

THE VOTE
March 20, 1914.
ONE PENNY.

26-3-14
THE CURTAIN RISES. By C. DESPARD.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1914.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men ;
to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between
the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Gentlemen: The King!

It is generally admitted now, throughout the Radical Press, that in the matter of Ulster, His Majesty the King intervened, and that his intervention was the reason for the amazing and otherwise inexplicable change of front of the Prime Minister. We call pointed attention to the fact that THE VOTE was the first Press organ to note and comment on this.

Hysterical?

The following excerpt from *The Daily Mail* is really precious:—

A City chemist, referring to the slight recovery in the Stock Exchange following Mr. Asquith's speech regarding Ulster on Monday, declared that his own business had had an equal appreciation.

Our business might almost be called the index to the market. As soon as stocks are in the least buoyant our business shows increased sales. As soon as stockbrokers are doing well they come in here and buy expensive bottles of lavender water, guinea sponges, and costly scents. When business is bad they become easily depressed and we do a large, though not equally remunerative, trade in salines and "pick-me-ups." In the course of one day when trade is dull we may sell as many as two or three hundred such tonics.

And this is the "sterner sex." These are the level-headed, unemotional arbiters of our national destinies. If those lines had been written of girl students at the Universities, what should we not have heard of the demoralising affects of "higher education" on the feminine stamina? But this is the Stock Exchange. And if the Stock Exchange is like that, what about the House of Commons? Will not some Westminster chemist divulge his secrets and tell us; or—for choice—one of the House of Commons waiters?

Rebuked by Facts.

Did the President of the Free Church Congress feel that, like Archbishop Crammer of old, he must burn the hand that signed the arrogant and reactionary manifesto against the appeal of Woman Suffrage to the Churches, issued just before the Congress met at Norwich last week? He and his co-signatories were sternly rebuked by facts. The challenging cry throughout the sessions was atonement for the aloofness of the Churches from efforts for social betterment. Housing, wages, temperance—there were threats of an anti-Government policy if temperance legislation were not immediately forthcoming—were discussed as of vital concern to Church work. We are glad to note that the Congress was plainly told that the Churches could not work successfully for crying reforms without the help of women as voters. It was on a Suffrage interrogation that the week's debates ended. "Why in the name of all that is common-sense, fair and right," asked a woman employer, taxpayer and Poor Law Guardian, "should not I and others like me have the vote?" Why? Because of the blindness of such men as signed the manifesto we quoted last week. Women refuse to wait for the remedying of evil conditions until, as the Bishop of Chelmsford advised last Sunday, after scolding them for drunkenness, "men became less selfish." We demand the right of effective co-operation now, not in a dim and distant future.

Significant for Women.

"The Liberal Party hates coercion. . . . Long ago the Government decided to give full and free play to all conscientious opposition, to turn a blind eye to proceedings which were technically treasonable, to make the utmost effort to meet not merely reasonable opposition, but even fears and prejudices which seemed to be groundless, to answer angry challenges with forbearance and patience."—*Westminster Gazette*, March 16. This—for militant men. Coercion and torture for militant women. Need anyone wonder women are in revolt?

Irish Militants.

At Tullamore, County West Meath, John Connell was charged with the murder of John Crowley, in the

good old-fashioned way by shooting him from behind a hedge. Connell was discharged because there was not sufficient evidence. Mrs. Mary Jane Coble, found drowned, was to have been called in evidence, and had refused to appear, so a warrant was issued to bring her into the court. At the inquest on her body it was stated that she drowned herself rather than appear, because of the threats of what would be done to her if she gave the evidence required of her. The representatives of these militants keep the Government in power, and dare to rebuke militant women! It is farcical.

The Cost of Injustice.

We should like to obtain correct—not official—information of the cost in pounds, shillings and pence of the latest Government outrage. With an army corps of police and detectives, some local, some imported, Scotland Yard and the Glasgow Corporation between them have, with strenuous and involved intrigue and violence, succeeded in "capturing" and "outwitting" an unarmed woman, one of the best-known and least mistakable in the country, whose headquarters are watched night and day with unceasing vigilance by our "public guardians wary." She was then transported by train and motor to Holloway and kept there for less than a week. Her daughter, netted by a similar widespread campaign of ineptitude and folly, ending, by a fluke, in another "outwitting" of an unofficial body of well-known women, is detained after all the fuss and disorder, for about seven days. Is it worth it? Does any one think this is profitable or justifiable use of the public money and the public resources? If we were a practical, level-headed nation, instead of being, apparently, mentally deficient, there would be a wholesale refusal to pay rates or taxes until some guarantee were provided that an end would be put to so much waste and inefficiency.

Still They Come!

Mr. Frank Morris, Chairman of the St. Marylebone board of Guardians, in a letter to *The Times* on March 13, complains of a new anomaly under the amended Insurance Act by which insured men, without homes or dependents, can enter a Poor Law infirmary, receive there maintenance, nursing, and medical attendance from the rates, can leave the infirmary cured without having incurred any charge in connection with the treatment, and can then obtain a grant of 10s. a week for the period of their stay in the infirmary as a bonus from the State to be expended in such manner as they will.

He gives an instance in which a patient, after spending three months in the infirmary at a cost of about £12 to the rate-payers, has subsequently a right to demand a certificate enabling him to obtain a sum of £6 from the tax-payers.

The workhouse infirmaries up and down the kingdom are crowded with such insured persons, though it was held that the Insurance Act would largely diminish pauperism, and one of Mr. Lloyd George's most daring batches of statistics was brought forth to prove this point: no longer would cruel mistresses send their servants to the workhouses. Let him take a fresh batch of statistics now and see how his promises have failed. In the meantime, how will the rate-payers survive this double strain?

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.
AT HEADQUARTERS.
GLASGOW'S SHAME. EUNICE G. MURRAY.
MORE RESEARCH. C. NINA BOYLE.
ADAM AND THE SERPENT. ALICE C. MOYER.
INDIAN WOMEN OF TO-DAY.
JUSTICE. C. NINA BOYLE.
THE "PROTECTED" SEX.
THE CURTAIN RISES. C. DESPARD.
THE SIGN POST. MARY MAUD.
OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN: UNITED STATES.
ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.
WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.
W.F.L. GREETSS THE WIVES OF THE "NINE."

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ORGANISERS' FUND—APPEAL FOR £500.

The Annual Conference at the end of this month marks the close of another year's work. Immediately after it we shall put into operation the new scheme for the more systematic organisation of the work of the Women's Freedom League.

The country has been mapped out with care, and formed into a network of Branches and Groups, all working in close connection with each other and in direct communication with Headquarters.

The full benefit of this scheme can only be realised by an increase in our present staff of organisers, therefore we confidently appeal to our readers to give or guarantee the balance of the £500 which is immediately required.

E. KNIGHT.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

AT HEADQUARTERS.

Caxton Hall Meetings.—Next Wednesday afternoon the speakers will be Miss Nina Boyle and Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., who will lecture on "The Century of the Child." We can promise our audience a more than usually interesting address, and we hope to see the hall crowded. The Chair will be taken at 3.30 p.m. The following Wednesday the speakers will be Miss Eunice Murray and Mrs. E. M. Moore, who will speak on "Woman and Freedom."

A reception to Conference delegates and their friends will be held at Caxton Hall, Sunday afternoon, March 29, 3.30 to 5 o'clock. Tea can be obtained in the hall, and the proceedings will be enlivened by music and speeches.

Political Meeting.—Our first political meeting after the Conference will be held at Caxton Hall, Friday evening, April 3. The speakers will include Mrs. Despard, Miss Eunice Murray, and Miss Nina Boyle, and the Chair will be taken at 8 o'clock. Admission is free, but a few reserved seat tickets are on sale at 1, Robert-street at 1s. each.

Discussion Meeting.—Monday evening, March 30, at 1, Robert-street, Miss Lucy H. Yates, author of books on Women and Money, will give an address on "The Spending Sex," in which she will deal with women's responsibilities with regard to household, municipal and national expenditure. Miss Yates speaks from knowledge and experience of financial matters about which she has constantly written for some years. A discussion will follow, in which members of the audience are invited to join. As women spend so large a proportion of the money in the country, and as every woman is interested in the spending of money, this subject should attract a large audience. The Chair will be taken at 8 o'clock, and admission is free.

Caravan Tour.—We propose to begin our caravan tour along the Great North Road on May 1. We hope it will be in charge of Miss Anna Munro the first few weeks. We shall give particulars of its send-off from London in a later issue of THE VOTE, but in the meanwhile we shall be glad to receive the support of our friends in this missionary effort. Both money and voluntary service will be needed to make this tour a success, and we confidently rely on the practical assistance of our readers.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

GLASGOW'S SHAME.

A few weeks ago the Glasgow Town Council passed a resolution in favour of Votes for Women, and it appointed its Lord Provost and Senior Baillie to wait upon the Prime Minister to inform him of their decision. And now, within a few weeks, Glasgow has brought lasting shame on itself by what happened on the night of March 9, when Mrs. Pankhurst was rearrested in the St. Andrew's Halls. Surely Glasgow is responsible for the conduct of its police, and every citizen of Glasgow has reason to blush after the exhibition of the 9th.

What happened? A great political meeting was in progress in Glasgow's largest hall. Suddenly it was invaded by policemen with drawn batons, which they used freely. Clambering on to the platform, they felled any woman who stood in their way; they kicked them aside or threw them over the platform to the arena below. When they reached Mrs. Pankhurst she, too, was knocked down, seized by the feet and dragged down a stair, bumping her head at every step.

Had the police orders to arrest Mrs. Pankhurst, they should have done so in a quiet, orderly manner; under no circumstances had they the right to ill-treat her or any other woman in the exercise of their duty. This is another object lesson of the hypocrisy and cant of men—men who declare they do not like militancy, but invariably employ it themselves. They understand neither reason, nor logic, nor sense; all that appeals to them is brute force and violence, and they constantly resort to it. If police are wanted to protect women and children in the streets, where are they?—Lurking up closes, hiding in case they may be called. But these same brave knaves can descend in their hundreds, armed and protected, to trample down women, to ill-use them and injure them for life.

I never witnessed a more disgraceful scene or one which was less called for than that in St. Andrew's Halls on March 9. Then our miserable Party Press, in describing the events, dwells at length upon the one policeman who got hurt in the affray, and forgets to mention the broken arms and heads of the brave women who, unarmed, stood there to interpose their bodies between brute force and their leader, Mrs. Pankhurst.

On this night, which was the triumph of police militancy, Ulster militancy also scored a notable victory. Mr. Asquith had been brought to his knees by the armed force of Ulster's opposition. Men do not like militancy! Why, they revel in it! It is the only argument that appeals to them. The Labour Party have proved this; the Nationalists have proved it; so have the Conservative party; and the Liberal party, ever since they came into power, have persistently practised militancy towards women. What is the value of men passing pious expressions of sympathy with our Cause when they permit such scenes to take place?

We do not want sympathy; we want Justice. Deeds, not words, is what we ask. If Mrs. Pankhurst had murdered every member of the Cabinet it would not have justified the conduct of the police. They are our servants just as Members of Parliament are; women's money is used to pay the salaries of both. I think we

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ought to refuse to pay municipal, as well as Imperial, taxes until our servants are taught their duty. The humbug that men talk about property, what is it compared to the sacredness of life? When I watched a policeman fell a girl to the ground and kick her across the platform, my only regret was that I had no weapon with which to strike him an effective blow.

Militancy provokes militancy. Women did not invent it, they have learnt it from men; they have been forced to use it, because it is the only argument the average man understands. We, who are citizens of Glasgow, feel humiliated by the disgrace that has befallen our city. It is a lasting disgrace, and one that touches us equally, men and women, Suffragist and anti-Suffragist.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

Mr. J. Harrison Maxwell, M.A., Secretary of the Glasgow University Socialist Club, writes that at the annual general meeting of the Club held on Tuesday, March 10, the following resolution was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting of the women and men Socialists of Glasgow University protests against the scandalous and inhumanly conducted arrest of Mrs. Pankhurst in St. Andrew's Hall last night, and against the infringement of civil liberties characteristic of the present Government's treatment of every progressive movement; and further declares that any obstacle placed in the way of the advancement of women to social and political equality with men is a bar to the progress of the race."

A long correspondence continues in the Glasgow and other papers, and a deputation of men, not favouring militancy, is to come to London to interview the Scottish Members of the House of Commons on the brutality of the police at Glasgow. Mr. McKenna, replying to questions on the subject, said that no directions were given by him, and that "the police simply carried out the duty imposed on them by law."

POLITICAL NEWS.

Men's Liberal Association for Woman Suffrage.

Sir John Simon, the Attorney-General, will be the principal guest at the inaugural dinner of the Liberal Men's Association for Women's Suffrage at the Reform Club, Manchester, on March 28. Mr. William Burton, M.P., will preside.

Welsh Home Rule Bill: Women Included.

In the Home Rule Bill for Wales, introduced under the Ten Minutes' Rule in the House of Commons by Mr. E. T. John on March 12, Woman Suffrage is included—roughly on the Conciliation Bill policy; some of the sponsors of the Bill favour Adult Suffrage without distinction of sex.

Scottish Home Rule Bill: Women Excluded.

At the Annual Committee Meeting of the Convention of Royal Burghs in Scotland, held in Edinburgh on March 11, it was decided, by thirteen votes to eleven, to delete the words "including women," from the report.

Scottish Women Liberals Demand a Government Declaration Now.

At a conference of the Scottish Women's Liberal Federation in Edinburgh on March 14, over which Mrs. McKinnon Wood, wife of the Secretary for Scotland, presided, a resolution was passed, by 110 votes to 96, reaffirming belief in Women's Suffrage, and calling on the Government to indicate at the earliest opportunity that they would adopt Women's Suffrage as part of their programme in a future Parliament.

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MORE RESEARCH.

Mr. Handel Booth has had a Great Thought, and has presented it to an astonished world. We are not quite sure that it should not also be considered a Great Discovery. But as Mr. Booth himself is not yet quite certain what it is or what it portends, he has been content cautiously to impart it to the public and the Press as a "curious fact" and an "interesting observation." It is this.

In the administration of the National Insurance Act, some of the trades union societies show a maternity benefit of one in nine, while other societies show only one in twenty. The maternity benefit is almost a negligible quantity in the women's societies; while, in one mixed society, £3,200 has been paid out in maternity benefit to the men and only £7 to the women. And Mr. Handel Booth is thereby nonplussed, and records these things as a "curious fact."

At first blush, on reading his observations, one is almost led into imagining that through the beneficent intervention of Mr. George, or—alternately—through the inherent perversity of women and generosity of men, a great and unprecedented convulsion of Nature had taken place, and that the fathers were now having all the babies. Not so, however. Not yet, at any rate. The "curious fact," put into other words not so open to misconstruction, resolves itself into this, that it is the married women, and mainly the married working women, who have the babies—a circumstance which might have escaped our notice had not Mr. Booth so pointedly called attention to it.

The interesting and curious information so patiently gleaned, and as yet, we fear, imperfectly assimilated by this so prominent a member of the assembly of our law-makers, embodies the simple truth that as the working classes have the largest percentage of married persons, and as married women draw maternity benefit from their husband's insurances, naturally, the trade union societies will show the heaviest maternity benefit payments and this heavy outlay will be on the male side. The married women workers working outside their homes are insured for sickness, getting maternity benefit, mainly from their husband's payments; and the great bulk of women's societies comprise servants, clerks, teachers, nurses, &c., who are mainly unmarried, and who, in very few cases, would get maternity benefit on their own insurance. The £7 paid out by the society quoted might, therefore, represent in part the illegitimate maternity insurance; and its remarkably insignificant dimensions constitutes, surely, a testimonial to the morality of the average woman worker of which the whole sex, and the nation too, may well be proud. If Mr. Booth would present us with some more of these "curious" facts, we will welcome them with joy, and will even forgive him for the subtle inference which he endeavours to draw, that there is something not too creditable to women hidden away somewhere which he has not yet been able to locate. With help, and with a little more patience, and some attention to natural phenomena, we have no doubt that Mr. Handel Booth will be able to grapple with these and other difficulties; and that a faint dawning gleam of the intention and direction of the Act, to which he lent his discriminating support will, in the fulness of time, pierce the outer husk of what we call—in courtesy—his brain, and flood it with the light of true discernment, which will show him these curious facts and interesting observations in their proper position and significance.

While waiting for that light to shine, we may permit ourselves some reflections on the impertinence with which persons, equipped with invincible ignorance on all questions appertaining to women, embark on the task of arranging their affairs for them. We hope that Mr. Booth's discovery, and the Chancellor's dismay over the discrepancy between the women's estimates and their actual requirements, are only a few of the disconcerting situations in which their meddling ministrations will land them.

C. NINA BOYLE.

ADAM AND THE SERPENT.

BY ALICE CURTIS MOYER.

I have always felt perfectly sure that when the snake came into the Garden of Eden to tempt Eve, he also had an interview with Adam. I can see him as he stood on the tip of his tail, just as the old engravings used to picture him as he conversed with Eve, and spake thusly to her spouse: "Adam, my son, whatever you do make a big noise. When your wife is about to catch you at something you don't want her to know, beat her to it. Think of something that she herself has done. If she really hasn't done anything, think of it anyhow. And reprimand her so severely that she will forget all about your own trespasses, will see herself the sinner miserable, and will beg your forgiveness. Always see to it that she begs your forgiveness for your own faults as well as for hers. You will soon find out how to make her think they are all hers, and how to make everybody see that the woman is always to blame for everything that goes wrong. And whatever you do, Adam, my boy, start something. Then start something else. And then something else. And let it be all something about women. Go on saying all round that woman 'is woman's worst enemy.' Pretty soon all the men will be saying it. Then the women will be saying it. Then the men can stop, and everybody will say that women started it, even the women themselves. 'Woman is woman's worst enemy' is a fine phrase. Make much of it. Make so much of it that people will forget how the man gives the lie to it every day by leading the unfortunate astray in the first place, thus proving that man is the worst enemy women ever had.

"And listen, son, one of the very first things you want to do is to create two standards of morals. Make a straight and narrow path for the woman, and command her to walk therein. Then let your own path lead out in many directions, straying whithersoever it will. And if the woman should ever, for one moment, swerve a hair's breadth from her way, punish her. Punish her so severely and in such a way that other women will be afraid to be seen with her. Then pat yourself on the back, lick your chops righteously, and say that if it wasn't for women's treatment of one another, things wouldn't be as they are.

"And, speaking of phrases, Adam, another very fine one is 'Just like a woman.' Whenever you see a woman exhibit spite or jealousy or some other unlovely human trait, right there, my boy, is where you must do your level best to make everybody forget how these traits are common to both sexes, and you must say in a loud voice, 'Just like a woman.' You will be surprised and gratified, son, to see how many parrot-like people will echo and re-echo the sentiment. Yes, Adam, it is a very fine phrase, 'Just like a woman.' Very fine, indeed. It sounds particularly well when rolled beneath a masculine tongue. Say it often.

"And, my boy, don't forget to talk about how women gossip. After you and your men cronies have met together and have mulled over all the scandal you can think of, real and imaginary, tell your wives about it, and get all the women to talking about it to one another. Then shrug your shoulders and tell everybody how women gossip and how they love to tear to shreds the character of some other women. But don't ever, eh! don't ever remember, son, how the scandal started.

"And, say, my boy, be sure to get in plenty of talk about the mother-in-law. It's awfully funny, that mother-in-law joke. No matter what may happen, you can usually put a good deal of the blame on your wife's mother, and everybody will believe you. The women, most of whom are in line for the position of mother-in-law themselves, will particularly appreciate the mother-in-law joke.

"And, son! don't forget about the bargain counter. When your wife asks you for money (always see to it that she has to ask you for it, Adam), look at her sternly and demand to know what she did with that forty cents you gave her last Fourth of July. Then, in her back-

breaking rush for bargains, in an effort to make two cents do the work of a dollar, you will have great sport with your imagination, telling how women pull each other's hair at the bargain counter.

"But, Adam! My son! O, my son, Adam!" And here he wept awhile on Adam's shoulder. "If women should ever get their eyes open, Adam, and should want to vote,—Oh! Adam!! My son!!!—Don't let 'em."
—By courtesy of the "Woman's Journal."

THE INDIAN WOMAN OF TO-DAY.

"We are Frontier Women," said Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the distinguished Indian poet, when speaking to the Journalists' Section of the Lyceum Club, London, on March 5. "We stand on the frontier between to-day and to-morrow. You may not understand our ideals, but I beg you to remember that the Woman's Movement is one the world over; women in this country are asking for the vote, yet the fundamental principle underlying every stage of the movement is that women are demanding the right of fulfilling their destiny."

Mrs. Naidu told of "the far-off radiant yesterdays," when the women of India made one of the most memorable pictures in civilisation at a time when India was the cradle of a civilisation so supreme that its echoes still make music in the West. The pictures in the ancient epics of India are not simply legend; they are real life. The Woman's Movement, which is recent in Europe, was realised in India 4,000 years ago, when the basis of social culture was comradeship and equal responsibility between man and woman; no act of daily life, no stately ceremony, could be fulfilled without woman. There had been deterioration, said Mrs. Naidu; things had changed and grown less worthy, but the Indian woman of to-day can have no better aim than to be like her ancestors. "We are trying to evolve a richer and fuller womanhood by assimilating the treasures the West has to give in order to enlarge the possibilities we have within ourselves. We are preparing to take our part in the great field of work and service in which the women of the West are striving so strenuously to-day."

Of the actual work being done by women in India to-day, Mrs. Naidu gave a general outline; Bengal, she said, had long been the pioneer in progress; it stood out to-day as the home of the great poet, Rabindranath Tagore, who had brought India into line with Western nations; but in all that had been accomplished the work of women had been a stimulating factor. In Bombay there are movements which stand in line with movements in Europe in work for the weak, suffering and afflicted. In Madras, in the Panjab, in the United Provinces, in the greater Native States, there is a stirring of life, a reawakening of the desire to be what Indian women were in the past—co-workers with men. Women are editing papers and magazines; they are doing excellent service as doctors; in art, literature, music, they are not imitating, but emulating the women of the West. As orators they are surpassing men, not only in speech, but in convincing appeal, in the power of touching the heart; they travel from end to end of India, and address the simple peasants of the villages as well as the cultured audiences in great towns.

The Hindu woman, Mrs. Naidu considers, is still provincial in her service and patriotism; she regards her province as India; she has not yet taken the wider view of nationality; she is also somewhat divided by caste. The Mahommedan woman, though still behind the veil, has the greater solidarity which is characteristic of her faith. The ideal of the Hindu woman is to serve; the peasant woman serves in her home; the educated women are extending their service beyond the home to the village, the town, the province, the nation. The Mahommedan woman, even though her voice may not be heard by men outside her family, has enthusiasm, large ideals, the power to overcome obstacles. Mrs. Naidu has lived for many years at Hyderabad,

the capital of the Nizam's Dominions. She told of the splendid work of the women at a time of great disaster by flood about three years ago. They said to the men: "Why are you paralysed? We are here to stand by you, to help, to serve, even while keeping our veils." And they did.

Mrs. Naidu foresees the time when the women of India will have laid aside their differences of caste and creed, and will be a great power for service in their country. The men, she maintains, will stretch out the hand of comradeship to women, and welcome their readiness to take their natural share in the service of the community. "There can never be the antagonism and organised opposition in India between man and woman," she said, "which it breaks my heart to see in this country of freedom! The women of the world," she added, "are bound together in a freemasonry that is stronger than race and creed through the great suffering and the great joy of giving the world its citizens."

In the brief discussion which followed, one speaker wondered whether Mrs. Naidu was not too optimistic with regard to the welcome Indian men would give to the co-operation of women, remembering the experiences of women in this country, but hoped they would not meet with the same disappointments and difficulties. Further particulars were given of the work Indian women are doing to-day, and special reference was made to the fact that Miss Cornelia Sorabji, a qualified lawyer, though not allowed to practice because of her sex, had been retained by the Government as legal adviser to women still behind the veil.

Mrs. Naidu's presence in this country is a great joy to all her friends and to the poets of to-day, who, with Edmund Gosse and Arthur Symonds, recognise in her one of the most gifted of poets; but there is a shadow on her visit: she is here under doctors' orders. She has recently undergone a severe operation, and is still very much of an invalid, though it is difficult to believe it when she speaks. Her audiences everywhere recognise her as "A Woman Who Counts," both in India and beyond, for a poet belongs not to one nation, but to the world.

SPECIAL "VOTE" CAMPAIGN IN LONDON.

A most enthusiastic "Rally" was held on Friday, March 13, which was largely attended by sellers. Mrs. Despard was present, and the chief business of the evening was to make arrangements for a special VOTE campaign, beginning on March 27 and ending on April 8. During this time THE VOTE must be seen all over London, and special methods of advertising our League and our Paper have been arranged. A strong appeal is made to every member of the Freedom League to help in the campaign. Communicate at once with Headquarters what time you can spare. A Committee was appointed to meet at Headquarters on Friday, March 20, at 6 p.m., to make final arrangements, and all who were not present at the "Rally" are invited to attend this meeting. The question of the badges was further discussed, and friends are informed that it is not yet too late to send in designs.

It was decided to start a special fund to advertise THE VOTE in public places. Will everyone reserve their spare coppers for this? P. LEAHY.

"Vote" Enlargement.

Amount already acknowledged £85 16s. "Anne," £1.

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JUSTICE.

Two weeks ago we alluded to the case of Priscilla Botting, given twelve months for "manslaughter" because her baby, whom she had grievously neglected, died of bronchial pneumonia. We expressed the wish to see whether any such sentence would be passed on a father whose babies died through his cruelty or neglect. This week, through the kindness of a correspondent, we are able to quote a sentence on such a father.

The *Sentinel* devotes a considerable amount of space to "a shocking story of a worthless husband." George Clark, of Wood Green, was indicted by the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children for neglecting his children. Since the summons was taken out, the baby had died. Since 1907 the family had been under observation; the mother, patient, clean, hard-working and long-suffering, the father idle and drunken, cruel and abusive. She had sometimes received 5s., sometimes 6s. a week from him during the last nine months, and 3d. the week the summons was taken out. She had gone out to work, earning 12s. a week; but since the birth of the baby had not been able to do so. A visitor found the home with the children ill, neither food, fire, nor light, and the husband drunk. The woman pleaded for him to have another chance, but owned that "he had been a beast to her." She was turned out into the street actually during her confinement; and the bronchial pneumonia of which the baby died was due to his action. He was sentenced to one month, and "looked astonished," as well he might.

This man was the "legal parent" of the dead child. He alone, in law, if the law acted on its own principles, was responsible for the care and safe-keeping of "his" children. Yet when his baby was dying, he refused to go for the doctor, and told his wife "she would be sorry" if she went. He gets one month; but if it had been the mother—not the "legal parent," but the parent of whom a judge has said, "The mother's rights (in the children) are nil; they do not exist"—who had been at fault, the bullying law that gives her neither power nor protection would have pounced on her and charged her with manslaughter. The case of Priscilla Botting was neither better nor worse than that of Clark. She had 18s. a week from her husband and earned 4s. herself; and her baby died of neglect while she drank. But her husband, the "legal parent," who has full power under the law to remove his children from the custody of their mother; who does not need to say "By your leave, or With your leave to the woman who brought the child into the world, makes no effort to place the child under proper care, but left it with the mother whom he knew all too well was an utterly improper guardian for it; and when he, as well as she, had left it to die, this "legal parent" escapes all responsibility, and the whole burden of the neglect is thrown on the parent to whom the law gives no rights and no authority.

A good deal of silly talk hovers round the persistence with which some women plead for mercy for brutal husbands. One such case, watched by Mrs. Edith Watson, proved illuminating. The sad, battered little woman who gave evidence, of the most horrible cruelty, against the man, and who then tried to beg him off, had been terrorised into this course of action by the brutal threats of what he would do to her when he came out of prison, if she did not. It is threats of this nature, and the utter lack of any protection from a bully's vengeance, that makes so many women put up with a world of brutality rather than face something worse. No police protection is granted until the threats have ended in assault! C. NINA BOYLE.

THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

Killed.

Adelaide Green, Ipswich, found dead, with Albert Wiggin. The pair had been courting; the man had a rifle between his legs with the muzzle pointing to his head; the girl's hands were clasped as if in supplication.

Elizabeth Spooner, Liverpool, aged three, found in backyard with knife-wound in her throat. Died next day in hospital. Had been seen with her father, who lived apart from her mother. He had given her sweets, had always appeared fond of his

children. Said he did not know what made him do it, and showed where he had hidden the knife. Had been drinking.

Outrage on a Daughter.

John Love Elliott, of East Grinstead, Sussex, and New York, sentenced at the Lewes Assizes to five years for immoral relations with his young daughter. The girl was in the witness box for a day and a-half; another daughter also gave evidence, and there were charges in relation to another, which were not gone into. The trial lasted eight days and was heard in camera.

Criminal Assault.

At the Lewes Assizes, before Mr. Justice Bray, the case was concluded of May Pretoria Boyce, aged thirteen, criminally assaulted on many occasions by Ernest Willmont, married man, aged thirty-four, of Hove. Sentence of fifteen months was passed.

The assaults must have begun before the child was thirteen, which constitutes a still more serious offence. The judge, however, waived this point, as the case was narrowed down to one particular date. Our colleague, Miss Hare, wrote about this case and alluded to the dreadful nature of the details dragged from the child in examination and cross-examination. What appears to have weighed with the Court was, that a child of that age could not have invented such a story—such filthy details. The Judge took into consideration "the very trying time" the prisoner had been undergoing, with this case "hanging over his head." (One jury had disagreed, and the case had to be retried.) What will appeal more to our readers is the "very trying time" brought by his filthy misconduct, not on himself, but on this unfortunate child. She was in the witness-box for three and a-half hours.

At the same Assizes, Ernest Porter, of Up Marden, convicted of assaulting another little girl of thirteen. She was gagged to stifle her screams, and almost choked. Twice she got it away, and twice he gagged her again, and then threatened to murder her, cutting her about the mouth with a knife. The child was found afterwards in a dreadful condition. Eighteen months.

The Press is entirely silent on this sentence, as on that of the man who got three months in the second division for outraging his little daughter; but all the party organs are vying with each other in indignation that six months should be all that can be given for damage to a picture!

Indecent Behaviour.

Ernest Chapman, Dock Policeman (Port of London Authority) of Tilbury, charged at Gray's Police Court on March 7 with indecent conduct to Mrs. Maude Tunstall, Chadwell St. Mary, as she was cycling into Grays. Pleaded not guilty; remanded in custody to Petty Sessions at which he pleaded guilty on March 13. Charged with similar conduct towards other women. Detective-Inspector Seeton, of the Metropolitan Police, said prisoner had come out of the Army, joined the Port of London Authority Police in 1913; he could say nothing in his favour. Chairman said it was a disgusting offence. Six weeks hard labour on each charge; three months in all. As a Dock Policeman, Chapman was ordered, with the rest of the police, to search for the miscreant in these cases—himself. Mrs. Tunstall's courage brought him to justice.

POOR SPORTSMEN.

The debate at Chingford, advertised for Tuesday, March 17, is now postponed till Tuesday, March 31, owing to the difficulty of finding an anti-Suffragist to oppose Mrs. M. W. Nevins. Even now a male champion has only consented to appear on condition that no vote is taken. Much disappointment is expressed by the members of the West Essex Women's Franchise Society, but it is such straws as these which show us which way the wind is blowing.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

The latest books available are:—

"How We Won the Vote in California." By Selina Solomons.

Price 1s. 6d.

"Prisons and Prisoners." By Lady Constance Lytton.

3s. 6d., post free, 3s. 10d.

New Edition of "Votes and Wages." By Maude Royden.

Price 3d., post free, 4d.

ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE MATINEE.

THE THREE ONE-ACT PLAYS which the Actresses' Franchise League will give on Tuesday, March 24, at the Arts Centre, 93, Mortimer-street, W., show the wide scope of the Woman's Movement. A special interest attaches to the first, "The Suffragette," as it is written by Alfred Bucklaw, who played in "The Gauntlet" during the Woman's Theatre Week; he strongly advocates the advantage to women of a knowledge of Jujitsu. "Kindly Flames," by H. Vernon Carey is a satire on popular prejudice, and in "Which?" by Evelyn Glover, the question comes up of a girl's choice between Home and Profession. An afternoon of special interest is assured when good acting and enthusiasm for woman suffrage go together, as they always do in the splendid service the Actresses' Franchise League renders to our Cause.

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IN RE REX v. WETHERALL. DEPUTATION TO SCOTLAND YARD.

DR. KNIGHT, *Hon. Treasurer.*
MISS BOYLE, *Head of Political and Militant Department.*
MISS MARGUERITE SIDLEY, *Secretary to Political and Militant Department.*
MISS SMITH, MRS. BALL, MISS RUSHBROOKE, *Members of the Militant Section.*

The above deputation waited on the Commissioner of Police, after making an application for a summons against Police Constables Wetherall and Hillier on their evidence given on oath in the case of *Rex v. Wetherall*, tried before the Common Sergeant on September 9, 1913, these constables having declared themselves to be aware of criminal relations between another police-constable and a young girl of fourteen, daughter of the landlady where the constables lodged; and knowing of this, they did not report the case.

This defence—put in to protect Wetherall from a charge of having himself committed the criminal assault—was described by Mr. Bros, the Magistrate at the North London Police Court, as “a good defence,” so that he would not suspend the constable from duty pending the trial. Bail in £5 was allowed!

The application for a summons was refused by Mr. Bros.

The Women's Freedom League has refrained from taking action sooner, because the matter was first referred to the Home Secretary, in a Memorial signed by many residents of Homerton and Hackney; the Home Secretary stated that he found no grounds for intervention. The Member for South Hackney was also approached, and expressed sympathy, but declined to see the women who waited on him at the House of Commons on the day of the opening of Parliament, and has since taken no action at all. Every Member of the House of Commons has received a pamphlet setting forth the case and the Memorial to the Home Secretary; not one has taken action, asked a question, or stirred in the matter. It has therefore been left to us to act.

The Women's Freedom League is not acting on behalf of Mrs. Parrott or her daughter. There is a wider and more serious question at stake than even the injury to this young girl. It is a matter involving the whole administration of justice in the Criminal Courts, and the protection afforded—or, rather, denied—to girls and young children.

Aiding and abetting in the commission of a crime, or having guilty knowledge of a crime and not declaring it, appear to be singularly grave offences in members of the police forces, and it is a matter for surprise that a magistrate (Mr. Bros) should have described this as a “good defence,” and that the judge should not have called the attention of the Director of Public Prosecutions to it at once.

The request, therefore, is that the Commissioner of Police invite the Director of Public Prosecutions to take action against these men; and that, in any case, they be dismissed from the Force.

The Women's Freedom League
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at 3.30.

MARCH 25th.

Speakers: **MRS. BAILLIE, B.Sc.,**
“The Century of the Child.”

MISS NINA BOYLE.

ADMISSION FREE.

ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

War and Women. By Mrs. ST. CLAIR STOBART. Preface by VISCOUNT ESHER. (London: G. Bell and Sons. 3s. 6d.)

“This book has been written solely with a view of showing that women can be of independent service in national defence.” These are the writer's words used in her introductory Proem, and the story which follows, every line of which is most interesting, is the story of the practical demonstration of her view.

For this purpose she founded the Women's Convoy Corps, a unit of sixteen women—herself as commandant—all trained for their respective work, viz., six nurses, six members for general duty as cooks, dressers, &c., and three doctors. When the Balkan war broke out, this little band, trained and equipped, were ready to prove the value of their services in time of war. The British Red Cross Society, in its blindness and stubbornness, had refused to include women in their units of foreign service.

This was the opportunity of the Women's Convoy Corps. The services of the women were gladly accepted by the Bulgarian Government. They established themselves at Kirk-Kilisse, a Turkish town under Bulgarian occupation. The difficulties that had to be overcome, and the hindrances removed, before three dirty houses could be transformed into hospital wards and one into a dwelling for the staff, form a notable romance of will-power. The simplicity and modesty with which the achievements are related, serve to enhance the interest of the story. We are naturally reminded of Florence Nightingale's work in the Crimea nearly sixty years ago. The Turks appear to have made little progress in matters of hygiene and sanitation since.

The writer received every courtesy and encouragement from the military authorities, and speaks with great appreciation of the kindness of the Bulgarian Queen, of whom she had audience on several occasions during her stay in Sofia. The Queen, being herself a trained nurse, took a sympathetic interest in the work of the Corps. Trained nursing, as we understand it, is apparently not known in the Balkan States, but there was no lack of patriotism and self-sacrifice on the part of the women who devoted themselves to the work of nursing in the hospitals. In spite of the insanitary conditions prevailing at Kirk-Kilisse, the men recovered in a manner that is marvellous. Out of 729 cases treated, only one died. Mrs. Stobart attributes this to two causes:—

1. The care and skill of the doctors and nurses;
2. The men “were free in an exceptional degree from immoral diseases.”

She gives the highest praise to the character of the Bulgarian peasant soldier. “It would be difficult, I think, to find in any country a purer, more wholesome, chivalrous type of men than those whom it was our privilege to treat.”

The venture of the Women's Convoy Corps in the Bulgarian Hospital, and the subsequent narrative of the achievement, were alike based upon the question which Mrs. Stobart asks at the commencement of her interesting book: “Ought women to take a practical share in National Defence, and to be included as an integral portion of the Territorial Service?” A practical answer has now been given in the affirmative. When an account of the successful work of the Women's Convoy Corps reached the officials of the British Red Cross Society at home their only comment was: “If we had the decision to make all over again we should make the same decision. We considered the Balkans was not a fit place for white women.” Could narrow-minded prejudice go further?

The concluding chapter of the book shows that narrow-minded prejudice in action, and Mrs. Stobart tells how the Voluntary Aid Detachments inaugurated by the British Red Cross Society, under the War Office, in which women are invited to service, are “a mere drawing-room game conducted upon the principle that women are incapable of anything but amateur nursing.” She urges that the trained and disciplined woman, efficient in every sense of the word, should be an integral part of the Territorial army, forming “a supplementary Army Medical Corps of women to act in conjunction with the Royal Army Medical Corps of men, and subject to the same authority.” As a protest against the amateurish position which women are asked to take in this serious question, Mrs. Stobart has resigned her commandship of the Convoy Corps and her long association with the Red Cross Society. B. K.

Ibsen and Woman. By T. W. LAMBERT, M.B. (New Constitutional Society for Woman Suffrage.)

T. W. Lambert writes an interesting, though somewhat cursory, essay on the subject of “Ibsen and Woman.” Truly he declares that Ibsen is not understood or appreciated by the British public, but does the British public *en masse* ever understand or appreciate genius which is out of, or above, the common order? Had it done so, woman had not had the hard task which faces her to-day to make her claims recognised. But one can hardly credit that the “English Woman's Movement” knows him but little, seeing that his plays are ever followed with interest by women, and lectures have been given on his insight into the Woman Question before most of the Suffrage societies. T. W. Lambert points out the composite soul in Ibsen, but is it not a fact that in every man is somewhere hid the feminine, as truly as in every woman is to be found the masculine? only in certain great souls perhaps the feminine is allowed to preponderate. Swedenborg discerned this truth, as, indeed, have all the enlightened men souls espousing the

Woman Movement. It is striking to recall that W. T. Stead used to say he believed why he absolutely advocated the cause of women, suffering, indeed, with and for them, was because he was himself half a woman, “and perhaps,” he added, “in some former incarnation I was a woman, and remember all her intensity of soul.” With regard to Ibsen it is of interest to point out that his biographers in tracing his intellectual greatness unhesitatingly refer it to the influence upon him of his women ancestors.

It is a great task that T. W. Lambert sets himself—to review all Ibsen's works in a brief dozen pages. Had he devoted himself to one or two of the more obviously feminist plays, it had been of greater value to the would-be student of the great Norwegian dramatist. Peer Gynt—tragedy of a lost soul—for instance, is dismissed in two brief paragraphs, and the crux of the poem—the obligation, nay command—laid upon all to attain his and her own personality (that which the orthodox call saving one's soul) without any slavish imitation of another, is not mentioned. “Ay think of it—wish it done—will it to boot—But do it! no, that's past my understanding” (Act 3, Scene 1), is the characteristic phrase of but a caricature of a personality, and although the poet gives Solveig the last word, one infers that no woman even may save another's soul, and the button-moulder and Peer Gynt are still left face to face. There seems no hope for the Peer Gynts of life but that they may be remodelled.

The keynote running through many of Ibsen's works appears this: Woman has her own exclusive privilege (which is how I define the root word prerogative) equally with man, and she must shape her life-course, not by imitating his, not even in relation to his, but wholly by her own special prerogative. Thus shall she attain to her own personality, that for which her God created her, and save her own soul alive.

HATTY BAKER.

GREEN GROW THE RASHES, O!

(A new version, with every apology to the shade of Burns.)

1. There's nought but care on ev'ry han',
In ev'ry hour that passes, O;
What signifies the life o' man,
An' 'twere na for the lasses, O?
Green grow the rashes, O!
Green grow the rashes, O!
The sweetest hours that e'er we spend,
Are spent among the lasses, O!
2. Our worldly men may riches pen,
Seek place an' power tae haud them a',
But what's this race tae woman's grace
An' virtues—men ne'er head, ava.
Green grow the rashes, O!
Green grow the rashes, O!
The sweetest hours that e'er we spend,
Are spent among the lasses, O!
3. It ne'er was pelf, nor sordid wealth,
That raised the mind o' nations, O,
But mutual aid 'twixt man an' maid
Wha move in different stations, O.
Green grow the rashes, O! &c.
4. An' weel ye ken that there are men,
Wha ridicule the lasses, O;
An' they're the men, wha in the en'
That couldna boil their tatoes, O.
Green grow the rashes, O! &c.
5. They think they've only rabbit brains,
An' quite unfit tae reason, O;
An' little think how much they're worth—
Tae mould our future scions, O.
Green grow the rashes, O! &c.
6. An' you sae douce, wha sneer at this,
Ye're nought but senseless asses, O;
An' you sae blin'—I mean within—
Then ye maun wear some glasses, O.
Green grow the rashes, O! &c.
7. Auld Nature swears the lovely dears
Her noblest work she classes, O;
Sae we that's here should hold them dear,
Tae rear and mould the masses, O.
Green grow the rashes, O!
Green grow the rashes, O!
O! when will men allow the vote—
In justice, tae the lasses, O!
8. How can a Miss be fit for this,
While she's denied her freedom, O—
Tae use an' train her dormant brain
By acting—through the Franchise, O?
Green grow the rashes, O!
Green grow the rashes, O!
At last when women get the vote,
They'll rule the Cabinet Asses, O!

Glasgow.

R. L. B.



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FRIDAY, March 20, 1914.

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: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraph 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.

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THE CURTAIN RISES.

Let us not, for a single moment, imagine that there is anything real in it! Here are a crowd of people agape for sensation; there is the great Play-House. Between House and People are the Players. The blinds have been down: sounds, of hammering and rumbling—such as generally attend the shifting of scenes—have been audible; they have gone on for some considerable time, and the sensation-loving people have grown impatient. Silence at last! The curtain is moving, it rises on a new comedy. Listen intently. Mr. Asquith, the Man in the Mask, inscrutable, the man who will go down to posterity as typical of the timid lawyer-mind, is speaking.

Something has moved him, for he speaks with emphasis, deliberation and apparent conviction. The party politician, like the actor, has his emotions under strict control. What he fears, what, at all hazards, he would avert, it appears, is a breach in the nation's peace. Therefore he rings in, as the first act, generous concession to an adversary whom, naturally, he does not dread; but whom he would, even at some risk to himself, hold back from acts of dangerous folly.

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That might please some of the principal actors very well. They are prepared neither for civil war, nor for an appeal to the country. But this Home Rule business must be got out of the way; and, unfortunately (some people are so absurdly logical) it must be Home Rule for Ireland; not a part of Ireland, but the whole island. Therefore there must, at least, be a show of determination. The waiting audience shall see Home Rule for Ireland made law, and after that the Man in the Mask will make his appeal to the country; possibly, being a little tired of the unrehearsed plays which, in all their crude vitality, have been forced upon his attention of late, he may make his bow to the House of Commons Play-House and seek dignified retirement elsewhere.

How cleverly the play is planned! If the Liberals return with a majority the verdict of the country will be given; if the Tories gain a victory responsibility will fall upon their shoulders, for—as all good Liberal party-men believe—a very short period. Labour, Irish Nationalists, even Socialists, would combine to sweep the Tory off the stage and the blessed party of compromise—dare we add humbug?—would resume its ancient sway.

This may be mere romancing. Possibly the curtain may be rung up on a different set of scenes, for, in fact, even those who are inside and who pull strings to make the puppets dance, meet sometimes with staggering surprises. That, however, which we wish to emphasise is the extraordinary unreality of the whole business. Outside, things are real enough. Through the nation a new life is throbbing. It has its disturbances, its excesses,

its pulses of bitter pain. Women, who can bear the horror no longer, are in full revolt. Some of the best of men are ashamed, others are wrathful over the state of society. Life, reality, poignant feeling, passionate calls to action are everywhere, and—the politicians go on with their infinitely small game. Tories, Liberals, ringing the changes; expecting the changes to be rung continually; loaves and fishes for each in turn; and, perpetually, the people hoodwinked. Do not the workers, do not the women know that, if they seemed dangerous, the combined forces of these ancient stage enemies would be directed against them? Why, at the present moment, the House of Commons, supposed to be the People's Home, the hearthstone of their liberties, is as much apart from them and their interests as the ship with its freight of terrified passengers is apart from the raging sea, until "in a moment, like a drop of rain she falls into its depths."

Yet there are those who expect something great, something epoch-making from the Man in the Mask and his praisers. They are doomed to disappointment. Where hypocrisy has become, consciously or unconsciously, a watch-word; where politicians, with their tongues in their cheeks, prate eloquently about justice and wink at injustice; where life is a long, incarnate lie, we shall continue to have play-acting in high places.

It occurs to us sometimes, in the midst of the make-believes of our modern life, to crave for the directness of the prophets of an elder and simpler day. "Stand up on thy feet like a man"—not a politician, he is only the hundredth part of a man—"for I will demand of thee and answer thou me!"

Answer, Man in the Mask; answer, suave word-builders in the House of much talk! Of what similitude is the world that you have made? You pretend that justice, freedom, physical happiness and spiritual aspiration are the right of all. What room is there for them in the world that you have built up and that you control? You speak blandly of briskeer industry, of greater security, of decreasing labour agitation. Some of you, like the Bishops and Mr. Samuel, accuse woman of failure in duty because she tries to limit her family and because—heaven save the mark!—she is not sufficiently alive to the importance of her morality; because, in fine, she dares to claim equal humanity with men.

But all this boasting, all this superiority, will not save you. Answer—not to women, not to men; but to the Destiny which you, in your high office, have moulded. This world of yours—are you proud of it? Do you wish it to continue as it is? You may say that is no concern of yours. Possibly you may find before long that it does concern you and yours very deeply indeed.

You are calling your players together—rehearsing your parts—preparing the scenic effects that are to be placed before the country. But presently you may find to your consternation, that others also have been busy. Something new, something first undreamed of and then scorned, may dare to come out upon your stage. Persons as shrewd as the Man in the Mask, but without his prudence, have been taking notes. They are asking for a clean Government, with business methods. There are others in the field—those who have observed your treatment of voteless, unrepresented women, and who, converted to woman's Cause rather by you than by them, have determined to make her demand the first upon their programme. And woman herself, learning through sorrow; growing stronger, even by reason of her mistakes, forming the qualities that the Redeemer of the World's woe needs—woman is there also, a threatening figure!

Stand up on your feet, politicians and answer. For—let us make no mistake about it!—the curtain is rising. Into the field of fate something new is advancing. Not comedy; nor, we fervently hope, tragedy; but drama, instinct with the poignant realities of life!

And the actors in this drama—who are they? Not the Man in the Mask; soon he will play his last part;

not even the amiable and voluble Chancellor; he, like another big talker in the Cabinet, is being found out. None of these; but—rebels! Of what their rebellion means and promises and of its ethical significance we will write in a later issue.
C. DESPARD.

The Sign-Post.

THE BISHOPS AND THE "LITTLE WORD."

In solemn Convocation the Bishops sat. A veritable Bombshell had been thrown into their midst.

We women of the outside world—for though it is mostly women who uphold not only Church-going, but *voluntary* work for the Church with money and service—have no rights, and consequently very little interest, in the proceedings of the grave and reverend gentlemen in Convocation.

Yet this bombshell did appeal to us. Is it possible that at the thought of the scene some of us even dared to smile?

"That the word 'obey' be omitted from the marriage service!"

Oh, bold Bishop, to fling such a challenge in the midst of your startled, not to say horrified, Brethren!

True, the "amendment" was withdrawn.

The "Intrepid Champion,"

as he was called (and our very good friend) who brought it forward.

Withdrew it in—wisdom or despair?

Later on—not this year, but next year or the next after that, they might hope that it might become their duty to discuss these great social problems.

But not now—oh, not now!

Is it possible that not one Bishop smiled? Or is there such a weight of dead-and-gone Ecclesiastical atmosphere stifling a Convocation that nothing real and vital can get itself discussed there, and all sense of honour is left severely outside?

"Love, honour, and obey,"

so says the woman.

"With all my worldly goods I thee endow," says the man.

No one has yet suggested deleting the latter sentence, and no man—I think this may be truthfully asserted—has ever thought he was bound to carry out the promise.

It is possible to endow a person with all your "worldly goods?"

It should be impossible

to relegate to another the God-given right and necessity of retaining your own individual judgment and individual responsibility.

Speaking broadly, neither the man nor the woman concern themselves very greatly with either of these promises in the Marriage Service. They just jog on in the usual give-and-take of life; it is only when an appeal to the Law becomes necessary that the wording of the Marriage Service affects the judgments of the judge and their jurors.

Then Church and State together enforce submission

on the part of the wife. But never have they enforced even the sharing

of his "worldly goods" on the part of the man. He may almost starve and neglect his wife and children, he may leave all his "worldly goods" to his mistress or a Dog's Home, and neither Church nor State try and enforce his "promise" on him.

"Woman's sphere is the home."

We cannot insist on this too often. It is the mutual dictum we share with our Anti friends.

But—say the reverent Gentlemen in Convocation—"there must be some reference to the

leadership of the man in the home," and "It is obvious to everyone that it would be inconvenient to have

two heads of a family!"

So even when—in the fulness of time—the Bishops do allow themselves to

handle this great social problem,

they hope to see to it that the *fact*, if not the *word*, is still insisted on, for this is "perfectly compatible with the full and indefeasible *spiritual* equality of the two partners."

Well, well, St. Paul himself allowed he "sometimes spoke as a man, and foolishly!"

We outside Convocation—Women, with a knowledge of the degradation that man has imposed on women with his

State and Church idea of supremacy—

for degradation in some degree is inevitable when one human soul submits itself to another's sense of right and wrong—we say that we, as well as men.

"To our own Master stand or fall,"

and that Master is neither Church nor State, neither man nor man-made laws and customs, but "the Christ within us!"

The hope for the glory of the future.

MARY MAUD.

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

Head of International Department: MRS. HARVEY, 4, Cleveland-gardens, Ealing, London, W.

A Postponement.

Owing to unexpected and unavoidable circumstances it is necessary to postpone the news from Germany till next week.

UNITED STATES.

Concentrating on Congress:

Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, a member of the Executive of the Congressional Union, has sent us the following article concerning the Woman's Suffrage movement in America:—

A surprising impetus has been given the Suffrage movement in the United States through the efforts of the Congressional Union (the newest branch of the Suffrage organisation, a group of dauntless women whose goal is complete victory). This society, formed less than a year ago, is composed of people from all parts of the country, who are co-operating in an endeavour to secure an amendment to the National Constitution enfranchising all American women.

When the National Woman Suffrage Association was organised by Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and their associates in 1869, its object was to secure a sixteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution which would enfranchise women. In the same year the American Woman Suffrage Association, with Rev. Henry Ward Beecher and Lucy Stone as leaders, was formed, and a policy adopted to obtain Suffrage for women through amendments to the individual State constitutions. In 1890 the two bodies united, and since then both methods of work have been followed, with the result that in ten of our Commonwealths women are now eligible to vote for President of the United States, about four million in all, thus bringing the question of equal suffrage into the realm of national politics.

The time being ripe for the formation of a society to devote its efforts exclusively to the winning of an amendment to the National Constitution, a group of enthusiastic young women pledged themselves to concentrate on that department of the Suffrage work, and for this purpose organised the Congressional Union in the spring of 1913. That conditions have been created which make such a society necessary is significant of the complete change in the Suffrage movement of this country; and that the leaders of the Congressional Union have proved equal to the emergency and the demands made upon them is evidenced by their remarkable achievements during the brief period of the Society's existence, which in September last elicited the following tribute from the Rev. Anna Howard Shaw:—

"There has never been a year, within the last twenty at least, when so much active, energetic and successful work has been carried forward with Congress. Almost unbelievable results have been secured."

The Legislatures of four Western States—Nevada, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota—have passed the Bill submitting the question of equal suffrage to the voters, and the elections next November will decide the political fate of the women in those States.

Ohio, Nebraska and Missouri suffragists are circulating petitions, and if a sufficient number of signatures are secured, these three States will also vote on the measure in the autumn of this year. The Legislatures of New York, Pennsylvania and

Iowa have approved the Bill, but their laws require the approval of two successive Legislatures before any measure is sent to the electorate for final action. Therefore, under existing laws, the vote cannot be taken in the three States referred to until November, 1915. Meanwhile, we have an excellent chance of winning four States this year, and possibly seven.

Suffrage sentiment is seething in all parts of the country; new organisations are springing into life in the remotest sections; and it is safe to say that the Press devotes more space to the question than to any other one subject. Altogether, the year 1914 promises to be the greatest in the history of the sixty years struggle for the political freedom of American women.

ALVA Z. BELMONT.

How the Eight Hours' Day Works in California.

The eight hour law for women, as applied to nurses in training has been upheld by the Courts in a test case, decided at the end of 1913. The statement sounds commonplace, and yet it is an important matter. Hospitals and doctors, some of them, have fought the extension of the eight hour law to undergraduate nurses, and have declared it impossible of enforcement.

The reasons given remind me of what was said two years ago, when the first general eight hour law for women and girls was passed. It was a popular measure. Many people adjusted themselves to the time limits without objection. But there was a noisy minority then as now. Test cases were begun in the courts. It was declared that hotels and restaurants had to serve the public at any and all hours. Proof readers assured us, that newspapers had to be printed and unlimited proof reading was necessary. And so on and so on. If we had believed all the objectors said, we should have seen that women alone made the world go round. But the court decision upheld the new law. The minority subsided promptly. The public has not been inconvenienced, and the women have had a blessed relief from over work.

So when the doctors assured us that the extension to nurses in training was unconstitutional, that it made an unwarranted distinction between undergraduate and graduate nurses, that undergraduates never could secure full training in serious work on account of the arbitrary time limit, and that life would be sacrificed to the clock, many of us smiled, remembering the objections of two years ago, and the threatened abolition of hotels, restaurants, and newspapers. We waited the expected decision.

Nurses in training are almost as helpless as the apprentices of a former age. Their diplomas depended on their absolute submission to all rules and commands. As one person expressed

it in debate in the legislature, they graduate with a diploma and a floating kidney from overwork.

The law will be enforced strictly. The public will be well served. The women and girls will be protected.

And the eight hour law, will be extended again, and yet again, until all the exceptions now on the statute books disappear one by one. Eight hours is as long as anyone, apprentice or skilled worker, should work. The California eight hour law, includes the forty-eight hour a week limit, six work days, and one rest day weekly.

ALICE PARK.

Mrs. Flora Annie Steel Insulted.

On reaching New York, on March 13, Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, the gifted novelist and President of the Women Writers' Suffrage League, who was travelling with her nephew second-class for the sake of local colour, was questioned by the Immigration Officer as to her plans and finances, and was afterwards informed that she was certified by the Immigration Doctor as suffering from senile debility, and that she could not be allowed to land, as there was a danger of her becoming a public charge. *The Times* correspondent adds:—"Mrs. Steel declares that she nearly shrieked, as her own doctor had assured her just before her departure from England that she ought to be able to work until she was a hundred. She told the officials that her account of the experiences she was having with them would be worth £30 in a London newspaper. This appears to have struck the officials as a slight proof of her sanity and, after questioning her for another quarter of an hour, they told her nephew to take good care of her and released her. Such experiences, said Mrs. Steel before leaving for Jamaica, 'are good to laugh at afterwards, but are far from agreeable.'"

The Cost of Armed Peace.

Whether your shell hits the target or not
Your cost is five hundred dollars a shot.
You thing of noise, and flame, and power,
We feed you a hundred barrels of flour
Each time you roar. Your flame is fed
With twenty thousand loaves of bread.
Silence! A million hungry men
Seek bread to fill their mouths again!

Life and Labour.

"It's a Her."

"Have you any employee who doesn't talk base ball, horse racing and prize-fighting all the time?"
"Yes."
"Where did you get him?"
"It isn't a him; it's a her."

Washington Herald.

An Invitation from Austrian Suffragists.

The National Council of Women in Austria cordially invites the members of the International Council of Women to Vienna, from May 25 to 28, to rest after the fatigues of the Quinquennial Congress in Rome. Arrangements will be made for guests to become acquainted with the Austrian women, with the remarkable treasures of art and the beauties of the surrounding country, and their presence will greatly help the Feminist Movement in Austria. From Vienna visitors may easily travel to Dresden and Leipzig. At Leipzig the great International Graphic Exhibition will be a great attraction this year.

In South Africa—Rejected, then Carried.

In the House of Assembly, on March 12, Mr. Wyndham again moved the first reading of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill, which was introduced by him and negatived by forty-three votes to forty-two on February 18. The motion was then adopted by sixty-two votes to thirty.

The Traffic in Women: Action Taken in Turkey.

An important representative meeting was held on March 12, at the American Embassy in Constantinople in connection with the International Association for the Protection of Young Girls. Among those present were the British, German, and Italian Ambassadors, Baroness von Wangenheim, wife of the German Ambassador, the Belgian and Rumanian Ministers, and the Turkish Ministers of Commerce and of Posts and Telegraphs. After a speech by Mr. Coote, the secretary of the International Bureau for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic, Mr. Morgenthau, the American Ambassador, submitted a resolution in favour of forming an organisation called the Constantinople Association for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women. The resolution expressed appreciation of the hearty co-operation pledged to it by the Imperial Ottoman Government through a letter from the Grand Vizier, which was read at the meeting. Sir Louis Mallet, the British Ambassador, also addressed the meeting. A feature of the proceedings was the presence of two Turkish ladies, one of whom is a distinguished writer.

Next week: GERMANY.

A HINT WORTH TAKING.—Are you thinking that the lighter days are making your clothes look very shabby? If so, go or write to Messrs. D. H. Evans, Oxford-street, and you will find an excellent choice of hard-wearing coats and skirts, also afternoon dresses in silk and fancy material, with coats at prices which fit every pocket. The crowning touch may be given to the outfit in the millinery department, where artistic hats to match every kind of costume may be found; also motor veils which are the last word in comfort and convenience.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

(Now Including Branch and District Funds.)

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1913, £19,320 5s. 5d.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged:	19	320	5 5 5
General Election Fund—			
Mrs. H. F. Brown	3	0	0
Special Levy for General Election—			
Miss E. Gore Browne	4	0	
Bowes Park Branch	6	0	
Brighton and Hove Branch	2	0	
Clapham Branch	11	6	
Harrow Branch	4	6	
Middlesbrough Branch	15	2	
Mid-London Branch	1	3	6
Sheffield Branch	16	6	
South Shields Branch	1	0	
Waterloo Branch	1	1	0
			5 5 2
Organisers Fund—			
Mrs. H. F. Brown	2	0	0
Bye-Election Fund—			
Mrs. Mustard, per Hackney Branch	5	0	
Political and Militant Fund—			
Miss J. Maxwell	5	0	
Mrs. Despard	15	0	0
Miss J. E. Reckitt	5	0	0
Dr. Knight	5	0	0
Mrs. Graham Moffat	5	0	0
Lady Treacher	2	0	0
Miss E. E. Gill	1	12	8
Mrs. Fisher	1	1	0
Mrs. Baillie Weaver	1	0	0
Miss M. I. Saunders	1	0	0
Mrs. Huntsman	18	0	
Mrs. Adams	10	6	
Miss Lucie James	10	0	
Miss B. Kent	5	0	
Dr. Tudor, per Dr. Bouchier	5	0	
Mrs. Tudor, per Dr. Bouchier	5	0	
Miss M. E. Wall	5	0	
Miss M. E. Fox	2	6	
Miss Cardo	2	6	
Mrs. Jennens	1	0	
Mrs. Arthur	1	0	
Mrs. Cope	1	0	
Mrs. Keemo	1	0	
Miss Parker	1	0	
Mrs. Stuart	1	0	
Profit on THE VOTE, per Miss Read	1	3	
Tickets	12	12	6
Collections	9	11	4
Christmas Present Sale	18	2	
Office Sales	19	7	
Branches—Capitation Fees—			
Hackney	1	11	0
Harrow	1	0	0
Kensington	1	6	
Nine Elms	17	0	
Paisley	10	0	
South Shields	12	0	
Winchester	6		
			£712 7 1

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South Western Bank, Ltd." To Branch Treasurers.—In future Branch and District Funds will be added to the National Fund, and for this purpose a list should be sent monthly to the Hon. Treasurer.

CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAYS."

In presiding at the meeting at Caxton Hall last Wednesday afternoon Miss A. A. Smith made some very interesting and illuminating comments, from a suffragist point of view, on some of the Prime Minister's statements on the Home Rule Bill.

Mrs. Nevinson, who had chosen the subject "The Past, Present and Future of the Woman Suffrage Movement," said that women's fight for independence was a very old one. There was evidence of it in the time of the Ptolemys, in early Saxon times, and British women had always fought for this right. In 1905 women went to prison merely for asking a question at a political meeting. Thenceforward women determined to make the country ring with their question. They were told to "go home and get married," but by this time every one in the country has heard about Votes for Women. Mrs. Nevinson reviewed the history of suffrage Bills from 1907, and said that it was difficult to believe that the Speaker's ruling on the Reform Bill was not a plot hatched as the result of signals of distress from the Liberal Party. In the early stages of the women's agitation women received sentences of three months' imprisonment for walking towards the House of Commons, two women were sentenced to six weeks for merely standing still near the House, but a week or two ago, men who held illegal meetings there were told by the magistrate that they should behave nicely, and when they refused the magistrate said, "Very well, I must discharge you!" Mrs. Nevinson denounced the snobbery of the present Government, and said it was the worst Government we had ever had, worse than the Cabal; it was most unpopular in the country, its ministers had stained their hands by gambling in Marconi shares, and had insulted the nation by raising

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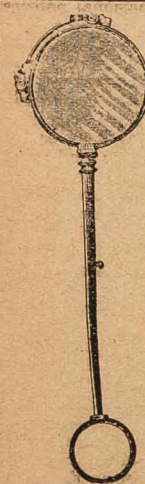
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SUPPORT THOSE ADVERTISERS WHO SUPPORT US.

Sir Rufus Isaacs to the Lord Chief Justice-ship. Mrs. Nevinsan said she was not in favour of having to convert every fool in the land before woman suffrage was granted. This had not been demanded of the promoters of other causes, and Parliament ought to anticipate the needs of a nation. In discussing what women were to do now, Mrs. Nevinsan admitted that the question was a difficult one: although she believed that even if women sat still and did nothing but crochet work for the rest of their lives, the vote would come—it was part of evolution.

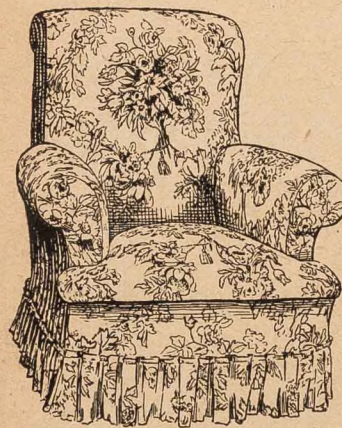
Mrs. Huntsman made an urgent appeal for funds for our Caravan tour, and Miss Andrews made an excellent speech on the subject of "Political Immorality."

THE W.F.L. GREETES THE "WIVES OF THE NINE" AT SOUTHAMPTON.

Members of the Southampton Branch of the Women's Freedom League, including the energetic secretary, Mrs. Goodyear, Mrs. Charlton, Mrs. Leigh Rothwell, etc., were astir early on Thursday morning, to greet the wives and daughters of three of the deported "Nine" from South Africa, and to convey to them a hearty welcome to our shores. With the fragrant little nosegays of New Forest primroses, which with snow on the mountain foliage, represented the League colours, Mrs. Bain, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Poutsma and their daughters, enjoyed their first whiff of English spring, and the warmth and sympathy of the greetings they received quite atoned for the dull and dismal one accorded them by the weather. Besides welcome and greetings, the Women's Freedom League by their presence at the Docks were protesting, as is their policy, against injustice dealt out, not only to our colonial sisters, but to humanity. The send-off at the train, seemed also a conclusive refutation to the anti-argument that women "cannot think imperially." Was the "lady" in a first-class carriage, who hissed so loudly as the train went off, a first-class anti, or merely a first-class goose?

The London Reception will be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on March 30, at 8 p.m. The Women's Trade Union League, the Women's Labour League, the Railway Women's Guild, the Women's Co-operative Guild and the National Federation of Women Workers are uniting in their efforts to make this unique event memorable in the annals of the Movement. Speeches of welcome will be made by representatives of the five women's Industrial Organisations. Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, Chairman of the Women's Trade Union League, will preside; and Miss Mary Macarthur, Dr. Marion Phillips and Miss Llewelyn Davies will convey to the exiles hearty greetings on behalf of their respective organisations. The South African Leaders will reply, and it is hoped that Mrs. Bain and Miss Poutsma, who is a B.A. of Rhodes College, will again speak, as they did at the informal gathering at Waterloo Station on March 12.

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WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

Women Chainmakers—Minimum Wage Not Paid.

Owing to a provision in the Trade Board Act dealing with the compulsory operation of the minimum wage for six months, the Cradley Heath chain-makers are again in trouble. For these women the Chainmaking Trade Board fixed minimum rates of wages in 1910, but the wages were only immediately obligatory in the case of employers who failed to obtain the consent in writing of their employees to contract out of them. In 1910 the women, led by the National Federation of Women Workers and the National Anti-Sweating League, refused consent, and the result was a sensational lock-out of the women, who, helped by the generosity of readers of *The Daily News*, won a victory, and obtained the minimum rates without delay.

To these original rates the Trade Board has just added 10 per cent., the application of which the employers are once more endeavouring to postpone. The women threaten again to refuse to work. An enthusiastic meeting of the women was held recently at the Chainmakers' Institute at Cradley Heath, where, after speeches by Mr. Thomas Sitch, secretary of the Chainmakers' Union, Mr. J. J. Mallon, secretary of the Anti-Sweating League, and Mr. Charles Sitch, it was resolved to call for a conference of the local employers with a view to obtaining the immediate payment of the new minimum rates.

Fined for Cold Workroom.

When a factory inspector entered the boxmaking factory of Edward Gurteen, Sugar House-lane, Stratford, E., he found the temperature of a room in which two young women were working to be 35 degrees Fahrenheit. Seven panes of glass in the windows were broken, and the temperature outside was from 30 to 33 degrees. When Gurteen was summoned at West Ham recently for having failed to keep the room warm, the inspector, Mr. T. M. Barlow, said that Gurteen in October last had been told that the room required artificial heating. Boxmakers, said the inspector, required a temperature of at least 50 degrees. Gurteen's defence was that he had been ill and his foreman had been away from the factory on business. A fine of £5 and 12s. 6d. was inflicted.

Sweated Women Brush-makers.

Mrs. Bernard Drake in this month's *Women's Industrial News* in her powerful "Study on the Brush-making Trade," with reference to Government contracts, exposes another sweated trade in which women are disgracefully under-paid owing to lack of organisation. The quickest woman worker can only earn 4d. an hour, the earnings of the average woman ranging from 3d. to 3½d., or 9s. to 12s. a week, whilst the standard wage for an adult workman is 30s. a week. Mrs. Drake explains the nature of the work and the proposals which are being made by the Women's Co-operative Guild either for a fair living wage for women or legal protection for a sweated trade. All interested in the welfare of industrial women workers should read the survey of the work undertaken by the Women's Industrial Council, which forms the central article in an issue that teems with interesting matter concerning the well-being of the great industrial classes of women.

WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC: WHAT IS NEEDED.

Last Monday evening at 1, Robert-street, Mr. E. B. Lloyd opened a discussion on the subject, "Who are the White Slave Traffickers?" He said that the problem of prostitution was six thousand years old, and was due to a thousand and one causes, and claimed that 50 per cent. of those now recruiting its ranks were driven there by poverty. He blamed women for their attitude towards their more unfortunate sisters. Men had imposed ignorance of these matters on their women folk, but women had been content to remain in ignorance. Mr. Lloyd declared that we wanted a more honest social system, more frank discussion of this and kindred subjects between men and women, a fair remuneration for all women's work, and a more even balance of the good things of life for all men and women.

A long and interesting discussion followed, in which nearly every member of the audience took part. The meeting closed with a very cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Lloyd.

In Aid of the "NINE ELMS" School Clinic.

The M. C. H. Dramatic Society

TUESDAY, March 24, at 3 p.m.,

Will Present

LONGFELLOW'S "HIAWATHA"

(Dramatised by KATE HARVEY.)

AT THE

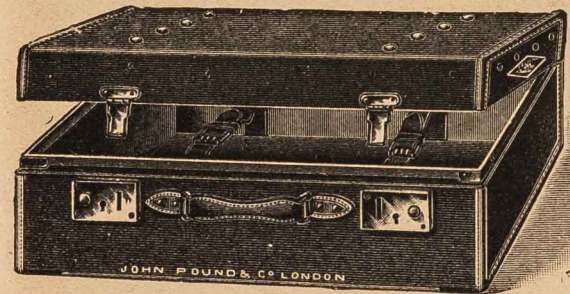
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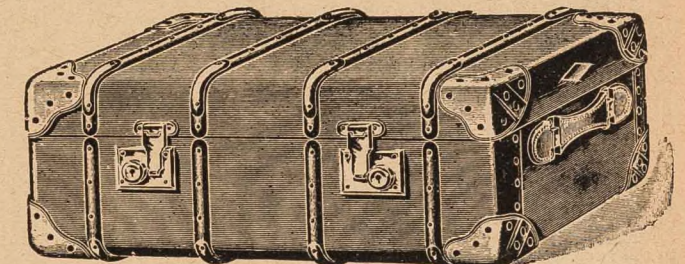
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YOUNG UNIONISTS WANT VOTES FOR WOMEN.

At a Women's Freedom League meeting in the Primitive Methodist Hall, Middlesbrough, on March 9, over which Mrs. Schofield Coates presided, Mr. James Reid, prospective Unionist candidate for Middlesbrough, made a fighting speech for woman suffrage. He said that he had believed for a good number of years that representative government was only half developed when there was no real, direct and effective representation of the views of women. The women's question was not a question of political opinion; rather was it a question of developing the intellectuality of the country. Political parties in the country would only legislate just in proportion as public opinion was developed on the question. He did not advocate force except as a last resource. If reason failed, then he was never against force, but he deplored force at the present time because the Cause was succeeding with reason. It had been urged that if women got the vote they would not know how to use it. The wonder to him, having regard to the disabilities under which women had suffered, was that they had manifested such genius. It would not fail them when they got the vote. Mr. Reid added, and that was its great moving force—there was practically unanimity in the belief that women should have the right to exercise the vote.

Miss Nina Boyle said the movement was out to control expenditure and the right of the whole of the people to be represented. She said that she had been at twenty-two by-elections. It distressed her greatly to see into what a mire of insincerity and foolishness and dishonesty man had allowed his politics to fall. In paying Members of Parliament £400 a year, the country was paying the highest wages for unskilled and inferior work. Women being experienced in the details of expenditure, would be able to effect a great saving in the national bill.

With regard to other meetings at which Miss Boyle spoke during her stay in Middlesbrough, the hon. secretary of the Branch writes:—"On Tuesday two open-air meetings were held—one at noon at the Dock Gates, and the second in the evening at Borough-road Corner—at both of which Mrs. Schofield Coates presided, and an address was given by Miss Boyle. In spite of the intense cold on Tuesday evening, Miss Boyle held the attention of a very large crowd for over an hour. On Wednesday, at noon, several of the members met at the station to bid Miss Boyle good-bye; the display of our colours and the waving of flags attracted a good deal of interest and attention

THE CHURCH OF THE NEW IDEAL. Organised and Controlled by Women.

We publish with pleasure the following information which we have received from Miss M. Hoy, Highbury, Marlowe-road, Wallasey, Cheshire:—

"We feel that the readers of your journal will be interested in the fact that Wallasey, Cheshire, is about to start a Women's Church, to be administered entirely by women, and it is likely that many would wish to know the reason why such a Church should be started. For some years past, women have more and more felt the very unsatisfactory conditions under which they were allowed by men to do so much of the Church's work, with so little voice in the management of the many interests that touch the spiritual welfare of women and children. And seeing the great and glorious strides women have made towards a fuller and freer life, the Church should have been the first to lend a helping hand. Yet what do we see—with but rare exceptions—an entirely unsympathetic attitude on the part of the clergy to things that mean so much to the majority of the women of their congregations. To many the Church has seemed like a cage, and at last many women have come away in sheer disgust at the attitude of the clergy towards the things which to the women are dearer than life.

There is yet another large body of women who have never been attracted to the Church and who remain outside any religious organisation, and yet who feel the need of Christian fellowship. So, over a fireside chat, it was resolved that something should be done to meet the needs of woman at present outside the Churches. There have been many obstacles to overcome, but at last all details have been settled. Our first Women's Church is to start in the Liscard Concert Hall on Sunday, March 22, with a service for women only in the afternoon, and for men and women in the evening—and on Monday March 23, the Rev. Hatty Baker, who is coming from Plymouth to inaugurate the services, will give her lecture 'Women in the Church,' in the same hall.

"What will be the outcome of this step, we cannot prophesy. The women's great idea is that they may in a service, free from all dogma, find free expression and opportunity to serve Christ and their fellows. We feel that men as well as women will help us in our desire for freedom of thought and action."

Miss Hoy, "Highbury," Marlowe-road, Wallasey, Cheshire, will be very glad to hear from all who are interested and able to give personal or other help to the movement.

BRANCH NOTES.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly on one side of a sheet of paper, leaving a margin on the left, and address them to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.? A halfpenny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside. All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Monday mornings.

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

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Croydon.—Office, 32A, The Arcade, High-street.

Owing to bad weather on March 13 our meeting was not so well attended as usual; but those present heard a most excellent address by Miss Tawney on "The State Registration of Nurses." The Literature, Merchandise and Vote Secretaries would be glad of more support from members. At least double the business should be done, if all members would do their utmost to help those who have undertaken this work for the Branch. Will every member see that she does her share towards making the Public Meeting on March 23 a great success, and be at the hall by 7 p.m.?

Clapham.

Two business meetings have been held to discuss resolutions and amendments for the Annual Conference. Miss E. J. Read was elected as delegate. Will members please note there is another meeting on March 24? We have started our Monday open-air meetings. Mrs. Tanner very kindly speaking for us on March 2. The following week the meeting could not be held on account of heavy rain, but Miss Boyle had a fine appreciative audience last Monday evening at St. Luke's-road, and we hope now to continue these regularly. Miss Eunice Murray has promised to speak on March 30.

East London.

We are holding a public meeting in the committee room of Stratford Town Hall on April 2. All volunteers for poster parading, bill distributing and other ways of advertising should communicate at once with the hon. sec. As the National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage cannot supply us with a speaker for that date there will be a meeting and not a debate.

Pockham Group.

We held a most satisfactory open-air meeting on March 11, at Hanover Park, Rye-lane. The crowd listened with great interest to the speeches of Miss St. Clair and Miss Rushbrook on the need for women to have the power of the vote. Our paper was kept well to the front, and Mrs. Pickering was successful as VOTE-seller. Our public meeting on March 19, at Colyer Hall, High-street, will be reported next week.

PROVINCES.—Brighton and Hove.

An excellent meeting was held on Monday, in spite of the weather, at the Lecture Hall, 19, Norfolk-terrace. Miss Hare took the chair for Mr. Baillie Weaver, who gave a much appreciated speech on "Women as Comrades," and afterwards answered many questions. The triumph of Miss Hare and Mrs. Nickoll at the Lewes Assizes was recorded in last week's VOTE, and the Branch renders them its thanks for their representation and its effect. It has been thought well, in answer to requests, to arrange a series of study classes, and the first one will be held on Wednesday March 25, at 8 p.m., at 19, Norfolk-terrace. There will be readings and talk on Lady Constance Lytton's book, "Prison and Prisoners," and all members and friends will be welcome.

Ipswich.

Please collect all you can for our Jumble Sale which will take place in a few weeks. On March 12 Miss Maud Webb, member of St. John's

Chapter 2

Washing Wears Away Clothes

faster than ordinary use.

That is washing in the old way—rubbing and scrubbing.

Try this plan—rub the clothes with Fels-Naptha and then let them soak for half an hour in cold or lukewarm water. In that half-hour the Fels-Naptha will loosen the dirt more than all your scrubbing. Then rinse in cold water with just a little rub to get out the loosened dirt.

That doesn't wear away the clothes, does it?

But it makes them whiter and sweeter than the old way.

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Ambulance, and the Voluntary Aid Detachment, gave a very interesting lecture on "First Aid in the Home," showing how the accidents which occur even in the best regulated households should be treated. Master Arthur Coales played the part of patient, and was most heroic in bearing the treatment applied to his many supposed ailments. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the lecturer. The date of Dr. Heath's lecture is March 26, not March 19. On March 19 we shall have a Devotional Meeting with address by Mrs. Hutley on the "Spiritual Aspects of the Woman's Movement."

Portsmouth and Gosport.

A members' meeting will be held on March 24 at "The Castle Tea Rooms," Great Southsea-street, at 7.30 p.m. Business.—To instruct the delegate how to vote at the Annual Conference.

Sheffield.

Last Sunday the Branch took part in a demonstration of protest against the proposed closing of the Queen's Monument for public meetings. This monument is the best place in the city for meetings, as it is central, and a crowd quickly gathers to hear a good speaker. The City Council is offering no other suitable place for meetings. Many of our members walked in the procession, and Mrs. Wilkinson spoke on behalf of the League. The protest seems to have had little effect on the council, for the monument is to be closed after March 31. We are considering what further steps to take.

The fortnightly meeting was held on Wednesday at Mrs. Cod's house. Mrs. Roberts was appointed as Conference delegate. Ten members arranged to take turns at selling THE VOTE, and Miss Jessie Gillott gave her first report as sewing organiser. The members meet fortnightly in each other's homes to sew; we find this a good way of raising money.

Southampton.

In spite of abominable weather the Social and Tea at the Moon Hall, on March 14, was very well attended and went off with great éclat. The excellent programme, ably arranged by Mrs. Goodyear, was admirably carried out by the talented artistes, the Misses King, Miss Taplin, Miss Prouton, Messrs. Fry, Goodyear and Hyde, who very kindly gave their services for the Cause. From the chair, Mrs. Leigh Rothwell made a strong appeal for more members to help the Branch with work and funds, reminding the audience that no great Cause is won without high enthusiasm, sacrifice, and righteous indignation. The success of the first Social held by the Branch inspires to greater effort. A special feature was that all the cakes were home made. Considerable additions were made to the Branch exchequer by the sale of surplus cakes, flowers from the New Forest, and tickets. Our Fawley member, Miss Gore Browne, though unavoidably absent, sent most valuable help, both in her representative, in flowers, cakes, and other ways, and each member contributed in kind to the tea. The W.F.L. is making good progress in Southampton.

WALES.—Cardiff.

During Miss Anna Munro's visit indoor and open-air meetings have been held. Mrs. Keating Hill, who presided over a very sympathetic audience on Wednesday evening at the Carlton Café, gave a most interesting account of her experiences in Suffrage work, both in and out of prison. Miss Munro spoke at considerable length on the political situation and urged all present to join the League and work towards the great goal in sight. Open-air meetings were held at the Docks and Llandaf Fields. In every case Miss Munro was accorded a quiet hearing. THE VOTE was readily bought by the audiences. A return visit is arranged for March 24, when Mrs. Keating Hill and Miss Munro will speak in the Labour Institute, Cathays, at 8 p.m.

Swansea.

A very successful meeting was held in Dynevor-place School on March 10, when the logic employed in Miss Pott's Debate with Miss Foxley was reviewed and discussed. The three Suffrage societies in Swansea were represented, a member of the Freedom League reproducing Miss Pott's case, and a member of the National Union replying to it. A good discussion followed, and the logical aspect of Miss Pott's arguments was keenly criticised. The jumble sale has been fixed for the last week in March. Will all members bear it in mind and put aside contributions for the purpose?

SCOTLAND.—Edinburgh.

Both of our meetings this week were again very well attended, and many of those present took part in the discussions. On Tuesday Dr. Aimee Gibbs spoke on "Our Children," and on Wednesday, the Rev. Raymond Holt, B.A., gave an address on "Co-operative House-keeping," urging the wastefulness of the present system and the many advantages, especially to women, of a system based on the co-operative ideal. Not the least important of these advantages would be the recognition of housework as skilled labour, for which proper training would be necessary. A business meeting was afterwards held, when Miss A. B. Jack was appointed delegate to the Conference. Members are requested to note change of syllabus for March 25—see Forthcoming Events.

Lochgelly.

The usual Branch Meeting was held in the Co-operative Hall, Knockhill Close, on March 10, when Miss Nannie Brown, secretary of the Edinburgh Branch of the Northern Men's Federation for Woman Suffrage, read an excellent paper upon "The Suffrage March to London." Miss Broughton presided. On March 27, a social and dance will be held. Tickets 6d. each. The next Branch Meeting will take place on April 14, when Mrs. W. Watson, of Cowdenbeath, will give an address upon "Women's Work on Local Governing Bodies." Will members please make an effort to attend these monthly Branch Meetings?

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Women's Tax Resistance League.

A most interesting debate was held at Holloway College on March 7; Miss Amy Hicks explained the cause and effect of tax resistance in connection with the question of Women's Suffrage. The students appeared most interested, and a lively discussion followed.

Miss Spalding kindly gave a drawing-room meeting on Wednesday night at 30, Maddox-street, for the League. Mrs. Sadd Brown, who presided, showed the importance of each woman personally doing something to help on the Cause, as the time for sitting still has long gone past. Dr. Marie Stopes and Mrs. Kineton Parkes



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were the speakers, and gave interesting addresses, which were much appreciated.

A tax resistance sale was held at the White Hart Hotel, Bathaston, on March 12, when Mrs. C. R. Tollemache's silver was sold by auction. The room was crowded, and the speaker, Miss Gladys Hazel, had a good reception. She reminded the men present how indignantly they would repudiate the idea of "living on a woman," yet they were doing it every day by taking women's money to run their Government. She described it as most unsporting, and said that taxes were being spent in ways women could not tolerate. There were Government houses for women in the cantonments in India where young Hindu girls were kept for British soldiers. If women had votes these things might be stopped. A protest meeting was held afterwards at Bathaston Villa, where the following resolution was passed: "That this meeting protests against the taxation of women who are not represented in Parliament, and heartily supports Mrs. C. R. Tollemache in her refusal as a voteless woman to pay King's Taxes."

Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage.

A demonstration, under the auspices of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, was held at the Mound, Edinburgh, last Saturday, Mr. Thomas Shaw presiding. Councillor Crawford, speaking of the recent Convention in London, said one thing had struck him particularly while attending it, and that was the effect the Women's Suffrage Movement had had in democratising women. Women of the highest class in society were working along with middle-class and working women on terms of absolute equality, and he felt assured that the objection put forward by many opponents that the granting of the suffrage to women would be against the interests of the workers, had absolutely no foundation in fact.

Councillor Barrie, referring to the fact that their deputation had not been received by Mr. Asquith, said it was significant that a great Liberal, Sir William Robertson, at the meeting of the Scottish Women's Liberal Federation the previous day, had expressed his conviction that Mr. Asquith made a mistake when he refused to receive a deputation of men, representing all parts of Scotland, a non-party and non-militant deputation. The Northern men, he added, meant to fight this question to a finish.

Ex-Baillie Gordon said they were often asked what their policy as to militancy was. That question was easily answered, as the Northern Men's Federation was a non-militant society. But if, after twice travelling 400 miles to lay their views, in a perfectly constitutional manner, before the Prime Minister, and being twice refused an audience, they had resorted to militant methods as a change, he would have considered Mr. Asquith to blame. Those people who were loudest in condemning the Suffragette militancy, condoned the militancy of the police, who in Glasgow, on March 9, displayed a brutality utterly disgraceful in any civilised country.

A letter was read from Mrs. Arneliffe Sennett, in which she said that the introduction of forcible feeding in Scottish prisons was Mr. Asquith's reply to the men's deputations. She added: "Put this woman-baiting Premier and his cruel Cabinet of lawyers out of office. Get ready in South and East, Edinburgh, to turn out his supporters."

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Fri., Mar. 20.—1, ROBERT-STREET, Adelphi Mid-London Branch Meeting, 7 p.m.
Sun., Mar. 22.—REGENT'S PARK, Open-Air Meeting (weather permitting), noon. Mrs. Mustard.
Mon., Mar. 23.—PALMER'S-GREEN, Avondale Hall, Public Meeting (arranged by Bowes-park Branch), 7.30 p.m. *Speakers:* Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Nevinson and Mrs. Mustard, HAMPSTEAD, 129, Adelphi-road (by kind invitation Mrs. Oswald), Drawing-room Meeting, 3.30-5 p.m., to meet Miss Lind at Hageby, CROYDON, Small Public Hall, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speakers:* Miss Nina Boyle and Mrs. Tanner, *Chair:* Mrs. E. M. Moore. CROYDON, Poster Palace, 11 a.m. CLAPHAM, St. Luke's Road, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m.
Tues., Mar. 24.—CRIPPLEGATE INSTITUTE, Golden-lane, Barbican, E.C., performance of *Hiawatha* by the H. C. M. Dramatic Society, 3 p.m. Admission 3s., 2s., 1s., and 6d. CLAPHAM, 1, Imperial Mansions, Bromells Road, Members' Meeting, 7 p.m. CHELSEA, 55, Glebe-place, Kensington Branch Meeting, 8.15 p.m.
Wed., Mar. 25.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. *Speakers:* Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., "The Century of the Child," and Miss Boyle. PECKHAM, Hanover-park, Rye-lane, Open-Air Meeting, 7.30 p.m.
Fri., Mar. 27.—CROYDON OFFICE, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Cobden Sanderson.
Sat., Mar. 28.—W.F.L. ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CAXTON HALL, 10 a.m.
Sun., Mar. 29.—CAXTON HALL, Reception to Delegates, 3.30 p.m.
Mon., Mar. 30.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C. Discussion Meeting, 8 p.m. Miss L. H. Yates, "The Spending Sex." Admission Free. Discussion. CATFORD, 53, Torridon-road, Drawing-Room Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. Chisholm.
Tues., Mar. 31.—BROMLEY, Literary Institute, Widmore-road, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss C. Nina Boyle.
Wed., April 1.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. E. M. Moore on "Women and Freedom," and Miss Eunice Murray.
Thurs., April 2.—STRATFORD, Committee Room of Stratford Town Hall, Public Meeting arranged by East London Branch, 7.30 p.m. *Speakers:* Mrs. Mustard and Miss Murray, 1, ROBERT-STREET, Mid-London Branch Annual Meeting, 7.30 p.m.
Fri., April 3.—CAXTON HALL, Political Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speakers:* Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle, and Mr. John Scurr. *Chair:* Miss Eunice Murray. EAST FINCHLEY, CLAIRVILLE, GREAT NORTH-ROAD, Drawing-room Meeting (by kind permission Mrs. Thomson), 3 p.m. Miss Murray and Mrs. Huntsman.
Sun., April 5.—REGENT'S PARK, noon, Mrs. Despard.

PROVINCES.

Fri., Mar. 20.—Liverpool, Picton Hall, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard and Miss Nina Boyle. *Chair:* Rev. Herbert Dunning.
Mon., Mar. 23.—Liverpool, Norwood Congregational Church, Woman's Meeting. *Speaker:* Miss C. E. Andrews. Burnage, 22, South Avenue, Branch Meeting. Middlesbrough, Hinton's Cafe, Business Meeting, 8 p.m.
Tues., Mar. 24.—Liverpool, Norwood Congregational Church, Men's Meeting. *Speaker:* Miss C. E. Andrews.
Wed., Mar. 25.—Chester, "The Nag's Head Hotel," Whist Drive and Dance. Tickets 2s. 6d. from Suffrage Shop.
Thurs., Mar. 26.—Chester, Brown and Co.'s Salo Rooms, Branch Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speakers* will be announced later. Ipswich, Social Settlement, Lecture by Dr. Heath, 8 p.m. Members are requested to meet in the Entrance Hall at 7.45 and to wear badges. Reading, Miss Anna Munro.
Mon., Mar. 30.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Cafe, "At Home," 7.30 p.m. Mr. Charles Coates: "The Housing Question." Songs by Misses E. and F. Hall, Recitations by Miss Broadbridge.
Mon., April 6.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Cafe, Business Meeting, 8 p.m.
Thurs., April 15.—Ipswich, Suffrage Shop. Miss Harrison on "Prison Reform."

SCOTLAND.

Tues., Mar. 24.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Latham Road, Lecture by Dr. Aimee Gibbs, "Women's Place in the State," 2.30. Admission and Tea, 2d.
Wed., Mar. 25.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 8 p.m., "The Northern Men in London." Miss Nannie Brown and members of N.M.F. Convention. Dunfermline, Masonic Hall, Social, Speech by Miss A. B. Jack.
Thurs., Mar. 26.—Cowdenbeath, Parker's Hall, 7.30 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. W. Watson.
Fri., Mar. 27.—Lochgelly, Social and Dance, Co-operative Hall, 7.30 p.m. Tickets 6d. each.
Thurs., April 2.—Paisley, Room in Central Halls (one stair up), Branch Meeting, Members and Friends.
Tues., April 14.—Lochgelly, Co-operative Hall, 7.30 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. W. Watson.

WALES.

Fri., Mar. 20.—Clydach, The Mond Nickel Works, Open-air Meeting, 1-2. Miss Anna Munro. Swansea, Portland-street, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m. Miss Anna Munro.
Mon., Mar. 23.—Burry, Miss Anna Munro.
Tues., Mar. 24.—Cathays, Labour Institute, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Keating Hill, Miss Anna Munro. *Chair:* Mrs. Woolf.
Wed., Mar. 25.—Bryn-mawr, Miss Anna Munro, 8 p.m.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tues., Mar. 24.—THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York-street, St. James's, S.W., 8.30. Miss Boyle (W.F.L.) on "Some Reform Bills."

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

We accept Announcements of Suffrage and kindred Meetings for this Column at the rate per single insertion of 2s. for 24 words. 1d. every additional word; four insertions at the price of three. All Announcements must be prepaid, and, to ensure insertion, should reach the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, Vote Office, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, London, by the First Post on Tuesday Morning.

LADIES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.—A PERFORMANCE at THE ARTS CENTRE, 93, Mortimer-street, W., on Tuesday, 24th March, 1914, at 3 p.m. Doors open, 2.30 p.m. Three One-Act Plays: "THE SUFFRAGETTE," "KINDLY FLAMES," and "WHICH?" Tickets: Reserved Seats, 3s.; Unreserved, 2s. and 1s. May be obtained from the Hon. Treasurer, Play Department, West Kensington, and at the Offices of the League, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, Strand. No money will be taken at the doors.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-street, W.—Subscription One Guinea. Wednesday, March 25th, 8.30. "National Birth-rate Commission," Dr. C. W. Saleeby; Chairman, Miss Otter.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

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