

THE VOTE

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

VOL. III. No. 60.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

Telephone: HOLBORN 6191.

Published by W. SPEAIGHT & SONS, 98 & 99, Fetter Lane, E.C.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. If a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

United Kingdom ... 6/6 per annum, post free.

Foreign Countries ... 8/8 " " "

"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son.

WHAT WE THINK.

Rights for Men.

"Let us get rights for men first before we worry about rights for women," was Mr. Churchill's genial answer to a suffragist questioner at a meeting in Dundee. In view of the condition of the country, the waxing and waning of majorities and the number of recounts, and quite apart from the fact that now we know our Mr. Churchill, the statement strikes us as being a very foolish one. Mr. Haldane said at Dalkeith on Saturday that no one pretended that any principle could be set up in competition with democracy, but strangely enough a considerable interchange of seats has taken place between the parties, which goes to prove that the electorate of former Liberal constituencies are not entirely at one with Mr. Haldane. The reduction in the majorities of Mr. Asquith, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Harcourt, and Mr. Ure offers another grave symptom of change amongst a large number of the electorate in the very heart of the Liberal strongholds. Mr. George did secure a large increase in his majority, but this may have been due to the offer on the part of an American syndicate to the Chancellor to "Limehouse" in the States. Competition for this favourite artist probably led the Welshmen to offer him the inducement of more votes if he would only remain on his native heath.

If rights for men are to be the first consideration and Home Rule is granted and granted speedily, the one chance that the Liberals have of retaining power lies in an extension of the electorate. If this is not done the depleted coalition with the known disunion in its ranks will wreck Liberalism, and the many great and noble schemes for the amelioration of social conditions which they, and many of us, have at heart, will be lost once and for all. The country may be flogged for more votes, but the last drop of Liberalism has been wrung from it, and nothing further in the shape of a strong opinion can or will be expressed by the present electorate. If another General Election is forced on us again, as Mr. Balfour seems to think, in March, and the old questions, already asked twice in a year, are asked once more, the country will not stand it. All the squalor of insincerity and noise and lying which is the natural accompaniment of an election, to say nothing of the disruption of trade, the touting for motor-cars, the hounding down of the working-man voter who has flitted, the beating-up of canvassers, the throat-cracking oratory, will be found

to be exhausted; those who would be responsible for a renewal of hostilities would be the sufferers. And, if another election is forced on us again in 1911, the time may not be far distant when Mr. Churchill—if he is returned at all—with an even more attenuated majority, may bitterly regret that he had not worried over women's rights while he shouted for rights for men.

Marital Brutality.

We had occasion in our last issue to call attention to a case where a sentence of only one month was imposed on a man who left his wife without food for a week after her confinement, though he was in receipt of good wages. Cases of marital brutality are not rare. At Willesden last week John Grist, a horse-keeper in receipt of good money, was charged with being £12 14s. in arrears on a maintenance order to his wife. He told the magistrate that he did his best, and *only the previous day he gave his wife a penny*. Mrs. Grist said her husband made no effort to keep her or their five children, and sometimes she had no food for two days together. Prisoner was sentenced to a month's hard labour. Another case has been brought to our notice where a small sum saved with great difficulty by a woman towards her confinement was taken by her husband to buy himself a new pair of football boots.

Congratulations to Our French Sisters.

A commission of the Chamber of Deputies has reported on Woman Suffrage and proposes that the words, "of either sex," shall be inserted in Article 14 of the law of April 5, 1884. The clause would then read: "All French people, of either sex, over twenty-one years of age, and not disqualified (*e.g.*, by a sentence for crime), are entitled to vote." A Bill has now been drafted on this report; it has the active support of 200 members, and with that sound feminist, M. Buisson, backing it, there seems no reason why it should not become law immediately. *The Manchester Guardian* points out the great importance of this new law: it will give French women the right to vote for and be elected to the municipal and departmental councils, and "the political constitution of France makes the grant of the municipal and departmental franchise an even nearer step to the full franchise than it is here.

More important still is the fact that by the Bill women become eligible for seats on councils and can become senatorial electors. Once they can exercise their votes to elect members of the Second Chamber of the State, they cannot long be denied their right to elect members of the Chamber of Deputies. We must be careful not to let France be before us in giving women the full franchise."

Disunion in the Family.

One of the A.S.S. bogeys is that disunion in the family would result from giving votes to women. If this is so it ought to be a good reason for taking them from men; we find the Hon. Neil Primrose adversely criticising with youthful frankness his noble papa's ideas on the Reform of the Lords to his constituents, and we also find the same noble father with his noble son-in-law formally pitted against him in the House of Lords. A sad sight, truly, if political disagreement meant disruption of family life.

Logic.

A Bill to exempt women from taxation has been introduced in the Lower House of the Vermont Legislature by Representative Hunt, of New Haven. No vote, no tax, is his motto.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Offices: 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—15145 Central Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President and Hon. Treasurer, MRS. C. DESPARD.

Hon. Assist. Treasurer, MISS C. V. TITE.

Hon. Sec., MRS. HOW MARTYN, A.R.C.S., B.Sc.; Assist. Sec., MISS THOMPSON.

Hon. Departmental Officers:

Organising Department.—Political and Militant, MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG; Propaganda, MRS. BORRMANN WELLS. Publishing Department.—MRS. SNOW, MRS. EILEEN MITCHELL.

PROPAGANDA.

The Work.

During the last few weeks propaganda activities have been diverted into other channels than the ordinary. The General Election has given us opportunities to teach by example and by concrete illustration facts which logic and argument have often failed to make clear to those hitherto outside the movement. While Causes have been fought and won, fought and lost, the battle exciting the utmost feeling throughout the country, the women have found themselves contemptuously ignored, and many of those hitherto indifferent have been thus moved to assert their rights and to demand the removal of the present outrageous stigma of the sex. Thus the propaganda value of a General Election is immense, and we can confidently await a great accession of strength to the movement, if, while the feeling is still keen, we can take up again and develop energetically our campaign of education and agitation along the ordinary lines. Therefore let no one feel that after the excitements of the past few weeks we should slacken for a moment in our work. We must press on. To stand still would be weakness; to slacken would be to lose opportunities. There must be no rest, no faltering, no hesitation in the attack which is carrying us on to victory.

The Branches.

Every branch member must take herself in review now that the year is closing, and determine to do something still before January to help the local work. However energetic, self-sacrificing and devoted branch officers may be, unless they have the energetic support of members, the work will suffer. It is branch work which strengthens the League, welds its energies, and makes it an effective fighting unit, and it is the duty and responsibility of everyone to help. A little enthusiasm will often make a world of difference.

Canvassing Campaign.

New plans for active work are under consideration, and suggestions will be gladly received. Meanwhile the canvassing work described a few weeks ago offers splendid scope for successful effort. We have received hundreds of names of women interested in the great questions of the day and likely to become members of the League, and our canvassers are already at work. We invite further lists of names and further volunteers for our canvassing corps. The work is interesting and most effective.

The South-West London Centre.

London helpers are invited to assist in making this a great success. The premises at 316, Battersea-park-road, have been taken until March, and may be retained longer. The centre promises to be a rallying-point for South-West London, and we need the loan or gift of floor-covering and chairs, as well as other fittings, so as to make it comfortable and suitable for gatherings and for meetings. We are also asking for gifts of all kinds of articles for sale, so as to make the centre fully self-supporting. If, as we anticipate, this venture is a success, other centres will be opened at an early date.

Special Meeting for London Members.

On Thursday, the 15th inst., at 7.30 p.m., a specially important meeting of London members will be held at Caxton Hall to consider matters of interest to the League, and members are urged to make an effort to

attend. Mrs. Despard will be present. This meeting cancels the ordinary Members' Meeting of Friday, the 16th inst., and on that day instead, the postponed meeting of the London Branches' Council will be held at Headquarters at 6.45 p.m.

Caxton Hall "At Home."

It is hoped that we shall have a large attendance on Thursday next, December 15, when Mrs. Despard and the Rev. Hugh B. Chapman are speaking.

B. BORRMANN WELLS.

OUR TREASURY.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Amount previously acknowledged	4,410 13 8	For General Election:	
Wood, Mrs. J.	250 0 0	Kennedy, J. J., Esq.	1 0 0
Thomson, Mrs. K.	5 0 0	Kent, Miss B.	1 0 0
Despard, Mrs. C.	10 0 0	Atkinson, Miss	0 5 0
Tite, Miss C.	10 0 0	Cameron, Miss J.	0 10 0
Hampstead Branch	5 0 0	Penrose, Miss	0 10 0
Spiller, Mrs.	1 0 0	Finnemore, Mrs.	0 5 0
Binks, Mrs.	1 15 10	Fagan, Miss M. J.	0 10 0
Tyler-Lobley, Mrs.	1 1 0	Budd, Mrs.	0 5 0
Nicoll, Miss H.	0 10 0	Chapman, Miss E.	0 5 0
Hickman, Miss M.	0 10 0	Sims, Miss	0 5 0
Hamilton, Miss C.	0 10 0	Danti, Miss (North-ern Heights Branch)	0 5 0
Saunders, Miss M. I.	0 10 0	Goodacre, Mrs. C.	0 5 0
Quelch, Miss M.	0 5 0	Battersea:	
Thompson, Miss C.	0 1 0	Mitchell, Miss A.	1 1 0
Bisdee, Miss	0 5 0	Per Mrs. Taplin	
Elderton, Miss L.	0 5 0	Albery:	
Kent, Miss B.	0 5 0	Huntsman, Mrs.	0 2 0
Syms, Mrs.	0 2 0	O'Halloran, Miss	0 1 0
Finnemore, Mrs. (Croydon Branch)	0 2 0	Barger, Mrs.	0 2 8
Hall, Miss H. J.	0 1 0	Collected	0 7 8
Johnson, Miss A. B.	0 1 0	Dundee:	
Lewis, Miss E. N.	0 1 0	Gatty, Mrs.	0 5 0
Webster, Miss J.	0 1 0	Wales:	
Fawcett, Miss	0 5 0	Gatty, Mrs.	0 5 0
Boston, Miss E.	0 1 0	Hoxton:	
Boston, A. E.	0 1 0	Per Miss Turner	
Chapman, Miss E.	0 2 0	Catmur, Mrs.	0 1 0
Sims, Miss (Tottenham Branch)	0 3 8	Ashby, Miss	0 1 6
Craig, Miss C.	0 2 0	Barlow, Miss	0 1 0
Bellingham, Miss M.K.	0 1 0	Wilks, Dr.	4 4 0
Crook, Miss A.	0 1 0	For Office Expenses	
Evans, Miss E. M.	0 3 10	Fund:	
Horne Hill Branch (Affiliation Fee)	0 5 0	Thomson Price, Mrs.	0 5 0
Central Branch (Affiliation Fee)	0 15 0	Per Mrs. Williamson:	
For General Election:		Engel, G. S., Esq.	0 5 0
Cranston, Mrs.	10 0 0	Per Mrs. Despard	50 0 0
Fremmer, Mrs.	1 0 0	Angus, Miss	2 0 0
Winterne, Mrs.	0 10 0	Per Miss Pennings:	
Gill, Miss	0 10 0	Bustar, J. R., Esq.	0 2 6
Bisdee, Miss	0 10 0	Per Mrs. Binks:	
Bobby, Miss	0 5 0	Leeson, Mrs.	0 1 0
Saunders, Miss M. I.	0 5 0	Handsome, Mrs.	0 1 0
Dilks, Mrs.	0 5 5	Macintyre, Miss	0 1 0
Snelling, Miss G.	0 2 0	Per Miss King, C.T.O.	0 2 8
Allwork, Miss	0 5 0	Per Mrs. Arney:	
Boorman, Miss J. M.	0 2 0	Acton Branch	1 0 0
Taylor Brown, Mrs.	0 2 0	Per Miss H. Cowen:	
Holdam Barron, Mrs.	0 5 0	Lawrence, Mrs.	0 5 0
Allan, Miss D.	0 5 0	Mrs. Despard	0 11 0
Griffiths, Mrs.	0 5 0	Per Miss Jenkins:	
Fisher, Mrs.	1 1 0	Mrs. Harvey	2 3 0
		Collections and Sales:	
		London	11 12 2
		Total	£4,795 15 9

We have received a good number of donations for the General Election, and thank the givers heartily, but we hope to receive more, and beg our supporters to make a special effort just now. Two General Elections in one year are certainly a trial, and entail a lot of extra work, and we ask all our members who have not yet done so to make a little extra Christmas gift to the League.

There are still a few Affiliation Fees owing. May I remind the treasurers of those branches that the fees are due before December 31? CONSTANCE TITE.

A NOVEL way of advertising the W.F.L. and THE VOTE was taken by a party of Suffragists at a Bohemian concert recently. In the middle of their table they placed a box and filled it with green, white and yellow flowers. Small flags were placed in each corner and one in centre bearing the words "Votes for Women," "THE VOTE," and "W. F. L." Art muslin drapery was arranged round the box and on the table. Several copies of THE VOTE were scattered about and during the interval nine copies were sold quietly to friends in the audience, one being bought by the Editor of the local News, who placed it in a prominent position on the Press table.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

WELSH CAMPAIGN.

Carnarvon Boroughs—Hero Worship.

Notwithstanding many obstacles which have been placed in our way, we have left a good impression behind us. On Monday the Mayor and the Chief of the Police solicited an interview with us, and said they had been requested to ask us, as a special favour, to withdraw immediately from the constituency. Needless to say, this request met with a blank refusal.

In spite of the week's heavy rain, we were able to get through a good deal of effective work with but little opposition. In Bangor we met some most enthusiastic sympathisers, hitherto untouched by the movement. Miss Clark was with us during the early part of the week, but had to return to Newtown to work up Mrs. Despard's meeting on Monday.

Polling day began well. Mrs. Cleeves and I "manned" the two booths in Carnarvon town; at both everything was orderly and quiet. Workers of the opposing parties vied with each other in trying to make our long day less tedious by offering us tea, umbrellas (for rain fell incessantly), and invitations to go and warm in their Committee rooms. They told us we had created a splendid impression all over the town. We did not leave the polling stations till 6.30 p.m.

The scenes that took place were strange and even dangerous. As the afternoon trains came in the whole aspect of the town changed. Up till then perfect order and kindness prevailed. Each train load of worshippers at the shrine of Mr. Lloyd George formed up into a big procession, and swooped down upon the town singing a hymn of praise with the refrain:

"David Lloyd George, David Lloyd George—
David Lloyd George for ever!"

and keeping their eyes open for anyone who could fall a victim to their desire for "sport." As the evening wore away these demonstrators grew more noisy and threatening, but the only unpleasant incident, so far as we were concerned, was an ugly rush just before we left the Guildhall, where I had joined Mrs. Cleeves. However, there was a number of friends who came to our rescue and prevented any harm coming to us. Later, we learned that a young man had been badly crushed and knocked about because he was wearing Conservative colours; there was some doubt whether he would recover. As we went to the station a little before eight o'clock, the shops and public-houses were closing and putting up their shutters. These things made us realise the anxiety of the town officials that there should be no extra excitement during the Election.

At his meeting in Bangor, on Friday, Mr. Lloyd George, in answer to a question concerning Woman's Suffrage, gave a most unsatisfactory reply, in the course of which he referred to the Militant Suffragists as a "small and despicable" body, and of their work as "a silly campaign." It would be more seemly if Mr. Lloyd George, instead of insulting women who have shown much patience, loyalty and forbearance, would use his own vast personal influence in North Wales to help prevent his own countrymen—who have votes—from giving such displays of violence and intolerance. Indeed, so illiberal are the worshippers of Mr. Lloyd George that any Conservative who wished to continue his work peacefully had to remove his colours after dusk. And these things take place unchecked by a single word, not once, but at all elections, in the constituency of the man who poses as the champion of freedom. Truly, these examples of Liberal "liberty" make one chary of placing faith in their pleas for "a full and unfettered democracy." We may well say to Mr. Lloyd George to-day: "The Liberal desireth liberal things, and by liberal things shall he stand."

The result of the Election may be disappointing at first sight. But when it is remembered that the Chancellor of the Exchequer won the whole of the Irish vote in response to the Liberal Home Rule pledge, we cannot be surprised that his majority has gone up.

We spent twelve hours travelling on Saturday night, so as to be fresh on Monday morning for our campaign in Montgomery boroughs.

Cardiff.

When Sir Clarendon Hyde—an Anti-Suffragist—was adopted as the Liberal candidate for Cardiff, the Liberal women of the town, true to their resolution at the Welsh Liberal Women's Conference, refused to support him, and those who wished to work during the Election went to Swansea to help Sir Alfred Mond. It is quite within the realms of probability that Sir Clarendon Hyde's overwhelming defeat was largely due to this strike on the part of the women Liberals. Liberal women in other centres, follow suit!—MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY.

South Glamorgan.

As soon as the General Election was declared we commenced distributing various kinds of the Election leaflets, many thousands of which were used in this way. THE VOTE was sold outside the halls where the political meetings were being held.

The candidates—Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart (Conservative) and Sir Clarendon Hyde (Liberal)—I had written to and received answers from. Lord Ninian wrote that he is in favour of extending the Parliamentary franchise to the women who already have the municipal vote. Sir Clarendon Hyde's answer was that he is not in favour of Women's Suffrage. However, his favour or

disfavour cannot affect us in the new Parliament, as he has not gained the seat. On Monday, two days before our Election, Mrs. Stansfield, of Ipswich, arrived. Tuesday we arranged an open-air meeting for 12.30 at the Docks. A huge crowd of men of all grades attended, and listened to Mrs. Stansfield with great attention and courtesy. Many hundreds of leaflets were given away. Our police bodyguard was quite unnecessary, I am glad to say. At 1.30 we attended, in the same neighbourhood, an open-air meeting of Lord Ninian's. Mrs. Stansfield questioned the candidate, when he repeated what he had already written. Here again we distributed a great number of leaflets. In the afternoon we held another open-air meeting in Kingsway, at which Mrs. Stansfield again spoke. Both men and women were present, though the crowd was not so big as at the Docks. Many questions were asked and answered.

On Wednesday, polling day, we were out at the booths all day selling THE VOTE and distributing leaflets. The Radicals accused us many times of working against them, and one woman, evidently with strong Radical tendencies, inconvenienced herself to the extent of being quite rude and almost abusive to Mrs. Stansfield and me over the question of "keeping the Liberal out." We let her do the temper-losing part, and kept quite calm and unperturbed ourselves.—F. C. WOOLF.

IN SCOTLAND.

Glasgow.

A vigorous campaign has been carried on in Glasgow during the General Election. Dinner-time and evening meetings have been held in every division where the candidate had not given a satisfactory answer to our letter.

In Bridgetown, where the Liberal candidate is opposed to "Votes for Women," some of our members attended every meeting, questioning and interrupting whenever possible.

On Monday two good protest meetings were held outside Lloyd George's meetings. Mrs. Despard, who had been speaking at our indoor meeting, would come, in spite of the rain, and spoke with her usual vigour and eloquence. At the second protest meeting we got a splendid hearing, and were besieged with questions. Miss Semple was ready for them all with her ready wit. At 11 p.m. Miss Semple told the audience, who were composed almost entirely of men, that as she feared their wives would be getting so anxious about them, she would dismiss the meeting.

On polling day we staffed nearly every polling booth, and kept up the cry "Keep the Liberal out!"

The "Anti's" now come to street corners denouncing the Suffragettes; one Scotch woman said to them: "What a cheek you've got to come and tell us that woman's place is the home, when you are out of it yourself!"

The majority of the candidates are "shufflers" on Women's Suffrage, and we go to meeting after meeting, only getting very unsatisfactory answers; in some cases the candidates have deliberately misrepresented our demand in order to confuse the electors, who are in favour of Women's Suffrage. The experience only shows us how unsatisfactory the average politician is, giving only those pledges which will be likely to get votes, and not because they believe in the justice of such matters.—M. GORDON.

Dundee.—Mr. Churchill, His Agent, and the W.F.L.

Before Mr. Churchill's appearance on the scene here, I was asked by our Committee to write to his agent and ask permission to be admitted to Mr. Churchill's meetings, and to be protected from the violence of Liberal stewards, as at last election some of our members were very badly used. I said, further, that our policy was not a militant one in the meantime, and that we were not to interrupt but to ask questions. In reply, Mr. Husband, Mr. Churchill's agent, said he was just adjusting the meetings, and he would let us know what arrangements were come to. Then came another letter saying that he had had a talk with Mr. Churchill over our request, and that there would be no objection to our attending the ward meetings (Mr. Churchill's big ones being for "Men only"), and that Mr. Churchill would

(Continued on page 91.)

186,
REGENT ST., W.

Daud Barham

ARTISTIC and ORIGINAL DRESS for all occasions.
HAND EMBROIDERIES.
DJIBBAHS, COATS, HATS.

LADY STOUT ON THE FRANCHISE IN NEW ZEALAND.

The presence of Lady Stout in England at the present time, and the fact that she is to be heard on many platforms, bearing testimony to the good that within her own knowledge has resulted from the exercise of the franchise in New Zealand, where she was born, and where she has spent the whole of her life, is an excellent thing for the cause. Lady Stout is the wife of Sir Robert Stout, Chief Justice of New Zealand (the first of the British dominions to legalise female suffrage), and she has had unique opportunities for observation, apart from her own private work on the committees of the Women and Children's Protection Society and the Society for the Promotion of the Health of Women and Children. She is a woman of strong convictions, great personal charm, and an eloquence that is natural and convincing.

During a pause in her strenuous task of addressing suffrage meetings, and before starting for Scotland, where she has challenged Lord Glasgow to come to one of her six meetings and give his reasons for declaring that suffrage was a failure in New Zealand, Lady Stout answered some inquiries made on behalf of readers of THE VOTE as to the actual improvement in legislation which succeeded the bestowal of the franchise on women in her colony.

"In New Zealand," she said in reply to a question, "we have no 'woman vote,' we have a united vote—the franchise works quite smoothly, and the women give their support to every measure which would benefit their country. When it was evident that New Zealand wanted compulsory service, if the women had voted as a sex and been against it, they could have blocked it. Women were enthusiastic supporters of the measure, as they realised that the best way to prevent war was to be ready for it. They voted for it—and we have it."

"What has caused this feeling of equality? Were the women prepared for it by educational facilities?"

"It really is due to the pioneer women, and to the fact that New Zealand was colonised in a different way to the other colonies. The New Zealand Colonisation Company brought over specially selected settlers and their wives and families. The Church of England and the Church of Scotland also sent out settlers with their wives and families—and these were the early colonists. The women had to suffer the same hardships as the men, and faced the same difficulties, and the feeling of comradeship engendered in this way lasted when the colony was firmly established. In 1871, when the Universities were opened, there was no difference made for the women students; there was none of that condescension which surprises New Zealand women when they come over here to take out courses. There they are equally admitted to the students' classes and clubs, and serve on committees with the men."

"Are the professions open equally to men and women?"

"Women can go in for medicine as they can here, and also for law. We have not many women barristers

as yet. But one of them, Mrs. Da Costa, who is in England now, has been frequently complimented by the judges for her conduct of her cases."

"When female suffrage was granted in New Zealand what were the first results?"

"It was granted in 1893, and from that time onward there has been a steady social improvement, the laws relating to women and children have been overhauled, and the wages of women raised to a level with men in factory work, and a higher rate paid in other employments."

"And some of these laws are—?"

"Absolute equality in divorce and the recognition of the mother as the parent of her children by having the custody of them given to her by the magistrate save where she is disreputable. No man dare assert, as was done here during the Divorce Commission, that there should be a double standard of morality for men and women. Then we have the Legitimation Act (1894), which provides that on the marriage of the parents children born out of wedlock can be legitimised. The Testator's Family Maintenance Act allows a judge to upset a will which does not give a sufficient share of the estate to the wife and children."

"In the case of a woman who wants a maintenance order against her husband, must she go into the workhouse to enforce it?"

"Workhouse? We have no workhouses in New Zealand. A woman need not leave her own home to secure a maintenance order, and if a man comes over from Australia to avoid supporting his wife, the maintenance decree can be enforced in New Zealand, and *vice versa*. If, in spite of this, the man still refuses to support his wife and family, he can be put in gaol and made to work there for their support."

"As regards sweating, how do your workers stand?"

"We have none of it since we obtained the vote. A girl will begin work at 5s. a week with a yearly increase of 3s., so that

when she reaches twenty-one her wages are £1 a week. In the factories we have equal pay for equal work, an eight-hour day, and a half-day a week free. No boy under fifteen and no woman is allowed to do night work. Piece work is forbidden save under severe restrictions."

"And the babies? Has the vote unsexed the women and made them regard their home duties as irksome and children as a nuisance?"

"The vote has given them the power to give practical effect to their tenderness to children. We have Societies for the Protection of Women and Children and the Promotion of the Health of Women and Children, and these societies are consulted by the legislature when legislation for women or children is called for. We have a very strict Infant Life Protection Act, which makes baby-farming impossible. Infant mortality, since the passage of the Act, has been reduced to 4.85 per cent. in one town where women have control over the milk supply. We have no half-timers, and we have State control of the mentally defective after



LADY STOUT.

school age. We have technical schools equally for boys and girls, and there is no encouragement given to blind-alley employments, which make the unemployable."

"Morally and socially, what are the greatest changes secured by the granting of the franchise?"

"The reduction in the drink-traffic and the restriction of gambling, and a higher standard in morals. The Government brought in a law legalising book-makers on race-courses eighteen months ago; a result of it was that there were cases of imprisonment for embezzling money for gambling purposes, and the women, backed up by the employers, forced the repeal of the law after six weeks' agitation. There is no Sunday licence for drink, and since 1893, 462 hotel bars have been closed. No respectable woman ever goes into a public-house bar, and men are rapidly losing the drink habit. The most noticeable result is a reduction in the number of criminal cases and a higher standard of living, with more money to spend on food and necessities in no-licence towns. These changes are due to the women's vote."

"Your municipal vote—how is it exercised?"

"In municipal elections the husband or wife can vote on each other's qualifications, and women have the same right to vote as men. We have the right to stand for any educational or municipal office, but we do not always avail ourselves of this opportunity. We are all so busy in our domestic life that we cannot find time for public duties that can be performed by men who are elected by our votes."

"We have no slums, and we give 10s. a week old age pensions, both husband and wife being allowed to draw them at the same time."

"It seems like the millennium, Lady Stout. Is there no one who stands in the path of progress?"

"A negligible few, who would like to underpay women and to keep the moral standard low," said Lady Stout. "But it is only when one comes over

here for the first time and sees, as I do with amazement, the differentiation between the sexes, the discourtesy of the men, or, worse still, their impertinent patronage when there is a question of women's rights or wrongs, that one realises the splendid conditions which the franchise has won for New Zealand women. It has happened so imperceptibly, and without any thought of a sex war, that it is only by contrast with the mother country we realise how fortunate we are."

WOMEN'S SERVICE GUILD.

To Mrs. C. Despard, President, W.F.L.

MADAM,—We, the members of the Women's Service Guild, a body of enfranchised women of Western Australia, wish to express our sympathy with the women of your Association in their struggle to obtain the Vote; and also to offer our hearty appreciation of the sincerity of purpose of all parties engaged in this strenuous campaign.

We are watching with keen interest the progress of your work, and feel no doubt of your ultimate success, since we are assured that right is on your side, and we feel certain that in the delay of its attainment you are learning what we women in Australia are only beginning to understand—the true value of the Vote.

We wish you God-speed in the name of the Women's Service Guild of Perth, Western Australia.

C. WINIFRED JAMES, President.

Perth, Oct. 25, 1910. HELEN KING, Hon. Secretary.

THE Committee of the Actresses' Franchise League announce that they are having the Birthday Party of the League on Friday, December 16, at three o'clock, in the Victoria Hall of the Criterion Restaurant. A charming programme of music, &c., has been arranged, in which Miss Helen Mar, Madame Bertha Moore, Miss Esther Palliser, Mrs. Pertwee, and others are taking part. It is hoped that all who are interested in the Suffrage movement will come. Admission 1s., which includes tea. Tickets can be obtained at the Actresses' Franchise League Office, Adelphi-terrace House, and at the Criterion on the day.

PURE FOOD.

BRITISH ANALYTICAL CONTROL.

Report upon an Inspection of the Cooked Meat Department of Messrs. SPIERS & POND LIMITED.

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the Cooked Meat Department at the Establishment of Messrs. Spiers and Pond Limited, 35-38, New Bridge Street, London, is subject to periodical inspection by the Consulting Scientific Staff of the British Analytical Control.

The observations made on inspection show that the materials employed are of excellent quality, that the plant and utensils are thoroughly suitable for the purposes required, and are kept in proper condition, and that the processes employed in the preparation of the different products are in every way satisfactory.—H. E. CARR, Secretary, 32, Shaftesbury Avenue, Piccadilly Circus, London, W., November 21, 1910.

CHOICE VIANDS FOR XMAS AND NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES.

BEEF.	HAMS.	GALANTINES.
Braised, Garnished with Aspic per lb. 1/8	York, dressed for table (over 14 lbs.) .. per lb. 1/7	Chicken, truffled .. per lb. 2/6
Roast, sliced 2/2	York, dressed for table (under 14 lbs.) .. per lb. 1/9	Veal and Ham with Pistachio per lb. 2/0
.. by the joint 1/8	York, sliced 2/6	Pigeon with Pistachio 2/3
Round 1/8	Irish, dressed for table .. 1/8	Tongue 2/3
.. Spiced Derby, from 14 lbs. per lb. 2/0	Breakfast, dressed for table per lb. 1/4	Veal, plain 1/6
		Turkey and Tongue, plain, per lb. 1/6
		Game, truffled 3/
OX TONGUES.	BOARS' HEADS.	SANDWICHES.
Garnished with Aspic, each 6/0 6/6 7/0	Entire from 7 lbs. each.	Ham, Tongue, Beef, Galantine, Egg and Cress, Pot- ted Meat, Sardine
Rolled, in cardboard boxes or glasses .. each 3/6 6/0	Stuffed with Tongue, Force meat & Pistachio per lb. 1/9	doz. Half-rounds 2/0
	Truffled 2/0	Pate de Foie Gras and Caviare, doz. Half-Rounds 2/6

Write To-day for Complete Price List.

SPIERS & POND'S STORES

Pure Food Specialists, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Free Daily Delivery by our Vans and Motors in London and Suburbs.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 148, Holborn Bars.
Secretary—Miss M. E. RIDLER.
Directors—Mrs. C. DESPARD, Mrs. E. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc.,
Miss MARIE LAWSON, Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. L. THOMSON-PRICE.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1910.

INCONVENIENT QUESTIONS.

THE Cabinet has not enjoyed the elections. There was hardly a meeting at which the inconvenient questioner was not present. Judging from Mr. Churchill's treatment of those suffragists whose interrogations he had not invited; from Mr. George's pained surprise that anyone should be so ill-bred as to importune a Cabinet Minister on a subject which he had already informed them was not "near his heart"; and from the Premier's hasty exits when any danger of the inconvenient questioner was near, one might imagine that the code of Cabinet manners was extremely rigorous on this one point, and that Cabinet etiquette regarded the query on subjects uncongenial to the questioned as the height of bad taste. Strangely enough, we find that the aversion only exists towards the answering of them, and that—at a very safe distance from the questioned—the Cabinet indulges in the inconvenient question itself. We find Mr. Asquith saying in the early days of the elections: "I put some questions . . . the other night at Hull. I have not received any answer to them. I have found from past experience that it is a very useful thing to go on putting inconvenient questions until people either attempt to answer them or give up the attempt in despair."

In looking over the sheaf of election reports that have come in from every part of the country, it is abundantly evident that the usual treatment of the suffrage questioner at Liberal meetings was immediate ejection. Mr. Churchill, we are told, looked silently on while three brutal Liberal stewards "hurried" out—a word frequently found in the press accounts of these meetings, and which generally includes unmentionable indignities when the questioner is a woman—"a voice" which asked inconvenient questions at one of his meetings at Dundee. He further told his constituents on Saturday that in his opinion interrupters "who make a regular practice of trying to break up large public audiences" should be "moved a little further on." Yet Mr. Asquith says "it is a very useful thing to go on putting inconvenient questions until people either attempt to answer them or give up the attempt in despair." But Mr. Asquith asks his questions from Tories who, if they are his political opponents, are at least his electoral equals, and would not hire roughs to throw him out after his question, or eject him in such a manner as to break his leg—as happened to a questioner at Mr. Churchill's meeting—or so misuse him that he would acquire creeping paralysis—as has been the fate of more than one suffragist at other Liberal meetings.

Sometimes the questions were answered—but only where there was too strong a risk of loss of votes if they were altogether ignored. Mr. George at Carnarvon, in reply to a question on suffrage, delivered a homily in Welsh on suffrage methods as an answer. He told the women that they would never get the vote "until they used more w.e., more sensible, persuasive and effective methods than they now adopt." The avoidance of a direct answer makes us for a moment pause to compare his speeches and the conduct of his election with his advice. Against the veto of the House of Lords Mr. George employs a virulence of vituperation which, whether one agrees with it or no, one must realise is absolutely without parallel in the history of English politics. During his election no Unionist dare sport his colours after dark, and the Mayor of Carnarvon had to appeal in the places of worship that the wild and dangerous scenes of last January should not be repeated. A man who uses the methods that the

Chancellor does can only offer us counsels of peace with his tongue in his cheek.

Again, when Mr. Churchill answered the questions of a deputation at Dundee he suggested that a Referendum should be taken on Woman's Suffrage. If this suggestion had come from a Tory, who regarded the referendum as the panacea for the national unrest, we could understand it as courteously and seriously meant, but coming from a man who has heaped every insult he could find, invent, or coin on the hapless head of the leader of the Opposition for daring to offer the country what he called a "Swiss Referendum," it can only be looked upon as a gross insult. If a "Swiss Referendum" is not good enough to decide whether there shall be Tariff Reform or Free Trade, then a "Swiss Referendum" is assuredly not good enough to decide whether we shall have the franchise or whether we shall not.

Mr. Asquith, in one of the answers that were wrung from him at East Fife, declared that there would be no facilities in the first session, and he carefully avoided any definite pledge for an early session.

Inconvenient questioning is one of the most unpleasant and one of the most necessary forms of propaganda. We undertake it with a grave sense of the objectionable results which may accrue to ourselves, and we do not do it for the sake of heckling, but because, like Mr. Asquith, we know that we must go on putting questions until we get an answer. And that answer must come at an early date, and it may be to the great shame of the Cabinet that they shall have to do for the sake of expediency what they would not do in the name of justice. In the villages and hamlets in Ireland since O'Connell's election for Clare brought the first message of hope and freedom for them, the old men have been saying to the young men, when the day of their liberty seemed long in coming, "England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity." And their freedom is nearly with them now because it is expedient that the leader of their party shall be made useful to the Cabinet. The day is not far distant when the expediency of further democratising the country will be evident to the masters of the Cabinet, and then they will, for their own sakes, enfranchise the women. Let them spare themselves and us the shame of that day of expediency. Let them answer the inconvenient question while they have yet time. Let Mr. Asquith promise an early day in an early session. MARY O. KENNEDY.

"THE VOTE."

Now that there are few open-air meetings it is absolutely essential that THE VOTE should be sold regularly in the street in order to keep it well before the public. One cannot overestimate the many advantages of street selling both for advertisement and propaganda. Every branch should have two or three regular pitches and should also make a point of selling outside meetings of every kind.

I need hardly remind members that it is most advisable to always carry two or three or more copies of THE VOTE when travelling, shopping, visiting friends, &c. I shall be glad to hear from any who can give an hour or more a week either for a London or local pitch.

I have visited the following branches—Hampstead, Highgate, Highbury, West Norwood, and Acton, and have promises from all. I have also started some excellent pitches, and am now wanting volunteers to carry them on.

I shall be pleased to receive suggestions of any sort to help increase the circulation of the paper, and I appeal to every W.F.L. member to take a real living interest in the organ of our League.—E. M. FENNINGS, VOTE ORGANISER.

A PUBLIC meeting to explain protests at Cabinet meetings will be held at the Caxton Hall on Friday next, December 16, by the Men's Political Union for Women Enfranchisement. Mr. Frank Rutter in the chair.

NEXT week we shall print the result of our Receipts Competition, and in future we shall announce these quarterly.

New Fête Blouse



NEW FETE BLOUSE (as sketch) an entirely new idea, in best quality nixon, with wide ribbon of contrasting colour underneath, round the figure and over the shoulders, finished with black ribbon velvet, and lace vest and collar. In black, white, and all shades.

21/9

Debenham & Freebody,
Wigmore Street (Cavendish Square), London, W.

GENERAL ELECTION

(Continued from page 87).

answer any relevant questions. Meetings were to be held in three different wards, and we arranged that an elector (a W.F.L. member, of course) should attend in each and any of the others who cared to go with her. When the women presented themselves they were told "No ladies admitted." At one of the wards Mr. Husband's letter was handed in to the chairman. The steward came back with it, saying that neither Mr. Churchill nor his agent had any business with that meeting! In another ward the chairman was the brother of one of our ex-officials, and he was told, "No women admitted."

In the afternoon Mr. Churchill had a meeting of his women workers only (and men shop assistants in the top gallery). One militant lady had managed to get in—not a member of our League—and she threw an egg at him. We are wondering if panic-stricken orders were issued for the evening meetings, to "keep the women out"? At every open-air meeting held on the eve of the poll the story of the treatment of the women was told. If Mr. Churchill and his minions think they will be able to shut the women's mouths by such perfidy they are vastly mistaken. It is satisfactory to note that Mr. Churchill has 2,508 fewer votes than in January last, and Liberal and Labour combined have lost 3,000 in Dundee.—J. A. SMART.

Edinburgh.

Most of our Election work was done in the East Division, where the Liberal candidate, Sir James Gibson, although nominally in favour of the extension of the franchise to both men and women "on a proper basis," had sent no reply to our secretary's questions. He announced in January that he was "too busy" to attend to such questions! We aimed, accordingly, at showing him that our demand is backed up by his electors, and attended at the polling booths with postcards in the following terms: "I have this day recorded my vote, and urge you as my representative to support the demand for the immediate enfranchisement of duly qualified women." Sir James will receive 1,734 of these, duly signed, on his return to Westminster. Our workers noted a much greater sympathy on the part of the men since January, and the number signed was much larger in comparison with the constituency. One amusing incident out of many may be recorded. A number of girls, standing near one of our workers, appeared rather annoyed at the superior attitude of a group of small boys. The opportunity was not to be missed! It was pointed out to them that the boys had every right to be superior, for by-and-by they would count. "You have

badges on," continued the worker, "and I suppose you'll want to help your party when you are bigger?" They assented. "Well, you'll not really be a bit of use, you know, and the boys will," and so on. They departed, but evidently a future in which the only possible political rôle was that of "door-mats" had lost its charm. For in a little they were back, pleased and eager. "Do you know what we've done, miss?" they cried. "There are two boards up there that say, 'The majority of women do not want the Vote,' and," triumphantly, "we've rubbed out the 'not'!"—HELEN MCLACHLAN.

IN ENGLAND.

Lancashire and Cheshire.

Many of the divisions polling this week have had the benefit of a visit from W.F.L. workers.

Chester received us in most kindly spirit on Saturday and Monday. On Saturday afternoon we sent up a question to the Conservative speakers, asking whether the candidate was willing to follow the lead of Mr. Balfour on the subject of Women's Suffrage. Not only was this answered satisfactorily, but we were accommodated with a chair from which to speak. Later, a second meeting was held, just before Winston Churchill's demonstration, and a most courteous hearing secured from a crowd consisting of men of both parties. On Monday, also, we held a good evening meeting, in spite of rain and rival speakers.

On Tuesday a protest meeting was held at Eccles Cross on the eve of the poll. The speaking in the division has changed marvellously in the last few months, and the quiet, respectful bearing of the youngsters contrasts very favourably with their attitude when first we visited the district.

Wednesday found us in Sale, where polling took place on Thursday. Here a very unusual incident took place. After Sir William Crossley's meeting in St. Ann's Schools we were allowed to hold a short meeting in the school yard, which was announced by the Liberal chairman and attended by a strong body of Liberal voters. Sale members attended at the booth on Thursday to distribute free literature, and the voters and Miss Geiler's pony carriage displayed our colours gaily, and the motto, "Taxation without representation is tyranny." The new Sale banner, made and presented to the branch by Miss Geiler, was also much in evidence.

The notice called forth much sympathy and many cheers from the crowd, and the vendors of Election favours showed their appreciation of the situation by providing green and yellow buttonholes in addition to the regulation blues and reds.

Unfortunately, we in the Altrincham Division, who boasted a member on the Conciliation Committee, are now represented by Mr. Kobby Fletcher, who has not yet made up his mind on the question, but fears that women would vote against war and drink. Will the Conservative women in the district undertake to show the new Member the importance of our question? Many thanks are due to Miss Starling, Miss Nightingale, Mrs. Pearson, Miss Hines, Miss Fildes, Miss Geiler and Mrs. Manning for their work on polling day.—M. E. MANNING.

Torquay.—Representing the People.

The W.F.L. Committee Rooms at 3, Torwood-street have proved a considerable attraction, and we have had a constant stream of inquirers and callers, who have bought our literature and expressed much sympathy and interest. The boys and girls of the neighbourhood, who at first came to jeer and scoff, remained if not to pray at least to fold literature and distribute it for us! They apparently cannot resist Miss Neilans' invitation to "come inside and thrash the matter out." We have circulated the women municipal voters of Torquay with our leaflets and a special letter. Most of the tedious work of folding, directing and distributing these has fallen to Mrs. Williamson, whose help has been invaluable all through. Besides daily meetings in Upton, Ellacombe, Union-street, Torquay, and on the Strand, we held an indoor meeting on Friday night, when Mrs. Nevinson and Miss Neilans both spoke. Mrs. Nevinson also spoke with much success at many open-air meetings. On Tuesday Miss Neilans attended one of Colonel Burn's meetings—Colonel Burn is the Unionist candidate—in order to question him, and succeeded in obtaining from him a distinct pledge to support our Bill if elected to Parliament. The appearance of "a Suffragette" at a public meeting caused great excitement, but nevertheless, Miss Neilans was allowed to put her question, and Colonel Burn was perfectly courteous in replying to her. On Wednesday we went to Ellacombe to question the Liberal candidate, Sir Francis Layland Barratt, and had a very different experience. We had been warned that if we went to Ellacombe—the Liberal stronghold—we should be killed, so, of course, we promptly went, and had a splendid open-air meeting, and announced that we were going on to a hall close by to question their late M.P. Our appearance there was the signal for great commotion, and several ardent Liberals evinced a lively desire to "chuck us out." Miss Neilans smiled upon them, however, and in Asquith's historic words said "Don't be silly," and explained she merely wanted two questions answered. Several men expressed themselves as much surprised at such a reasonable request, and volunteered to give Sir Francis the written queries. We then settled down to listen quietly to a prolonged speechification from the platform, which incidentally was constantly interrupted by those men present. When Sir Francis was handed the question he refused to answer it, because it was not the question of an elector. "I am here to represent the men." "And the women, sir," retorted Miss Neilans, "the women are part of the people." This application of Liberal principles proved too much for the keener spirits

present, and we were threatened on all sides; however, by the united efforts of the police, and of such men as remained free from hysteria, we were given a safe passage out, the only damages received being a kick, which just reached me.

Of course, this incident has made our campaign more intelligible to the Torquay people, as they see we must oppose the man who does not recognise his responsibility to women. Every-where we meet with courtesy and kindness from the local people, and are frequently cheered at the close of our meetings; but, of course, the weather is dead against us, and meetings have to be held between floods of rain.

I thank all those who have given donations, but hope others will follow, as expenses are heavy.—MADGE TURNER.

As we go to press we learn that Sir Layland Barratt, who voted against our Bill, and treated our members with discourteous insolence, has been defeated by over 100 votes. Torquay has no use for this kind of Liberal.

Hampstead.

During the Election at Hampstead the following paragraph appeared in the local paper:—"The local branch of the Women's Freedom League have written to both Unionist and Liberal candidates asking that a deputation from their Society may be received on the subject of the enfranchisement of women. Many of these ladies are backing their cause with the votes of husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers, placed entirely at their disposal during the present Election." The deputations were courteously received as a result of the last sentence.

Finchley and Northern Heights Deputation.

A deputation of the Women's Freedom League, arranged by the Northern Heights and Finchley Branches, was received by Mr. Dummett, the Liberal candidate for Hornsey. The deputation was composed of Miss Shoults, Mrs. Mather, Mrs. Tinkler (all Finchley members), and Mrs. How Martyn, and was introduced by Miss Shoults, a member of the Finchley Education Committee. Mrs. How Martyn, the Hon. Secretary of the League, explained to Mr. Dummett the object of the deputation, and gave a short account of the policy of the League in connection with this General Election, and also with by-elections and militant protests. Further, she asked Mr. Dummett whether, if returned to Parliament, he would support an amendment to the King's Speech if Women's Suffrage was not included in it, and whether he would ballot for a place for a Woman's Suffrage Bill, and press for facilities during the first Session of Parliament, either for the Conciliation Bill or one equally certain to pass.

In his reply Mr. Dummett pointed out that though he had not mentioned Women's Suffrage in his Election address, he was just as ardent a supporter of the cause as ever, and would, if returned to Parliament, be prepared to support an amendment to the King's Speech. He would not definitely pledge himself to ballot for our Bill, but would do so if his ballot was not required by his party. He would prefer a more democratic Bill than the Conciliation Bill, but would be prepared to support that, if it were the only Bill likely to pass in the next Parliament.

A friendly discussion then took place, and, thanking Mr. Dummett for receiving them, the deputation withdrew.

The Finchley Branch decided not to oppose Mr. Dummett.

BRANCH NOTES.

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

Stamford Hill.—Mrs. CUNNINGHAM, 114, Holmleigh-road.

Opening Committee Rooms at 35, High-street, Stoke Newington, has enabled us to do a very great deal of good propaganda work in that part of the North Hackney constituency. The Conservative candidate, who alone promised to support our cause, if re-elected, was returned with a much increased majority. Nearly 3,000 bills were distributed from house to house in twenty-three roads, and well-attended open-air meetings were in evidence at West Hackney Church, Brighton-road and Amhurst-park. That at the latter place was addressed by Miss Taylor (granddaughter of Mrs. John Stuart Mill). A deputation of four of our members, headed by Mrs. Wheatley, waited upon the Liberal candidate, Mr. Adinsell, and another of six members, headed by Mrs. Griffiths, waited upon Mr. Raymond Greene, the Conservative ditto. Save for occasional open-air meetings during the next week things will be quiet here. But on January 3, 1911, at 3 p.m., the branch will give its afternoon "At Home" (by kind invitation of Mrs. Barron) at 30, Linthorpe-road, Stamford-hill. It is sincerely hoped that each member will make a point of attending herself and bringing at least one friend.

Central London Branch.—Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing.

This branch has now arranged to hold fortnightly public meetings at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand. These will be held on alternate Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. The first of these public meetings will be held on Tuesday, January 3, on which occasion the chair will be taken by Miss Marie Lawson, and the speaker of the evening will be Miss Cicely Hamilton. Hostess, Miss Edith Craig. Doors open for this meeting at 7.30 p.m.

At 7 o'clock there will be the ordinary business meeting of the branch, at the same address.

Will all branch members who can assist at these meetings kindly write direct to Miss Dorothy Spencer (22, Hawarden-

grove, Herne Hill, S.E.), who is undertaking the stewarding, to say at which of these meetings they can steward, &c.?

These fortnightly meetings will be held throughout the season. Members are urged to ensure the success of the undertaking by packing the first meeting with friends. Handbills will be obtainable at the W.F.L. offices.—S. S.

As we understand that the League is arranging a social function for December 20, which many of our branch members may wish to attend, our fortnightly branch meeting will not take place on that date.

On January 3 and 17 we may hope to meet again—for details of these meetings, please look in THE VOTE.—E. G. T.

Crystal Palace and Anerley.—Miss FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road.

Now that our open-air meetings have stopped for the winter, we have started two new street pitches for selling THE VOTE. At present one member keeps all three going, but she will be glad to hear from others who can help. The sales have been very satisfactory in spite of the ceaseless rain.

Hayes and Southall.—M. CUNNINGHAM, Oakdene, Hayes End.

Friday, December 9, was polling day in the Uxbridge Division. The rain fell uninterruptedly throughout the day, but did not succeed in damping the ardour of the local Suffragettes (although it did effectively all else), who in gaily decorated and bepestered wagnette paraded the constituency, causing much interest and in many cases an encouraging cheer from the weary voter. We returned home at about three, dripping wet but happy, conscious of having effectively demonstrated our cause on this important occasion.—CHRISTINE CUNNINGHAM, Hon. Secretary.

Sheffield.—19, Upperthorpe.

On Wednesday, November 30, at 8 p.m., a public meeting was held in the Montgomery Hall, at which the Rev. J. Rogerson and Miss Muriel Matters were the speakers. When the meeting started there was a poor attendance, because Mr. Winston Churchill was speaking at the two largest halls in the town on the same evening. Several enthusiastic members of the branch went out and distributed bills to the crowd, who were unable to get into Churchill's meeting, and were successful in getting a much larger audience.

We have taken the Y.M.C.A. Hall for a cake and candy sale and social evening on December 17. Several prominent Sheffield artists have promised their services for the musical programme, and Cicely Hamilton's "How the Vote was Won" will be performed during the latter part of the evening. Will all members of the branch do their best to make the evening a success?—GERTRUDE CLARKE.

Chester.

Though the Election campaign was abandoned, Miss Manning felt this was a good opportunity to educate Chester electors, a large crowd of whom paid great attention to the speeches at two open-air meetings on Saturday, December 4. The public were thus acquainted with the true facts as regards our forcible ejection, our policy was explained, and we were able to announce that Chester City Council on November 9 passed a resolution (which had been sent from Mrs. Despard's meeting on October 24) calling upon the Government to grant facilities for our Bill.—E. WOODALL.

Ipswich.—160, Norwich-road, Ipswich.

Last Wednesday evening a very successful Whist Drive was held at the Club House. The arrangements were in the hands of Mrs. Willis and Mrs. Stannard, who, assisted by Mrs. Garner, Mrs. Rose, and Miss Stansfield, carried out everything in a way which not only gave a pleasant evening to all present, but also added to our funds. The presents were given by Mrs. Stansfield, Miss M. Huxell and Miss Petersen. On Friday afternoon the Committee met to discuss resolutions and nominations for the annual Conference; these will be submitted to a branch meeting on Monday.

We understand from a letter sent to our local paper that an Anti-Suffrage Society is about to be started in Ipswich; we welcome this as a sign that we are growing in strength, and shall look forward to some interesting debates. Will friends kindly remember that more goods are wanted for the Barrow; dolls, toys, sweets would have a good sale just now. We are about to have a Jumble Sale, and shall be glad of things for this.—CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

Swansea.

Our branch this month has been quite busy with its Morris Dance Classes, which have been most enthusiastic. Many of our members have joined the classes and find they form a pleasant social link to bring us all more closely together. We are all very grateful to Miss Phipps and Miss Neal for arranging and instructing these classes.

On November 30, Dr. Knight gave a most interesting address on the present situation, and next week Mr. Seyler has promised to read a paper.

A special appeal for subscriptions towards the London office expenses was as follows:—Miss Phipps, B.A., £1 1s.; Mrs. Josephs, 10s.; Mrs. Cleaves, £1; Miss Neal, 5s.; Miss Perry, 5s.; Miss Johns, 5s.; Mrs. Ross, 5s.—MARY MCLEOD CLEAVES, Hon. Organiser.

A good selection of W.F.L. cards and Christmas presents will be found on sale at the Literature Department, at 1, Robert-street. They are excellent propaganda at this season.

PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES WHO HAVE MENTIONED WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN THEIR ELECTION ADDRESSES.

MR. PERCY ALDEN (Lib.), Tottenham.

Every well-considered attempt to democratise our institutions will have my support.

MR. G. M. ARUNDELL (Un.), Scarborough.

MR. R. BALFOUR (Lib.), Partick (Lanark).

MR. GEO. BENTHAM (Lib.), Gainsborough (Lines.).

MR. C. W. BOWERMAN (Lab.), Deptford.

RT. HON. J. BURNS (Lib.), Battersea.

MR. W. J. BURT (Lib.), Penryn.

MR. A. G. CAMERON (Lab.), Jartow.

MR. F. M. CARSON (Lib.), Kensington.

MR. W. H. CLARKE (Cons.), East Leeds.

MR. J. R. CLYNES (Lab.), N.E. Manchester.

MR. W. CROOKS (Lab.), Woolwich.

MR. C. DUNCAN (Lab.), Barrow-in-Furness.

MR. JAS. FAIRBAIRN (Lib.), Wandsworth.

MR. I. FOOT (Lib.), Bodmin.

MR. P. S. FOSTER (Un.), S.W. Warwick.

MR. F. GASKELL (Un.), E. Glamorgan.

MR. VICTOR GRAYSON (Soc.), Kennington.

MR. H. W. GOLDBERG (Lib.), Reigate.

MR. J. W. GULLAND (Lib.), Dumfries.

MR. R. V. HARCOURT (Lib.), Montrose.

MR. J. KEIR HARDIE (Lab.), Merthyr Boroughs.

I believe more firmly than ever in Votes for Women.

MR. E. R. HARTLEY (Soc.), E. Bradford.

MR. V. HARTSHORN (Lab.), Mid Glamorgan.

MR. J. HINDS (Lib.), W. Carnarvon.

MR. J. M. HOGGE (Lib.), Glasgow (Camlachie).

MR. R. A. L. HUTCHINSON (Un.), Heywood (Lancs.).

I am in favour of the assimilation of the municipal and Parliamentary franchise.

MR. E. T. JOHN (Lib.), East Denbigh.

MR. LEIF JONES (Lib.), Rushcliffe.

MR. J. O. KESSACK (Lab.), Glasgow (Camlachie).

Women who may possess all the qualifications necessary for the vote find that they are disqualified simply because they are women. They are thus classed among lunatics, paupers, criminals, and members of the House of Lords. They are right to resent this insult to their intelligence.

MR. J. KING (Lib.), N. Somerset.

MR. WALKER KING (Lib.), S.W. Warwick.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Lib.), Cockermouth.

MR. CHAS. LEACH (Lib.), Colne Valley.

MR. A. LEON (Lib.), Croydon.

MR. THOS. LOUGH (Lib.), W. Islington.

MR. F. LOW (Lib.), Norwich.

MR. D. M. MASON (Lib.), Coventry.

SIR A. MOND (Lib.), Swansea.

MR. A. F. MURISON (Lib.), Glasgow (Central).

The claims of women to the Parliamentary vote, I am glad to see, are promised full consideration in the next Parliament.

MR. J. M. M'CALLUM (Lib.), Paisley.

MR. T. MCKERRELL (Lab.), Kirkdale.

MR. A. W. MACONOCHE (Un.), Partick (Lanark).

MR. E. PICKERSGILL (Lib. and Lab.), Bethnal Green.

MR. R. F. RATCLIFF (Un.), Burton (Staffs.).

MR. THOS. RICHARDSON (Lab.), Whitehaven.

MR. H. ST. MAUR (Lib.), Exeter.

MR. A. SCOTT (Lib.), Ashton-under-Lyne.

MR. A. SMITH (Lab.), Clitheroe (Lancs.).

MR. W. H. SOMERVILLE (Lib.), S. Westmorland.

MR. B. STANIER (Un.), Newport (Shropshire).

MR. J. E. SUTTON (Lab.), E. Manchester.

MR. J. A. SYMMONS (Lib.), Epping.

MR. WM. THORNE (Lab.), W. Ham.

MR. A. E. Y. TRESTRAL (Lib.), Tiverton.

MR. R. B. WALLIS (Lib.), Newark.

MR. J. WARD (Lab.), Stoke-on-Trent.

MR. J. H. WHITWORTH (Lib.), Knutsford.

MR. A. WILKIE (Lab.), Dundee.

MR. H. D. WOODCOCK (Lib.), Southport.

SIR J. H. YOYALL (Lib.), W. Notts.

MR. A. CHAYTOR (Un.), Hexham.

I am not in favour of Female Suffrage at the present time,

nor shall I be until I am convinced that the majority of the women of England really desire it and are prepared to devote the same serious attention to politics that men do.

ELECTION NOTES.

Heckling the Cabinet—Mr. Asquith's "I Don't Think."

Replying to questions at the close of his meeting in Newport, Fife, Mr. Asquith found himself interrogated concerning the Conciliation Bill.

Asked if he would give a pledge that the Conciliation Bill should be considered, he said: "I certainly shall give no pledge as to the first session of Parliament. The pledge I made on behalf of the Government is on record."

Is it a fact that you said the Bill was undemocratic?—Yes, I said so.

Is it not a fact that 80 per cent. of the women thereby enfranchised would be working women?—I don't think it is.

We are sending Mr. Asquith a copy of Mr. Brailsford's pamphlet giving the figures of working women who would be enfranchised by the Bill, so that he may "think" correctly in future.

At Mr. Asquith's meeting at Newcastle there were several suffragist interruptions.

The Premier had said that the issue before them was as great and as grave as any which had ever been submitted to the electorate of this country, when a man shouted, "Why did you put the veto on the Women's Bill?" After great disturbance the interrupter was ejected.

At Burnley, when he stepped out of the train, a woman made her way to him and called out, "You are a coward to send women to gaol." But the coward was hurried off surrounded by innumerable police in plain clothes.

Mr. George on How to Forward a Cause.

Speaking in Welsh at Carnarvon last week, Mr. George said he had been asked a question on Women's Suffrage.

A woman wants the vote (he said), but she will not get it until she puts a stop on women who place obstructions in the path. They make enemies of friends, and they will never get the vote until they use some wiser, more sensible, persuasive, and effective method than they now adopt. My opinion is that the suffrage movement has been put back since 1906. There was a great majority for Women's Suffrage in Parliament, and the Cabinet was favourable; Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman was favourable. What happened? The women made themselves intolerable, and even in the last meeting which Sir Henry addressed they persecuted him. I do not know of any movement that has been forwarded by such methods, and the vote will not be obtained until there will be a complete change in tactics. But my opinion on the question remains unchanged.

Mr. Churchill—An Egg and Some Questions.

At Dundee, where an election egg was hurled at him by a suffragist, Mr. Churchill declared as plainly as he could that truth was not observed by him when dealing with suffragists.

Question—Why do you repeatedly insinuate of people who interrupt your meetings in the interests of Women's Suffrage that they are paid for their work? Do you not think they are as earnest and sincere in their opinion as you are on the subject of the Lord's Veto?

Mr. Churchill—I do know as a matter of fact that one of the suffrage societies that organise these disorderly interruptions get large subscriptions when any disorderly and disreputable, babyish, or silly thing has been done. I am certainly not to be too careful of my language in speaking about them.

Question—Is it the fact that two women prisoners are being forcibly fed in Holloway under your orders?

Mr. Churchill—It is. If prisoners will not eat any food you cannot let them die of starvation. I have treated these people with the most extraordinary leniency.

During his address at the second meeting in the West-end, Mr. Churchill was interrupted by an elector with the remark, "I object to the treatment that political prisoners are receiving."

Mr. Churchill replied that if the House of Commons were of that opinion they could dismiss him from office as easily as they nearly dismissed a predecessor of his in 1895 for his handling of a case in which a woman had been arrested on a charge which was afterwards dismissed. "Let us get rights for the men first before we worry about rights for women," he added.

Sir J. H. Yoxall.

Speaking at St. Alban's Ward, Sir J. H. Yoxall said: But he could understand a woman refusing to work for a candidate who was not in favour of justice to her sex. He had

always been in favour of giving the women who possessed the municipal vote the Parliamentary vote. He had voted for it again and again, and Liberals would carry it before long—(hear, hear)—for the sake of the women themselves.

Mr. McKinnon Wood.

Speaking at Glasgow, Mr. McKinnon Wood said: He would not have a Government representative of any one class. (A woman's voice, "Or sex." Laughter, and some disorder.) "The interruption," said Mr. McKinnon Wood, "is quite in order. (Applause.) I quite agree with the lady." (Applause.) He never could understand that there was any conceivable argument why one-half of the human race in this country should be deprived of their rights in the government of the country. (Applause.)

GENERAL SUFFRAGE NEWS.

Lord Lytton—The Value of Votes.

Speaking for the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association in Bristol last week, Lord Lytton said:—

The election was very illuminating on the position and arguments in favour of women's suffrage. He would like to know very much how many women were engaged in politics in this General Election. All that might possibly be called degrading or unworthy or humiliating in politics women had been asked to do for men, and were doing to-day. The General Election was showing us the futility of the argument that a vote was of no value—it was clear that in some cases one vote was of great value. The candidates in their election addresses did not refer to the special interests dear to the hearts of women, for the women had no votes to sell. So long as the women were without the vote they were political outlaws, and nothing else. (Applause.) The Conciliation Bill provided that the head of the household, whether male or female, should have a vote. It had been stated by opponents of the Bill that the women to be enfranchised were all rich Conservatives. Well, the women included 30,000 charwomen, 25,000 needlewomen, and 6,000 waitresses, and between 82 and 90 per cent. of the total would be working women. He was extremely glad to know that they were all Tories—(laughter)—but he was surprised to learn that they were all rich. (Laughter and applause.) The Bill was a logical conclusion to the Reform Bills which had preceded it.

Released Prisoners.

Twenty-six Suffragists, sentenced to fourteen days for the part they played on November 24 at the House, were released on Wednesday morning, and entertained at the Criterion to breakfast. They related that two of their number who adopted hunger strike are still under detention. The names of the released prisoners were: Miss Mabel Capper, Miss Fanny Helliwell, Miss Ethel Slade, Miss Edith Begbie, Miss E. M. Fagg, Mrs. Capriva Fahey, Mrs. Florence Farmer, Miss Janet Green, Miss M. P. Linscott, Miss Elsa Schuster, Miss Ethel Haslam, Miss Eliza Simmons, Miss Edith Wingrove, Miss Laura Armstrong, Mrs. Jennie Ball, Mrs. Howard Ball, Miss Grace Chappelow, Miss M. Fison, Miss Ellison Gibb, Miss Margaret Left, Nurse Hodgkinson, Miss G. Macrae, Miss B. Martin, Miss Lilian Mitchell, Miss Fanny Pease, and Miss F. E. Radcliffe.

Irish Suffragists.

It has been stated on a previous occasion at a meeting of the Irish Women's Franchise League that special orders had been given to the police at Westminster on the historic Tuesday not to arrest the Irish women who could be known by their colours, it being stated that Mr. Churchill was afraid of the Irish Members' wrath. At a meeting of the Irish Women's Franchise League at the Antient Concert Buildings last week, Mrs. Earl, one of the prisoners, said:—

One policeman, who treated her more gently than the others, said, "I'm an Irishman; wait and I'll hustle you into a safe place." She upbraided him for taking part in such cowardly work. He replied, "I have a wife and eight children; what can I do?" This policeman told her that the police had special orders to beat the women and knock them about, but not to arrest them. They knew the women with the orange and green colours to be Irish, and were particularly careful not to arrest these, for fear of the Irish Members.

The Irish Women's Franchise League has circularised the Irish Party so that they may not neglect their duty.

MADAM STEER, Theatrical Costumier and Wig Maker,
22, MAIDEN LANE, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.
Factory: 5, WATERLOO ROAD, S.E.

FANCY COSTUMES Made to Order or Lent on Hire.
THEATRICAL BOOTS AND SHOES MADE TO ORDER.

WILLIAM OWEN.

A SPECIAL SALE

Of a well-known Manufacturer's Stock
of
BEAUTIFUL FURS.

Exceptional opportunity
for securing High-Class
Furs, Stoles, Cravats,
Muffs, Coats, etc., for
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Send for Catalogue.

WESTBOURNE GROVE, W.

THE UNITED VACUUM CLEANER COMPANY, Ltd.,

48, Palace St., Westminster, S.W.,

CLEAN EVERYTHING.

DRESSES, BLOUSES, FEATHERS,
&c., CLEANED OR DYED.

Satisfactory Results Guaranteed.

Carpets, Curtains, and Furniture cleaned
at your own house without removal, or
collected, cleaned at our works, and de-
livered within 24 hours.

ESTIMATES FREE.

Telephone 4320 } Gerrard.
1774 }

FREE OPINIONS FREELY EXPRESSED.

* * In this column we publish, as far as space permits, the views of our readers on any subject of interest to members without favour and without prejudice. Only matter coming within the scope of the law of libel will be barred. 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, however, that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions so expressed.

The Hackney Branch.

Dear Editor.—At a Committee meeting of the Hackney Branch held to-night, the following resolution was passed unanimously:—"The Committee of the Hackney Branch desire to dissociate themselves from the criticism published in THE VOTE recently, of the militant action undertaken by a sister society. They wish to uphold the resolution enthusiastically passed at the annual conference, repudiating criticism of militant action by other Suffrage societies." We hope to see the above resolution published in the next issue of THE VOTE.—I am, yours sincerely,

BLANCHE HOLMES, Hon. Sec.

97, Upper Clapton-road, N.E., Dec. 4, 1910.

[EDITORIAL NOTE.—We understand that the articles to which exception is taken by the Hackney Branch appeared in No. 57 of THE VOTE, one of them being entitled "The Political Crisis." We desire to point out that this article was confined to an explanation and a justification of the policy of the W.F.L. at the present juncture, and was not intended as a criticism on the action of any other Society. The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. (See Editorial Notice on front page.) Two other letters have been received on the same subject which we are unable to publish owing to limitations of space.

CAXTON HALL "AT HOME."

Mrs. How Martyn took the chair at the Caxton Hall "At Home" on Thursday last. The speakers were Mrs. Despard, Mrs. H. W. Nevinson, Miss Fennings, and Rev. M. C. Huggins.

Mrs. H. W. Nevinson related her experiences when forming part of a deputation to the Hampstead candidates, and the courtesy with which they were received by the Liberal, who promised them everything and then invited them to canvass. They informed him they would not canvass until they had the vote. Speaking of the minority rule in the Cabinet, she said England knows nothing of minority rule; she supposed the men who retained office against their convictions did it for their salaries. She reminded them of Lord Melbourne's saying to his Cabinet: "Gentlemen, let us hang together, lest we hang separately."

Rev. M. C. Huggins gave an interesting survey of the results of woman franchise in New Zealand. He said the woman vote was a little uncertain; by that he meant that party politicians could not count on it, as on great questions women would vote, if necessary, against party. Consequently the politicians had to keep in mind the one thing they knew—that women were always on the side of morality and social order. Having dealt with the many social changes caused by the woman's vote, he said that from living during the past three years in one of the worst parts of London he had come to the conclusion that the question of the unemployables would never be solved until they got at the root of the matter, and began at those wretched rooms where the babies live. This was not a question which the House of Commons was fit to deal with. The great factor in progress was the child, and there were wanted at the head of affairs people who idolised the child; and until the women had their share in politics this would be impossible.

Mrs. Despard pointed out that the politicians had made children the stalking-horse of parties. It was the women's belief that where the child was the mother ought to be, and this belief was at the back of their demands.

WHY I SMILE.



I happen to be one of those men who are always fit and well. No one sees me going about with a sore head and sighing like a lovesick maiden. I work hard and play hard and enjoy life all the time. Men come to me and say: "You always look cheerful, how do you manage it?" "By keeping well," I answered. "And how do you always keep well?" Then I smile.

I give such inquirers one answer. I observe some plain, sane rules of living which will keep any man well. They will keep a woman well, too. All that I say of man nearly always applies to the woman as well. I give them what I call the Turkish Bath Man's Creed of Health—ten plain rules of health. I find it a simple thing to follow them. They keep me well.

Everyone knows that the gospel I preach is right. But everyone will not carry it out. My Creed is the common Creed of all who study disease. At this time of the day no one considers a single suggestion in this Creed cranky. But people will not carry these suggestions out.

Here is an offer—it costs you nothing. Send me your address. I will send you a card with my Creed neatly printed on it. I will send it for nothing. Hang it in your bathroom; read it every morning—do it every day. You will soon begin to realise why I smile.

These rules are all easy—even the Turkish Bath. I sell a Turkish Bath which folds up into small compass and can be packed away in any corner. It can be made ready in a minute, and you can enjoy a Turkish Bath at any hour of the day, in your bed or bathroom.

I promise this of my Turkish Bath. It will induce the free perspiration which is necessary for health. It will act exactly on your system as does a public Turkish Bath. And you won't have to sit in a hot room with other nude, perspiring people, a deterrent to many who would take Turkish Baths.

This is what happens in a Turkish Bath. You perspire freely. Every tiny pore begins to act. The blood sends forth its impurities through the pores of the skin. It goes to its task of building up the body, cleared and purified through the action of the Turkish Bath.

If you have Rheumatism, Gout, Sciatica—pain caused by the solidifying of acids in the blood—the Gem Turkish Bath will give you relief and cure by sweating the acid out of you.

This is not what I say—it is so. The truth is, the modern doctor is beginning to believe that Turkish Bathing is the only method of dealing with the uric acid family of diseases. Hundreds of doctors now use and recommend my Cabinet.

If you desire to be well, send for my Creed and live up to it. Send for my Gem Turkish Bath and use it. You will be a better man in a month, if you have nothing organically wrong with you, when you start living according to my rules.

These are my terms. The Bath costs 30s. You can pay in one sum in cash on my guarantee that the Gem Bath will do what I say it does, and if it does not, and you say so within seven days, I return your 30s.; or you can make an initial payment of 10s., and pay me five monthly instalments of 4s. 6d. By this method of easy payment I do not give a free trial, and the Bath costs you 32s. 6d., but it is worth every penny of it. I cannot make you a fairer offer. I am a trader, and want a profit on what I sell. But if you test the Bath and think it unsatisfactory, I will refund your money.

Fill in the coupon and send, with remittance, to my Company, and the cabinet will be sent you by return, or write a postcard and ask for a free copy of my 100-page book and "My Creed of Health."

THE TURKISH BATH MAN.

THE B GEM SUPPLIES CO., LTD.,
22, PEAR TREE STREET, GOSWELL ROAD, E.C.

Enclosed please find M.O., value 30s., for which send me a No. 1 Bath Cabinet complete, on the understanding that, if not satisfied, I can return the Cabinet within ten days, and you will refund my money.

Name

Address

The Vote.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Thurs., Dec. 15.—Caxton Hall, "At Home," 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Rev. Hugh B. Chapman.

Caxton Hall, 7.30 p.m. Special members' meeting, Mrs. Despard.

Fri., Dec. 16.—1, Robert-street, 6.45 p.m., London Branches Council.

Sat., Dec. 17.—National Executive Committee, 11 a.m., 1, Robert-street.

Mon., Dec. 19.—Whist Drive at 29, Newman-street, Oxford-street, W., 8 p.m. S.W. Propaganda Centre, 316, Battersea Park-road.

WALES.

Montgomery Boroughs Campaign, meetings daily. Committee Rooms, 70, Clifton-terrace, Newtown. Polling day, Friday, December 16.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh.
Wed., Dec. 21.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road, 8 p.m. Lantern Lecture by Miss Grace H. Jacob, B.Sc., "The Evolution of Altruism."

GLASGOW.

Mon., Dec. 19.—Pollokshaws U.F. Mutual Improvement Society. Speaker, Miss Kirby.
Thurs., Dec. 22.—Rutherford U.F. Church. Speaker, Mr. Scrimgeour.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

Glasgow: Suffrage Centre, 302, SAUCHIEHALL STREET.
Suffrage Centre Manageress: MISS K. McARTHUR.
Hon. Secretary: MISS B. S. SEMPLE.
Hon. Treasurer: MISS JANET L. BUNTEN.
Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas.
Glasgow.

At the "At Home," on Saturday, December 3, the "Centre" was crowded with members and friends to hear Miss Chrystal MacMillan and Mr. Joseph McCabe. It was interesting to hear Miss McMillan's account of the General and Election policy and work of the sister Suffrage Society to which she belongs. Mr. McCabe is well known to Glasgow audiences, and we of the Freedom League always look forward to his visits. To the "Anti's" and the timid ones present, who have a fear that the granting of the franchise to women would result in domestic feuds and general upheaval, it must have been comforting to learn that Mr. McCabe, during his recent tour in Australia, found, after making close observation and inquiry, that instead of disaster had come reform, that the standard of political life had been very considerably raised since women got the Vote, and that we of the Mother Country could with profit learn many lessons from the colony. Our thanks are due to Miss White, who was our admirable hostess for the evening, and to Miss Stewart, who sang.

A few days previously we learned that Mrs. Despard was willing, when on her way to help the Dundonians in their Election campaign, to break her journey here on Monday to enthuse us on our way. We decided to have a reception in honour of our President. Through the kindness of Mrs. Stuart Cranston this took the form of an "At Home." When we had as speakers our two great leaders, Mrs. Billington-Greig and Mrs. Despard, it is small wonder the "Centre" was so crowded that there was "standing room only." Speaking of the present political situation, Mrs. Billington-Greig pointed out that there were indications that in the next Parliament, as in the last, the same deadlock would exist, and that the Government might, if it were wise, think it worth while to bring in a new electorate—the women—to adjust matters. As Mrs. Despard spoke of her long years of work for social and franchise reform there was a note in her voice which suggested that, in her opinion, "victory is to be ours soon." A public meeting, to be addressed by Mrs. Despard, was announced for the evening, and a good collection was taken.—J. H. GIBSON.

Arts and Crafts Exhibition, from December 12 to 24, 1910, from 10 to 6 p.m. Buy your Christmas gifts at the Suffrage Centre; pictures, metal work, painted glass and china, jewellery, Russian work, and leather work for sale. Tea served daily as usual. Admission free.

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.

A number of protests from ratepayers against the conferring on Mr. Asquith of the Freedom of the City have been sent in, but more signatures are wanted. Please remember, also, the display of Christmas goods at the shop, and let Mrs. Thomson have contributions, however small, as soon as possible.—HELEN McLACHLAN, Assistant Secretary.

The W.F.L. Office will be closed on Thursday evening, December 22nd, and will be reopened on Wednesday morning, the 28th.

Make . . .

A Real Blaze

on the Home Hearth, and help the Suffrage cause at the same time, by buying

OUR COAL.

We are constant advertisers in "THE VOTE," thus helping to support your paper. Reciprocate by giving us

A TRIAL ORDER.

We will see that you don't regret it!

Stove Cobbles	... 19/6	Large Kitchen	... 20/6
Roaster Nuts	... 21/-	Best Household	... 24/6
Special House	... 23/6	Silkstone	... 26/-

William CLARKE & SON,

341, GRAY'S INN ROAD, KING'S CROSS, W.C.

95, QUEEN'S ROAD, BAYSWATER, W.

Phones: 628 North, 1592 North, 720 Western, 565 Paddington, &c., &c. DELIVERIES EVERYWHERE.

The SHAMROCK COSTUME and IRISH INDUSTRY CO.

PATRONISED BY ROYALTY.

All Newest Serges, Tweeds, Flannels, Friezes, Blanketing, &c., NOW ON VIEW, from the OULD COUNTRY.

OLD FURS BOUGHT AND EXCHANGED FOR NEW, ALSO RENOVATED.

GARMENTS RENOVATED EQUAL TO NEW.

All Productions guaranteed IRISH.

Materials sold by the yard. Patterns sent on application.

12, SLOANE STREET, BELGRAVIA, LONDON, S.W.

Estab.
1850.

Floral Artists to
H.R.H. The Princess Christian.

Phone
2524 Padd.

CHARLES WOOD & SON

(Successor CHAS. H. W. WOOD),

23, HIGH STREET, MANCHESTER SQUARE, LONDON, W.

Every Variety of Floral Work in Town or Country. The Choicest Selection of Cut Flowers and Plants.

Orders by post receive prompt attention.

Estimates
Free.

Window
Boxes,
&c.

SPECIAL NEW YEAR NUMBER

OF

"THE VOTE."

READY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28.

Besides our usual features, it will contain contributions from such well-known writers as

JOSEPH CLAYTON, CICELY HAMILTON,
LAURENCE HOUSMAN, MAY SINCLAIR,
FLORA ANNIE STEEL, ISRAEL ZANGWILL,

AND

A Special Art Supplement, containing a New Portrait of Mrs. DESPARD, and an autograph New Year's Message from her.

PRICE 1d. AS USUAL.