookery Farm, Westcott, on January 4th, by the kind invitation of the Misses Drew (members of the Artists' League), and after a keen and animated discussion on the best mode of procedure it was decided to become a branch of the Redhill and Reigate society, and a provisional committee was appointed, with Mrs. Jocelyn Bray, of Coast Bank, Westcott, as Hon. Secretary. A public meeting has already been arranged to be held in Westcott on January 21st, and the Committee has been fortunate enough to secure Dr. Cruickshank of Reading and Mr. Malcolm Mitchell of the Men's League as speakers. Meantime literature is being distributed and members enrolled.

Mrs. Fawcett's Answer to Mr. Alfred Austin.

FROM 'THE TIMES' OF JANUARY 8TH.

SIR,—The greatest of poets has told us that "the lunatic, the lover, and the poet are of imagination all compact," and Mr. Alfred Austin's letter in your issue of to-day is an illustration of the truth of the saying. For the letter shows how powerful is the imagination which produced it, more powerful than memory or that respect for fact which I am sure distinguishes Mr. Alfred Austin when his imagination does not run away with him.

His letter opens with a reminiscence of his position to Sir Henry James (now Lord James) at a by-election in Taunton between thirty and forty years ago. He now regrets that opposition, or, at least, is thankful that it was unsuccessful, for he has since recognized in Lord James a much-valued statesman. But what he says he "most distinctly recollects" is the presence of myself and my sister Mrs. Garrett Anderson, taking part in that election and advocating the claim of women to share in the election of members of Parliament. This is where Mr. Alfred Austin's imagination has deceived him, or, rather, his memory has played him false. I was not in Taunton during that election, nor was my sister Mrs. Anderson. We must therefore regretfully relinquish all claim to the complimentary terms in which he describes our methods of presenting our opinions to the electorate. Two relatives of mine were in Taunton at the time, a cousin and another sister; but they are, to quote another poet, "distinct in individualities."

The argument of the letter is based on the assumption that to men, and to men alone, belong calm and clear judgment and common sense, while to women, and to women alone, belong enthusiasm, sentiment, and emotion. The facts of life surely do not correspond with these hard-and-fast dividing lines. We all know men who are carried away by their emotions, and we all know women who bring common sense and shrewd practical judgment to bear on the facts of every-day life. Mr. Alfred Austin dreads the effect of Woman Suffrage on the happiness of home and domestic life. When great political issues are before the country and stormy passions are aroused in Parliament and the Press, are these, he says, "to rage equally on the domestic hearth and between men and women"? But this is exactly what takes place now. We are a political people, and every political question as it arises is discussed on the hearth as well as on the platform. Would it add to the attractiveness of the domestic hearth to the average man if the average woman knew nothing and cared nothing about the political issues of vital importance which arise from time to time in the history of every nation? Mr. Alfred Austin's argument is not against Woman Suffrage, but against women knowing and caring about the great things which concern national weal or woe. If the Poet Laureate would cease to depend upon his imagination, and would inquire of his fellow citizens in Australia and New Zealand about the effects of Woman Suffrage on domestic life, his fears would be completely and effectually assuaged. He imagines that women would light-heartedly, or in a fit of emotional anger, vote for war, which men, and men alone, would have to fight. If the demands of the Woman Suffragists were granted, women would only have approximately one-quarter of the electoral

power now possessed by men, so that the votes of women could not bring about a war unless they were reinforced by the votes of men. And when, in any war, it may be asked, has the question of war or peace been submitted to the people who are going to fight? The Secretaries of State, the Chancellors, the War Lords decide on war. "Tommy," who has to fight it, is not so much as consulted. I think it was Froude who said that half the wars which are waged would be prevented if the first engagement had to be fought by the Secretaries of State of the countries concerned in the backyard of the Foreign Office.

In his last sentence Mr. Alfred Austin appeals "to the collective common sense of the British people." We are not dismayed by such an appeal; on the contrary, we are perpetually urging it. Is it common sense that a woman can be a queen, a mayor, a town or county councillor, but may not give a vote? That she may enter the profession of medicine, and as a doctor exercise the legal power to sign a certificate of insanity which would deprive a man of his vote, but may not vote herself? That she may take part in electoral contests, and is encouraged by all political parties to do so, and in this capacity advises, instructs, and persuades men how to vote, but must not vote herself? Is it common sense that she is present in the labour market in millions, and has to face the hard struggle for existence without the power of self-protection which the vote would give? That as a member of labour organizations she contributes her weekly dole which provides the salary of the Labour Member of Parliament—she pays him but must not vote for him? Common sense—British or the inferior foreign variety—will be hard put to it to reconcile such confusion and anomaly.

Mr. Alfred Austin believes himself to have been in the wrong in opposing Lord James thirty odd years ago. The man whom he endeavoured to keep out of Parliament he now recognizes as a distinguished statesman. Is it not, then, at least possible that Mr. Alfred Austin may learn, if, as I hope, he soon has experience of the actual working of Woman Suffrage, that, once again, he has opposed what he ought to have supported? All that women stand for in domestic life is either unrepresented or under-represented now. The admission of women to the Franchise would cause the home and domestic side of things to count for more in politics than they do at present. We appeal to the justice and common sense of our countrymen to see that some adequate expression is found in national affairs for all that women stand for in national life. Your obedient servant,
MILICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

Hull Suffrage Society.

On January 6th Miss Margaret Robertson gave an address, with Mrs. Fred Richardson, the President, in the chair. On January 7th an "At Home" was held at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Cameron, who acted as hostess. Dr. Mary Murdoch presided, and Miss Robertson spoke.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Jan.	Date	Event	Speaker	P.M.
14	Beckenham	Debate, Co-operative Hall	Miss Abadam	4
	Reigate and Redhill	"At Home," Cravenhurst, Reigate	Mrs. Hügel	4
15	Inverness	Public Meeting, Music Hall	Mrs. How Martyn	8
	Inverness	Public Meeting, Music Hall	Miss Helen Fraser	8
16	Cheitham	Social Meeting, Grosvenor Tea Rooms, North Place	Mrs. Pollock	4
	Tunbridge Wells	Public Meeting	Mrs. Fry	4
	Tunbridge Wells	Public Meeting	Mme. Sarah Grand	8
17	Birmingham	Salisbury, Morton Memorial Hall	Mrs. Pember Reeves	8
	Birmingham	Public Meeting	Miss Abadam	8
18	Birmingham	Public Meeting	Miss Abadam	8
	Bournemouth	"At Home," Princes Hall, Grand Hotel	Miss Robertson	4-6.30
19	Birmingham	Public Meeting	Miss Abadam	7.30
	Bournemouth	Public Meeting, St. Ambrose Hall, Westbourne	Miss Robertson	7.30
	Darlington	Public Meeting, Drill Hall	H. Pike Pease, Esq., M.P.	
	Darlington	Public Meeting, Drill Hall	Lady Grove and others	

	London Society Reception	Doré Gallery	4.30-7 P.M.
	London	Marylebone, Drawing-Room Meeting	Speaker, Miss Grace Spicer 4
	London	N. Paddington, Drawing-Room Meeting	Speaker, Mrs. Corbett 4.30
	Portsmouth	Meeting of Shop Assistants	Speakers, Miss N. O'Shea, Mrs. Harrison Bell
20	Bournemouth	Public Meeting, Temperance Hall, Haviland Road, Boscombe	Speakers, Miss Robertson, B.A., and others 7.30
21	Knutsford	Public Meeting, Rechabites' Hall, Winton.	Speaker, Miss Abadam 8
	Bournemouth	Public Meeting, Rechabites' Hall, Winton.	Chair, Councillor Wilson 7.30
	Knutsford	Stockton Heath, Hall Café	Speakers, Miss Robertson, B.A., and others 8
	Knutsford	Stockton Heath, Hall Café	Speakers, Mrs. Swanwick, Miss Abadam, Miss Courtney. 8
	London	Highbury, Debate, St. Augustine's Literary and Debating Society	8
	Manchester	"At Home," 85, Deansgate Arcade	Speaker Miss Abadam 3
	Redhill and Reigate	Leith Hill, Public Meeting, The Schoolroom, Westcott	Speakers, Dr. Cruickshank 8
	Hull	"At Home," Co-operative Hall	Chair, Rev. Canon Hicks 8
	Hull	"At Home," Co-operative Hall	Speaker, Miss Abadam 8
22	Bournemouth	Public Meeting, Emerson Hall, Upper Parkstone	Chair, Rev. Canon Hicks 8
	Manchester	Romiley, Public Meeting	Speakers, Miss Abadam 8
	Portsmouth	Public Meeting, Carpenters' and Joiners' Society	Speakers, Miss N. O'Shea, Mrs. Harrison Bell
23	Bournemouth	Public Meeting, Holy Trinity Hall, Old Christchurch Road	Speakers, Miss Robertson, B.A., and others 7.30
	Bromley	Cheshire, Public Meeting	Speaker, Miss Abadam
	Tunbridge Wells	"At Home"	Hostess, Mrs. Davis 3.30
	Tunbridge Wells	"At Home"	Speaker, Miss Pringle 3.30
25	Tunbridge Wells	"At Home"	Hostess, Mrs. Adeney 3.30
26 & 27	Brighton	Exhibition of Banners, Hove Town Hall	Speaker, Mrs. Zangwill 3
	Brighton	Exhibition of Banners, Hove Town Hall	To be opened Jan. 26, at 3 by The Lady Frances Balfour
26	London Society Reception	Doré Gallery	4.30-7
	Sutton	Debate, Unionist Club	Speakers, Miss M. Marris, Miss Fothergill 8.30
	Brighton	W.S.S., "At Home" to Delegates, Pavilion	8.30
	Catford	Debate, Brookdale Hall, Holbeach Road	8.15
	Windsor	Drawing-Room Meeting	Speaker, Miss Abadam 4
27	Brighton	N.U.W.S.S., Annual Meeting, Hove Town Hall	10.30 A.M.
	Public Meeting	Hove Town Hall	Chair, Rev. Preb. Bond 8
	Public Meeting	Hove Town Hall	Speakers, Mrs. Fawcett, Lady Frances Balfour, Miss F. Sterling, Walter McLaren, Esq. 8
	London Society	Lecture, 20, Craven Terrace, W.	Speaker, Miss Gladys Wright, B.A.
	Portsmouth	Public Meeting, Gosport	Speakers, Miss N. O'Shea, Mrs. Harrison Bell
28	London	Paddington, Public Meeting, Paddington Town Hall	Chair, Dr. J. A. Angus 8
	London	Paddington, Public Meeting, Paddington Town Hall	Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Eltham Mylne, Walter McLaren, Esq., R. F. Cholmeley, Esq. 8
	Nottingham	Discussion, Mikado Café	Chair, Miss Guilford 5
	Woburn Sands	Public Meeting	Tea as required 4.30
	Woburn Sands	Public Meeting	Chair, Edward Hart, Esq. 8
	Woburn Sands	Public Meeting	Speaker, Mrs. Rackham 8
29	London	Chelsea, Social Gathering, Sydney Hall, Pond Street	Speakers, Mrs. Bigland, Miss H. D. Cooke, and others 8-10
	London	Wandsworth, Drawing-Room Meeting, 45, Bolingbroke Grove	Speaker, Miss Abadam 8.30
	Reigate and Redhill	Public Meeting, Constitutional Hall, Horley	Speaker, The Lady Frances 3
	Reigate and Redhill	Public Meeting, Constitutional Hall, Horley	Balfour
	Redhill	"At Home," King's Hall	Speaker, The Lady Frances 8
	Redhill	"At Home," King's Hall	Balfour
31	London	Chiswick, Public Meeting, Parish Hall, St. Michael's Church, Bedford Park	Chair, Rev. J. Cartmel 4
	London	Chiswick, Public Meeting, Parish Hall, St. Michael's Church, Bedford Park	Robinson, M.A. 4
	London	Chiswick, Public Meeting, Parish Hall, St. Michael's Church, Bedford Park	Speaker, Miss Abadam

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. WOOD.

NATIONAL OFFICES: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.S.C., A.R.C.S. Hon. Treasurer: MISS BENNETT.
Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

President: MRS. DESPARD.

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

The Annual Conference, 1909.

FORTY-TWO branches of the Women's Freedom League were represented at the Conference which took place at Caxton Hall on Saturday last, January 9th. Mrs. Despard took the chair.

The election of officers and Committee resulted as follows: President, Mrs. Despard; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc.; Hon. Treasurer, Miss Benett; Hon. Organising Secretary, Mrs. Billington-Greig; Committee Members: Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Arcliffe-Sennett, Mrs. Bell (Edinburgh), Mrs. Coates-Hansen (Middlesbrough), Mrs. Duval, Miss FitzHerbert, Mrs. Hicks, Miss Hodgson, Miss Lawson, Countess Russell, Mrs. Sproson (Wolverhampton), Mrs. Sanderson (Glasgow).

THE REPORTS of the year's strenuous work, supplied by Mrs. How Martyn and Mrs. Billington-Greig, were listened to by the delegates with much interest, and accepted with enthusiasm, as indeed they well might be, setting forth as they did a record of one unceasing round of political and propagandist activity. The Treasurer's report revealed a satisfactory financial position.

THE CONSTITUTION remains practically the same, though the Middlesbrough Branch, through its delegate, made another gallant effort to secure the inclusion of men as members of the League. The Conference, however, made it quite clear that although it had the greatest admiration for men in their proper place, that place was not in a Women's Freedom League. Many of the members doubtless felt that if men were to be thus taken out of their sphere they would become unsexed, and would neglect those duties of fatherhood, the fulfilment of which constitutes the sole justification for their existence, and their chief claim to toleration by the opposite sex. The office of President was created, an office which, it need hardly be said, will be admirably filled by Mrs. Despard, who, by her persistent advocacy of the cause throughout the length and breadth of the land, by her imprisonment, and by her championship of the suffering and oppressed, has made herself the best-known and most highly respected member of our League.

BY-ELECTIONS.—The temper of the Conference was distinctly militant, and the Hackney resolution in favour of running a Suffrage candidate at by-elections, instead of opposing the Government, received short shift. "Le jeu ne vaut pas la chandelle" was the general feeling, or perhaps a more correct explanation would be to say that it was felt that such a policy would be all "chandelle" and no "jeu."

THE MILITANT POLICY was reaffirmed by the unanimous and enthusiastic adoption of the following resolution: "That the Women's Freedom League recognizes that the Government has no intention of granting its demand for the Suffrage, and that the Government's message (so-called) indicates a policy of indefinite postponement of the claims of women. The Women's Freedom League will, therefore, pursue its militant policy of opposing the Government, and its by-election policy, with increased vigour, as the most effectual means of bringing pressure to bear on the Government, and as fully justified by the position of outlawry which women occupy."

ON the whole the Conference testified to the success and utility of democratic methods within the League. The delegates from all parts of the country came to it carefully instructed by their branches, and carried out those instructions with loyalty. Imbued with a proper sense of the importance of electing on to their National Executive Committee members who would represent their views and carry out their policy, they subjected the

less well-known candidates to a searching examination. The candidates, equally imbued with the same democratic notions, submitted cheerfully to the examination, probably all the more so, knowing that their replies were highly satisfactory. The delegates will return to the branches with a report of the conference and of the past work and future plans of the League. Every voting member of the most distant branch will thus be able to feel her responsibility as an individual, while realizing the necessity for the loyal co-operation of the members and the subordination (if needs be) of the wishes of the individual to the good of the whole League. Many of the delegates themselves proved that they had reached this high pitch of political development by voting according to the instruction of their branches against their own personal convictions. Training such as this must surely be a splendid preparation for future citizenship, and it is earnestly to be hoped that when women have the Parliamentary vote they will not be dragged down and sullied by contact with the present unintelligent and corrupt system, but will be able to preserve their conscientiousness intact, and so in time bring a purer atmosphere into politics, and raise men up to their own standard.

Finns, Friendship, and an M.P. at Queen's Hall.

"THE most enjoyable meeting I've ever attended!" This was heard on all sides at Queen's Hall on Friday last, and certainly if cheers, smiles, and unbounded enthusiasm testify to enjoyment, the sentiment was practically unanimous. There could not have been many of the unconverted there, I think, or if they were there, the sight of the ladies from Finland—where they have the vote, and so, according to the "Antis," have been turned into unsexed horrors—must have calmed their fears; at any rate, none were voiced.

"We believe in concrete examples," said Mrs. Billington-Greig in her opening speech from the chair. "Show the average Briton a concrete example of anything he fears, and it is possible that he may cease to fear it. So we have invited these ladies from Finland to come and prove to the British male that the possession of a vote, and even the degrading experience of sitting in a representative house, have not made any strange or terrifying change in their appearance or manner."

MADAME MALMBERG'S speech might have served to point the moral of the advantage of using clear, concise, and simple English, so excellently worded, so interesting was it. Her account of the way the Finnish women won the vote—"it wasn't given to them—they took it"—was followed with close attention by the great audience, and very sympathetic was the reception given to her story of the struggles the Finns had gone through in their determination to keep their constitution safe from Russia's grasp. Indignant cries of "shame" greeted her statement that the Finnish people were again face to face with a grave crisis in their national history, brought about by Russian aggression.

MRS. DESPARD then presented to Dr. Hultin an address of welcome beautifully illuminated by Miss Isabel Pocock of Woking, after which the audience rose for the Finnish National Anthem. Rousing cheers, renewed again and again, greeted the slender fair-haired little figure attired in a most reprehensibly feminine blue gown, calculated to upset the most obstinate of male misconceptions as to the unwomanly appearance of "brainless" women—that next rose to speak—Dr. Tekla Hultin,

M.P., as she would be entitled to describe herself were she living with the same conditions in this country. The cheers broke out again with tremendous enthusiasm when she begged indulgence for her imperfect knowledge of English, as she had learned all she knew for the purpose of coming and speaking to the English women, who were struggling so hard and nobly for their liberty. The indulgence was certainly not needed, for every word of Dr. Hultin's speech was clearly understood. She must have reassured every man there as to the beneficent effect of the woman's vote on legislation generally, if there are still any left who imagine that common sense, and morality would desert the female sex immediately it became enfranchised. And the panicky fears that all women would vote Tory or Socialist—fears that seem to some people to constitute such excellent reasons for depriving them of any votes at all—must surely have been lulled to rest by Dr. Hultin's clear statement that the balance of the parties in Finland had not altered, that women voted with their parties on general political questions, but on those peculiarly affecting their sex, their children, and humanitarian principles generally, they showed a tendency to combine to get these measures through—a consummation devoutly *not* to be wished in this country, apparently!

She told us of the interest taken by the Finnish people in the struggle that is now going on here. "I am a stranger, and cannot judge which of the various methods adopted is likely to lead to success. Every kind of ground means a fresh kind of strategy. But one thing is certain—the women of England will shortly reach their end; and in no country are women more prepared than in this, where the woman's question first saw the light of day." Excellent and humorous speeches by Lady Russell and Mrs. Zangwill followed, and Miss Matters brought the meeting to a harmonious close. The resolution "That this meeting congratulates the women of Finland upon the possession of political freedom, and calls upon the British Government to follow the example of Finland, Norway, Australia, New Zealand, four States of America, and the Isle of Man, and enfranchise women during the present session of Parliament," was carried with acclamation. We feel that we have laid the foundation of the most lasting kind of international friendship with the women of another country by means of this visit. It has proved indeed that our movement is not an isolated one, but one that is gaining adherents and increasing in interest all over the world, and our heartfelt thanks are given to our visitors for so willingly responding to our invitation. Every member of the audience that listened to them on Friday night will join with us in wishing them a pleasant visit now and a speedy return to us in the future.

M. H.

Re "Man, Woman, and Nature."

MR. HAROLD OWEN in *The Westminster Gazette* appeals to Nature for arguments against the emancipation of women, as tending to subvert "the sexual divergence" which is necessary for "the best reproduction of the race." I gather from his remarks that he is neither a biologist, a naturalist, an anthropologist, a sociologist, nor a student of history.

Take first biology. The female is the creatrix of the male, primarily, as a minute organism, totally unlike the mother, a mere spermsac, parasitic and helpless, but which, through the various stages of organic evolution, the maternal organism in each species gradually develops to an independent entity, naturally inheriting the general qualities of the original progenitrix. In Prof. Lester Ward's own words, "The organism, or female, therefore, literally creates the male in its own image, and from a shapeless sac it gradually assumes a definite form, agreeing in general characteristics with that of the original organism."

Nature's object in sexual reproduction is twofold. First, through the male to secure variation of type; second, through the female to develop the male to the standard of the species, and to the full creative powers of the female.

The naturalist is confronted at every step in the study of genera with proof of this determinate law of nature. As the species advance in organic complexity so the males approximate more and more to the likeness of the females. More particularly

is this noticeable among those animals that appear to be the links between a lower and a higher form; such as, for instance, the flying lizard, the wingless ostrich, the duck-bill, the whale, and the chimpanzee, where, in all these species, the females and males are hardly distinguishable from each other. Moreover the various orders of animals are characterized, not by the traits of the male, but by the functions of the female. The mammalia, to which family man belongs, is so designated for the fully developed and active female organs and functions, which in the male still remain rudimentary and useless.

Anthropology gives still more striking testimony to nature's great scheme of ultimate assimilation. Woman, throughout the long travail from the brute to the human, led the way in all the distinctive features of mankind, *i.e.*, in decrease of hairiness, in the upright gait, in the smaller jaw, in the brachycephalic skull, in the increase of sensitiveness, in the greater sympathy, and in the higher consciousness. Looking back we find that the older the race the less hair on face and body as it approaches extinction or assimilation by newer races. For instance, the Chinese and Tartars, the inhabitants of Molacca, and other Asiatic islands, the Burmese, the Hindus, the North American Indians, the Esquimaux, the Peruvians, and South Pacific Islanders are more or less destitute of the hirsute excrescences of younger races, both men and women having uniformly smooth faces and present little sex differentiation. Therefore mankind, *as a whole*, is becoming gradually feminized as the higher standard of the human race is being approximately reached in each phase of human evolution. Feminization is not a sign of racial degeneracy, but on the contrary is the physical ultimate of natural progression.

The researches of sociology conclusively show that to women mankind owes all the primitive culture that has culminated in the highest ideals of modern civilization. All the arts and industries were first in the hands of women. They invented every known tool used in manual labour. They were the primal agriculturists, weavers, spinners, furriers, basket-makers, potters, and architects. "In the early history of art, language, social life, and religion, women were the industrial, elaborative, conservative half of society. All the peaceful arts of to-day were once woman's peculiar province. Along the lines of industrialism she was the pioneer, inventor, author, originator," writes Prof. Otis Mason. In the present economic competition, woman is but gaining once more the industrial supremacy of which she was gradually robbed by her son's selfishness and jealousy to his own undoing. Historical evidence is largely forthcoming of the various periods of sex-convergence being the periods of national greatness and prosperity. When Egypt was ruled equally by her women as by her men was the time of her unexampled grandeur. When in the Vedic ages women shared with men every human right and privilege, India enjoyed her golden era of cultured philosophy and archaic civilization. The glory of Greece was at its height when her sculptors immortalized the grand forms of the daughters of the gods, "divinely tall," and gave to the men the same type of features.

Humanity is one, and Nature, the great Mother, is gradually teaching her children the inexorable law by which all the diversities arising from the one must in the ultimate arrive at unity. "In the long ages liker must they grow," so that the perfect standard may be attained.

FRANCES SWINEY.

Caxton Hall "At Homes."

THE first Thursday of the new year was a special occasion, on which we had the pleasure of welcoming among us the two ladies from Finland, Dr. Tekla Hultin, M.P., and Madame Malmberg. The council chamber was crowded, and friends from Australia, New Zealand, S. Africa, and India all joined in hearty good wishes for the speedy and successful termination of the fight of the British woman for the Parliamentary Franchise. Short speeches from Mrs. How Martyn, Madame Malmberg, Mrs. Solomon, and Mr. Joseph Clayton were followed by tea, talk, and music. Miss Lorna Stamm sang several songs, and a pleasant afternoon came to an end at 6 P.M.

The U.K.

WHENEVER the above initials appear in our columns it is hoped that all readers will understand them to refer to the "United Kingdom." Serious complaints were made at the conference last week about the persistent use of the opprobrious term "England" in these pages, signifying Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Battersea, and England—we include Battersea, although it was not mentioned at the conference, because the district in which the Right Hon. John Burns lives, moves, and has his being, has for many a year claimed predominance among nations. The Scotch delegates were the complainants. "Scotch" will probably be the next source of offence, perhaps it should be "Scottish." Butter-scotch?—Butter-scottish? We give it up. But it must be said that there was a great deal too much "Scots wha hae" about some of our northern delegates. The tone adopted was not that of a vanquished race. How many times is Scotland to be informed that she has been conquered by England? If she doubts it, let her look up her history, and she will find that all the time when her people were not occupied in slaughtering each other, they were being conquered by the English. Sometimes the two processes were going on at one and the same time. In the glorious reign of Edward I. alone she was conquered over and over again. Even then she did not realize it, and had to be conquered again some other time; and yet she sends delegates to our conference who do not understand her subordination to her English sister, and who metaphorically stand up against a rock, and say, "Come one, come all, this rock shall fly from its firm base before we'll submit to be called English in *Women's Franchise*." It is obvious that conquest of Scotland is like vaccination, only operative for a certain number of years, therefore requiring to be done again every now and then. The time for a further conquest of Scotland seems to have come round.

For the present, however, in these pages we will make a show of giving in; so we beg our contributors to be careful, and, as space is a consideration, and "United Kingdom," the official name agreed upon, is very long, let us for the future speak about "England, our dear land" as "the U.K." The Irish will probably break out then, and say that they will see themselves shot before they belong to anything calling itself "United"; but we shall know how to tackle the Irish. It is the Scotch we are afraid of; they are so *dour*.

Ed. W.F.L.

Branch Notes.

Herne Hill and Norwood Branch.—On Monday, January 4th, the weekly meetings were recommenced. An animated discussion of the Agenda took place, and a delegate, Dr. Alice Vickery, was appointed to attend the conference on Saturday, January 9th.

The weekly meetings for speeches and discussion will be continued throughout the winter, and will be held at 28, Carson Road, West Dulwich, S.E., on Monday evenings, at 8 P.M. The meetings are for women only, and any one interested in Women's Suffrage will be welcome. Anti-Suffragists are cordially invited to attend.

BARBARA SPENCER, *Hon. Sec.*

To Tekla Hultin.

You learnt our tongue that you might tell
How Finland made her women free,
How traitors died and tyrants fell,
Beyond the mountains and the sea.
You learnt our language and you came
Across the mountains and the waves—
We heard, we bowed our heads in shame
That England kept her women slaves.
From one far corner of the world
You brought us tidings: how, alone,
Your little nation rose and hurled
Oppression headlong from his throne.
Farewell, and with our blessings go!
From Finland's icy shores and sands
The sweet fresh winds of Freedom blow
And Justice stretches forth her hands.

HERBERT JACOBS.

Madame Malmberg.

MALMBERG, AINO, Professor of the English Language in the Commercial and Professional High School at Helsingfors; authoress.

Born on February 24th, 1865, in the parish of Hollola (Central Finland). Daughter of a pastor.

Passed her examinations as a student and teacher at the University, and continued her studies in London.

She has published several novels and tales, some of a humorous character, and has translated various works from English (Hall Caine, 'The Christian'; Rudyard Kipling, 'The Light that Failed'), &c.

In 1907 was imprisoned for five days in St. Petersburg as a suspect.

Married in 1887 Emil Malmberg, Master of Philosophy, High Professor of Natural History at the University of Helsingfors.

Special Notices.

The Battersea Social Evening will be held at the Lower Town Hall, Lavender Hill, near Clapham Junction, on Saturday next, January 16th, at 7.30 P.M. The programme will include the amusing duologue, 'Lodgings for Single Ladies,' acted by Miss Hodgson and Mr. Victor Duval. Music and dancing. The Prison Cell will be on view. Tickets, 1s., can be obtained from Mrs. Duval, 37, Park Road, St. John's Hill, S.W. The entertainment is being got up by the Battersea Branch, and the profits will be handed over to the Treasurer of the League. All members and friends are cordially invited to attend.

Special Effort Week.—Another special effort to raise money is to be made by the League from February 27th to March 6th. It is suggested that members may begin their efforts at once and send in the proceeds between the above dates. New plans for making money will be gladly received by the Hon. Secretary.

A Farewell Reception to Dr. Tekla Hultin and Madame Malmberg will be given at the Small Queen's Hall next Sunday, January 17th, from 3 to 6 P.M. We hope that all members and friends will show their appreciation of the services Dr. Hultin and Madame Malmberg have rendered our cause by being present on this occasion.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS. January 14th to February 10th.

		P.M.	
Thurs. 14.	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Miss Muriel Matters Miss Fitzherbert <i>Chair</i> , Mrs. Cope Vocalist, Miss Nevinston Recitation, Miss Limouzin Mrs. Duval	3.30 4.45 7.30
	Mossbury Road, Battersea	Miss Underwood Duologue, Miss Hodgson Mrs. How Martyn	4
	Reigate	Dr. Hultin, Mme. Malmberg Mrs. Billington Greig Miss Manning and H. Baillie Weaver, Esq.	8 8
Fri. 15.	Middlesbrough Liverpool, Picton Lecture Hall	Social and Dance Mrs. Despard, Miss Matters	7.30 4.30
Sat. 16.	Battersea Lower Town Hall Woldingham, Surrey	Farewell Reception to Dr. Tekla Hultin, M.P., and Mme. Malmberg	3-6
Sun. 17.	Small Queen's Hall Langham Place	Mrs. Despard Earl Russell Mrs. Despard	8 3
Mon. 18.	Cardiff Cory Hall For women only, Paradise Place off Queen Street	Countess Russell Mrs. Marion Holmes Mrs. How Martyn Mrs. Despard	4.30 3.30
Wed. 20.	South Place Institute, Finsbury	<i>Chair</i> , Mrs. Nevinston Mrs. Holmes	3
Thurs. 21.	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Rev. R. J. Campbell Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Holmes	8
Fri. 22.	Bromley		
Feb. 2.	Sheffield		
Wed. 10.	Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster		

. All communications intended for the Women's Freedom League columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and must reach her not later than first post Saturday.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 38, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

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Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.
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Notes and Comments.

Now that the Special General Meeting is over, the Queen's Hall meeting on January 26th at 8 P.M. must be taken in hand vigorously. Tickets are being sold fast; on the other hand there is now less than a fortnight to sell the rest, and the hall must be full. We have a splendid platform, and the occasion is of the first importance to our work. A great responsibility rests upon us to make the meeting of real service to the Cause, and we urge on all members, whatever their views on policy, to leave no stone unturned. As we pointed out last week, one section of the League is necessarily satisfied with the result of the Special General Meeting; a great many of those who supported Mr. Clayton have already given the most generous aid; the others, we are confident, will not be behindhand.

The usual help is required. Members are asked—

1. To sell tickets.
2. To distribute handbills.
3. To exhibit posters (large or small).
4. To act as stewards on the night. A hundred are required.

Those who cannot help in these ways are asked to buy tickets for free distribution, or to give money towards the expenses. The Committee will welcome gifts which will enable them greatly to increase the advertising of the meeting.

A very inexpensive way of helping is to pay 2s. 6d. a week for the exhibiting of a window bill on the small boards which are almost invariably attached to the newspaper stalls in local stations. It costs very little to hire a boy who will distribute handbills either at station entrances during the busy hours of the morning and evening, or from house to house in suburban districts where ordinary advertising cannot be attempted without heavy expenditure. A membership form is printed on the backs of the handbills, so that their wide circulation may serve a double purpose.

Those who take tickets on sale or return are specially asked to make frequent reports, so that the "box-office" plan may be kept up to date. On the number of tickets sold by January 19th will depend the amount of newspaper advertising required. At the latest, reports should be sent in by Saturday, January 16th. It will greatly help those working in the office if the exact rows and numbers of tickets sold are sent. Buyers frequently ask for special seats, and it is useful sometimes to be able to recall a special ticket if, being on sale or return, it is yet available.

The office will be open from about ten till six, and, from Monday next, till nine o'clock daily.

The presence of the Finnish ladies at the Queen's Hall meeting last Friday was of the greatest interest to all Suffragists. Both ladies showed very clearly the importance of the question of the equality of the sexes in parliamentary matters, and also how true it is that, in questions of national importance no less than in those which we are accustomed to regard as municipal, women's help is essential to the greatest good of the community. Finland is likely during the next few weeks to pass through a period of *sturm und drang*; those who had the privilege of hearing Dr. Hultin on this subject know that in the knowledge and self-sacrifice which Finland will manifest the women will bear a great part.

Liverpool.

AN important meeting, under the auspices of the League, will be held in the Picton Hall, Liverpool, tomorrow. Mr. W. Lyon Blease, LL.B., will take the chair, and Mr. H. Baillie-Weaver will speak for the League. We were asked last week to announce that 1s. reserved seats could be obtained from Miss Woodall, 2, Coronation Road, Great Crosby. Unfortunately, this information arrived just too late for insertion in last week's issue.

Cardiff.

OWING to an error we described the Cardiff meeting, at which Mrs. Despard and the Earl Russell are to speak, as a joint meeting of the local women's societies and the Men's League. We understand that the Women's Freedom League is the only other society besides our own League which is concerned in the meeting. All communications may be sent to Mr. F. W. Hubback, University College, Cardiff.

Prize Competition.

THE Committee offer a prize of one guinea for the best epigram in verse on the following quotation from Pascal's *Pensées* :—

"C'est la force qui est reine du monde, et non pas l'opinion, mais c'est l'opinion qui use de la force."

Epigrams must consist of not less than two and not more than six lines; they must be addressed to the editor M.L.W.S., 38, Museum Street, W.C., and must be in his hands not later than January 26th. Competitors must enclose their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication. The editor's award will be final.

All epigrams must be relevant to the question of Women's Suffrage, and to the "force argument," i.e., the familiar contention that because of their inferior physical force women are not entitled to enfranchisement. The editor reserves the right to publish any epigram sent in.

We commend this competition, and especially the weighty maxim quoted from Pascal, to the attention of all Anti-Suffragists.

The Special General Meeting.

THIS meeting took place at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on Thursday last, January 7th, at 8 o'clock, nearly ninety members being present. The Chairman, Mr. Herbert Jacobs, in his opening speech, briefly explained the circumstances under which the meeting had been called by the Committee. A number of members had sent in a requisition containing three resolutions. As the signatures did not amount to the prescribed fifty, and it was clear that the remaining signatures could be obtained in time, the Committee decided unanimously to save the requisitionists further trouble by calling the meeting under its own powers. They had further agreed to the third resolution unanimously, and published it in these columns: this resolution was, therefore, by agreement not put on the agenda. On the other hand, another resolution, moved by two members who were not upon the list of requisitionists, was offered. The Committee, recognizing that for this resolution also the required fifty signatures would be obtained, decided to place it on the same agenda to save the

expense of a second special meeting. It had, however, come to the knowledge of the Committee that considerable misapprehension had thereby been caused, and that there was a feeling that this resolution ought not to have been included in the business. Representations had, therefore, been made to the mover and seconder, who agreed to withdraw it.

There were, therefore, only two resolutions before the meeting. Mr. Jacobs further remarked that there was considerable difference of opinion as to whether the Committee had been right in holding that no amendments could be taken: he had taken expert opinion, and was still satisfied that, though the point was a difficult one, the Committee's view could not be described as incorrect. On the other hand, the question need not arise, as the third resolution, to which alone an amendment had been sent, was now withdrawn. Having announced the Queen's Hall and the Potter's Bar meetings, he called upon Mr. Joseph Clayton to move the first resolution, that directing the Committee to adopt the anti-Government election policy.

Both Mr. Clayton, and his seconder, Mr. H. Baillie-Weaver, made weighty speeches in favour of the policy embodied in their resolution, and delighted the meeting, both friends and opponents, with sallies of caustic wit. It is not necessary here to say more than that they did justice to the arguments on which their policy is based. The same is true of the numerous speakers who followed on both sides of the question. Those who supported Mr. Clayton were Messrs. Jaakoff Prelooker, Laurence Housman, A. S. F. Morris, E. Duval, Victor Albery, Drysdale, Mark Wilks; opponents were Messrs. W. L. George, E. J. Harrington, and H. G. Chancellor, the Earl Russell, Messrs. Langdon, K.C., and J. Young Kennedy, and the Hon. Sec. Mr. Clayton briefly replied, and the votes were taken. The final result was that the resolution was lost by 177 votes to 77. Of those actually present there was a majority in favour of the resolution of 39 to 24, the remaining votes being those cast by signed letter.

It should here be added that the action of the Committee in sending with the agenda notices a form letter for voting was adversely criticized by several members, who pointed out that the rule relating to signed letter voting states only that a voting letter must be sent on application. The object of the Committee in sending out such letters unasked was due partly to the desire that there should be a real expression of opinion on the part of the Society, and partly to the fact that answering a possibly large number of such demands would have meant extra cost and labour at a time when all energy was required for the Queen's Hall meeting. It was, we believe, agreed that the Committee had acted within its powers, and no discussion arose on the point.

By consent of the meeting, the mover and seconder of the second resolution (directing the Committee to organize men to put questions at all meetings addressed by members of the Government) was postponed in order that the main discussion should not be curtailed. It was understood that it should be further considered by the Committee at the earliest possible date after the Queen's Hall meeting.

A fair number of tickets for the Queen's Hall meeting were sold, as well as several badges.

Hamlet without the Prince.

BEING informed by one of our watchful scouts that an Anti-Suffrage meeting was to be held in the Congregational Church Hall at Oakleigh Park, near Totteridge, last Monday, several members of the League donned their badges and joined the audience. Once again, however, the representative of the Anti-Suffrage League was compelled to abandon her intention of coming, and the Chairman explained how telegrams had been scouring London in the vain search for

a substitute. Fortunately, however, Miss Sidley, who had consented to oppose the Anti-Suffragist, stepped into the breach, and, reversing the appointed order, delivered a vigorous reply to the arguments which *might* have been advanced. The "Anti" contention was then supported with great moderation by Mr. Jukes, who adopted the attitude of all opponents of reform, urging his hearers to "think very carefully" before they supported a movement which, beginning modestly, could logically spread until it assumed proportions which would be fatal to—&c., &c.

The subsequent discussion was on a very high level. Among the speakers were Mrs. Macfarlane, ex-president of the East Finchley Liberal Association, and two members of the Men's League. No vote was taken, but it was impossible to doubt that a meeting organized for our opponents was effectively turned into a propagandist Suffrage meeting. Two men actually joined the League, and a third promised. Queen's Hall leaflets were studied with interest, the names of the speaker calling forth animated discussion. The question was "How comes it, if the anti-Suffragists are right, that so many eminent persons of both sexes are willing to come forward in public to support votes for women?" We overheard several persons thus discussing as they left the hall.

May we urge all members to keep an eye on such meetings, so that on those—depressingly rare—occasions when Anti-Suffragists are announced to take the field, their arguments—if they come!—may be at once answered. It is a very remarkable fact that the rank and file of Anti-Suffragists are never so unenthusiastic as when their own leaders are speaking. At Oakleigh Park four Anti-Suffrage speakers achieved only one spontaneous cheer from their supporters, who sat in complete silence, save for very generous tributes to our speakers.

Correspondence.

[The Men's League is essentially a non-party organization, in which all shades of political opinion are represented. For this reason we feel bound to state that the League is not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.]

DEAR SIR,—Our Chairman, Mr. Jacobs, permitted such latitude to gentlemen supposed to be speaking to the motion at the special meeting that some of us who wished succinctly to give our reasons for voting against the proposals were debarred from doing so by the lateness of the hour. We all, I think, heartily regretted the fact that "antis" were not present—surely the excellent speeches would have converted them—but those present not needing conversion, their utility was somewhat wasted. As it has come to my knowledge that others voted against the resolution on the same ground as myself, I ask for a little of your valuable space to say that we did not vote against militant action; we voted against the resolution because we felt, what was so ably expressed by our secretary, that it would be far better to have a men's militant society formed by the energetic gentlemen present, than that we (who believe that we can be more helpful to the movement by confining our activity to constitutional methods) should be obliged to leave the Men's League, or be forced to abandon such positions as enable us to give time and money for the Cause.

Of course, a new constitutional society of men could be formed, but as was pointed out by several speakers, it is far more likely that the more militant society will have outwardly greater activity to show in a short time, and therefore it is better for such militant party to have the work of forming a new society. May I, in passing, allude to another point? Mr. Clayton, at the close of the meeting, intimated that the militants had secured a majority among those present. This is not quite so apparent as it might appear at first sight. I know instances of men being present at the meeting who did not trouble to fill up fresh voting papers, allowing those previously sent in to be counted.

V. R.

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K.C.M.G.
Sir VICTOR HORSLEY, F.R.S. F.R.C.S.
Rev. C. SILVESTER HORNE, M.A.
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