

THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE).

VOL. IV. No. 103.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1911.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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EDITORIAL.

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

"They Can Think of Nothing Else."

Gems of wisdom are to be found in the correspondence column of the "Woman's Platform" in *The Standard*. One is worthy of quotation as showing an "anti's" estimate of "the shrieking sisterhood." It runs thus: "Pro-Suffrage is their sole preoccupation. It is an obsession . . . a disease. . . . They can think of nothing else. Being gifted with no sense of the virtues of restraint and reticence, half a dozen of them make more noise than a hundred Anti-Suffragists who, being sane and well-balanced women, have scores of other interests in life." We do not dispute the charge that we are obsessed by Suffrage when appalling facts concerning the conditions of child life, the carelessness of the authorities when a woman is concerned, and the tragically unequal treatment meted out to her, as compared with a man, may be read daily in the Press. What do the sane and well-balanced women think of the following facts? Can they forbear to "shriek"?

Infant Mortality in Deptford.

The report of the Medical Officer shows that Deptford has the unenviable position in the County of London of being the only borough to increase its death-rate in 1910. Infant mortality is its most serious aspect. In 1909 the number of deaths of children under one year old was 104 per 1,000 born; in 1910 it was 124, and in the East Ward 189. Almost one-fifth of the children born do not live to see their second year. The Mansion House Council has endeavoured to bring the Deptford Borough Council to a sense of shame, but has met with either apathy or determined opposition. "A great number of the members of the Deptford Council," we are told, "are owners of small property." The Council refused to receive a belated report from the Health Committee at the beginning of last August, and so hindered reforms for the two months of the summer recess.

The Cheapness of Woman's Life.

At Bromyard, Herefordshire, the wife of a labourer went into the workhouse for the birth of her sixth child, thinking that she would have better treatment there than in her own home, as her husband earned only 14s. a week. Twins were born, and the mother died from hæmorrhage. At the inquest it was found that a nurse,

not a midwife, attended the poor woman. The medical officer did not know of her case, though "he believed she had been seen by his assistant." He admitted that in his opinion the woman would have lived if she had had proper attention. And the sum total of it all is simply this: that a duly qualified midwife should be employed at the workhouse, but no blame was to be attached to the Guardians! Was ever the word "Guardian" used in a more hypocritical sense? The truth is that the Guardians are so greatly to blame that it seems to us a charge of manslaughter might almost be brought against them. There is no excuse for the absence of the doctor if the nurse was not qualified to deal with the case. Who shall tell of the agony of the poor mother, the distress of the husband, and the sorrow of the children? Are women to know these things and remain quiet, sane, well-balanced?

Consideration for a Man.

Our readers are prepared to hear of the launching of the campaign on behalf of the poor girl, Daisy Turner, accused of murdering her illegitimate child at Cheltenham. Particulars are given in our present issue. What must the three months of prison and terrible anxiety have meant to a girl in ill-health with her trial impending? Consider another West of England case in which a man admitted that he drowned his illegitimate child. Charged with manslaughter, he was found guilty but recommended to mercy "on account of ignorance and inexperience." To quote the judge: "The law must protect the sanctity of infant life; the sentence, therefore, of the Court upon you is that you be imprisoned in the second division for six months."

The Feeble-Minded.

The Church Congress this year showed a considerable broadening of its line of thought. Woman's Suffrage was well to the front, thanks to the exertions of the Church League; questions of peace and war were seriously discussed, and even the feeble-minded were not forgotten. Here are some figures given at the Congress. The numbers of the mentally defective were estimated at 149,000. Of these only 11,219 were under the care of the Guardians. No fewer than 6,319 were in the ordinary mixed wards of workhouses. As an authority to ensure continuous control, the Guardians had been quite useless. Dr. Potts found that 18 mentally defective women in the Birmingham Workhouse had produced 99 illegitimate children, while in another workhouse he found that 16 mentally defective women had produced 116 illegitimate children, an average of 7 each. Here, surely, is need for laws to protect those who cannot protect themselves, and such laws need the influence of women in their making.

A Great Hope.

These are some of the reasons why we are "obsessed" with the need for Woman Suffrage; these are some of the dark corners that need cleaning. As we go to press we turn with eager eyes Westwards, and send a message of sincerest greeting to California, for it is the day of her great hope. Will the State vote for the woman citizen or not? A splendid campaign has been waged; in our "All the World Over" column mention will be found of certain difficulties that have had to be faced. But in the midst of them all, our message is one of enthusiastic hope both for California and for ourselves.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

The National Executive Committee was in session at 1, Robert-street, Friday and Saturday. Mrs. Coates Hansen took the chair, and the others present were Mrs. Despard, Mrs. How Martyn, Miss Tite, Mrs. Sproson, Mrs. Snow, Mrs. Vulliamy, Miss Neilans, Miss Manning, Miss Jack, Miss Munro and Miss Andrews. The committee accepted with the keenest regret the resignations of Mrs. Francis and Miss Sidley. Mrs. Francis has resigned for purely personal reasons; but while the committee has not her assistance and valuable advice in carrying out its duties, it is gratified to know that Mrs. Francis is continuing her work for the Women's Freedom League in Brighton. Miss Sidley has broken down in health under the heavy strain of five years' work and has been ordered to take three or four months' complete rest. She hopes, and everyone who knows her also hopes, that she will be well enough to resume work for the Women's Freedom League early in the new year. The committee cordially welcomed Miss Andrews, who has done such excellent Suffrage work in East Anglia, to serve as a member until the Conference, the date for the latter being fixed for January 27.

A great deal of the League's business was attended to and reports from the various departments carefully considered and discussed; the following resolutions were passed and sent to the Press:—

1. The National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League condemns the action of the Miners' Conference in using its powers to force the Mines Act through Parliament in its present form and regards its action as tyrannical interference in the affairs of women without women's consent, and regrets that such a body as the Miners' Federation which is now struggling for the economic improvement of men should be the oppressor of those more helpless than its own members.

2. The National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League at its monthly meeting on Saturday passed a resolution heartily congratulating *The Standard* on its "Woman's Platform." It further resolved to show its appreciation by taking the fullest advantage of the impartial opportunity afforded for the free discussion of those Women's interests hitherto boycotted by the general Press.

LONDON WORK.—Members and friends, if they wish to secure good seats, are urged to come early to the Lower Essex Hall, Wednesday, October 18, to hear Mr. Lawrence Housman's lecture on "The Immoral Effects of Ignorance in Sex Relations." The chair will be taken by Mrs. Vulliamy at 8 p.m. Reserved seats, 1s. each.

BRANCH "AT HOMES."—All friends living in Hampstead and the neighbourhood are cordially invited to attend the "At Home" arranged for October 19, at the Subscription Library, Prince Arthur-road. The chair will be taken at 3.30 by Mrs. Nevins and the speakers will be Miss Nina Boyle and Miss C. V. Tite. Other Branch "At Homes" arrangements will be found in our list of Forthcoming Events.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT, Tuesday, October 24.—All London members especially are asked to keep the afternoon of October 24 free in order to attend the Freedom League parade in front of the House of Commons. Sandwich-boarders, bill-distributors, and VOTE-sellers will be needed. M.P.'s must be reminded of the "Payment of Members" passed without reference to women, of the pit-brow workers and of the Insurance Bill. Votes for women first.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

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POLITICAL AND MILITANT WORK.

MR. CHURCHILL AND THE W.F.L.

The following correspondence in *The Dundee Advertiser* shows that our Dundee Branch is as alert as ever when there is an opportunity of trying to get Mr. Churchill to take up a definite attitude on the Conciliation Bill:—

Sir,—The following questions were sent by post to Mr. Churchill at the Kinnaird and Gilfillan Halls on Tuesday and Wednesday by the Dundee Freedom League, copies also to the Chairman of each meeting:—(1) Will you vote for the Conciliation Bill and oppose all amendments likely to prevent this measure passing into law? (2) If your answer is in the negative, please give your reasons.

Since Mr. Churchill received the W.F.L. deputation last December the situation has changed. The Conciliation Bill has been made more democratic by the removal of the £10 qualification. A canvass last Spring showed that in Dundee of the women who would qualify under the Bill, 89 per cent. would be working women. Besides all this, the W.F.L. has suspended its anti-Government policy, so that our attitude towards Mr. Churchill in the future depends a great deal on his answer to our questions.

Last night a placard outside the Gilfillan Hall announced "Public admitted" to Mr. Churchill's meeting "after 7.45." At 7.50 another member of the W.F.L. and myself were refused admission by the Liberal Organiser. We called his attention to the placard, but without success. I feel sure Mr. Churchill cannot know or approve of such conduct, and expect an apology from him, although not from the official Liberals who surround him in Dundee. It is evident to all that the phrase used was a terminological inexactitude meant to mislead the outside public.—I am, &c.,

LILA CLUNAS, Hon. Sec. Dundee Branch W.F.L.

October 5, 1911.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have received the following reply from Mr. Churchill:—

Balruddery, near Dundee.

October 5, 1911.

Dear Madam,—I am desired by Mr. Churchill to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, and to say that he does not desire at present to add anything to the full statement which he made to various deputations at the time of the general election, but he realises that you will be entitled to a further statement of his intentions before any Bill dealing with the question of women's franchise comes up for second reading in the House of Commons.—Yours faithfully,

Miss L. Clunas.

S. W. HARRIS.

In reply to this Miss Clunas has written:—

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 5, for which I thank you. I note that you promise to send a statement of your views to the Dundee Branch W.F.L. before the second reading of the Conciliation Bill next Session, and shall be obliged if you will let us have it as soon as you can.

Commenting on these letters, Miss Clunas says: "Isn't it rather strange that Mr. Churchill has not yet made up his mind as to his attitude towards the Bill? If only the Dundee Liberal women would rouse themselves he would be on our side, but though there is great dissatisfaction in Liberal circles here just now—it does not touch them."

We agree with Miss Clunas, and wish that the Liberal women all over the country would use their power to ensure that all Liberal Members of Parliament should next Session carry out Liberal principles in regard to women's suffrage.

THE PROBLEM OF THE UNMARRIED MOTHER.

We are now approaching the date when Daisy Turner will be tried at Gloucester Assizes for the wilful murder of her child; and, as we announced in THE VOTE last August, the Women's Freedom League intends to run a special campaign in Gloucester and Cheltenham to drive home the lesson of what it means to belong to a voteless sex. Mrs. Despard is to address a drawing-room meeting on October 19, and a public meeting on October 20, in Gloucester. She will speak in Cheltenham at the Town Hall on October 19, and at "Snowdon" on October 20. Fuller particulars will be found under "Forthcoming Events"; at each meeting Mrs. Despard will speak on "The Unmarried Mother."

The trial cannot take place before October 26, which means that the poor girl will have been three months in prison, faced with a trial for murder, and, owing to the circumstances of the birth, utterly weak and ill. This,

too, when under the law a person cannot be held guilty until condemned by the final trial.

Miss L. M. Thompson is in the district, preparing for the meetings; any man or woman who can give local help is asked to communicate with her, c.o. the Post Office, Gloucester. Public opinion must be roused. The law which permits and legalises this inhuman attitude towards unmarried mothers must come under the thorough investigation and consent of women.

We do not presume to say that votes for women will abolish illegitimacy; neither do we insist that this law could not be altered even without the vote. But we declare most emphatically that all these moral, political, and economic inequalities between men and women are the direct result of centuries of wrong-thinking about women. Slowly and painfully woman is becoming articulate, and the demand for the vote is a demand for another and powerful channel of expression. It is more: it is a demand that the centuries of men's wrong-thinking about women shall be met by what women think about themselves. Anyone who doubts the vital connection between this wrong-thinking and the great social and moral problem of to-day is urged to read "Women's Suffrage and the Social Evil," by R. J. Campbell, and "Josephine Butler," by Marion Holmes. These two pamphlets, published by the League, show clearly the causes which foster illegitimacy, child-murder, and prostitution. Both Josephine Butler and R. J. Campbell tell us that the vote is the necessary political lever which must be brought to act upon these causes in order to minimise their effects.

KEIGHLEY BY-ELECTION.

The National Executive Committee decided on Saturday that we should carry on a campaign in Keighley. Directly information is available about the candidates we shall decide on our policy. As there seems some confusion about our attitude of independence, I repeat that in no circumstances shall we support either of the candidates. Will all who can help, either by service or money, communicate with me as soon as possible.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

DEATH OF DONNA CAROLINE BEATRIZ ANGELO.

The League of Portuguese Women, and the woman's Cause in General, sustained a serious loss on October 3, in the death of Donna Caroline Beatriz Angelo, President of the League, who died at her residence at the very early age of thirty-three. She had returned home from presiding over a meeting of the League, and complained of feeling ill. Almost immediately she was seized with great pains, and in spite of medical attendance and help, died two hours later.

Donna Caroline Angelo, Doctor of Medicine, was the widow of Dr. Januario Barreto, her cousin. She was a native of Guarda, where she followed her medical studies, and passed examinations with every honour and distinction. She matriculated at the Polytechnic School in Lisbon. She leaves behind her a little daughter, Maria Emilia, eight years old.

This distinguished doctor was the greatest propagandist of the feminine Cause in Portugal. Since the establishment of the Republic here, she founded the League of Portuguese Women Suffragists, of which she was President; she was also President of the Society of Humanity and the Society of Brotherhood. It will be remembered that Donna Caroline Angelo took the law into her own hands last May, and registered her vote at the poll, the only woman who has ever voted in Portugal. The funeral took place at Lisbon on Oct. 4, and the various societies of which Dr. Caroline Angelo was either President or member were represented.

Lisbon,

G. L.

QUALITY AND VALUE.

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

ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Success to the Californian women in their brave fight for political freedom! May October 10 add a sixth State to the five which have learned that, "after all, there's nothing like a woman about the house," and proved that the broom of equal suffrage does mercilessly sweep bribery, corruption and other evil practices into the dustpan of oblivion! Naturally, all the powers of darkness are arrayed against these interfering females! *The Los Angeles Tribune* says:—"The character of the agencies and interests that are leagued together [to overwhelm the women battling for political equality] is such as to call for the utmost endeavour and vigilance on the part of all who stand for the right. . . . If local proof were needed, it is supplied by the mere glance at the Committee of Fifty, the roll of membership of which reads like a railroad political roster. . . . Influences that will not bear examination, and that could not endure the light of day, secretly and stealthily are being employed to compel men who at heart recognise the righteousness of the demands of the women to oppose them. . . . Abstract considerations of justice, and the requirements of the square deal being for the moment set aside, good government is the real issue involved in this fight against giving women the ballot. There is not a crooked, a selfish or a reactionary interest in all California that does not fear the women vote, because it will be cast for righteousness."

The "Committee of Fifty" refers to a party of Californian men who have come forward to oppose woman suffrage from motives of chivalry! Who says chivalry is dead? Californian women are seizing every occasion, using every means grave or gay, for showing up the real nature of this newly-formed "Anti" League. Mrs. Shelley Tolhurst has "taken them off" most unmercifully in a clever satirical characterisation. She divides this regiment of fifty warriors into many divisions, each carrying appropriate banners. The standard of the leader bears the simple motto, "Votes for Muscles," and on the reverse side—to cheer the troops—"They can't Fight—Hit 'em Again." One division—the Alarmists—carry many pennons bearing inscriptions such as "Help! Murder! Police! Anarchy!" One shows a woman with a torch burning up a home! Another division—the worshippers of the Golden Calif—display a picturesque study of the sacred animal on an azure field, with the interesting legend, "Don't Kill the Rich Ones—Marry Them!" A solitary horseman bears a device in ancient Hebrew, "I'm Boss"; on the reverse, "Nobody thinks but Me. I don't allow it."

Six members of this new organisation were offered an opportunity by *The Los Angeles Tribune* to reply. They refused to have anything whatever to say, with the exception of one, Shirley Ward, who based his objection to woman suffrage on the ground of the immoral woman vote. When asked why he did not then start a movement for the disenfranchisement of the immoral political bosses, he replied, "Well, that's impossible. It would be a good thing, only it's out of the question!"—K. HARVEY, Hon. Head, Press Department, W. F. L.

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A WOMAN APOSTLE IN PERSIA.

Chapter IV.—THE APOSTLE'S REWARD.

When, early the next morning, Quarratu'l Ain appeared in the meadow, the Babis were waiting eagerly for her coming, and there was no dissentient voice. Spellbound at first, the enthusiasm of her listeners grew until they could contain themselves no longer. Again and again they broke into rapturous applause. "This is no woman," they said, "This is a saint, an angel." She caught the words, and she answered swiftly: "A woman—only a woman! poor and humble as other women are. But if your eyes were opened, my brothers, you would see in every woman a messenger of the highest. You have made women seem what they are not, because passion has blinded your eyes and ignorance has bound you in chains. Now the day of revelation has come. Men and women shall go forth free."

So Quarratu'l Ain, the woman apostle, entered upon her apostolate. Beginning with this little band of stalwart disciples, she went from village to village preaching the new gospel of love and toleration. Sometimes she was invited into the houses, and women, young and old, gathered round her; and everywhere a new hope sprang up. To some it was strange that she was allowed to move about so freely. This arose no doubt partly from her personality. There was a magic in her voice, a dignity in her gestures, a persuasive power in her speech which few could resist. And it happened, more than once, that men who came to her with evil intentions, listened with the gentleness of disciples. During two years of ceaseless labour she converted many.

That was a time of comparative quiet for the children of the new cult. The Báb was still in prison. The Shah, pressed by the priest-caste to put an end to the rapid growth of infidelity, and to stop the tongue of the woman who was deluding the people, answered indifferently, and would issue no mandate. Quarratu'l-Ain, to her great surprise, was allowed to go on with her mission. She was even received as a guest in the houses of some of the Persian grandees. She was in one of these houses, the head of which was a high official of the Empire, when an event that changed the whole position of Babism in Persia came about. It was coincident with the outbreak of a spirit of resentment amongst certain of the Persian grandees, who noted a new independence in the women of their families, and who attributed it, not without justice, to the teaching of the woman apostle.

An attempt was made upon the life of the Shah. Neither the imprisoned Báb nor Baha'u'llah was responsible for it. But it happened in Persia as it happened in Rome and elsewhere in the early days of Christianity. The hated sect of infidels was accused of the crime, and there began a persecution unspeakable in its horror. The Báb, with a faithful disciple, who had been with him in his prison, was shot, and his followers, by hundreds and thousands, were either killed after cruel torture or offered life on the condition of relinquishing their faith and renouncing their master. It was thought that by these severe measures the heresy would be stamped out. But those who judged thus were mistaken utterly. The magnificent courage and steadfastness of the Babis and the tragic fate of many of them, so far from quenching the fire of enthusiasm, gave it a fresh and glorious impetus. Baha'u'llah succeeded for some time in avoiding arrest and in sending out amongst his followers words of counsel and courage, and the faith grew.

But Quarratu'l Ain knew that she would not long be left in peace.

She heard, with pain and anguish, of the sufferings of her brothers. It happened that a young man of noble birth, who was a secret disciple of the Báb, had relatives in the house where she was staying. Knowing that her life was in danger, he obtained access to her

and implored her to escape. He had found her a secret hiding place, where she could remain until the storm of persecution had passed over them. There was no time, he assured her, to be lost. Already a way of getting rid of her was being planned.

Quarratu'l Ain knew, however, that in no refuge would she be safe. In the very house where she was staying she had made relentless enemies by her effort to protect a young and innocent girl, only thirteen years of age, who was to be given in marriage to one whose cruelty and cynicism had hastened the death of his first young wife. This man—one of influence and power—was her bitter enemy. He would leave no stone unturned to compass her destruction. There were others who hated and feared her. The name she had been given—Tahira—repeated often in love by the women of the noble families, was as a hissing and a scorn to the men.

She saw no way of escaping; and, indeed, she did not desire it. To her fellow-disciple she said, "My time has come. I know it. At the word of the Master I went out as an apostle. I have done the work he gave me to do; and for me, as for these others, the hour of deliverance has struck." Hoping against hope, he left her.

That very night a consultation was held by her enemies, and it was determined to seize her by craft. An old negro servant of her family was sent to tell her that her father desired to see her, and that a closed carriage was in waiting to take her to him. Though she knew that the message was a subterfuge, she went with the servant into the courtyard. "The times are dangerous," said the brother of her host, "your saintliness must be protected."

The carriage was surrounded with an armed escort. "Am I being taken to prison?" she asked. "You will learn in good time," was the answer.

Once again, and once only, did Quarratu'l Ain see the light of day. What she bore in her prison none have ever known. Legends are extant of the privations she was forced to endure, and of the efforts that were made by her enemies, when she was weak with fasting, to break down her fortitude and to compel her to renounce her faith. It is said that, on more than one occasion, men of bad life who had been sent in to torture her came out of her cell with white faces and shining eyes, saying, "It is impossible. We cannot do this thing." Meanwhile, in the cities and villages where she was known, a cry was going forth. "Where is Tahira? Give her back to us. She, at least, has done no ill to any."

Her enemies at last became impatient. They had hoped, by the slow process of imprisonment and scanty food, and by the mental torture of repeated examinations, either to break her spirit or to cut short her life. Those who had known Tahira understood how her calmness, her serenity, and her immunity to fear baffled them. It is supposed that what they resolved to do had for its object to shift the responsibility from themselves.

One day, without any reason being given to her, she was transferred from prison to a long-forsaken garden and lodged in a pavilion. They took her away secretly by night; and the dawn was breaking when she was left alone. The pavilion was shaded with tamarinds and vines and open to the east. It was said later that the pavilion was meant only to be a break upon her journey, and that as soon as more horses could be had, she was to be taken on to her father's house. What really happened was this. Her enemies procured the release of a negro who had still a long term of imprisonment to undergo; the condition was that he should go to the pavilion and strangle the woman he would find there. On him the responsibility would rest, and those who employed him would insure his escape and a free and comfortable life in another land. So fearful were they of Quarratu'l Ain's fascination, that they put wool into the assassin's ears and warned him not to look into her face. Word was sent, meanwhile, to her friends that she was free and would presently be sent to them.

All seems to have fallen out according to the plan.

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Nothing, however, is known of the very last moments of this noble life. The world was still and the faint light of dawn was in the sky when the negro, acting on his instructions, strangled her with a scarf. She can have offered no resistance, for her face, as was reported by her friends, who, having heard where she could be found, hastened to her rescue, was perfectly calm and peaceful. Her assassin had escaped, and it was not until many years later that the full story became known. Bitterly her friends lamented her; passionately they vowed to be true to the faith for which she had given her life. And who can doubt that from this "Sowing with tears" a glorious harvest shall spring.

That Persia has freed herself from the bonds of ancient despotism; that, within her borders, no religions are persecuted; that she possesses now free institutions; above all, that in her House of Representatives a resolution to confer citizen-rights on women has been proposed—all these bear evidence to the fact that through Quarratu'l Ain's own country her message of liberty has spread. But it is not to Persia alone, it is to the world of men and women everywhere that the gift of this priceless life has been made. It is because she and such as she have lived and loved and suffered and died that womanhood has arisen from its low estate; it is because the power of their life is behind us that nothing can make us fall back in despair.

Of her then we may say, as was said by Shelley of his Adonais:—

Peace! Peace! She is not dead, she doth not sleep—
She hath awakened from the dream of life.

And—

The splendours of the firmament of time
May be eclipsed, but are extinguished not;
Like stars to their appointed height they climb,
And death is a low mist which cannot blot
The brightness it may veil.

C. DESPARD.

THE VOTE.

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SATURDAY, October 14, 1911.

"PAY! PAY! PAY!"

The words given above form the refrain of a song which many will remember. A great war was on foot; the Imperial honour of our country was supposed to be in peril; and the poet of Imperialism called upon his countrymen to make any and every sacrifice rather than lower their standard or allow their flag to be torn. Given the sacrifice, they were told, the honour which waits upon success would be their reward.

We are engaged in a more serious battle now. Everywhere, in these our own borders, there is a great and momentous unrest. We have been told, in all sorts of tones, that the ship of State is in danger; and to women the cry is going forth, "Pay! Pay! Pay!" But where is the honour; where is even the recognition?

We are well aware of the arguments of our opponents—that women have not the same stake in the country as men; that they are not called upon to defend it in time of war; that they have no Imperial responsibilities; nay, that their minds are not capable of discerning the great issues that wait upon Empire; and that therefore, if they really loved their land, they would be content to do such paying as they can and to leave to their lords the weighty business of determining how their payments are to be used.

In answer we assert first that women contribute more than men to the service of the State. For though Imperial responsibility is a term which may be defined according to individual choice, it must be conceded that without the co-operation, without the perpetual sacrifice of women, there could be no Empire at all. Women are, and must continue to be, the mothers of nations.

As to a stake in the country—what greater stake can there be than life itself? Women possess life, give life, guard, protect, tend and save it, in infancy and sickness. Who that has ever read them can forget the pathetic words put into the lips of an Italian countess who had given her three beautiful sons to the War of Independence by that great poetess, Mrs. Barrett Browning:—

I taught them indeed to speak plain the word country.
And when their eyes flashed: oh! my beautiful eyes!
I exulted. But then the surprise
When one sits here alone!

Indeed, there are many ways of paying other than in coin of the realm. For what they do not receive women pay, not in money alone, but in service, blood and tears.

Consider the problem of unemployment and the industrial dissatisfaction which is finding vent in strikes and lock-outs all over the country. How do these dislocations in industry occur? Undoubtedly through grave deficiencies in State management. With this woman has nothing to do; but it is she who has to pay, and pay heavily, for the mistakes that are made by politicians. While husbands and sons are on strike, or in crises of unemployment, no wages are brought home by the men, but food and shelter have to be provided for them and for the children.

To-day we are faced with another and even graver problem. The price of foodstuffs is rising to an alarming extent. In *The Daily News* of Thursday, October 5, there is a remarkable article by Mr. Chiozza Money, entitled "The Cost of Living." We have not space for his figures, which call for serious attention. Generally, he says, "There was a rise in real wages towards the end of last century because of the great fall in prices which occurred. In the last decade of the

nineteenth century an upward movement began. That upward movement continued, and has taken prices back to the level of twenty-five years ago, and destroyed no small part of the increase in money-wages which has occurred in that period."

The process described by Mr. Chiozza Money is going on with momentous rapidity. Housewives and mothers have now to pay a shilling for what a few years ago cost ninepence, which means that they must feed, warm and house their families on an ominously decreasing income. In the wear and tear of anxiety; in the dread of what the future may bring; in the pitiful consciousness that she cannot do as she would for her children, woman pays her quota to the State that refuses to recognise her as a citizen.

That this is unjust we feel. But we would remind our brothers that a Nemesis waits upon injustice, which sooner or later, recoils upon itself. To-day it is the women and their babes who suffer from the impossibility of obtaining pure milk and wholesome dairy-food. By and by the nation will suffer in the fatal deterioration of her sons and daughters, in the cost of their maintenance in prisons, asylums and workhouses.

Meanwhile the call upon women continues. Every year the cost of our armies, navies, police and Parliament is growing. As the price of provisions rises, so also does taxation. Unhappily, by far the larger number of our women pay indirectly; and when we remember that the tax on tea alone amounts to fivepence on every pound bought, we may faintly realise what indirect taxation means to the working housewife.

But direct taxation is also exacted. It is our earnest hope, however, that resistance to this injustice, stimulated as it has been by the recent memorable examples, will grow in volume until the cry "Pay! Pay!" is accompanied by another, bidding woman come in when it is a question of imposing taxes upon her and of determining the uses to which they shall be put.

The war that has broken out between Italy and Turkey reminds us of the heavy tribute war has always exacted from the sex that is supposed to be exempt from national and Imperial service. Privations and suffering and hardship are indeed endured by the soldier on active duty; but what are these in comparison with the anguish of mother and wife, the women to whom the lives of the men belong?

Such are the facts. If, setting convention and prejudice aside, society generally would look them in the face, there would be no more room for "antis." They are now a vanishing quantity as political education grows; as the laws that must presently govern all civilised communities come to be recognised, they will vanish altogether.

"We are a long-suffering people," said Mr. McKenna the other day to his South Monmouthshire constituents. "But when it comes to sitting down tamely while twelve thousand men are suddenly deprived of their right to vote in two constituencies alone, it becomes more than flesh and blood can bear." And the men cheered.

We wonder if there were any women there, and whether, if they were there, they felt cheerful?

C. DESPARD.

ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS EXHIBITION.

The Exhibition of Arts and Handicrafts, organised by *The Englishwoman*, to take place at the Maddox-street Galleries, during the first fortnight in November, will prove a great attraction to Suffragists. The work shown will be of a very high standard, and the exhibition will afford an opportunity of showing what women are doing in the region of applied art. THE VOTE will be on sale at the exhibition.

THE FABIAN PAMPHLETS.

In view of the coming Autumn Session of Parliament to deal with the National Insurance Bill, our readers will do well to expend *twopence* on the two pamphlets published by the Fabian Society, 3, Clement's-inn, W.C., entitled "How the National Insurance Bill Affects Women" and "The National Insurance Bill," a Criticism, prefaced by Mrs. Bernard Shaw.

HOLLOWAY: WOMAN'S "POLLING BOOTH."

"We began with a Mud March; I wonder whether we shall end with one!" So said a marcher last Saturday afternoon; the relentless rain and the merciless mud gave point to the observation. Neither rain nor mud deterred the women from their protest procession long ago, nor did they have any daunting effect on Saturday in the march from Kingsway to Holloway. The change in attitude of the onlookers was extraordinary and emphasises the educative influence of such demonstrations. No word of scorn or ridicule was heard on Saturday; such words have passed; little but amazement remained, amazement at the courage shown in trying weather conditions.

Truly it was a brave show. Bands and banners lend splendid aid on such occasions, but the gratifying sight was to see the solidarity and co-operation of many societies. The Women's Tax Resistance League led the way, and were followed by the Women's Social and Political Union, the Women's Freedom League, the New Constitutional Society, the Actresses' League, the Fabian Women's Group, and, finally, the men's societies: the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, the Men's Political Union for Women's Enfranchisement, and the Men's Committee for Justice to Women. Faithful friends these, whose help is always available, and one could not help noticing that some of the men were bringing up their small sons in the way they should go! Let us hope that the boys will not have to do much more marching for the Suffrage Cause!

An hour of it! Who can describe the determination and courage needed? But we arrived, and in a very few minutes the chairman, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, was in her place on the cart, surrounded by the speakers. One's eyes were rivetted by the sight of the tall, self-possessed lady, quiet and undemonstrative, who scarcely twenty-four hours before had been inside those prison walls. The singing and the enthusiasm were to reach her in her cell, but the action of the authorities in releasing Miss Housman enabled her to be the seen instead of the unseen centre of the demonstration. Her words, too, carried great weight. Humorously she contrasted the treatment of men voters and of voteless women: agents to do everything for the men, motors to take them to the polling booth. Turning to the prison, Miss Housman exclaimed dramatically, "Holloway is woman's polling booth; it is there that I have been able to register my vote against a Government that taxes me without representation." Only words of courtesy were heard concerning all the officials with whom Miss Housman had come into contact, and she was cheered to the echo when she declared that, glad as she was to be outside Holloway, she was ready to go back again to win the fight for the recognition of woman's citizenship. "If that great act of justice, the Conciliation Bill, fails to carry next year, there will be not merely one but hundreds of women in prison to make the nation realise that justice is not being done." Thus spoke Mr. Laurence Housman, whose pride in his sister's devotion to the woman's Cause was shared by those who listened. Women were only doing what men had gloried in doing in times past, he added, they were struggling for constitutional liberties; women, too, had caught the spirit of democracy. Mrs. Despard, heedless of the drenching rain, made an appeal which touched the hearts of all who heard it; she rejoiced in the victory won by Miss Housman's courageous act of self-sacrifice, and said that tax resistance was drawing women together in a bond as strong as death. She laughed to scorn the idea that men had all the chivalry and clear-sightedness, women the tenderness and self-sacrifice; neither sex had a monopoly of these qualities, but she looked for the coming of the new day when man and woman should stand side by side as equals. Miss Adeline Bourne, speaking for the actresses, amused the audience by insisting that if women united in a protest such as Miss Housman had made, the Government would be power-

less to deal with them. Mrs. Kineton Parkes, who succeeded Miss Pankhurst in the chair as soon as the resolution had been moved, gave some remarkable facts as to the predicament of the officials with regard to women tax resisters; amazing differences of treatment were recorded for the same offence, as also the practical sympathy of some who have to carry out a disagreeable duty towards women resisters.

The resolution, which was passed unanimously and with enthusiasm, ran as follows:

That this meeting, held at the gates of Holloway Gaol, congratulates Miss Clemence Housman on her refusal to pay Crown taxes without representation, a reassertion of that principle upon which our forefathers won the constitutional liberties which Englishmen now enjoy, and also upon the successful outcome of her protest. It condemns the Government's action in ordering her arrest and imprisonment as a violation of the spirit of the Constitution and of representative government; and it calls upon the Government to give votes to women before again demanding from Miss Housman or any other woman-taxpayer the payment of taxes.

Miss Housman's communication to the Home Secretary, asking for information as to a definite term of imprisonment, contains so able a statement of her point of view that it should be widely known. It runs thus:—

That she has resolved to abide by the conditions by law appointed for a woman who, lacking representation, has personally fulfilled a duty—moral, social, and constitutional—by refusing to pay taxes into irresponsible hands. But, while willing to satisfy the requirements of the law at the expense of her personal liberty to any extent, she learns that no limit has been set to these claims either by statute or by judgment, and she believes that it rests with his Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department to rectify what she feels to be a grievance not intended in such a case as hers. She begs, therefore, that he will be so good as to define her term of imprisonment, and she desires this not on personal grounds only, but that, thereby, the comparative cost and value of a woman's liberty and a man's vote may be officially recorded for the understanding of others, women and men.

A WOMAN EXPLORER IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Women explorers of the wild are still rare enough to create something of a sensation, but such names as Mary Kingsley, Mary Gaunt, Charlotte Mansfield, and Mrs. Bullock Workman prove that women possess not only the necessary endurance but the genius for exploration and adventure. Women explorers have passed through forest and jungle unattended except for a "boy" or two; they have been the first white women ever seen by many tribes, and have returned to pay tribute to the chivalrous attitude usually shown towards them by many so-called uncivilised people. Miss Edith A. Browne, whose wander-spirit led her from tramping in Spain, Italy, and Ceylon, to British Guiana, declared on her recent return from beyond the pale of civilisation in that British colony that not once in the whole of her trip was she in danger of any sort from white or black. Indeed, her one possible grievance is that the white men moved heaven and earth to make things easy for her, even if they were a hundred miles away! Attended by a black boy only, who acted as general factotum and cook, Miss Browne penetrated far into the wild, using a curious old boat, which she called the "ark," for a journey on the Essequibo river. Leaving the river she penetrated into the Bush, finding it necessary to hew out a way for herself with a cutlass. It is not surprising that Miss Browne found leggings, knickers, and a Norfolk coat more suitable for an explorer than the conventional skirt. After her experiences she is convinced that "a woman is safer in a South American forest than in Regent Street, with its slippery roadway and its frightful taxis!" Miss Browne's name must be added to the growing list of intrepid women explorers; she is anxious that others should follow her to British Guiana, if not into the Bush, and assures travellers that this little known British Colony is a wonderful country, full of interest, and supplied even with modern comforts.

It is only through direct and culpable ignorance, or wanton sin, on the part of humanity, that disease continues to have such large place in the world as it still holds.—James H. West.



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MR. G. K. CHESTERTON ON "FEMALE SUFFRAGE—THE LAST BLOW TO DEMOCRACY."

Not a seat in Queen's Hall was vacant last Wednesday night, when Mr. G. K. Chesterton gave his lecture on "Female Suffrage—the Last Blow to Democracy." Our honorary treasurer, Miss C. V. Tite, as chairman, explained the objects and rules of our discussion meetings, of which the one at Queen's Hall was the first this autumn, and on behalf of the Women's Freedom League very cordially thanked Mr. Chesterton for his kindness in agreeing to address the members of the League, to whose views he was personally opposed. There was an overwhelming majority of Suffragists in the hall. They had come to hear a distinguished man of letters who has won fame not only for his paradoxes, but also for his direct human view of things; they were fully prepared to challenge his views on Democracy and on Female Suffrage in the friendliest possible way. With some of his arguments—that the demand for the vote should not be raised on a plea of sex, that men's party politics was a poor thing, and that direct militant action was a good thing—they were in entire agreement, but their conclusions were different from those of Mr. Chesterton.

Questions were quickly asked and good-humouredly answered, and many, among whom were Mr. Laurence Housman, Mrs. Vulliamy, Mr. Gugenheim, Miss Neilans, Mrs. Ennis Richmond, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Sproson and Mrs. How Martyn, joined in the discussion. Mr. Chesterton did not attempt to reply to all the points raised by suffragists; but made it understood that he did not think much of the vote for either men or women—perhaps because Lord Hugh Cecil thought that voting was a perfectly lady-like occupation! Democracy may not be the last word of civilisation, but the lecturer did not convince his hearers that it was worth abolishing the vote to preserve his particular idea of democracy. Mr. Chesterton, adopting the role of a well-intentioned elder brother, told women they were behind the times in spending their money to secure a Parliamentary vote; but is it not rather an old-fashioned idea that women should continue to allow their money to be spent and controlled by men without wishing to have some say in the matter? F. A. U.

ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE. "THE HARVEST."*

Two men and a woman; it is an old story, but in "The Harvest," as the title implies, the interest lies in the working out of the three lives after one man has gained and the other lost the woman. The struggle as to who wins and who loses is decided early in the book. There is, however, something more than this; in the winning there is sin. The sinning ones and the one sinned against are all people of noble character, of high ideals; and the novelist does not hesitate to lay bare the horror which sensitive natures feel when the exceeding sinfulness of sin is realised and the poignant suffering entailed to themselves and to others.

There is the clergyman, glad in the realisation of his boyish ambition to serve his fellows in this capacity; there is the artist, the man whose name is coming to be known far and wide as one who realises the highest ideals of art in architecture; devoted friends from boyhood, these two; the affectionate impulse of the travelled, unconventional artist shows itself in demonstrations to which the average Englishman is entirely unaccustomed. Then the woman. We see her first as a young girl, in passionate rebellion against the narrowness of her life in a small country town; she is not to go to school; she is to continue with dull, uninteresting governesses at home. The new clergyman finds her in the midst of her tears; he sympathises; he helps; finally,

* "The Harvest," by Evelyne Close. (Lynwood, 12 Pater-noster-row. 6s.)

he loves, and for ever. The girl, entering upon womanhood, honours, admires, thinks she loves. The marriage is to take place as soon as the new rectory has been built and decorated by the artist-friend. The bride and the artist meet. One may guess the result. The most dramatic situation in the book is when both, having realised their love and their sin, tell the story to lover and friend, the story which blasts his life. Whether he was more than human, when, reeling under the blow, he still realises that, as a clergyman, he can serve them by marrying them immediately, the reader must decide. In his own church he pronounces them man and wife. Then it is that the woman rises to her innate power to suffer; she loves, but she has desolated a heart that loves her; she will not go away and quietly hug joy to her heart. She, too, will suffer, perchance work out her own salvation; her husband must do the same. She insists upon separating at once, on vanishing into the unknown, until—ah, time would show.

So we watch the harvest ripen; we see the cultured, beautiful, yet inexperienced woman, and realise her value in the industrial world. The horrors of that world are not hidden, nor the scorn that comes when motherhood approaches. Determined to pay to the uttermost farthing the penalty of her sin, the woman meets it all, bears it all, will not even permit the alleviation of physical pain. The novelist must be allowed to show how the harvest is reaped, and how, when an agony of despair and sorrow again threatens the famous artist and his beautiful wife, it is the old friend and lover who, coming back to the realities of life, rises to heights of selfless service, and restores happiness.

This is a book which cannot be read, tossed aside, and forgotten. It grips. As the story proceeds the urgent need for women citizens, with political power equal to that of men, is shown, and the vital service that they can render to their fellows. A. A. S.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

** Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

BY-ELECTION POLICY.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—In your issue last week a correspondent, Adeline West Trim, asks, "What is the by-election policy of the W.F.L.?" The question is put *apropos* of our statement that we did not support Mr. M'Kerrell, the Labour candidate at Kilmarnock, although he promised to support the Conciliation Bill. To answer the definite query first, the by-election policy of the W.F.L. is to oppose unsatisfactory candidates where there is a choice, to do propaganda only if all are equally satisfactory or unsatisfactory, but not to give active support to any candidate, whatever his personal views. Miss Trim must not imagine we refused active support to Mr. M'Kerrell on account of his political opinions, as we should not have given it in any circumstances until women are voters. The position is briefly as follows: a Suffrage societies, in theory at least, have taken the attitude that legislation without the consent of qualified women is an insult, and the W.F.L. has taken and will take this attitude, not only in theory, but in practice also. The W.F.L. took a referendum of its members after the pledge for facilities was given, and the present policy is the result, which, while temporarily dropping the anti-Government position, reasserts emphatically our refusal to support Parliamentary candidates, and through them, legislation without the consent of women.

It is interesting to note that both the National Union and the W.S.P.U., in supporting Mr. M'Kerrell, were supporting a man pledged, if elected, to vote for the prohibition of women from working at the pit brow.—Yours sincerely,

ALISON NEILANS
(Political & Militant Organiser, W.F.L.)

SUFFRAGE AND DIVORCE: A CONTRADICTION.

Dear Madam,—The *Anti-Suffrage Review* quotes Dr. Lee de Forest as saying that his matrimonial troubles have been due to his wife's interest in Women's Suffrage. This statement was telegraphed broadcast, but Dr. de Forest has since denied it emphatically. He and his wife are both of them believers in women's franchise. Their disagreement was on wholly different grounds. This is only one of many false telegraphic dispatches originating with the opponents of equal rights for women.

ALICE STONE BLACKWELL,
President New England Woman Suffrage Association, Dorchester, Massachusetts.

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TREASURER'S NOTE.

I hope that now the holidays are completely done with our friends will remember that our autumn work has begun, and set themselves to consider seriously where they can help us. Money is just now what we want most. We must make a good effect at the Keighley bye-election, as for the coming year our political work will be of the utmost importance; I want to remind our readers that Mrs. How Martyn has asked for a fund of £500 to carry on that work. All contributions will therefore be very gratefully received by both Mrs. How Martyn and myself. **CONSTANCE TITE.**

NATIONAL FUND.

(Branch and District Funds not Included.)

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1910, £11,595 3s. 2d.

| £ s. d. | | £ s. d. | |
|--------------------------------|------------|---|-------------|
| Amount previously acknowledged | 2,145 19 7 | Miss E. G. John | 0 2 6 |
| Mrs. M. E. Sudd Brown | 5 2 6 | Miss A. Rose | 0 1 0 |
| Miss C. Tite | 10 0 0 | Miss Sutton | 0 2 0 |
| Miss C. Tite (collected) | 4 0 0 | Mrs. Arnbruster | 0 1 0 |
| Donation for London | 7 1 0 | Mrs. M. Thomas | 0 2 6 |
| "At Homes" | 7 1 0 | Miss E. Gellert | 0 1 0 |
| Guaranteed donation | | Mrs. G. Ridgley | 0 1 0 |
| Gardenia Meetings | 1 7 6 | Mrs. Wilkinson | 0 1 0 |
| Mrs. Darent Harrison | 1 1 0 | Miss A. Wareham | 0 2 6 |
| Mrs. D. Meeson Coates | 1 0 0 | Miss G. M. Greatrex | 0 1 0 |
| Mrs. Despard (Lecture Fee) | 1 0 0 | Mrs. Donaldson | 0 1 0 |
| Miss F. M. Wright | 3 3 0 | C.T.O., per Miss Woolf | 0 9 6 |
| Miss J. Cameron | 0 10 0 | C.T.O., per Miss Alder | 0 4 7 |
| F. A. Carlton Smith, Esq. | 0 10 6 | Per Mrs. Clarkson Swann | 0 5 0 |
| Mrs. R. M. Carlton Smith | 0 5 0 | Mrs. Bernard Hill | 0 5 0 |
| H. S. Fry, Esq. | 0 10 0 | For Office Expenses Fund: | |
| Miss K. Bunnell | 0 5 0 | Miss J. C. Clunas | 0 4 0 |
| Miss D. O. Turton | 0 5 0 | Mrs. M. Goodwin | 1 1 0 |
| Mrs. Pierotti | 0 1 0 | Miss Jacob | 1 0 0 |
| Mrs. E. L. Dodd | 0 2 0 | Caravan: | |
| Mrs. Fitzgerald Ellis | 0 2 0 | Per Miss Borrowman | 0 5 0 |
| Mrs. E. F. Cox | 0 2 6 | Per Mrs. Clarkson Swann, collections | 1 1 1 |
| Miss H. Symons | 0 3 6 | For Sproson Imprisonment Fund: | |
| Miss White | 0 1 0 | Swansea Branch | 0 10 0 |
| Mrs. Gilbert | 0 3 6 | Anerley Branch | 0 1 6 |
| Miss M. Turner (special levy) | 0 2 0 | Hampstead Branch | 0 9 6 |
| Mrs. Whish | 0 2 6 | Political and Militant Dept.: | |
| Miss Elderton | 0 2 0 | Anerley Branch (Conciliation Bill Campaign) | 3 0 0 |
| Miss M. H. Saunders | 0 5 0 | Swansea Branch | 1 1 0 |
| Miss Greenhow | 0 2 0 | Miss Neilans (earned by lecturing) | 0 5 0 |
| Mrs. Bryen | 0 2 6 | Kilmarnock Bye-election: | |
| Mrs. Webster | 0 5 0 | An anonymous Scot | 5 0 0 |
| Miss L. D. Thomson | 0 1 0 | Bournemouth Meeting | |
| Mrs. M. L. Hedley | 0 5 0 | Donations: | |
| Mrs. L. Wills | 0 1 0 | Per Miss Neilans— | |
| Mdme. H. Putz | 0 2 6 | Mrs. Hutteman Hume | 0 10 0 |
| Miss L. S. Larkins | 0 1 0 | Mrs. E. Chapman | 0 2 0 |
| Miss Edwards | 0 1 0 | Miss M. J. Henderson | 0 3 6 |
| Miss A. S. Foreshev | 0 1 0 | Collections and Sales: | |
| Mrs. A. Livingstone | 0 2 0 | London | 31 2 11 |
| Mrs. D. Johnson | 0 2 0 | Bournemouth, per | 8 16 10 |
| Mrs. E. Roberts | 0 1 4 | Miss Neilans | 0 1 0 |
| Mdme. Kubler | 0 1 0 | Total | £2,241 8 10 |
| Mrs. Clarkson Swann | 0 1 0 | | |
| Miss E. K. Russell | 0 1 0 | | |
| Mrs. M. M. O'Dell | 0 2 6 | | |

BRANCH NOTES.

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

Acton.—Secretary: Mrs. ARNEY, 11, Willcott-road.

A successful open-air meeting was held in the Market-place, Acton, on October 3. In spite of frequent showers, Miss Raleigh drew a good audience, which was increased by Mrs. Tanner, whose speech was most suited to the needs of the district. Questions were dealt with, THE VOTE sold, and The Standard's "Woman's Platform" mentioned. A meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 17, in the same place.

Anerley and Crystal Palace.—Hon. Secretary: Miss J. FERNINGS, 149, Croydon-road.

We held our last meeting at South Norwood clock on Friday, October 5, when Mr. Thornton Jones came to speak for us. Many copies of THE VOTE were sold and the names of sympathisers taken. On Monday, October 16, we shall be at the Tram Terminus, Crystal Palace, at 7.30 p.m. Members are asked to remember the drawing-room meeting on Tuesday, October 17, at 3 p.m., to be held at 149, Croydon-road. Mme. Beatrice Goddard has most kindly consented to sing "The Awakening."

Croydon.—Office: The Arcade, High-street. **Hon. Secretary:** Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue, Croydon.

On Friday last Mrs. Holmes read a most interesting article from The Forerunner by Mrs. Perkins Gilman at the weekly "At

Home." It dealt with the always engrossing question of the married woman and her "supporter." A short discussion followed. The members heard with delight of the proposed visit of Mrs. Despard next week. Without doubt there will be a strong muster to meet her. Our thanks are given to our hostesses last Friday, Mrs. Ridley and Mrs. Labrousse. Preparation for the reception on October 30 are proceeding rapidly, and we hope that every member will feel it a point of honour to bring at least ten visitors. We can promise them a most enjoyable time. Contributions for the refreshment department and for Mrs. Pyart's stall will be welcomed. The open-air meetings will be continued throughout October on Friday evenings at Thornton Heath clock. Mrs. Holmes has promised to conduct a speakers' class at the office every Wednesday afternoon from 3.30 to 4.30. Members who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity are asked to send in their names to the secretary at once.

Hampstead Garden Suburb.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. BETHAM, 7, Woodside.

A well-attended business meeting of members was held at 47, Rotherwick-road on October 5, by kind permission of Dr. Alice Vickery, who presided, Mrs. How Martyn being among those present. A committee was formed, and it was decided to affiliate with Headquarters. Mrs. Drysdale suggested that the work should be divided into three sections, with one member responsible for each, and this arrangement was accepted. Miss Valerie undertook the social meeting section; Mrs. Nevinson Caulfield made herself responsible for the members' discussion meetings, the first of which is to be held on November 2, at her own house, 21, Meadow; and the secretary took charge of the members' political meetings. The first of these is to take the form of supporting the Hampstead "At Home" on October 19. Mrs. Drysdale undertook the arrangements for a dance proposed to be held at the Club House about the middle of November.

Mid-London.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing, W.

A large and enthusiastic crowd listened in Hyde Park on Sunday morning to Mrs. Clarkson Swann, who explained fully the Conciliation Bill now before Parliament, and to Mrs. Emma Sproson, who has recently served six weeks in Stafford Jail for non-payment of her dog-tax. The audience was much interested in her view of the influence of the vote on the economic condition of the workers, and a resolution was passed (with two dissentients) calling upon the Government to ensure the passing into law next Session of the Conciliation Bill. The speaker next Sunday in Hyde Park will be Mrs. Nevinson.

Stamford Hill.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. CUNNINGHAM, 114, Holmleigh-road.

The papers read last Wednesday by Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Goodwin and Miss Popplewell, with the discussion that followed, were much enjoyed. In fact, these meetings and the speakers' class are so much appreciated that in future they will be held alternately in the evenings. The speakers' class fixed for Thursday, October 12, will take place as usual at 4 p.m.

West Hampstead and Cricklewood.—Hon. Secretary, MADAME J. VAN RAALTE, 23, Pandora-road.

The jumble sale was held on September 30, and realised a profit of £2 15s. for the Branch, after paying all expenses. A Branch meeting will be held at the above address on Wednesday, October 18, to discuss plans for autumn and winter work. Will all members kindly make a special point of attending?

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

Chester.—Hon. Secretary: Miss WOODALL, 13, Abbey-square.

I would urge all members to attend the meeting of the Chester Debating Society at the Free Library, on Tuesday, October 17, at 7.45 p.m., when one of our associates, Mr. Terance Waldron, will open a debate on "Sex Equality." I hope that our members who do not yet take THE VOTE regularly will become subscribers. Two-thirds of our Branch members are regular subscribers. Cannot we all endeavour to capture the rest? Copies may be had from the following newsagents:—J. W. Dobson, 31, Brook-street, Chester; Mr. Shaw, 8, Ermine-road, Hoole, Chester; J. F. Stone, 12, Grosvenor-street, Chester; Schofield and Grant, 39, Bridge-street, Chester; and Wyman and Sons, General Station, Chester.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND.

Portsmouth and Gosport.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. WHETTON, 64, Devonshire-avenue, Southsea.

Our winter session will be opened on Monday, October 16, with an "At Home" in the small Victoria Hall from 4 to 6 p.m. Mrs. Despard will be our guest, and we all think our Branch is exceedingly fortunate to start the winter's work with a helpful and encouraging speech from our beloved President. Members are earnestly invited to come and bring friends, especially unconverted ones. Our first endeavour must be to raise some money. Arrangements for a Whist Drive and a Jumble Sale are already in hand, announcements for which will be made later.

Brighton and Hove.—Hon. Secretaries: Mrs. FRANCIS, 55, Buckingham-place, Brighton; Miss HARE, 8, San Remo, Hove.

A members' meeting was held at Mrs. Jones-Williams' house on Wednesday, when arrangements were made for the autumn. Cards, with lists, will be sent to each member, and it is hoped that everyone will come and bring friends, and so make the series

as successful as our gatherings last spring. On Saturday, October 14, at 8 p.m., we shall have a Whist Drive, for which Mrs. Budd, Nürnberg, Palmeira avenue, Hove, has kindly consented to be hostess. On Saturday, October 21, the Jumble Sale will be held; all who can send articles for sale are asked to communicate with Miss Hare, and their goods will be collected on the morning of the sale.

WALES AND MONMOUTH.

Swansea.—Hon. Organising Secretary: Mrs. KNIGHT, 23, Walter-road. **Hon. Corresponding Secretary:** Miss PHIPPS, B.A., 5, Grosvenor-road, Sketty, Glam.

On Wednesday, October 4, Miss Downs, late of Queensland, addressed a full meeting at Dynevor-place on "Woman Suffrage in Australia." Perhaps the point most interesting her hearers was that since women obtained the vote in Queensland, chivalry, instead of disappearing, has enormously increased. Whereas in the bad old days canvassers, hat at the back of the head and cigar in mouth, would knock at the door and say gruffly, "Where's your master?" now they come hat in hand, and inquire with a deferential air, "Can I see the lady of the house?" Another Anti argument gone! We enrolled some new members, and took a good collection. On Wednesday, October 18, at 8 p.m., in the upstairs room at Dynevor-place, Mr. Olsson will tell us some home-truths in his lecture, "Woman—An Obstacle to the Enfranchisement of her Sex."

SCOTLAND.

Glasgow.—Suffrage Centre: 302, Sauchiehall-street. **Hon. Secretary:** Miss MINA STEVEN. **Hon. Treasurer:** Miss JANET L. BUNTON.

At our first Branch meeting on October 5 we were fortunate in having Mrs. Hyde in the chair. It is always a pleasure to see a "visiting" member, and doubly so when she gives her services so freely, as does Mrs. Hyde. Miss Caroline Reid, who was the speaker for the evening, gave a most interesting paper on "Eugenics." Most of us had the haziest of notions as to what eugenics were, but Miss Reid's paper soon dispelled the mists. The well-being of future generations is a subject very near to the heart of all suffragists, and deserves the earnest consideration of all thinking men and women. A very interesting discussion took place, and some surprising facts, notably in regard to heredity, were disclosed. At an "At Home" on October 21, Mrs. Murray has kindly offered to give a musical entertainment.

On October 28 the Queenspark and Pollockshields districts are to have a cake and candy sale in the Centre. We hope all members will begin at once to make and sell goods, so that Miss E. Hamilton and her committee will be able to hand over a big surplus. On November 1 a fancy dress party is to be held. Tickets can now be obtained at the Centre, or from conveners. Various donations from a number of friends have been gratefully received.

Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop: 33, Forrest-road. **Hon. Secretary:** Miss A. B. JACK, 21, Buccleuch-place. **Hon. Treasurer:** Miss M. A. WOOD, 67, Great King-street. **Hon. Shop Secretary:** Mrs. THOMSON, 39, Rosslyn-crescent.

The first of the weekly evening meetings for the session took the form of an "At Home," held on October 4, and proved to be a very delightful reunion of members and friends. Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Simpson were in charge of the tea, for which Mrs. Simpson and Miss Scott had very kindly provided home-baked scones. Miss Sara Munro, President of the Branch, delivered the opening address, dealing with the present position of the movement, and also with some of her suffrage experiences while on holiday, incidentally emphasizing the importance of always wearing a badge. Miss Jack called on every member to do her utmost to make Mrs. Despard's meeting a great success, and Miss Wood explained the arrangement whereby THE VOTE is delivered regularly to members who pay a shilling at a time, a plan which is working well, and is capable of extension. We are glad to be able to report that the Edinburgh Evening News has started a weekly "Women's Page," devoted mainly to such matters as "Women's Work and Wages," though fashions, &c., are not excluded. The first issue of the page contained a notice of our opening meeting. **HELEN MCLACHLAN (Assistant Sec.).**

OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

The Free Church League for Women's Suffrage.—Hon. Organising Secs. (pro tem.): Mr. and Mrs. ROGERS, 4, Cholmeley Park, Highgate, N.

Meetings are arranged as follows:—Friday (to-day) 13th inst., at 8 p.m., Caxton Hall. **Speakers:** Lady Spicer, Rev. C. Fleming Williams, Miss Winifred Cullis, D.Sc. Admission Free. Monday, 16th inst., at 8 p.m., Open Debates at Highgate Congregational Church. Chair, Rev. D. A. Macfadyen, M.A. Opener, T. C. Mitchell, Esq. Tuesday, 24th inst., Public Meeting at East Ham Presbyterian Church, at 8 p.m. **Speakers,** Rev. W. T. Boyce and Mrs. Rogers.

Actresses' Franchise League.

A beautiful feature in the Actresses' Franchise League Matinee at the Lyceum Theatre on October 27, will be a tableau arranged by Sir George Frampton, R.A. The picture, which illustrates a song by Teresa del Riego, called "The Awakening of Women," to be first sung by Miss Marie Stuart, will be represented by some of the most beautiful women on the stage. The large attendance at the Criterion Meeting of the Actresses' Franchise League on Friday proves the popularity of Woman's Suffrage.



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.



DARE TO BE
FREE.

Fri., Oct. 13.—"At Home," at the W.F.L. Office, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3 to 5.30. Mrs. Despard.

Sun., Oct. 15.—Hyde Park, near Marble Arch (weather permitting), 12 noon. Mrs. Nevinson.

Mon., Oct. 16.—744, High-road, Tottenham. Mrs. How Martyn.

Tram Terminus, Crystal Palace, 7.30. Mrs. Tanner.

Tues., Oct. 17.—Drawing-room Meeting, 149, Croydon-road, Anerley, 3 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle.

Market-place, Acton, 7.30. *Speakers:* Mme. Malmberg, Miss Benett. *Chairman:* P. A. Hawkins, Esq.

Meeting at Dowden's Restaurant, 68, High-road, Balham, 3.15 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle.

Wed., Oct. 18.—Discussion Meeting, Lower Essex Hall, 8 p.m. Mr. Laurence Housman on "The Immoral Effects of Ignorance in Sex Relations." *Chairman:* Mrs. Vulliamy.

Thurs., Oct. 19.—Hampstead Branch "At Home," at the Subscription Library, Prince Arthur-road, 3.30 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle, Miss C. V. Tite. *Chairman:* Mrs. Nevinson.

Mon., Oct. 23.—Herne Hill and Norwood Branch "At Home." Mrs. How Martyn.

Tram Terminus, Crystal Palace, 7.30.

Tues., Oct. 24.—Market-place, Acton, 7.30. Mrs. Duval, Mr. R. Pott.

Wed., Oct. 25.—Discussion Meeting, Essex Hall, 8 p.m. Rev. Hatty Baker on "Women in the Ministry."

Mon., Oct. 30.—Croydon Branch "At Home," Public Hall, George-street.

Wed., Nov. 1.—Discussion Meeting, Essex Hall, 8 p.m.

PROVINCES.

CHELTENHAM.

Thurs., Oct. 19.—Town Hall, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard.

Fri., Oct. 20.—At "Snowdon," London-road, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard on "The Unmarried Mother."

GLOUCESTER.

Thurs., Oct. 19.—3, Heathville-road, by kind invitation of Miss N. Booth, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard.

Fri., Oct. 20.—Glevum Hall, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard on "The Unmarried Mother."

IPSWICH.

Tues., Oct. 17.—Women's Co-operative Guild. Address by Miss Andrews on "Women Co-operators and the Vote."

Fri., Oct. 27.—Sale of Work, Old Museum Rooms.

Thurs., Nov. 2.—"At Home." Mr. Henlé.

HANLEY.

Sat., Oct. 21.—Lecture Room, Glass-street, Hanley, 6-8 p.m. Mrs. Despard.

MIDHURST.

Wed., Nov. 1.—Jumble and Provision Sale, Easebourne Village Hall, 2.30 p.m.

PORTSMOUTH.

Mon., Oct. 16.—"At Home," Small Victoria Hall, 4 p.m. Mrs. Despard.

SCOTLAND.

DUNDEE.

Thurs., Oct. 12.—Gillfillan Hall, 8 p.m. Three-minute speeches. Members.

Thurs., Oct. 26.—Gillfillan Hall, 8 p.m. Lady Griselda Cheape (President St. Andrew's Branch, Anti-Suffrage League).

EDINBURGH.

Wed., Oct. 18.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road, 8 p.m. Discussion, "The Conciliation Bill."

Wed., Oct. 25.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road, 8 p.m. Miss A. M'Laren on "Child Purity."

GLASGOW.

Sat., Oct. 21.—"At Home," in the Centre, 302, Sauchiehall-street. Mrs. Murray.

Mon., Oct. 23.—Minerva Library Society, Queen's Park East U.F. Church. *Speaker:* Miss B. Semple.

Sat., Oct. 28.—Cake and Candy Sale.

WALES AND MONMOUTH.

SWANSEA.

Wed., Oct. 18.—Dynevor-place, 8 p.m. Address by Mr. Olsson on "Woman—an Obstacle to the Enfranchisement of her Sex."

MONTGOMERY BOROUGH.

Tues., Oct. 31.—Suffrage "At Home," Town Hall, Llanfyllin, 4 to 7.30 p.m.

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