

"THE COMMON CAUSE," MARCH 17, 1910.

FAYCOTT 189
27 WILFRED STREET
LONDON SW1E 6PB

9

The Common Cause.

The Organ of the Women's Movement for Reform.

VOL. I. No. 49.

Registered as
a Newspaper.

MARCH 17, 1910.

ONE PENNY.



AN ANTI-SUFFRAGIST'S NIGHTMARE. Women in Parliament.

The News of the Week.

The By-Elections.

Our good friend, Mr. Rufus Isaacs, having been appointed Solicitor-General in place of Sir Samuel Evans, has not been forced to undergo another election, but is returned again for Reading, unopposed. Sir Samuel Evans was a bitter enemy to the enfranchisement of women, and on a historic occasion "talked out" our Bill in the House. He seems unsuitable to be President of the Divorce Court, but at any rate, he will not be more unsuitable than the late President, Sir John Bigham. Colonel Seely has succeeded a good Suffragist in the Ilkeston Division; may the Suffragist's mantle fall upon the Colonial Under-Secretary. The vacancy caused in Mid-Glamorgan is not yet filled, and several names are mentioned; among these was that of Mr. Leif Jones, late Member for Appleby. We wish he might have been prevailed upon to stand, but his name is now withdrawn. It seems possible that Mr. Vernon Hartshorn, the Labour candidate, may be given a walk-over.

The Meaning of the Word "Propaganda."

A correspondent writes:—"Having suffered severely from the misuse of this word, and in view of the approaching Council Meeting, when it is sure to crop up again, I offer the following definition: *Propaganda*,—the name of a Congregation and also of a College in Rome, the object of which is to direct and forward the propagation of the Catholic religion. Hence, any association for the spread of opinions and principles, especially (says "Chambers's") such as are opposed to the existing Government. The National Union might therefore, by analogy, be called 'a propaganda,' but it is improper to use the word as if it were synonymous with 'education.' But shall we drop so sounding a word merely because it doesn't mean what we want it to mean? "Impenetrability! That's what I say!"

Mr. Herbert Samuel,—Despot, or Liberal?

Mr. Herbert Samuel has been both entertained and entertaining lately. He was himself the guest of the Maccabean Club, which celebrated the accession of a Jew to Cabinet rank; he was of the party which welcomed Major Enver Bey as the liberator of Turkey. On both occasions Mr. Samuel waxed eloquent on the subject of liberty and equality. Are we to believe him of that ungenerous and essentially unfree type that can enjoy liberty while denying it to others? Mr. Samuel does not understand women's cry for freedom, yet he can say to his fellow Jews: "He thought they were entertaining him because they saw in him the visual embodiment of the result of the great struggle for Jewish emancipation which their fathers had conducted in this country. They saw in him the vindication of all these claims for equality of opportunity which they had succeeded in establishing." And at the Turkish dinner he said: "England had never been indifferent to the progress and cause of liberty in whatever part of the earth that cause might be advancing. The great political revolution in Turkey had been regarded by our people with the deepest interest and the most complete and unqualified sympathy. (Cheers.) Most peoples—he spoke as a Minister—were better than Governments—(laughter and "Hear, hear"),—and when the Governments got too bad the people sought means to change them." Now the Government in England is bad, because, as far as women are concerned, it is absolutely despotic. How long is Mr. Samuel, liberated Jew, sympathiser with revolutionary Young Turkey, going to help bolster up a despotism in which he himself plays the part of despot?

Forcible Feeding and Suicide.

One of the results of forcible feeding is said to be intense depression, amounting in some cases to melancholia. The Suffragists who have undergone this torture were women of such strong moral fibre that they withstood the assaults of their nerves. But the same was not likely to be the case with an ordinary prisoner. One

such, a domestic servant from Staffordshire, refusing food lately in prison, was forcibly fed, and on her liberation she committed suicide in the Irwell, leaving a note on the bank to say that the deed was due to forcible feeding. Truly our prison system is a beautiful thing, making political into criminals, and driving criminals mad.

Women's Religion.

One of those inconclusive discussions of which people seem so fond has been held in the "Sunday Strand" upon some words of the Rev. Silvester Horne, who said, in a sermon, that Dr. Johnson probably thought, as he did himself, "that men are more religious, deeply genuinely religious, than women." Two women and five men gave their opinions, and we are proud to note that the two women,—among the most religious living—gave the wisest replies: Mrs. Bramwell Booth said that inasmuch as "in Christ Jesus there is neither male nor female," she believes that, taken as a whole, men and women are equally religious. Miss Jane T. Stoddart considers that "the comparative religiousness of men and women is a subject on which the wisest philosopher might refuse to dogmatize. It belongs to the vast category of idle, useless, unprofitable inquiries." Perhaps Father Adderley, Mr. F. A. Atkins (editor of the "Young Man"), and Mr. C. B. Fry cannot be reckoned among the "wisest of philosophers." Anyhow, they all think men are the more religious, Father Adderley adding that men are "less inclined to hypocrisy"; Mr. Atkins thinking women's religion often "very sentimental, very superficial, very selfish," and referring with pain to the circumstance that "in the Passive Resistance movement, many men had to endure the opposition of their wives as well as other trials." Oh, Mr. Atkins, do women never have to endure the opposition of their husbands to righteousness? Is this the way you teach the Young Man to follow in his Master's footsteps? Do you not remember also to tell him who was last at the Cross and first at the Sepulchre?

The Prussian Franchise.

In the Prussian Diet last Friday a Socialist amendment was proposed calling for the introduction of the Reichstag franchise in an extended form in Prussia, by which all men and women at the age of 20 would be qualified for the vote. It was rejected, only the half-dozen Socialists voting in the minority. The new Radical combination, the *People's Party*, would have supported it but for the extension of the *suffrage to women* and the age qualification. Considerable rioting was provoked by the Berlin police, who prevented the Suffragists from demonstrating in Treptow Park. In this connection a witty old despatch has been quoted, which said, "Everything is quiet here except the civil authorities." Our good English Radical newspapers, who were so piously shocked when the women walked to the House of Commons to ask for the franchise, are now enthusiastic over the Prussian Socialists.

That Absurd Female.

Last week Lord Dartmouth was a witness before the Royal Commission appointed to consider the selection of justices of the peace, and he was asked by Mr. Henderson, M.P., "What would you do if a lady were recommended for appointment as a justice of the peace?" He replied: "I think I should at once fall back upon the Commission." (Laughter.) Mr. Henderson: "Would you like to give your reasons?" The Witness: "I should object to do so if she were anywhere about." (Renewed laughter.) Not so very funny, you say? Oh, but you weren't there. It must have been very funny because they laughed so much. Perhaps you don't know that the mere fact that you are a woman is the source of inexhaustible laughter.

"Mother Does Nothing."

"There's nine on us at 'ome, besides Faver an' Muvver," said Johnnie. "Our 'Liza she goes out washin', an' Alice Ann's at ware-us, an' me an' our Jimmie we takes out milk an' papers." "What does mother do?" "Muvver?" "Why, Muvver does nuffin! She minds th' 'ouse!"

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester. ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday. 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.

Contents.

	Page.
Mere Machinery	687
The Traffic in Womanhood	688
In Parliament	689
National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies:	
The Executive	689
Million Shilling Fund	689
Selling the Paper	690
Women Students at Oxford	690
Mr. Housman on the Primal Curse	690
The Women's Charter	691
A Suffragette	693
Verse: An "Odd Woman"	693
Britain Overseas and Foreign	693
Correspondence	693
Reports of Societies	695
Forthcoming Meetings	696

Mere Machinery.

Who does not know the woman who revels in committees? Who goes from one meeting to another, always rising to points of order, criticising other people's proposals, complaining of other people's methods, suggesting a thousand different ways of working, and never doing a stroke of the actual work herself? The person who is so absorbed in minutes and reports, and rules and standing orders that she quite forgets the realities of which these should only be the records and marshallings? This is the sort of person who, from the depths of her inner consciousness, from meditations under stars, evolves plans of work by the dozen, each one requiring the ardent co-operation of the whole of the womanhood of England and who, when a mild question is asked as to ways and means, remarks reproachfully: "Surely there are plenty of clever, energetic women of leisure who could devote a few hours a day to such work? Of course, I'm too busy," etc.

In contrast to this person (and the sort is common, we believe, to frail humanity, not only to the "frailer" half) are the others, far more respectable, but yet obstructive too: the women who must do everything themselves; who never can refuse a fresh job, even though it means scamping the old; the girls who "have such a good memory" that they scorn to file anything; the enthusiasts who invite a speaker and forget to book a hall, who write a thrilling advertisement and forget to send the copy in to "The Common Cause" before it goes to press.

Let us admit at once that the machinery of organisation is a necessary evil. Like many things in a complicated society, it produces nothing, it merely orders what is there. But is this a small thing? Is it not the basis of all science? Go to, then! You may not like it, but you dare not scorn it, or neglect it. In a large and wide-spread organisation like the National Union, it is essential that there should be a certain amount of specialization, and some, whose main business it is to digest and order, to classify and codify, may well be allowed the joy and pride in their work, which are the guerdon of all work well done. But we must watch ourselves, and remember all the time what we are there for, what is

our aim. Our aim is not a scientific one. It is not to acquire and classify the greatest possible amount of information and meditate upon it, so as to make as great a number of inductions as possible. Our aim is a practical one. It is "to obtain the Parliamentary vote." Everything is subsidiary to that.

Now, to attain this object, the National Union has always pursued two methods, and we see little likelihood of its being tempted by others. The one is education, education of the electors and of the politicians and of the women; the other is legitimate political pressure, through the electors, and by representations to politicians. A vast amount of education can be, and is done, with little organization, and it is most important not to allow the living body of truth to be throttled with red tape. But on a great scale, the thing can only be done by organizing, and we have to remember also the inexplicable exhilaration that comes to most people from working in concert, from meeting and communing with those who are like-minded. This exhilaration has until quite lately been denied to women, and the resurrection of mind and joy which many of us have witnessed in sad, middle-aged women, since they have had this stimulus, is at once one of the most heartening and one of the most pathetic of the effects of our movement.

We want our machinery then, to be adequate for the work we have to do, and for nothing else. We want it to cover the ground, leaving no portion out, and not overlapping. We want everything done, and nothing done twice. We want the amount of centralization necessary to give unity and effect to our policy, and the amount of decentralization necessary to use to the full every unit of energy, capacity, and moral fervour in the country. Energy and initiative are the most precious of all qualities in a great struggle for freedom. We want to give the utmost freedom for the development of such energy and initiative. Local needs, local knowledge, local idiosyncracies, are all of value in themselves and as creating healthy emulation. The utmost freedom should be given to different classes of thought, of party, or of social standing to work within the broad lines of the Union.

Now it will be seen, by anyone familiar with the work of the National Union, how it is that the time has come for a readjustment of the constitution. This is to be one of the chief subjects for discussion and settlement at the Annual Meeting on the 19th. The Union has grown prodigiously during the past four years as we pointed out last week, there are now something like 180 organizations directly or indirectly affiliated to the Union, compared with 33 in the report of 1907. This growth of organization and support in the country has thrown an immense amount of extra work upon the Union under its centralized system, and has at the same time created the very machinery by which decentralization can be gradually effected. The proposal to federate societies within certain defined districts for work within those districts is therefore the chief subject for discussion.

The proposal will, in fact, be only a methodizing and recognition of a process spontaneously set up by local needs. Already we have loose combinations, in the Yorkshire and the Surrey, Sussex and Hants organizations, in the North of England Society, the Edinburgh and the Birmingham Societies. It has been recognized that much mutual help can be given within districts connected by railways or allied by interests or characteristics. It is proposed that the country should be parcelled out into such districts.

The Council will do well to remember, however, that schemes and constitutions on paper are one thing, and the working of them another. While we wish to see the process of organizing the country performed as rapidly as may be, we would like to warn enthusiasts that Federations only work well when they are formed with the full consent and understanding of the units, and that, not only have complicated questions of geography, of railways, and mountain ranges to be considered, but so have the far more complicated questions of local feuds and sympathies, jealousies, and interests.

Miss I. O. Ford said, at the International Conference last year, that Suffragists were mostly women "of strong

character and individuality," and therefore the forging of them to one purpose was a difficult thing. This is true. Yet,—out of the strong cometh forth sweetness, and those who believe in freedom can learn to work together for freedom. They will do it best, however, under some system which has none but strictly necessary bonds and limitations. Then to our organization will flock all generous and ardent spirits who can say:—

"So that I draw the breath of finer air,
Station is nought, nor footways laurel-strewn,
Nor rivals tightly belted for the race.
Good speed to them! My place is here or there;
My pride is that among them I have place;
And thus I keep this instrument in tune."

The Traffic in Womanhood.

From the earliest times, indiscriminate and unlicensed prostitution has existed in all so-called civilized countries, and numerous attempts have been made to suppress it, but without avail. Nor has the licensing and inspection system, which obtains on the continent of Europe to-day, proved the boon its advocates fondly imagined, for neither have the morals of the communities in which the houses of ill-fame are situated, been improved, nor has the system afforded protection from venereal diseases. In England, mere police raiding and prosecutions have proved a signal failure. In short, it has to be regretfully admitted that both the long, strong arm of the law and philanthropic measures have failed to check the ravages of the scourge, and these remarks apply with equal force to every civilized country in the world.

The question that naturally arises is: can anything be done to stem the evil which is slowly sapping the moral fibre of the nation? Is it idle to hope for an improvement in the morals of a people from man-made laws? Can men and women be made moral by Acts of Parliament? Would the suppression of prostitution stimulate more destructive forms of immorality? Experience has taught us that repressive legislation tends to increase vice rather than diminish it. Therefore, the broader the view taken by legislators, the more likely is their legislation to be successful. Does the existing law dealing with prostitution answer all requirements? Is it effectual?

The English law does not treat prostitution as a crime *per se*. It is criminal only when conducted so as to cause a public annoyance. A Court of Summary Jurisdiction may punish, as "an idle and disorderly person, every common prostitute or night walker, loitering or being in any thoroughfare or public place in the Metropolitan police district for the purpose of prostitution or solicitation to the annoyance of the inhabitants or passengers," etc.

We at once see how hardly such a law hits the woman. Divesting the clause of its technical phraseology, it means nothing more nor less than that it is a legal offence for a prostitute to accost a man in the streets, but it is not an offence for a man to accost a prostitute. That is to say, it fosters the impression that women, and women alone, are the sole offenders, whereas, as a matter of hard fact, it is the man who desires the actual intercourse, in exchange for a monetary consideration, and the woman who yields from economic necessity.

Now, if the law is going to punish women for this class of offence, why does it not prohibit solicitation on the streets alike by men and women? The partners in an act, which is acknowledged by all thinking men and women to be a menace to the home and to the nation, are surely deserving of equal punishment. Either the existing law should be altered and made to bear equally on men and women, or it should be repealed, and punishment abolished altogether. The working of the present law is an outrage to decency and justice.

Take a typical case from my note book. "The Magistrates' Court is crowded with the 'riff-raff' of creation, mostly of the coarse and vulgar-minded type of men. Presently a woman of the 'unfortunate' class is ushered into the Court in the custody of a male gaoler. She is forced to stand in the dock like a common criminal. There is no other female in the Court. The charge is preferred

by a constable; the magistrate inquires of the prisoner if she has anything to say: the poor woman is in tears, and has no defence to offer save that one supreme motive which the law does not recognise—*want*; she is sent to prison for a month with hard labour."

I have repeatedly noticed that during the whole of the magisterial hearing this class of woman is invariably made the object of brutal ridicule by the members of the public admitted into the well of the Court, and, as may be imagined, the moral tone of the proceedings is not raised in consequence. For some time past I have advocated that these cases should be taken *in camera*, and a matron, or wardress, or some female official or member of a charitable institution should be present upon all occasions when cases against women for soliciting are heard.

The supreme social causes of prostitution are, as I have mentioned, economic, and can be divided into four parts—viz.: (1) Difficulty in obtaining employment; (2) laborious and ill-paid work; (3) overcrowding among the poor; (4) the aggregation of men and women, boys and girls together in factories, etc.

The following table, compiled by me during a prolonged and varied experience of social work, seems to show that the largest number of those who take to prostitution as a means of livelihood are those who lack ability to follow any remunerative occupation, and those who are thrown out of employment by trade depressions, and who do not care to return to regular work, involving discipline and long hours.

Out of 777 women questioned, only 532 afforded information; these are classified as follows:—

"No previous occupation"	286
Factory workers (dress, shirt, corset-makers) ..	115
Domestic servants, cooks, etc.	53
Shop and saleswomen	22
Ballet girls	19
Clerks	13
Various occupations	24

These figures seem to show plainly the need for further training of women to fit them for definite employment and for some serious attempt to deal with the sweating evil.

The evils of overcrowding are little appreciated by the average man and woman. Related to density of population is prostitution. Four, five, or six people crowded into one room have not much chance of comfort or decency. With no home attraction a young woman must seek the glamour of the street or the music-hall. Whichever it be, she comes into contact with a bad environ-

READY SHORTLY.

Price 1s. 2d., Post Free.

"THE WHITE SLAVES OF ENGLAND."

By G. K. Knight, M.Sc., etc.

(Member Men's League Woman's Suffrage and Lecturer in Moral Philosophy.)

An exposure of the White Slaves' Traffic and its attendant horrors, based upon many years' personal investigations, at home and abroad.

As only a limited edition will be issued, early applications for copies is requested.

Orders and remittances to be sent to Mr. G. K. KNIGHT, West Hall Cottage, Redhill, Denham, Bucks.

N.B.—The Author is open to accept Engagements to Lecture at "At Homes," etc., on any one of the following subjects, viz.:—"The Horrors of the White Slaves Traffic," "Why Women Want the Vote," "Poor Law Reform."

[Advt.]

ment. She does not at first sell her body for money; it is not until after the first downward step that money plays its part. She is quick to perceive the fact that there is a fairly prosperous market for such as she, and, slipping in to the line of least resistance, she sooner or later becomes a regular prostitute, either unknown to her parents or with their knowledge and tacit consent.

In proportion to its rapid increase, prostitution is becoming more and more dangerous. As a violation of the first law of Nature, it is the primary cause of physical deterioration, of the birth of mentally weak and defective children. Its growth has already left its marks on the marriage and birth-rates of the most highly civilized communities, and its companion—drink—while not a cause, but an aid, is saddling posterity with a heavy burden. The increase of insanity and its relation to crime is a matter of very serious import.

Is there a remedy? For the present generation, I must answer with an emphatic "No." The teaching of physiology should be made compulsory in *all* schools. Before the age of sixteen, a young man and a young woman should be made acquainted with those functions which begin strongly to manifest themselves at about this period of their lives, and which are so often abused. Young men and women must not be permitted "to find out things for themselves." Prostitution will be suppressed by educating the young of both sexes, by making the standard of chastity one for both sexes, and by removing the economic causes—unemployment, overcrowding, and sweating of the woman worker.

GEO. KERSCHNER KNIGHT, B.A., M.Sc.

In Parliament.

Government Sweating.

On Monday and Tuesday, on the Army Estimates, there was an interesting discussion on sweating in Government factories and workshops. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald moved that "the conditions of service of Government employees should be in every respect at least equal to those observed by the best private employers or by local public authorities doing similar work, and that in interpreting the fair wage clause in assigning contracts, responsible officers should be instructed to see that the spirit of the clause is properly carried out when the actual working gives room for some doubt." The Government Clothing Factory at Pimlico was cited as being particu-

larly bad in the lowness of the wages it gave. Mr. Barnes said the women earned 12s. to 15s. a week, but of course much lower wages than these have been given. Upon the President of the Board of Trade giving an undertaking that wages should be "levelled up," the Labour party refused to press for a division, and upon the Opposition calling for one, the amendment was defeated by 63.

Feminine Influence.

On Wednesday Mr. Haldane denied that there was "feminine influence" at the War Office, and proceeded to say that "they did what they could to mitigate it."

Bills Presented.

On Tuesday, 8th, by Mr. Greenwood,—To classify murders, and to amend the law with regard to suicide and infanticide.

Mr. King,—To amend the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885, and the Vagrancy Act, 1898, and otherwise to make further provision for the protection of women and girls and for the restraint of immorality and vice; to amend the law relating to aliens convicted of offences against decency or morality; and to amend the Punishment of Incest Act, 1903, and for other purposes connected therewith.

Mr. King,—To amend and extend the Acts relating to bastardy, and to amend the Summary Jurisdiction (Married Women) Act, 1895, and Section 5 of the Licensing Act, 1902, and to enable maintenance orders to be made with regard to certain women and girls, and to make further provision with respect to maternity cases dealt with under the Acts relating to the relief of the poor, and for other purposes connected therewith.

On Monday, 14th, Sir Charles McLaren introduced eight Bills affecting the position of women. They deal with:—(1) The enfranchisement of women; (2) the improvement of the condition of women of the working classes; (3) the amendment of the Factories and Workshops Act; (4) the amendment of the Summary Jurisdiction (Married Women) Act of 1895; (5) the amendment of the Education Acts; (6) the amendment of the law relating to offences against the person; (7) the punishment of infanticide; and (8) the amendment of the law relating to the succession of property. These Bills embody some of the proposals so ably formulated by Lady McLaren in her "Women's Charter." Everyone knows that not one of all these Bills has any chance of being passed, or even discussed, in this session, but they are being introduced in order to draw attention to the many disabilities and grievances from which women suffer.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

OBJECT: To obtain the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

METHODS: By orderly propaganda and public discussion to place the question before the electors that they may press it upon the Members of Parliament. The Union is strictly non-party.

Hon. Secretary:
MISS EDITH DRIOCK.

President:
MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Treasurer:
MISS BERTHA MASON.

Telegrams: "Voiceless, London."

Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W. Telephone: 1960 Victoria.

The Executive Committee.

The week has been a very quiet one in the political world, but suffrage work does not necessarily suffer through that. Elections are unpopular, but education can proceed fast enough. Even by-elections are rousing little interest, yet one of our societies has gained forty members in a little over a week.

Practically all the petitions have now been presented, and they have certainly roused much interest inside the House, and members have been talking about them a great deal. Suffrage is practical politics now without doubt, but, like all other questions, except finance and the Lords' veto, suffrage is being put aside until April.

I return to the office on Monday, after more than a week's absence recovering from influenza.

MARION PHILLIPS.

A Correction.

Mr. G. A. Lloyd, M.P. (Unionist, W. Staffordshire), is not a Suffragist, as stated in our issue of February 17th.

Million Shillings Fund.

March 5th to March 12th, 1910.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	0	2	6
Miss R. M. Paul	0	10	0
Madame E. Loppe	5	0	0
Miss D. F. Cholmeley	0	10	0
Per Miss A. J. Hood (jigsaw puzzle competition, first instalment)	0	12	0
	£6	14	6

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

March 5th to March 12th, 1910.

	£	s.	d.
Miss A. Hawksley (sub.)	1	1	0
Miss M. Gresswell (sub.)	0	2	0
Mrs. Hemmon (don.)	5	0	0
Miss Mary Young (sub.)	0	1	0
Miss A. M. Stephenson (sub.)	0	1	0
	£6	5	0

One hundred and thirty-two shillings received this week as a beginning to the Million Shillings Fund. The

Treasurer hopes now that the fund is started that the shillings will pour in during the next few weeks.

BERTHA MASON, Treasurer.

It would be a good thing if the relinquishment by Miss Mason of the arduous work she has carried on so well (and which, by the way, she is only relinquishing in order to take up work as arduous) could be made the occasion of a fine effort on the part of the friends of the Union to provide funds wherewith to prosecute a strong forward policy. It seems certain that our delegates will come to the Council meeting full of fight, full of faith and hope and ardour. Our experiences at the General Election were such as to make many of us feel, as we never felt before, the crying need for the woman's spirit in politics.

When we decide on our forward policy, let us all be prepared to back our decisions with the hard cash necessary to carry them out. THE EDITOR.

Selling the Paper.

Excellent results are being met with by those who sell the paper outside (and where permissible inside) meetings of special interest to women. "Common Cause" Guilds are arising all over the country. To sell the paper is to propagate our Suffrage policy everywhere, and to keep the public informed of our activity.

Those who get up meetings should make a point of ordering copies in plenty of time; special stewards should be told off to sell the paper before and after the meeting, and some one of the speakers, or the Secretary, should inform the audience of the existence of the paper and advise them to follow the fight in the recognised organ of the Union.

Next week we hope to begin a series of short articles by Mrs. Alfred C. Osler on "WHY WOMEN NEED THE VOTE." These should prove specially useful for the purposes of the propaganda. The first will be "The Existing Basis of the Franchise," and the second, "Recent Increase of Domestic Legislation."

Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

48, Dover Street, Piccadilly.

The Marylebone and Paddington Branch of this Association held a very successful drawing-room meeting at 38, Gloucester Square, on Wednesday, March 9th, by kind permission of Mrs. Spielmann. There was a crowded attendance, and very interesting speeches were made by Lady Betty Balfour, Mr. A. Jessel, K.C., and Miss E. Mackenzie. Miss Tukey, Principal of Bedford College, was in the chair, and many of those present joined the Association.

Arrangements are being made for many drawing-room and other meetings for the summer session. The Quarterly Review being issued by the Association is proving a very great success. The current issue contains interesting articles by Viscountess Castlereagh, Lady Stout, and others.

A Crystal Palace Branch has just been started, and an inaugural drawing-room meeting will be held in April. Names of those wishing to join or to receive further information should be sent to the hon. secretary, M. J. Marshall, Mohamrah, Beulah Hill, Upper Norwood, S.E.

The Kensington Branch held a most successful meeting on the 5th at the Queen's Gate Hall. Mrs. Gilbert Samuel presided, and among the speakers were Mr. Touche and Mrs. Fabian Ware. On March 11th, Miss Murrell Mavies and Miss Rose Graham spoke at the social evening at Miss Luxmore's, and an interesting discussion followed on Lady McLaren's book, "The Women's Charter," which had been the subject of Miss Graham's address.

Women Students at Oxford.

An important new statute affecting the position of women students in Oxford will be promulgated in congregation early next term. The statute, if passed, will establish a delegacy, consisting of nine members of convocation, nine women and the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors, to arrange for the admission of women to University examinations (a function hitherto exercised by the delegates of local examinations), to keep a register of women students and of the University examinations passed by them, and to control through a committee the Society of Oxford Home Students.

The establishment of this delegacy would in no way alter the position and powers of the present women's colleges and halls, whose governing bodies will still be entirely responsible for the discipline of their students. The only change in this respect would be that the Society of Home Students would be controlled by a University delegacy instead of by the Association for the Education of Women. The importance of the proposed step lies in the direct official recognition

which the University would be extending to women students. If the statute is passed it will be the first time that women have sat upon a University delegacy. The bearing of the statute upon the question of the degree for women and their admission to membership of the University remains to be seen.

Mr. Housman on the Primal Curse.

In the course of a fine speech, at the Caxton Hall, Mr. Housman, as reported in "The Vote," spoke as follows:—

At school, also, the physical force argument is very much to the fore: boys are taught to worship it, and it is very difficult to combat successfully. I remember, when I first went to school, knives and pins used to be stuck into me by bigger and older boys if I dared to go above them in class; and from that treatment I had no appeal to the higher authorities that did not involve a breach of schoolboy loyalty. I was then receiving my Anti-Suffragist training—the training that physical force was the basis of government; and, perhaps, by living it down and refusing to yield, I got my training as a Suffragist, and the opportunity of proving that even in school life physical force was not the "ultima ratio," but only a stage of savagery, of which even the crude young male can be taught to divest himself. And I am quite sure that if it can be overcome, without appeal to the higher authorities, in a rough school community, it can also be overcome and expelled from the mind of modern democracy.

Another and an even more serious element of school life in its effect on character and on the growing man's mental and moral attitude towards women is the fact that, as a rule, the schoolboy is, or was in my generation, left to learn those great central truths which are called "the facts of life," not from his teachers but from his school-fellows, and that he learned them, in consequence, in a very material, unedifying, and often a most debasing form. And you have but to compare that careless, almost contemptuous, neglect of moral instruction of the one sex, with the carefully-fostered ignorance in which a young girl is often sent blindfold into life, or into marriage itself—an ignorance which a mother herself once told me was too "attractive" an element in sex for women competing in the marriage market ever to forego—you have but to compare those two conditions in the upbringing of our boys and girls to judge whether they are likely to breed in the man any sense of a woman's equal right in matters of sex.

And when we pass from school to university—a world so elaborately planned and arranged for the delectation and development of the physical and mental faculties of our young males—and from university to that broad choice of career which is then theirs, and that freedom to compete in any profession, the highest posts and emoluments of which are reserved for men alone, can it be any matter for wonder if the idea of woman's inferior and subordinate position has by that time become fixed in the male mind as a natural thing, and inseparable from the conditions of life? It requires a great effort of the imagination to see through these externals, and to realise that the full development of the woman's faculties, together with subsequent freedom to choose, this way or that, between a domestic and an independent, intellectual, and industrial career, are every whit as important for the evolution and raising of the race as the similar freedom which man holds as a natural right. All the externals are against such a conviction finding place; and there seems to be only one point which the male Anti-Suffragist regards as of equal importance in the education of women, and that is the development of their sex-charm.

Now, we never ask the man to enter into a sort of departmental training for the development of his sex-charm; but the woman we do. His comes naturally from the free employment of his faculties, and from the energy with which he applies himself to the task of securing his own independence. But independence, either actual or potential, is not supposed to add anything to a woman's sex-charm—alas! rather the reverse; and so we see the woman set down instead to a course which is rather of artificial restriction than of free development, and to the practice of an art of pleasing which may win for her a husband, but will not secure for her a livelihood, if it is her fate or her preference to remain single.

That branch of woman's training is recognised and exalted by your male Anti-Suffragist because it provides him at an apparently cheaper cost to himself with the material which he prefers; and your woman Anti-Suffragist, recognising that easy but most short-sighted preference, goes eagerly to meet it, hoping to find thereby the shortest of all cuts to the power and influence she means to exercise. For have no doubt—you have only to look at prominent women Anti-Suffragists to-day to be sure of it—have no doubt that they also are aiming, just as you are aiming, at securing the greatest possible amount of influence in the affairs of men, both domestically and in the State; and they have chosen what they believe to be the most effective course; that which lies, namely, in an appeal through sex-charm to the passions of men rather than to their reasons and their consciences.

Now that power is a very great power of its kind, but it is not a communal power, nor does it spring from that communal spirit which is the new force now awakening in our

midst. It is rather an individual power—self-centred both in its origin and in its results; it serves for personal aggrandisement, and has this further quality, that it flatters the mind and senses alike of the person who exercises it and the person on whom it is exercised. It is essentially an anti-democratic power, and you have not to search far beneath the surface to find that your Anti-Suffragist is also an anti-democrat, and that the fight against woman's enfranchisement is, in disguise, a fight against democracy.

Now these weapons, which some women unhappily regard as the provision of Nature herself, depend for their full effect on an artificial encouragement of the possessive passions of the male sex; depend, in fact, on the accentuation of sex throughout the whole order of society. Undoubtedly they enable certain women to acquire a very considerable influence, and to stand in a society of their own, conspicuous, courted, and admired; but this very same force—this accentuation of sex—expanding itself amid rougher surroundings and under circumstances less favourable to the physically weak, grinds thousands into the dust, and doubles and trebles the numbers of prostitution in our streets.

Now, why is this? Why does this accentuation of sex-difference and sex-attraction, which gives power to the few, tend also to the subjection of the many? The answer, though clear, is a little difficult to state publicly. It cannot be denied, I think, that in the relations of the sexes there is an element of surrender by the woman to the man, under certain conditions and for a certain end. It is an accepted phrase that the woman "gives herself to the man she loves." But even in that phrase we see already formulated a claim on the part of the woman, which seldom secures its logical completion, for if the woman's free gift of herself has rightly taken the place of forced marriage and capture, then the power to give herself freely, the right to assent, but not to be compelled, should just as much remain hers within the bonds of marriage as before. Unless the surrender asked of her is always a free and unimpelled surrender, yielded of her own motion and not by the domination of the male will, there must always be in it an element of subjection and degradation, and that is an ideal of marriage which the over-accentuation of sex and the artificial stimulus of the possessive passions of the male tend necessarily to defeat.

While, therefore, the few—the experts in the use of sex-charm—increase their influence under the conditions we are considering, the majority become less able to defend themselves, or to hold their own in a world where the relations which involve surrender on the woman's part are extended and increased to a morbid and unnatural degree. The accentuation of sex-differences, while increasing the male desire, and, as a result, the incontinent tyranny of its demands, has increased also the physical weakness and dependence of the woman in all matters relating to sex and birth, and we have to-day the abominable result that, of the entire animal kingdom, woman alone is allowed no "close time," no separation or relief from that relationship which brings her most effectually into subservience and subjection to man. When, therefore, gentlemen like Mr. Belloc tell us that the aim of the woman's movement is immoral, because it would alter the relations of the sexes, we may, I think, boldly answer that such, please God, is indeed the goal towards which we aim, and may claim to justify it on Scriptural as well as on secular grounds.

The Anti-Suffragist seems always to be engaged in an anxious endeavour to perpetuate, as though it were a blessing, the curse brought about by man's fall, and to uphold its conditions as though they were a fulfilment instead of a violation of God's purpose for the human race. If with the curse came, as we are told in Genesis, man's domination over the woman, and following upon it a multiplication of her conception and her sorrow, then with God's blessing we may hope to see it removed; and if in this world man is not to work for the removal of that curse which conditions his present life, then I do not know for what object his labours are to be spent. But should it be rather his aim to make that curse permanent and its foundations more sure and strong, then I can see no better or more direct way than that which lies in the Anti-Suffragist point of view.

The Women's Charter of Rights and of Liberties.

The following are, in brief, the proposals which Lady McLaren has drawn up, and which will be the subject of a series of Bills to be presented to Parliament:—

(1) Coverture.

The whole doctrine of Coverture shall be declared obsolete and abolished by Act of Parliament.

(2) Right of Maintenance.

As the law admits a wife's claim to maintenance by her husband, any wife living with her husband and not so maintained shall be able to recover a suitable maintenance by direct application to the magistrate, without the intervention of the Poor Law Guardians, and such magistrate if he is satisfied that the husband can, but does not, support his wife and children, shall be empowered to make an order

upon him for such a sum as he may consider suitable, and if necessary make such sum recoverable from any master who employs the husband out of wages due.

(3) Earnings.

(a) A wife who devotes her whole time to housekeeping and the care of the children shall have a claim upon her husband during his life, and upon his estate after his death, for a sum calculated on a scale not exceeding the wages of a housekeeper in her station of life.

(b) Moneys saved by a wife out of housekeeping shall be her own, when they do not exceed an amount calculated on that scale.

(c) A wife shall be a creditor for the amount on her husband's estate in case of his bankruptcy.

(d) In any dissolution of the marriage or any separation, a wife shall be entitled to payment for past services on this scale, should such payment not have been made during the marriage.

(e) Where the wife is a wage-earner she shall not be legally liable for the support of her husband or of his children, unless her earnings or the income of her property exceed the minimum necessary for her support.

(f) No wife shall be detained in the workhouse at the pleasure of her husband, if she is able and willing to support herself.

(g) No widow shall by law be obliged to maintain her children if the father's estate is sufficient for that purpose.

(4) The Wife as Partner.

In any case where the husband and wife work jointly at the same business, the profits, after paying fair interest on the capital of either party, shall be regarded as joint property of the husband and wife, unless agreed otherwise by contract in writing between the parties.

(5) Marriage Contracts.

Where both husband and wife possess property, marriage contracts shall be drawn up by which each party binds himself or herself to make a fixed minimum contribution to housekeeping, which sum shall be recoverable by law by either party, so long as he or she shall perform the duties of the marriage. No husband or wife shall be legally liable for the expenses of the other beyond the sum agreed upon.

(6) Assaults on Wives.

Magistrates shall inflict heavier penalties on men convicted of brutality to women, and especially to wives. Wives and children of men so convicted and sent to prison shall be entitled to support, but not as paupers, during the term of the husband's sentence, by a rate levied directly on the locality where they live.

(7) Divorce.

The law of Divorce shall be amended as follows:—

(a) To entitle either party to a divorce on the ground of unfaithfulness alone.

(b) To allow either party to obtain a dissolution of marriage on any of the following grounds: Habitual drunkenness, confirmed drug habit, conviction of grave offence entailing at least two years' imprisonment, cruelty either mental or physical, or wilful desertion.

(c) Where husband or wife after desertion has left the country, power to be given to effect service of citation by publication in the London Gazette (as in bankruptcy) without requiring personal service to be effected outside Great Britain.

(d) To allow a marriage to be dissolved in this country on any of these grounds by the petition of a wife where the husband is a foreigner, thus relieving the wife of the difficulty of applying to foreign courts of law.

(e) The Court of First Instance for the consideration of Matrimonial Causes to be the County Court of the district in which parties have resided during the greater part of the year preceding the presentation of the petition for Divorce, Judicial Separation, or Nullity of Marriage. The facts upon which the petition is based to be verified by affidavit, and be subject to cross-examination which shall take place in camera, except on the motion for judgment. All appeals to be to the Judges of the Divorce Division of the High Court, who shall be the Appellate Court for all matrimonial causes.

(8) Children.

(a) Fathers and mothers shall be joint guardians of their children. In case of difference of opinion the Court on an originating summons shall decide in accordance with what it considers to be the benefit of the child.

(b) The mother shall be recognised as a parent for the purposes of the Vaccination Act.

(c) In case of the death of an illegitimate child, due to the violence or neglect of the mother within a month of the child's birth, the penalty imposed shall be not more than two years' imprisonment, to be followed by a period of two years' industrial training.

(d) Children born to parents before marriage shall be legitimised by subsequent marriage.

(e) Illegitimate children shall succeed in cases of intestacy to real and personal property by maternal

descent or through paternal descent on proof of formal adoption.

(f) The children of divorced parents shall be *ipso facto* wards of Court.

(9) Domicile.

The law of England shall be assimilated in this respect to that of Germany, namely, that no woman can be bound to accept a foreign domicile against her will.

(10) Marriage Service.

The House of Commons shall request the Bishops of the Church of England in Convocation to draw up a new marriage service in accordance both with womanly dignity and with legal truth.

(11) Inheritance.

(a) The ancient right of wives to dower shall be restored, shall be extended to personality, and shall be made independent of the husband's disposition, whether by deed or will.

(b) In cases of intestacy of either husband or wife the respective rights of husband, wife, and children to real property shall be the same as in the case of personal property.

(c) In case of the husband or wife dying intestate, leaving a survivor of the marriage, the widow or widower so surviving shall take half the real and personal estate, and the remaining half shall be divided equally between the children.

(12) Testamentary Power.

No person shall have power to disinherit his or her children, and testamentary power shall extend to not more than half the property of either parent after providing for the payment of dower, and the other half shall be divided in equal shares between the children of the marriage.

(13) Education of Girls.

(a) The amount of money spent on each girl per head in Elementary Schools shall be equal to that expended on each boy.

(b) A sum equal to that expended on boys shall be placed at the disposal of every Education Authority for the Secondary Education of Girls.

(c) An inquiry shall be instituted into all the funds bequeathed for purposes of education, and an equal share shall be given to each sex in consideration of the past misappropriation of funds left for the education of girls.

(d) In view of the urgent need of technical education for women, every facility and inducement given to boys to obtain such education shall be extended also to girls.

(e) All Universities, Colleges, Societies, Inns of Court, Institutes, and public bodies, deriving money or authority from the State, shall open their advantages equally to men and women.

(14) Immorality.

(a) The age at which a girl can legally consent to her own dishonour shall be raised to 18 years.

(b) The Government shall appoint a commission of women to consider the best means of stamping out open immorality and suppressing disorderly houses, all regulations to be under the control of competent women, to whom authority should be given and special funds allowed.

(c) In all British dependencies the provisions of the Contagious Diseases Acts relating to women shall be repealed.

(15) Measures for Improving the Condition of Married Women of the Working Classes.

(a) Parliament shall make a provision for the education and appointment of qualified midwives to replace the women driven from practice by recent legislation.

(b) Parliament shall compel municipalities to establish crèches and playrooms for the working-class children, on the model of the German Pestalozzi Froebel House, at a charge to each child of 6d. to 3s. per month.

(c) Parliament shall compel municipalities in large towns to provide milk suitable for the food of infants and young children.

(d) Parliament shall compel municipalities to establish cheap eating-houses and kitchens in working-class centres, on the model of those established in Berlin.

(e) Parliament shall compel municipalities to establish wash-houses appropriate to the needs of the community in working-class or crowded localities.

(f) Schools shall be established in large centres where instruction in all branches of the domestic arts shall be given to women and girls at low charges.

(16) Factory Acts and Economics.

(a) In every case where the law forbids the mother to continue her occupation before or after the birth of her child, the Legislature shall make the municipality responsible for her support during the time of prohibition, whether it can recover such charges from the husband or not.

(b) All regulations as to work and overtime which apply to women shall be extended, wherever applicable, to men working at the same trade.

(c) A distinction shall be made between the labour of young persons of both sexes, and that of adult persons, and adult women shall be allowed in certain trades to engage in night-work, provided the hours of employment are not excessive. The adult person shall mean any person over 25 years of age.

(d) Parliament shall provide greater facilities for relaxing the rigid action of the Factory Acts in certain trades where adult women are employed, either by allowing overtime or permitting a system of shifts by which the working day is prolonged at certain seasons.

(e) The attention of the Legislature shall be called to the fact of the exclusion of women from many skilled trades by the action of the men's trade unions, and enactments shall be passed giving special facilities for the education of women in these trades and freedom to engage in them.

(f) Every effort shall be made to induce Parliament to raise the wages of women, not only by providing for them an industrial training, but by opening to them more branches of the public service.

(g) Equal payment to women and men for equal services shall be the rule in the Government offices.

(h) No local education authority shall dismiss female school teachers merely on the ground of marriage, but these shall be permitted to continue their work as long as they are capable of effectively performing their duties as teachers.

(17) Political Rights.

(a) The right to vote at all municipal and local elections, together with the power to serve on local bodies, shall be accorded to women equally and on the same terms with men.

(b) No woman otherwise qualified shall be excluded by sex or marriage from exercising the Parliamentary franchise.

The Divorce Commission.

The Divorce Commission resumed its sittings for four days last week. Perhaps the most interesting evidence was that of Lord Salvesen, Senior Judge in the Outer House of the Edinburgh Court of Session, who gave an account of the much humbler law of Scotland. It is quite impossible, within the limits of our space, to give a fair account of the evidence before this Commission, and much of it is necessarily repetition. We propose, therefore, to reserve an account until the whole report is before us, and the separate points can be dealt with in separate articles.



THE NEW MAGYAR BLOUSE

The craze of the moment, made in best quality silk Crepon or Crêpe de Chine and Spot Foulards, perfectly cut in the new seamless shape, with Claudine collar and cuffs in soft chiffon or lawn, stitched with colours to match, lined throughout with soft silk, in black, white, and all fashionable shades.

Price
21/9

SENT ON APPROVAL.

Debenham & Freebody
Wigmore Street, London, W.

Famous for over a Century for Taste, for Quality, for Value.

A Suffrajack at the Polling Booths.

I have been honoured as the recipient of a new and original name in the Suffrage movement. It was coined by children in the street, and is one more instance registered by the street gamins that men are making common cause in this crusade. I have had perhaps fuller experience at the polling booths than most men, for while I read of other members of the Men's League helping with the petition in their few spare hours, I have had the opportunity of being at eight polling stations, including two full days of 12 hours. It was at Willesden that the surprise felt at the sight of a man assisting with the petition was voiced in the cry, "Oh, my! here's a — Suffrajack," the dash representing the pause for an instant while the desired word was coined. Children were the authors of the only "adventures" encountered. At this particular station they were in such crowds and so noisy that it was very difficult for the voters even to hear what one said when requesting signatures. Another day I was showered with mud, and on another occasion my wife was mobbed by an excited crowd of about fifty boys, yelling, kicking, and throwing missiles.

As regards the electors, the experiences already reported were very similar to mine. I could recognise all that noble band portrayed on your front page who did *not* sign. (Congratulations, by the way, to the artist, who surely must have drawn from life.) Let me say to the honour of the working-men, that even in rough districts I found more "chivalry" than among the villa residents of richer neighbourhoods. The desire to hang, burn, or poison the women came mostly from the "gentlemen." One emphatically refused to sign "even if I gave him £1,000"; I did not appraise his opinion quite so highly. Perhaps the strongest impression on my mind was that, where we could get behind the indifference, so much displayed by the annoyed look and hurried shrug of the shoulders of the man who was much too important to be stopped, there was a much wider sympathy with the women's demand and recognition of its justice than I had hitherto imagined to be the case. The men of Britain are sound at heart on the question, but their voice has never been audible to the Government. The petition is altering that, and the weary hours during which we have stood in cold and hunger, rain and snow, have not been in vain.

My other vivid impression is that militant tactics are a gross blunder. On one sheet every signature I obtained was by following up the voter and emphasising the fact that we were not militant, and that is typical of the whole of my experience. Out of hundreds with whom I have had "little talks," I only found one man who was (as a Liberal) taking the advice to "keep the Liberal out."

THOS. G. ROGERS.

An "Odd Woman."

Unmated, childless, is my life a thing
For you to mock at, or for me to hate?
Am I to live it out in cursing Fate,
Or weeping for the joys she does not bring?
Mother! Divine word whence all blisses spring!
Wife! though I never know your blessed state,
But reach lone love to babes which you create,
Must you yield pity to my way-faring?
No! For whoever looks for love's reward,
Who in his own life every joy would prove,
Oft misses all he seeks to garner up.
The safer secret ours, who are assured
We live a life in every friend we love.
No joy of earth has missed my brimming cup.

The Magazines.

"THE ENGLISHWOMAN" FOR MARCH.

In her instructive article on Factory Law and "Welfare Workers," Miss A. M. Anderson tells us a fact which is most illuminating in view of the constantly recurring excuse that nothing need be done because "women don't want it," or "women haven't asked for it." She points out that in 1891-2 the official witnesses stated to the Royal Commission on Labour that "there were practically no complaints from women workers themselves." In 1893 women were first appointed to be Factory Inspectors, and "in a few years the complaints grew to upwards of a thousand in the year, of which few indeed were found to be otherwise than fully justified." The fact is that there is no use complaining when there is no one whose business it is to listen to your complaints,—as voteless women know.

Mrs. Russell's article on the St. Pancras school for mothers will tantalise many women with impatient sense of all the work there is to be done by women when once the obstruction is removed from their path, and the same emotions will be stirred by Mrs. Bennett's description of the L.C.C. Technical Schools for girls. One hopes that women will soon insist that the higher branches of cookery shall be taught to girls, so that those women who have the gift for cookery may in time command a chef's salary. A capital article on French feminism (in French), and the beginning of a story by Mrs. Rentoul Esler, are also part of this number.

Britain Overseas.

SOUTH AFRICA.

On the second reading, a Bill for Women's Suffrage in Natal was lost by seven votes, but its supporters are well satisfied with the advance made by the cause since the first Bill was introduced in 1894, and are sanguine of early success.

Foreign News.

UNITED STATES.

The Socialist party in America set aside one day in February as "Woman's Day," and held Suffrage meetings throughout the country. Socialists are pledged to carry on an active campaign for Women's Suffrage. The cry of warning raised by the Anti-Suffragists that Women's Suffrage leads to Socialism may or may not be true, but it seems probable that here Socialism will hasten the extending of the vote to women.

The question as to whether the women of Massachusetts are to be granted the ballot is now before the Legislature. At the annual hearing, which has recently taken place, speeches were made by representatives of every sphere of woman's life. The homemakers' group, the group of leisure women, the mothers' group, and every branch of professional workers sent their spokeswomen.

Mass meetings have also been held in Albany, Louisiana, and Kentucky.

A Men's League for Women's Suffrage is being formed in Massachusetts, like the League for the same purpose in New York, which has been so active and influential there during the last year.

BELGIUM.

After much discussion it has been decided that women shall in future be eligible for election on the *Conseil de Prud'hommes*.

SWITZERLAND.

The W.S.A. in Zurich numbers 194. It has lately organised several meetings, but it is uphill work, for the mass of the people have still to be convinced of the justice of the cause. Experience is short-lived, for it is interesting to note in this connection that the opponents of the present movement had to fight the same battle in the third decade of the Nineteenth Century as women are fighting to-day. They demanded full political rights, and to gain their end had to prove the futility of precisely the same arguments as are being used to-day in connection with the women's movement.

GERMANY.

Many meetings are being held all over Germany in connection with the Prussian "Wahlrechts Reform." Protests have been made by various societies, including the German W.S.A., which demands that the cause of women should be included in any Suffrage reform.

POLAND.

The communal vote has recently been extended in Russian Poland to propertied women, although they are not yet eligible to stand for election.

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.

QUEEN VICTORIA: HER OPINION OR HER DEEDS?
To the Editor, "The Common Cause."

Madam,—May I ask the Rev. A. Powys, apropos of his admiration for Queen Victoria (on which point alone I am heartily in sympathy with him), whether he soberly believes she was *right* in her opinion that she and all others of her sex were "not fit for governing"? If so, does it not follow that the history of our country and of the world would be benefited could the Victorian era be obliterated? And where, then, is the ground for our veneration for her late gracious Majesty?

"The greatest, wisest, best of women for the last three hundred years" might, in some mood of weariness and discouragement under her enormous burden, give utterance to such words as your correspondent quotes; but the record of her glorious reign is a living testimony a thousand-fold weightier than any words to the capacity of womanhood for even the highest governmental status. To this testimony might also be added the record of many famous women rulers, not only in the Western world but in the Orient, where personality counts for more than in constitutional countries. The native State of Bhopal, for instance—one of the best governed and most loyal in our Indian Empire,—has been happy in a succession of Begums, ruling in their own right for several generations.—Yours,
C. C. OSLER.

MEDDLING MRS. JELLYBYS.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—The greatest, wisest, best of women "meddled a great deal in politics, with much advantage to them, and she governed as well and as much as the present King can be said to govern. Mrs. Jellyby interested herself in some out-of-the-way mission and neglected her duties, it is said, in consequence. Nevertheless, clergymen's wives may, I suppose, help on the cause of Missions, without necessarily neglecting their homework. The letters by Miss Adelgren and Mr. Powys may be compared!—Yours,

C. TENNANT.

Hockwold Rectory, Brandon, 12th March, 1910.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—It is perhaps the more dignified course to treat with silent contempt abuse of the Women's Suffrage movement, which is unsupported by any attempt at argument; but, as a member of the Church of England, I feel obliged to express the feeling of shame with which I read the letter signed "A. Powys" in your last issue, and saw that it emanated from an English vicarage. The writer shows not only a lamentable lack of charity, but also complete ignorance of the characters and aims of Suffragists.

He or she is apparently unaware that among the "meddling, muddling, morbid, unwholesome Mrs. Jellybys" (by which choice "derangement of epithets" your correspondent politely labels the adherents of the movement) are many, if not a majority, of the "greatest, wisest, and best women of their generation"—the leading rescue, temperance, and other philanthropic workers, besides educationists, women doctors, social reformers, etc., etc.

Incidentally, the movement has led many women to undertake "good feminine and much-needed work" on Boards of Guardians, Education Committees, County Councils, and last but not least, on Royal Commissions. One wonders if your correspondent would denounce Mrs. Sidney Webb and Mrs. Bosanquet, whose expert knowledge proved so valuable on the Poor Law Commission, as "Mrs. Jellybys, meddling in men's work," and whether he regards the presence of Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs. Tennant on the Divorce Commission as not merely highly improper, but as tending to a dangerous concession to the "mad, wicked folly of women's rights" in the establishment of an equal moral standard for men and women.—Yours, etc.,

CLAIRE E. HOUGHTON.

Edgbaston, March 10th, 1910.

WOMEN'S AMBITIONS.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I read with interest your correspondent's letter under the above heading last week, and would like to make a few remarks on the subject.

At one time I belonged to the first category she mentions, and to this day one of my cherished little indulgences is a Sunday morning in bed. I began to work in a factory with a wage of 5s. per week, and by dint of perseverance in educating myself, got a clerical position, and have now the confidence of my employers. I am quite sure that if I had been a man I should by now have had shares in the company for which I work, as men who work for the same firm have been allowed a share-holding. Being a woman, I am supposed to look forward to being married. Let me, as a business woman of to-day, inform your correspondent that man at present will not allow woman an equal chance with himself. Women are not content to remain employees—at least, not all women. There are those who are chafing at their subordination, as of course they have the ability to undertake responsibility in business, and do actually have to undertake it, although they may not be head of the firm.

Like your correspondent, I sympathised with the fight for the Suffrage, but merely looked on, because my time, apart from business, is scant. But when Mr. Asquith wanted evidence of the demand for the Suffrage among women themselves I joined a society, and if your correspondent would join a society she would probably find that the demand for the Suffrage is from women of all ages, all grades in society, and all sects in religion; at least, that is the aspect of the demand in the North of England.—Truly yours,

VOTELESS.

THE SCOTTISH LAW OF DIVORCE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I was surprised to read in the articles on divorce last week in "The Common Cause" no mention of the fact that the divorce laws of Scotland are equal morally for men and women. They are more. They are equal for rich and poor.

A husband is divorced for infidelity as is a wife. I can recollect, and I daresay many Scotswomen can, the amazement with which I learned years ago that an Englishwoman could not divorce her husband for infidelity.

Our equality in divorce law seems to me the strongest possible argument for Englishwomen to use, but they never seem to use it. Four years' desertion also gives a

Scotswoman the right of divorce. Our poor are helped by the Faculty of Advocates appointing each year six advocates to act as counsels for the poor, and the solicitors, eight of their number to act as solicitors for the poor. All these work gratuitously, and the system works very well. People earning up to 23s. a week are given this assistance, but those with more would in special circumstances be helped.

About a quarter or a third of all the divorces granted in Scotland are those of the poor—mostly women—who pay nothing for it by our system.

When one studies the woman's inequalities and the hardships of the poor under the English system of divorce, and realises that across the Border these inequalities and difficulties do not exist, one wonders why a Royal Commission should sit, instead of the House of Commons simply putting the divorce laws of England on the higher level of those of Scotland.—Yours,

HELEN FRASER.

Bristol, 11th March, 1910.

THE EQUAL STANDARD.

To the Editor, "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I have read with great interest Mr. Chapman's able article entitled "Divorce and Sex Disability," and I have closely followed the reports—full of vital interest to women—upon the doings of the Royal Commission, now sitting.

One argument for equality, where the question of divorce occurs, I should like to urge. It is based upon physical, fundamental facts; facts which cannot be evaded, which should not be overlooked; facts which, because they render woman the more helpless in cases of infidelity, should be legislated for, in order that by law, if not by nature, she may be protected and saved. It is a very terrible thing when a woman is unfaithful to her husband; so terrible, so sad, that one's sympathies are not large enough to pour out upon the man who, loving a woman, is deceived by her. But, at any rate, he is saved the ultimate horror. If he cannot—or will not—divorce her, either because the proof of her guilt be not forthcoming or because he loves her so tenderly that he shrinks from punishing her; if she remains beneath his roof, as his wife, nothing need, or can, force him to live with her. A man is a man; he is the active partner in marriage, while the woman remains passive. Therefore, if you reverse the situation, if you consider the case of a husband unfaithful (perhaps habitually unfaithful) to his wife, upon what a situation do you arrive? It does not bear thinking of, and yet there are thousands of women who have not only to think of but to endure it. For, since she cannot obtain a divorce without cruelty or desertion, the unfortunate wife must submit to her husband's will, no matter with what horror, loathing, terror, or tears; and she must do so in the full knowledge of his infamy and of her own utter helplessness. Surely here is an argument for "equality" so profound that none other should be necessary at all!

Of course the man in the street will say: "But many women do not really mind." Quite true; many women do not really mind, just as many men do not "really mind" either. But divorce legislation is not for such as these, nor need they—or do they—take advantage of it, except for ignoble reasons. Therefore, any consideration of such women may be eliminated, and the necessity—clamant and elemental—stands.—Yours,

MABEL KITCAT.

THE PRESS AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

To the Editor, "The Common Cause."

Madam,—It ill becomes one of the rank and file to suggest a new task for our already over-worked leaders, but there are some things that they only can do, and they only can put the keystone to the arch built up by our recent election work.

The plan was excellent—it was carried out with enthusiasm, if not with heroism; but what it still lacks, if the full benefit of all that strenuous work is to be obtained, is adequate recognition in the public press.

Doubtless, when all the petitions have been presented, an official notice giving full statistics will be sent round to the London dailies. Some of them will insert a paragraph, others will drop the entire communication into the waste-paper basket; but, even where published, it will make little impression except on those already interested. Week by week there have been excellent reports in the "Common Cause," but what we need now is a full column on the front or centre page of all the leading London and provincial papers, giving an interesting account of the petition and the various picturesque or amusing incidents of the campaign. Many of the colloquies at the polling-booths afford excellent "copy," but to be accepted it must be signed by a name that commands respect apart from its connection with our movement.

Surely the "Times" and "Morning Post" would welcome Mrs. Fawcett and Lady Frances Balfour? The "Daily News" and the "Daily Chronicle" are accustomed to printing contributions from Miss Clementina Black and Madame Sara Grand. Mrs. Philip Snowden, Lady McLaren, Mrs. Swanwick, Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. Garnett, Miss Maude Royden, Miss Helen Ward, and other able writers could

arrange for the other leading papers between them, and the editors would be dense indeed if they refused matter so superior to much that appears in their pages.

Even should some of the articles not be accepted, they could still be utilised, as we are always needing fresh and bright propaganda literature, and they would make admirable leaflets.—Yours,

AUGUSTA E. HARRINGTON.

3, Holly Terrace, Highgate, N.

[Our correspondent's confidence in the willingness of editors to publish Suffrage news is scarcely warranted by experience. The London press is infinitely worse in this respect than the provincial. The question is, however, one which receives the constant attention of the Executive Committee.—Ed., "C. C."]

Reports of Societies within the National Union.

BIRMINGHAM.

At a joint meeting of the committees of the B.W.S.S. and the Franchise Club it was decided that the Franchise Club had accomplished its work so well that the time had now come to make some new arrangements for organisation to meet the ever-increasing work of the Society. A meeting of workers will shortly be held to discuss this; suggestions should reach the secretary not later than March 24th. Our meetings in the Bull Ring will be held as usual on Wednesdays at 7.30. Helpers to give out leaflets, etc., are greatly needed; also ladies willing to sell "The Common Cause" in New Street on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 12 to 2.

BIRMINGHAM—SOLIHULL.

We have been energetically pushing the cause forward during the past week in Solihull. Mrs. Mayer has been down here for the week paying calls and holding meetings to win adherents. Some very successful open-air meetings have been held, at which Miss Gardner, Miss Noël Wright, and Mrs. Mayer spoke.

By kind permission of Mrs. Herbert Wright a most delightful drawing-room meeting was held at Sutton Lodge on Thursday, 10th, at which Mrs. Mayer and Miss Gardner spoke, while Miss Noël Wright took the chair. Many converts were made and eight new members joined, and the collection showed a very handsome total. Mrs. Mayer will continue her work until Monday, the 14th, when we shall wind up with a big public meeting in the Solihull Public Hall, at which Mrs. Mayer and Miss Gardner are to be the speakers, and Mr. Julian Osler will take the chair. Miss Noël Wright has shown unflinching enthusiasm in working up this campaign, which has proved so fruitful and successful in every way.

BIRMINGHAM—STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

The annual meeting of this branch of the Birmingham Society was held at the Free Library on February 24th. The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. W. S. Brassington, read an encouraging report of the year's work, and the Hon. Treasurer read the financial report, which showed a balance in hand both on the general account and on the special account for propaganda work during the general election. After the election of officers for the ensuing year, the meeting was thrown open to members and their friends. An eloquent address was given by Mrs. Mayer, the Midlands organiser, who gave a most encouraging account of the results of the enfranchisement of women in Australia and New Zealand. This lady has before this addressed two meetings in Stratford during the general election, and her hearers have derived much pleasure and profit from her words on each occasion.

BIRMINGHAM—WOLVERHAMPTON.

Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., addressed a meeting in the large hall at the Baths, Wolverhampton, on Monday, the 7th. The meeting was arranged by the local branch of the Birmingham Women's Suffrage Society. The second speaker was Mrs. Mayer, from Australia, who replaced at short notice Mrs. Snowden, who was prevented by a cold from attending.

Mrs. Fawcett gave a most statesmanlike address, and pointed out the danger to the cause in allowing the removal of sex disqualification to be tacked on to, or made only an adjunct of, any measure to reform the Suffrage for men, reminding her hearers that in the Bill of 1884 Mr. Gladstone had thrown the women overboard so as to save the ship—otherwise the Bill—from failure through being overweighted. Mrs. Fawcett pointed out with gentle scorn that the nautical metaphor was unfortunate, as it had always been the splendid tradition of our sailors that when there was danger of shipwreck, the women were to be saved first.

Mrs. Mayer showed how successfully the franchise had been won in the daughter States as a matter of conviction, and the good results which have come from it.

Both speakers were accorded a hearty vote of thanks, and the audience was large and enthusiastic.

BOURNEMOUTH.

We have been favoured with a visit from Miss Abadam, who has given some ten or twelve splendid addresses in the town and neighbourhood under the auspices of this Society. The wind-up public meeting was at Parkstone, and was a splendid success in every way, many being unable to obtain an entrance. The general opinion was aptly summed up by one who said: "Grand as Miss Abadam was to begin with, every address was better than the former." The campaign week has been strenuous, but the results will be far-reaching. A drawing-room meeting on Saturday afternoon, which was well attended and greatly appreciated, closed the week's work; 100 "Common Causes" were sold, and many new members added to our ranks.

BRISTOL.

Miss Fraser's campaign has been continued with great success. Eight more meetings have been held, at all of which she has been the chief speaker, and her eloquence and the comprehensive way in which she has dealt with her subject have greatly impressed her hearers.

Three drawing-room meetings have been given, by Mrs. Barrell, The Paragon, Clifton, Professor Barrell in the chair; by the Misses

Tanner, when Mrs. Barrell presided; and by Mrs. Pobjoy, at Bishopsworth, Miss Tanner in the chair. At Bishopsworth also, which is a Somersetshire village on the outskirts of Bristol, a public meeting was held, Mr. Whyatt in the chair. Miss Fraser spoke to a crowded audience, and afterwards replied to questions.

On Wednesday an At Home was given by the Committee at the shop, 49, Whiteladies Road, when a number of shop assistants came by special invitation, Mrs. W. C. H. Cross in the chair.

On Thursday Miss Fraser had another dinner-hour meeting in the Horsefair, and her address was followed by a lively discussion.

On Friday evening a very good meeting was held at Southville, Mrs. W. C. H. Cross in the chair; and the week's campaign ended with a meeting at the Co-operative Hall, Bishopston, W. C. H. Cross, Esq., in the chair.

At every meeting fresh members have joined, making a total of seventy since the new year, nearly all of whom have joined at Miss Fraser's meetings. Very good reports of all the meetings have appeared in the three local papers and in the "Daily Chronicle." The campaign comes to an end this week with a drawing-room meeting, by invitation of Mrs. W. C. H. Cross; a debate in South Bristol; and a public meeting at Frampton Cotterell, in the Thornbury Division.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.

The monthly meeting of members and friends was held in Boots' Café on Monday evening, March 7th. The President was in the chair, and there was a fair attendance of members. Our Secretary was unfortunately again prevented by illness from attending. In April we hope to hold an afternoon meeting for women only, and we have arranged to have another public meeting in October, for which we have been able to secure Mr. Baillie Weaver as one of the speakers.

Although we have not been able in this branch to help in any election work, yet we have not been idle during the winter. One member, Miss McGregor, has read a paper before the Women's Liberal Association; another member, Mrs. Mellor, has taken part in a debate; our literature secretary, Miss Farrington, has read a paper before the Municipal Officers' Association; and our President has addressed a men's meeting in St. Paul's Parish. All these efforts have been productive of good, and the interest in our work and objects is steadily growing.

CAMBRIDGE.

There were two most successful performances of "Press Cuttings" and of "How the Vote was Won" in Cambridge last Wednesday. The plays were got up, independently, by a few ladies belonging to the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association in conjunction with certain members of the University Men's League for Women's Suffrage. The object was, in the first place, propaganda of a light and cheerful kind—such as seemed especially suitable and refreshing after all the serious and arduous work of the election campaign—and, in the second place, some replenishment of the empty coffers of the two Societies aforementioned. Both ends were attained; good audiences were secured, and a profit of over £16 was made. The "playing" was excellent and the performances highly amusing. The chief parts were taken by Miss Seymour Thompson, Miss Catherine Marshall (Secretary of the Keswick Suffrage Society), Miss Hankinson (whose "Aunt Lizzie" and "Mrs. Farrell" were especial treats), Mr. A. F. M. Greig (Secretary of the Cambridge University Men's League), Mr. H. M. Butler (of Magdalene College), and Mr. Allen Watkins (of St. John's).

CAMBRIDGE—NEWMHAM COLLEGE.

On the 3rd March, Miss A. Maude Royden addressed a meeting of students. Her eloquence and her splendid faith roused some of the students to wish they could come to grips with "real life." But life is just as real at college as anywhere else.

CAMBRIDGE—GIRTON COLLEGE.

Mrs. Swanwick, an old Girtonian, addressed a meeting in the college hall on the 3rd March.

DARLINGTON.

By the invitation of the committee, a large number of ladies attended an "At Home" held in the Temperance Institute on Friday evening, March 11th. Miss Graham occupied the chair; and during the evening Miss Lucas spoke on "The Legal Position of Women," and showed how, even if all present abuses were removed, unless women had the Parliamentary vote they would never be safe.

An interesting discussion followed. A very enjoyable musical programme was given by Miss Cox-Walker, Miss Pratt, and Miss Reynolds, and while tea was being dispensed the names of new members were taken.

DURHAM.

The petition of 500 signatures, including the names of the Dean of Durham and most of the leading men in the University, was sent up to Mr. Hills, M.P., last week by one of his strongest supporters.

EDINBURGH.

We are glad to report that the jumble sale organized by Miss Alice Low in aid of the funds of the Society went off most successfully on Saturday, 12th, and resulted in a gain of £15 2s. 3d. Everything was bought, and five times as much stuff could have been disposed of if one could judge by the disappointed crowd which was finally turned away.

Our weekly At Home was well attended, and Miss Chrystal Macmillan's address was listened to with great interest and attention. Mrs. Cumming Craig took the chair. Our speakers next Friday will be Miss Florence Rasthorn and Miss K. Scott-Moncrieff.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND.

An address was given in the rooms, 58, Renfield Street, on Saturday afternoon, by Miss Helen E. Waddel, who took for her subject "Women and Public Work." Miss Waddel pointed out that women had taken a strong and prominent part in public life in other times and other countries, and instanced Catherine of Russia and the late Empress of China, who, by the strength of her character, raised herself from a comparatively humble position to be the dominating spirit of that vast empire. Miss Waddel emphasized the fact that there is great necessity for more women on town and county councils, school boards, and parish councils, and mentioned that in 950 Scottish parishes there are only about 100 women on the school boards. Miss Waddel reminded her audience that in order

to safeguard our rights on these local boards we women require the Parliamentary vote, and gave instances of women having been deprived of direct representation on local boards owing to the fact that they are an unrepresented class in Parliament. Miss Waddell's address was much enjoyed and appreciated by a good audience. This finishes our monthly addresses for this season. They have been one and all, interesting and instructive, and have been well attended. Our debate on Friday is looked forward to with much interest.

HERTS.—NORTH.

The first annual meeting of this Society was held in the Workman's Hall, Hitchin, on Thursday, March 10th, at 3 p.m. Mrs. E. O. Fordham occupied the chair, and there was a fair attendance of members. The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Edward Smithson, being abroad, her report was read by Mrs. Wathien (Hon. Treasurer) who also read a financial statement showing a small balance in hand. The Society, which was started this time last year with 43 members, now numbers 184. Fourteen meetings have been held during the year, and the voters' petition was worked in some parts of the constituency with the result that 737 signatures were obtained. Much satisfaction was evinced by the meeting when the Chairman announced that the Earl of Lytton had most kindly consented to become President, and several influential Vice-Presidents were also appointed.

The honorary officers were returned unopposed and a committee of twelve elected by ballot. It is hoped that each member will do his or her utmost during the coming year to further the cause of women in North Hertfordshire.

HERTS.—WEST.

Our record this week is one of happy anticipations. For the first time we speak with the enemy at the gate. The Anti-Suffragists purpose forming a branch of their League in this district, and we are welcoming their advent by a public debate, to be held on March 18th. Miss Lindsay, of the Anti-Suffrage League, will open the debate in support of her point of view, and Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., Editor of "The Common Cause," will reply on behalf of the Suffragists. Part of the time will be devoted to general discussion, and the question on the desirability of granting the Parliamentary franchise to women will be put to the meeting. The debate is quite free, so that all who desire to do so may come; and we have placed half the invitation cards in the hands of our opponents, so that both sides may have equal chances of being represented. The following day (March 19th) Miss Bathurst will address a drawing-room meeting in Bushey, called by Mrs. Erskine Murray, senr. During April we are hoping to hold regular weekly meetings of a simple and informal character. There is much educative work to be done here, as everywhere else, and there are many people who are most willing to listen to arguments and reasons upon the Suffrage if only we will assume them to be ignorant on the subject and will take the trouble to tell them the old story simply and clearly. We have also in hand a project for starting "a news sheet," which is to be a monthly record of the doings of this Society. We feel that this will keep the members in touch with one another and with local Suffrage work. The first copy of "the news sheet" will be supplied free, but after that we hope to induce members and friends to subscribe for it regularly at the rate of one shilling a year. Members and helpers are still needed here. Perhaps sympathetic readers will remember that West Herts. is a "danger zone," and that the Anti-Suffrage movement, once started here, is likely to receive very influential support. Our address is still 94, High Street, Watford. Office hours: 11 to 1 and 3 to 5. Suffragists of West Herts., please rally round us!

INVERNESS.

The first annual meeting of the Inverness Women's Suffrage Society was held last week. The Secretary gave an account of the rise and progress of the Society, which was formed as a result of a series of meetings held by Miss Helen Fraser a little over a year ago. It now numbers 183 members, and during the year much work, both educational and political, was accomplished. The President and some of the members of the Committee had held meetings in many surrounding towns with a view to forming Societies, and their efforts had been crowned with much success, while the voters' petition had secured 1,169 signatures.

Miss Macowen read a most entertaining paper on "The Humours of Petition Work," in which she narrated some of her personal experiences and encounters with various types of electors. The proceedings terminated with an earnest and stimulating address from the President, Mrs. Hunter.

The Society looks forward with much interest to the visit of Mrs. Philip Snowden, who is to address a public meeting in the Music Hall.

LINCOLN.

A meeting was held at the Central Hall, Lincoln, on March 1st, presided over by Mr. Arthur Newsum, B.A., and addressed by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., and Mr. Ramsey, a young Socialist. There was a fair attendance, considering the very dense indifference to the Suffrage cause in Lincoln. When the committee representing the small band of Suffragists saw the great appreciation of Mrs. Fawcett's fine speech, they felt they were justified in having daringly taken one of the largest halls in the city.

LONDON.

On Wednesday, March 9th, the first quarterly Conference of members of the London Society took place, having been deferred from January owing to the General Election. The subject chosen for discussion was "The General Election Work and How to Make It of Permanent Value." Representatives from most of the local Committees were present and gave their experiences, and Miss Emily Davies, Miss Cockle, and Miss Ward (in the chair) also spoke. The points chiefly emphasized in regard to future work were: (1) That regular open-air meetings should be held in fixed spots (this has already been arranged in several cases). (2) That committee rooms should be opened for a month at a time in different constituencies where there is no committee, and a vigorous campaign conducted, both indoors and out, in connection with such committee rooms. This is being undertaken by the Elections Committee in Bow and Bromley immediately after Easter. A similar enterprise, duly

assisted by the local committee, is already proving a great success at Sutton. (3) That where committee rooms cannot be taken a window, or half a window, should be hired for a few shillings a week, and posters, notices, leaflets, etc., displayed in it. In all cases of window decoration it was recommended that the display should be frequently changed. An experiment of this kind is working well at Blackheath. (4) Several workers strongly recommended house-to-house canvassing as a valuable means of propaganda.

This first Conference proved a great success, and it is hoped that the next will be largely attended and made a means of practical discussion among the workers in the Society as to how best to strengthen and develop the work.

LONDON—EALING.

As good as her promise, Miss E. Palliser came down to the monthly "At Home" for March, given by the committee of this branch, and delivered to those present—almost forty in number—a most delightful talk on an early pioneer of the Suffrage movement, taking as her representative Mrs. Mary Somerville, the well-known author of works of science, and on astronomy in particular, whose name headed the John Stuart Mill petition to Parliament, the first of any importance that was presented. Miss Evald Bolton gave two very effective pianoforte solos, and all the members and others expressed themselves delighted with the evening.

On March 1st we tried—almost as an experiment—in the Alexandria Hall, West Ealing, an afternoon meeting, designed especially for working women, to hear speeches by Mrs. Vane-Turner (local president) and Mrs. Edgar Morris, B.A. (organising secretary of the branch), punctuated by some old songs sung by Miss Bennet (one of our committee), and humorous recitations and tea, also provided by the committee. We had not so large an attendance as we had hoped, but representatives both of mothers and babies were there, and the meeting was a decided success (which we hope to repeat soon) in that every woman, whose ideas on Women's Suffrage had evidently been extremely hazy or radically wrong, expressed her understanding of and sympathy with the movement, joined as an Associate, and promised to bring friends to the next meeting of the kind. In April we are hoping to hold a meeting for working-men and their wives in South Ealing, and the usual monthly "At Home" will, of course, take place.

NORTH EASTERN.

Miss Mason visited Newcastle on Tuesday, 8th, and many local Suffragists and old friends were pleased to have an opportunity of meeting her in the afternoon at an "At Home" given by Dr. Ethel Williams and Miss Hardecastle. Although the audience which assembled at night to hear Miss Mason's lecture was not so large as we had expected, they were keenly appreciative, and we hope that she will pay us a return visit in the autumn.

NORTH OF ENGLAND.

The third rally of the season was held at Broadway, Salford, on Friday evening last. Three members of the Society and one member of the Men's League spoke to about 150 people. The night was fine but cold, and the speeches lasted over an hour. Miss Mitter Wilson spoke of the franchise in other countries; Miss Stonex dealt with the franchise and the industrial position; Mrs. T. M. Young with some Anti-Suffrage arguments; and Mr. Clancy (who kindly came at great inconvenience) about the vote and its influence on the home. Mrs. D'Auquier sold "Common Causes" and distributed literature. The audience seemed unwilling to go when the meeting was over. The party returned in the wagonette which had been their platform each evening, cold but cheerful.

NORTH OF ENGLAND—HEYWOOD.

At a public meeting held in Heywood during the election considerable interest was evinced, and twelve people gave in their names as wishing to become members of the society if a branch could be formed in Heywood. Accordingly last week Miss Robertson and Miss Bright did work, and held meetings in Heywood, with the result that a society has been formed, of which the membership is already 32, and a committee and officers will shortly be elected. Of the meetings held we must particularly mention a drawing-room meeting very kindly given by Mrs. Wilson, and an invitation meeting from Mrs. Bright to the elementary school teachers, both of which were very successful.

Ground has also been broken in Middleton, and Mrs. Stott is kindly giving a drawing-room meeting on Tuesday; but the atmosphere of Middleton does not seem so congenial to the Suffrage as that of Heywood, and we hardly anticipate forming a branch there at present.

A good story came from a lady in Heywood. Two men who came to the election meeting to scoff were heard to say as they went out: "She (Miss Robertson) 'ud a deal better represent us in Parliament than either o' them two chaps!"

NORTH OF ENGLAND—HYDE.

An influential deputation from the three Societies in this division, headed by Councillor Margaret Ashton, presented the petitions from Hyde, Marple, and Romily to Mr. Francis Neilson, M.P. Mr. Neilson remarked that it was against the rudiments of his principles to grant any further extension of the franchise on the present property qualification. He would, however, do everything in his power to help us when the time came.

NORTH OF ENGLAND—WIGAN.

The first public meeting of the new Wigan and District Society for Women's Suffrage was held in the Hope Schools, Wigan, on Thursday, March 10th. The speeches of Mrs. Lamb (chair) and of Mrs. Swanwick and Miss Margaret Robertson were received with evident sympathy, and when cards were handed round after the meeting it was found that fifty new members had joined the Society. Such a result augurs well for the success of this branch—the first-fruits of the propaganda done during the election work in the North.

NOTTINGHAM.

The audience at the Mechanics Large Hall on Thursday evening, assembled to hear Mrs. Philip Snowden and Mrs. J. E. Ellis, was in itself convincing evidence that temporary sensations in the political world have not detracted from the keen interest evinced in the woman question." So said the "Nottingham Daily Guardian" the

next morning. Mrs. Snowden has spoken to us before, and our members, and many others outside our ranks, were eager for another opportunity of hearing her; so that in spite of the fact that everyone is more or less tired of meetings, so soon after the General Election, our hopes for a well-filled Hall were great.

Mrs. J. E. Ellis, in her address from the chair, said that it needed no words of hers to point out to the meeting how the country must suffer loss in social questions, if the voice of women was not heard in those matters, so vitally affecting the welfare of the nation.

Mrs. Snowden, in a most stirring and uplifting speech, spoke of the immense strides which had been made in the movement during the last four years, and spoke of the Divorce Commission opening women's eyes to the need for equalizing the political position of men and women. The matter of the vote was of supreme importance to women, because in the political inequality of the classes there were bred other inequalities almost too dreadful to be named, but which were producing a curse in our midst which threatened to destroy the tree at the roots and poison the fountain at its source. At the conclusion of her speech a Suffrage song was sung by the audience while a collection was taken, after which a number of questions were sent up and answered. May we take this opportunity of thanking our splendid band of stewards, men and women, who managed the doors and seating without a single hitch. Over 100 "Common Causes" were sold by a band of children.

Last week Mrs. W. E. Dowson held a meeting at Hucknall, with Miss Norma Smith, of Derby, with the satisfactory result that a nucleus of new members was formed there and a temporary secretary appointed. A collection taken at the meeting paid the expenses, and a contingent of enthusiastic Suffragists came over to Mrs. Snowden's meeting in Nottingham two nights afterwards, gladly walking three miles each way to the train. Hucknall is evidently going to produce some good workers for the cause.

Later we go to Southwell and Newark, and hope to start small branches at these places. Miss Samuel has visited the former and has done some good preliminary work there, as she also did at Hucknall.

ORCADIAN WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting of the Orcadian Women's Suffrage Society was held in the Free Library Buildings on Monday evening last, under the presidency of Mrs. Baikie, of Tankerness. There was a fair attendance of members. The Secretary reported that a representative petition in favour of Women's Suffrage, signed by 116 burgh Parliamentary electors, including half of the Town Council, had been forwarded to the member for the Wick Burgh for presentation to Parliament. Mrs. MacEwen read a letter from Mr. Wason, M.P., in reply to one she had written suggesting taking advantage of the census papers of next year to ascertain opinion upon the question of their enfranchisement. Mr. Wason stated that the suggestion seemed quite good, and he would bring it under the notice of the Prime Minister, which he has done. Mrs. W. J. Heddle contributed a paper under the title, "The Verdict of History," in which she pointed out how woman's education and energy had so widened her sphere, that she was now found in many walks of life hitherto undreamed of, and this in spite of centuries of a cramped and narrow life. The paper showed great interest and research in tracing the progress made by woman towards freedom, and the thanks of the meeting were unanimously accorded to Mrs. Heddle. This was followed by an interesting discussion on the question of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women, in which the affirmative was urged by Mrs. James Currier, and the negative ably championed by Mr. Miller, of the Burgh School. The discussion was also taken part in by Mrs. MacEwen and Mr. Baikie, and a vote of thanks to both sides brought a most interesting meeting to a close.

OXFORD—SOMERVILLE COLLEGE.

We have held two successful meetings this term. Professor Gilbert Murray spoke at the first and Miss Margaret Robertson at the second, both speakers converting a number of the unbelieving. Our Society now numbers sixty members, which represents about two-thirds of the students and staff of the college.

PORTSMOUTH.

This Society has been engrossed all last week in preparatory work for the entertainment this week (Tuesday), given by the Actresses' Franchise League; and long committee meetings on the resolutions which are to be "selections" or "derelicts" next Saturday.

The members' meeting was held on Monday evening at 10, Merton Road, kindly lent by Mrs. Banks, who took the chair and called on Miss N. O'Shea, the hon. secretary, to read a report of the last month's work. Locally it was concerned with preparations for the entertainment on March 15th, and the presentation of the petitions to Parliament by Lord Charles Beresford and by Mr. Arthur Lee.

Portsmouth also reports with supreme pleasure that a branch of the Men's League is now established in the borough, with a membership of twenty, Mr. Lipson being the hon. secretary. It held its first meeting at 36, Stanley Street, on March 9th, and meets again on March 14th to settle how best to help the Women's Suffrage Society on Tuesday, at the Portland Hill. Sincere is the hearty welcome the Women's Suffrage Society offers to this small band, who thus recognize "the woman's cause is man's." If Miss Abadam ever reads our weekly reports of work, we hope she will see how her suggestion has been taken up and the formation of a Men's League in Portsmouth achieved.

SCARBOROUGH.

On Friday, March 11th, at the Adult Schoolroom, Roscoe Street, Mrs. Bonwick, a member of the British Women's Temperance Association, addressed a most interested audience. She devoted herself specially to the effect that the women's vote would have on the position of the working woman. Mrs. Bonwick's attitude to the whole movement is inspiring and elevating, and all who were present were greatly touched by her words. At the close of her address a vote of thanks to the speaker and the Chairman (Miss Kitson) was proposed by Mrs. Hess, of Flay, and seconded by Mrs. Byass, and carried; but before the meeting dispersed a gentleman from the audience rose and testified from his own experience to the excellent

work done by women in the post offices, and declared his indignation that there should not be equal pay for equal work in Government departments.

SURREY, SUSSEX, AND HANTS.

During the past week the Farnham Society has been working up the neighbouring villages, and a very successful meeting was held on Tuesday at Badshot Lea. Mr. Wetherley occupied the chair, and the speakers were Miss Gordon and Miss Milton, who addressed a large and sympathetic audience. At the conclusion of the meeting several questions were asked, and a vote of thanks accorded to the speakers on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Tristram. Another meeting was held the following day at Wrecclesham and addressed by the same speakers. Later on we hope to have meetings in Hale, Tilford, Crondall, and Fresham, where we have met with much sympathy.

Fresham was canvassed last Thursday, and there was scarcely any opposition at all among the farms and cottages.

YORKSHIRE ORGANIZATION—WAKEFIELD.

Owing to the kind hospitality of Miss Beaumont a most successful drawing-room meeting was held at Hatfield Hall, Wakefield, on Thursday, March 10th. Wakefield has up to this time taken little or no interest in the subject of the Suffrage, so that we were delighted to have such an interested and representative audience.

Miss Fielden made a most able and interesting speech, and carried her audience completely with her. She dealt with the gradual progression of women, and touched on the various social and economic disabilities under which they labour under their present voteless condition. She also fully explained the nature of the demand, and after detailing the various franchises under which men are qualified to exercise the vote, showed that they applied equally to women. At the close a lively discussion took place, but there was no opposition.

Mrs. Barnes proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Fielden, and said that the best way of showing their appreciation was for them to join the National Union. This was heartily responded to, and out of 45 present 26 joined the Union, and several more promised to consider the matter. We have every hope that they will join later.

All our "Common Causes" were sold, and we could have disposed of more. Miss Fielden is remaining in Wakefield for a few days, and it is hoped that a branch of the National Union will soon be formed. A public meeting will probably be held later.

Other Societies.

THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY.

An interesting meeting of the New Constitutional Society took place at Mrs. Lewis Wright's house last Wednesday. Miss Cicily Hamilton, in beautiful and inspired language, spoke on the oppression of all individuality and originality from which women have had to suffer in the past, and an excellent speech was made by Mrs. Cecil Chapman, president of the Society.



By Appointment.

LADIES,

HAVE YOU TRIED

John Knight's NATURAL BOUQUET

TOILET SOAPS?

Made in twenty varieties to suit all complexions.
They soften the skin and soothe all irritations.

SEND 6 PENNY STAMPS to Dept. "C.C."
for SAMPLE BOX CONTAINING
SELECTION OF 6 SPECIAL TABLETS.
POST FREE.

AWARDED "GRAND PRIX"
FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION.

JOHN KNIGHT, Ltd.,

Soapmakers to H.M. The King,

The Royal Primrose Soap Works LONDON.

Forthcoming Meetings.

MARCH 17.

London (Blackheath)—Jobbin's Tea Rooms—Mrs. R. Uniacke. 5.0
 Dublin—35, Molesworth Street—Committee Meeting. 11.30
 Nottingham—36, Bridlesmith Gate—Speakers' Class. 7.30
 London (Epsom)—Gymnasium Hall, The Parade—Lecture—Councillor Margaret Ashton. 8.0
 Reading—Large Town Hall—Mrs. Swanwick, Mr. Baillie Weaver. 8.0
 Perth—Co-operative Hall—Mrs. Snowden. 8.0
 London (Chelsea)—Social Gathering of Signatories to Petition and Friends. 8.0
 London (Hackney, S.)—Parish Room, All Saints, Clapton—Miss Cooke. 8.30

MARCH 18.

Glasgow—Athenaeum—Mrs. Snowden and Miss Hale—Debate. 8.0
 Redhill—Small Market Hall—Councillor Margaret Ashton—Chair, The Mayor of Reigate. 8.0
 London—Great Central Hotel—Reception to Council. 9.0
 Edinburgh—At Home—40, Shandwick Place. 4.0
 Watford—Masonic Hall—Debate—Mrs. Swanwick and Miss Lindsay. 3.0

MARCH 19.

London—Council Meeting—Caxton Hall. 10.30 to 1
 2.30 to 5
 7 to 10
 8.0

London (Paddington, S.)—Miss Margaret Hodge.
 Marble Bridge—Congregational Hall—Propaganda Plays by members of Romley Branch. 7.30
 Bushey, Herts.—The White Cottage—Mrs. Erskine Murray's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Bathurst. 3.30

MARCH 21.

London (S. Kensington)—10, Cherriston Gardens—Social Gathering of Signatories to Petition and Friends. 8.30
 Meols—Drawing-room Meeting. 3.0
 London (Highgate)—St. Pancras Baths—Lady Emily Lutyns and others.

London (Hornsey)—Public Meeting—Mrs. Malcolm Mitchell.

MARCH 22.

Brighton—55, Old Steyne—Women Only—Lady Bunting. 3.15

MARCH 25.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—At Home—Mrs. Joseph Dobbie.

MARCH 30.

Birmingham—Bull Ring. 7.30

MARCH 31.

London (Willesden)—Members' Meeting—Miss Palliser. 3.30
 Wallasey—Liscard Concert Hall—At Home—Miss Ashton. 8.0
 Rugby—Market—Miss Gardner. 8.0

APRIL 2.

Warrington—Parr Hall—Mrs. Snowden, Miss Abadam. 7.30

APRIL 6.

London (Windsor and Eton)—General Meeting—Mrs. Stanbury. 3.30
 Drawing-room Meeting. 4.30

APRIL 7.

Dublin—35, Molesworth Street—Committee Meeting. 11.30

APRIL 11.

Salisbury—Miss Abadam—Evening Meeting.

APRIL 15.

Alderley Edge—Public Hall—Miss M. Robertson. 8.0
 Bournemouth—Princes' Hall, St. Peter's Road—Miss M. Corbett. 4.0

APRIL 20.

London (Windsor and Eton)—Guildhall—Mr. Baillie-Weaver. 7.30
 Hull—Co-op. Educational Institute—Mrs. Rackham. 8.0

APRIL 21.

London (Blackheath)—Jobbin's Tea Rooms—Miss Sheepshanks. 5.0
 Dublin—35, Molesworth Street—Committee Meeting. 11.30
 Dublin—35, Molesworth Street—Miss Mason's Lantern Lecture. 8.0

EXPERIMENTS WITH A WELL-KNOWN COUGH CURE.

By a London Scientist.

Chas. Hyatt-Woolf, Esq., F.R.P.S., F.R.S.L., editor of popular Science Siftings, writes as follows in his new book, *Truths about things we live on and daily use*:—"With a view to discovering a form of medicine needed to diminish congestion, aid expectoration, and soothe the respiratory tract, I experimented in the laboratory with Veno's Lightning Cough Cure and applied it in practice. I found this remedy contained a variety of matters capable of affording relief in all those cases where coughing is a symptom. Not only this, but it is a distinct nerve sedative and tonic, and is not only applicable with advantage in cases of bronchial coughs, but also for stomach coughs. It would likewise have a certain value in consumption, it showed distinct ability to abate feverish symptoms, and in all cases to which I applied it, the influence of Veno's Lightning Cough Cure was most marked. This Cough Cure is very nicely compounded, so much so that it is even pleasant to take, its delightful flavour commending it to the most fastidious patient. It contains no opiate or anything that could effect harm." "Take Veno's Lightning Cough Cure for all diseases of chest, throat, and lungs in young or old. Price 9d., 1/4, and 2/9, of all chemists. (Advt.)"

Why Do Women Waste

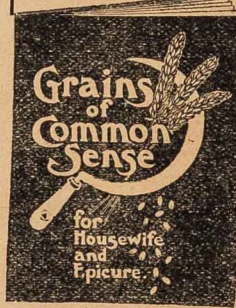
their hard earned money upon inferior food when the best is nicer as well as more wholesome and more truly economical. It has been proved that dogs die upon a diet of white bread, yet we feed ourselves and our children upon it, and wonder why we suffer from dyspepsia, constipation, bad teeth, etc., etc. You don't know how much better everything will taste, and how much better everyone will be, if you discard white flour entirely and use "ARTOX" Wholemeal.

"ARTOX" WHOLEMEAL

you get every particle of the finest whole wheat, with all its wonderful nourishment, in a form most easy of digestion. By a patent process the sharp spiculae of the bran, which in ordinary wheatmeal are so irritating to a weak stomach, are rendered harmless. The result is a highly nutritious and delicious wholemeal that makes BETTER BREAD, CAKES, PUDDINGS, and PASTRY than the most expensive white flour can produce. Once set the FINE NATURAL NUTTY FLAVOUR of Artox wholemeal you will want to use always in place of "superfine white." And there is nothing like it for keeping the system in order. Constipation is unknown where Artox is in regular use. What this means need not be said. Sold only in 3lb., 7lb., and 14lb. sealed linen bags by Grocers and Health Food Stores, or 28lb. will be sent direct, carriage paid, for 5s.

FREE for the ASKING.

THIS BOOKLET with many recipes and list of local agents, sent post free if you mention THE COMMON CAUSE.



"ARTOX" IS NOT SOLD LOOSE.
APPLEYARDS Ltd., Dept. Z, Millers, ROTHERHAM.
 Ask your baker for **ARTOX BREAD.** Ask your grocer for **ARTOX BISCUITS.**

M. VAX,

High-Class Ladies' Tailor and Habit Maker, 59, Southampton Row (first floor only), LONDON, W.C.
 Ladies' own material made up. Telephone 6307 Gerrard.

<p>Madame CLARE, B.A. 17, Henrietta St., Old Trafford, Manchester.</p>	<p>Teacher of Dressmaking and Ladies' Tailoring (Six years trade teacher to London County Council Classes). Special course of instruction for students wishing to take City and Guild or other examinations. Ladies instructed in drafting own pattern and making dress or costume. One guinea. Pattern of any sketch cut to ladies' own measurements. Orders taken for Gowns and Costumes.</p>
--	--

FOR HIGH CLASS—PRINTING and STATIONERY
 at the LOWEST PRICES, go to

ARTHUR ELLISON, 41, Lower Moseley St., MANCHESTER.

Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.
 To-night, at 7.30. Italian Grand Opera,

FAUST
 Friday "Rigoletto"; Saturday Matinée, "Lucia di Lammermoor"; Saturday Evening, "Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci." Next Week the Theatre will be Closed. Re-opening SATURDAY, MARCH 26. At 2 and 7.30—

CANDIDA, By BERNARD SHAW.
 March 28th, Every Evening, 7.30; Matinées, Bank Holiday and Saturday, April 2, "Candida." Tel.: 8046 Central.

If you want to be able to refute the one and only argument of the Anti-Suffragists, read

National Service and the Enfranchisement of Women.

By A. Maude Royden and Frank Leigh.

From the Office of "The Common Cause."

Price 2d. each. Postage 1/4d.

Deansgate Temperance Hotel, Manchester. LARGEST AND BEST IN THE TOWN. Most centrally situated.

Manchester and Salford Cars to all parts pass close to the Hotel. PASSENGER LIFT. TWO NIGHT PORTERS. Lately re-decorated and re-furnished. National Telephone 5538 & 5539 Manchester. STANLEY D. GORDON, Manager.

The William Morris Press: 42 Albert St. MANCHESTER.
 A BIGGER POLITICAL FIGHT SOON. GET PRINTING READY NOW.

For Choice Flowers and Fruit.
 MISS M. COOKE,
 92, Northumberland St., Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
 Nat. Tel. 794 Central.

PREPAID MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.
 Not exceeding 10 words: 1 insertion, 9d.; 2 insertions, 1s. 3d.; 3 insertions, 1s. 6d.; 6 insertions, 2s. 9d.; 13 insertions, 5s. 6d. Every additional ten words 8d. extra per insertion. All payments for Advertisements should be made to the Manager, 63, Deansgate Arcade.

MARY McLACHLAN, Typist, 4, Chapel Walks, Manchester.
 MISS WILKINSON, 8, York Street, Manchester. Legal, Literary, and Commercial Typewriting.

GARDEN CITY, Letchworth.—Holiday Cottage, furnished, 3 bedrooms, bath; £1 ls. per week.—Apply Miss Foxley, 12, Lime Grove, C.-on-M., Manchester.

LOW GREEN HOUSE, Thoraby, Aysgarth, S.O. Yorkshire. Sunny Situation. Paying Guests received.—Particulars on application, enclosing stamp, to Miss Smith.

FOR SALE.—Treadle Sewing Machine (Singer), in very good condition; cost £7 7s.; in use a year.—Apply, stating offer, to Miss Bright, 85, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

ASSOCIATION OF SHORTHAND WRITERS AND TYPISTS (Manchester Branch).—The Association has Vacancies for Women Secretaries, private and commercial.—Particulars as to membership from the Hon. Secretaries, 78, Bindloss Chambers, Chapel Walks, Manchester. Telephone: 3402 City.

LOST.—On Election Day, in Leigh Division, an Aluminium Thermos Bottle.—Write, Miss Margaret Ashton, Withington, Manchester.

LONDON.
 HOSTEL FOR LADIES.—Central, highly recommended.—Miss Sullivan, 50, Osaburg Street, Portland Road Station. Terms moderate.

LAN'S TEA-ROOMS, 263 Oxford St., 4 doors from Jay's. Luncheon, 1s., 1s. 6d. Tea, 9d., 1s. Large Studio for Meetings, "At Homes."

HEADACHE, NEURALGIA CURED in a few minutes; outward application. Money returnable if not satisfactory. 1s. 3d. post free.—Madame Marie, 77, Westminster Bridge Road, London.

VICTORIA CLUB FOR LADIES. Established 1894.—145, Victoria Street, S.W.

A New Era in Corsage

"A monument ought to be erected," enthusiastically wrote a lady upon trying "Royal Worcester" Kid-fitting Corsets for the first time, "to the man who introduced 'Royal Worcester' Kid-fitting Corsets! I had often heard of them," she continues, "but I had been used to someone's speciality for years, and didn't care



Model 904. Price 21/-.

about making a change. But as soon as I tried on a pair of 'Royal Worcesters' I could understand why they have sprung into favour so remarkably. I did not believe it possible that there could be such a vast difference between two makes of corsets. The comfort! the ease! the suppleness! the beautiful shapes! the mystic touch of style! One never thought to look for these qualities in corsets before. Truly 'Royal Worcesters' have raised corsage to an art! What Americans have done in raising the standard of footwear, these superb undergarments have done

for corsets—they have created an entirely new standard, and one entirely beyond the reach of all save themselves!"

Ladies who allow prejudice to stand between them and a trial of "Royal Worcester" Kid-fitting Corsets are not doing justice to their figures—for "Royal Worcesters" alone can contribute to the figure that "Hall Mark" of perfect contour which is the ambition of every lady and the despair of the mere corset maker. Next time you are about to buy a new corset send for a range of "Royal Worcesters" on approval, and try them on in conjunction with your present make—and choose the best. Such a test of merit places you under no obligation.

For fifty years "Royal Worcester" and "Bon Ton" Kid-fitting Corsets have been sold under the same name. Our principle has been always, and shall be always, "Take care of the corset and the name will take care of itself." For name and address of nearest agent apply to Royal Worcester Co., 19, Great Portland Street, London, W.



Model 507. Price 7/11.

Now is the time to get your Garden in order.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO DO IT?

If you would like to learn, read

THE SMALL TOWN GARDEN,

By H. M. SWANWICK, M.A. Illustrated, 2/- net, cloth.

R.M.S. "Dunottar Castle."

£21. CONSTANTINOPLE, TROY,
GREECE, ITALY.

APRIL 7th.

SECRETARY, CRUISING COMPANY, LTD.,
5, Endsleigh Gardens, LONDON, N.W.

F. LUDICKE,

LADIES' HAIRDRESSER AND SPECIALIST IN ARTISTIC HAIR
WORK, COLOURING AND TREATMENT OF THE HAIR.

FACE MASSAGE AND MANICURE
Lessons in Hairdressing given to Ladies' Maids, etc.

39, SOUTHAMPTON ROW, LONDON, W.C.
(Opposite entrance to Kingsway Tram Tunnel).

CARL HENTSCHEL LTD.,

Process Engravers.

HEAD OFFICES:—

182, 183, and 184, Fleet St., London, E.C.



Carl Henschel Ltd. are the leading
Specialists in the reproduction of photo
graphs, drawings, &c., either in line
half tone, or colour, for pamphlets,
books, periodicals, &c.

All the leading publications are illustrated with Carl Henschel's Blocks.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB LTD.,

For men and women supporters of the Enfranchisement
of Women, is now open in temporary premises, at

No. 66, Russell Square, W.C.

Subscription, £1 1s. without entrance fee, for
a limited number of members.

For further information apply to the Secretary.

EVERY WOMAN SHOULD READ "NATIONAL HEALTH."

To be interested in Politics is to be interested in all
matters pertaining to the Nation. Surely nothing can be
more important to the individual and to the Nation than
HEALTH.

A FREE COPY will be sent on application to the Publicity
Manager, 22-24, Gt. Portland Street, London, W., enclosing
stamped addressed envelope.

COUPON

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Send this Coupon and 1d. stamp to the Manager, 22,
Gt. Portland Street, W., and a 1s. Ticket of Admission to
the Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition, to be held in the
Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, April 27th, 28th,
29th, and 30th, will be sent free.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

OPENING CEREMONY BY H.R.H. PRINCESS CHRISTIAN,
April 27th, at 12 o'clock.

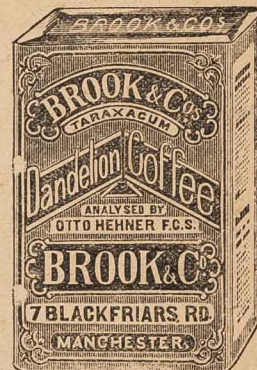
WOMEN ARE ADVISED

on all MATTERS OF BUSINESS by the auditor to the
Women's Freedom League and other Women's
Organisations.

MRS. E. AYRES PURDIE,
Ch. of Commerce Senior Honours,
CRAVEN HOUSE,

Telephone 6049.

KINGSWAY, W.C.



Ask your grocer for Brook's Dandelion Coffee, also
Grains of Health Salt.

Oster

CRYSTAL GLASS

CHINA

EARTHENWARE

100, Oxford Street,

London, W.

Catalogue on Application.

Printed by PERCY BROTHERS, LTD., for the Proprietors, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.
London Agents: Geo. Vickers, Angel Court, Strand; W. H. Smith and Sons, 186, Strand; Wyman, Ltd., Fetter Lane.
Manchester: John Heywood, Deansgate; Abel Heywood and Son, Oldham Street; W. H. Smith and Son, Blackfriars Street.
Newcastle-on-Tyne: W. H. Smith and Son. Edinburgh and Glasgow: J. Menzies and Co. Dublin and Belfast: Eason and Son.