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Notes.

WE desire to call special attention to the classified list of influential men supporters of Women's Suffrage printed in the Men's League pages in the present issue. The list is by no means exhaustive, but it is full enough to show how widespread among leading members of all professions and occupations is the demand for the removal of the sex disability. Speakers and canvassers will find it extremely valuable.

THE country has been treated to the unedifying spectacle of a Parliamentary game of battledore—with woman as the shuttlecock—played with apparent seriousness during the whole of a precious Friday afternoon. If the debate on Mr. Geoffrey Howard's Bill showed anything at all, it showed that friends and foes alike have not yet grasped the unanimity and strength of the demand for the removal of the sex disability.

We must confess ourselves amazed at the suggestions—emanating from our friends—that simplification of Adult Suffrage difficulties may be found in the disfranchising of all domestic servants, or that there would be nothing to object to in the raising of the voting age to 25 for women as compared with the 21 of men. This last is an extraordinary idea indeed! Women are supposed to develop so much earlier than men that the law which refuses to allow a boy under 16 to be sent to prison fixes the corresponding age limit for a girl at 14!

LADY MARY BUNTING, in a letter to the *Daily News*, dated March 18th, clearly states that the Women's Liberal Federation is in no way pledged to support so great a change as that proposed in Mr. Howard's Bill. "Up to the present time," she says, "the limited Bill of Mr. Stanger is the one officially recognized by our associations."

LAST week saw Palace Yard decorated with placards headed "Votes for Women." Objections to Mr. Howard's Suffrage Bill were printed there for all to see. These placards (not

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

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

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

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

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

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

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80, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin.

women, as stated in the press) were attached by handcuffs locked to the railings.

THE Third Annual Report of the National Women's Social and Political Union is to hand. With it is included a Cash Statement and Subscription List for the year ending February 28th, 1909. The amazing growth of the Union, the record of its numerous activities, of its constantly expanding war-chest, of its organ, our contemporary, *Votes for Women*, must form disagreeable reading to the enemies of progress whether in the Liberal Cabinet or in the Anti-Suffrage Society.

A DEPUTATION is to leave Caxton Hall on March 30th, and will make an attempt to reach the Prime Minister at the House of Commons. The meeting is at 3 o'clock, and tickets at 1s. and 6d. may now be obtained at 4, Clement's Inn.

A LECTURE, under the auspices of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association (President, The Lady Knightley of Fawsley), will be given on Wednesday, March 31st, 1909, at 5 P.M., on the 'History of Women's Franchise,' by Miss Packer (Lady Margaret Hall), at 34, Elgin Crescent, Ladbroke Grove, W. (by kind permission of Mrs. Denibas). Tickets, price 6d. each, to be obtained at the door, or of the Hon. Sec. for Kensington Committee, Miss Luxmoore, 57, Bedford Gardens, W. It is hoped that those of our friends who know of Unionists in the neighbourhood who are unconverted, and anxious to learn more about the historical aspect of this question, will send for tickets to give away. Anti-Suffragists will be especially welcome.

LADY BETTY BALFOUR, Lady Castlereagh, Lady Midleton, Lady Willoughby de Eresby, and Mrs. Arthur Pakenham have joined the Executive Committee of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

WE are requested to state that, owing to the fact that the protest meeting organized by men in reference to the treatment of Mrs. Despard and other ladies on a purely technical offence is assuming larger proportions than was at first contemplated, it has been decided to defer the same, probably until May, in order to give more time for organization.

MISS TORRY is now sufficiently recovered from influenza to hold her Antidote-to-the-Antis Discussion Tea at her residence, Kirton-Torry House, 68, Godolphin Road, Shepherd's Bush, W., at 4 P.M., on Wednesday, April 14th.

THE programme provided on Wednesday last at an entertainment given by the Hackney Society could not have been bettered. Meredith's 'Ballad of Fair Women,' arranged as a dramatic tableau and admirably presented, proved a delightful contrast to 'Man and Woman,' by Mrs. Ward, which followed. Where all were so excellent it would be invidious to single out any special exponent for praise, but to Mrs. Fisher White, who stage-managed the performance, heartiest congratulations are due.

NOT only words but DEEDS, seems to be the motto of the countries where women have votes. To allay the Motherland's anxiety comes immediately the offer of two Dreadnoughts from the New Zealand Government. Australia, we learn, has also called a meeting with a similar object in view.

SPECIALLY qualified J.P.s to deal with child offenders are advocated in a circular which the Home Office has sent to clerks of petty sessional divisions explaining the provisions of the Children's Act which comes into force on April 1. Does this presage women as Justices of the Peace? We can only hope so.

ON Tuesday, April 6th, 1909, Mrs. Anna M. Haslam, 125, Leinster Road, Rathmines, co. Dublin, should attain her eightieth birthday. Her long life has been dedicated with a singular devotion to public causes, more especially for the amelioration of the political, economic, and educational status of Women. It has naturally suggested itself to many people that occasion should be taken of this eightieth anniversary to offer to Mrs. Haslam some public recognition of her life-work, and some expression of the esteem in which she is held by her contemporaries.

For the purpose of initiating measures to carry into effect this widely-felt desire, the undersigned persons joined together to convene a preliminary meeting of Mrs. Haslam's friends. Accordingly, they invited attendance at an afternoon meeting, held last Saturday, March 20th, at 3 P.M., in the Contemporary Club Room, Lincoln Chambers, Lincoln Place, Dublin. This invitation was extended cordially to all Mrs. Haslam's friends who desired to co-operate in paying to her a public compliment which has been long deserved. It was intended to leave that meeting to decide exactly what subsequent steps should be taken in the matter.

Sympathizers unable to attend the preliminary meeting on March 20th may send written communications, which should be addressed provisionally to Mr. C. H. Oldham, Contemporary Club, Lincoln Chambers, Dublin.

WE propose, if our friends will help us, to open a kiosk on Brighton West Pier for the sale of literature appertaining to our movement. This pier is crowded with folk during the summer who have ample leisure to consider the question, and we mean to do our best to employ profitably some of their leisure. £20 is needed to rent the kiosk, and for this we shall look to our friends. We shall not only hope to improve the minds of the uninitiated, but also the health of our Suffragists by offering them sea breezes and good music from military bands, accompanied by most congenial occupation.

A DAINTY booklet, suitable for use either as a birthday or engagement book, has been published by the Highgate Women's Suffrage Society. Bound in white, with gold lettering, it provides for each day in the year a Suffrage quotation chosen by well-known supporters of the movement.

WE shall be glad to receive the renewal subscriptions which become due this week as soon as possible. The subscription is 1s. 8d. for three months, 3s. 3d. for six months, 6s. 6d. for twelve months, including postage.

### The Suffrage in Other Lands.

UNITED STATES.—It is good news that a Women's Suffrage Amendment has passed the Legislatures of two States: Washington and South Dakota. This does not, however, mean that they are at once to take rank with Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Idaho. The constitution of American States is such that it requires little short of a miracle to effect any alteration. After an Amendment has passed both houses of the Legislature it is submitted to a referendum of all the male citizens. And of course Women's Suffrage is violently opposed by the saloon keepers and their not inconsiderable following. There is hard work therefore before the Suffragists of Washington and South Dakota if they are to win the day and bring up the number of Suffrage States from four to six.

ALICE ZIMMERN.

### Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

A MEETING on behalf of this Association was held on Tuesday, March 16th, at 69, Ennismore Gardens, by invitation of Miss Mary Gurney. Among those present were the Lady Dunmore, the Viscountess Castlereagh, the Viscountess Harberton, the Lady Grace Barry, Mrs. Samuel Roberts, and others.

Mrs. H. Percy Boulnois, who presided, gave some details respecting the inauguration and progress of the Association, which now numbered over 900 members, and stated that its demands were limited to the enfranchisement of women duly qualified on the same terms as men, so that sex would be no disqualification for the exercise of the Franchise.

Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., after announcing the approaching International Congress of Suffrage Societies, spoke of the question as it would affect women of the working classes, and of the astonishing progress made by women in educational and scientific questions, and ended with a most eloquent appeal against the argument of physical force.

The Viscountess Harberton spoke of the want of unanimity on the subject in successive ministerial circles, and of the anomalies consequent on the employment of women in public work without a vote.

Miss Clare Howard, of Columbia University, spoke of the rapid growth of favourable opinion among American students, and Mr. Zirnan of the influence of Women's Suffrage in New Zealand.

Miss Mary Gurney referred to prominent educationalists, as Mrs. William Grey, Miss Beale, and Miss Buss, who had been steadfast supporters of Women's Enfranchisement.

A resolution to the effect "That the time was now ripe for granting Enfranchisement to Women" was passed with acclamation, and is to be forwarded to the Leader of the Opposition.

### Actresses' Franchise League.

ON Friday, April 2nd, a meeting will be held in the Criterion Grand Hall, from 2 to 4 o'clock. Lady Grove, Lady Strachey, and Miss Frances Stirling have kindly consented to address the meeting.

As the accommodation of the Hall is limited, the meeting will be by invitation.

### To Mrs. Despard.

LADY, with such majesty and zeal,  
Lighting up thy face with wondrous fire.  
In eloquence divine, thou dost appeal,  
Kindling flames to equal thy desire.

Age but bids, "Not sit, nor stand, but go  
On to empyrean heights, of victory."  
With spirit dauntless, thou the gauge dost throw,  
And on thy banner's writ "Equality."

Amongst the world's immortals shall thy name  
Ring, honoured, when the fight is won.  
England's women oft shall speak thy fame,  
Thy sacrifice, thy work, so nobly done.

Lady! may the years enrich thy store  
Of friends—grappled to thy heart for aye,  
And may sweet fruits be garnered evermore.  
Within thy soul's great depths, through Life's short day.

ALICE E. COLLINGE.

Bolton.

### The Woman's Cause at the Italian Elections.

THE Anti-Suffragists try to make it believed in England that the claim to the vote is a wild, lawless, unfeminine thing which makes the Englishwoman "the laughing stock of Europe." The following is the text of the manifesto put forth by the Committee for the Women's Vote at the General Election which has just taken place (March 7th and 11th) in Italy:—

#### TO THE WOMEN OF ITALY.

The nation is called to elect its new representatives, and one-half of Italian citizens, the women, who yet possess the qualifications required in the electorate, are excluded from participation in the vote, in the name of preconceptions, and disabilities to which both science and experience give the lie. Already, nevertheless, the conscience of all intelligent women, in Italy as elsewhere, has awakened, and protests against this grave injustice, invoking equality in the political field also. The National Committee for Feminine Suffrage, at the moment when the people are called to the poll, would fail in its duty if it did not turn to all Italian women who feel their dignity as human beings, who comprehend the necessity of possessing the means of safeguarding their own interests as workers, inviting them not to dissociate themselves from the present conflict. All women who are conscious of their rights and of their duties ought to support with all the legal means at their disposal the candidatures of those who have shown themselves, or who may declare themselves favourable to Female Suffrage. They should provoke explicit declarations from the candidates on this point, and endeavour that the choice of electors may fall on persons who take to heart the problems that most nearly concern women and the family—such as economic and social questions (the increased price of food and high rents), public instruction, the work of women and children, and the legal status of women. Let the Italian woman show on this occasion that she, too, has her social value in political life, and that the time has gone by when woman could be kept out of public affairs, as an inferior being; while matters of such grave interest to her, and the family, and the nation, are not sufficiently attended to by men acting alone, and especially by those who have had up to now the monopoly of intelligence and public life.

Woman, by participating in public life, will bring thereto not only an element of peace and abnegation, but a new spirit of civilization, of goodness, of brotherhood.

The signatures of the Committee follow, and include besides social ladies such as Contessa Martini-Marescotti and Marchesa Lucifero (who is coming to England to speak), such representative women as Prof. Teresa Labriola, Councillor and Prof. Guglielmina Ronconi, Secretary of the National Society for Protecting the Blind; Bici Sacchi, Doctor in Mathematics; and Contessa Mariana Soderini, School Inspector. The secretaries being Irene de Bonis, decorated for valour at sea; Teresa Salvatori, Vice-Librarian of the Women's Association; and Romelia Troise, councillor of the National Council of the Postal and Telegraphic Federation.

The fact that some of the most important names in the Italian Chamber of Deputies figure among the many who have declared themselves in favour of the movement recalls the debate on the subject held just two years ago. That debate was on a higher level, and conducted with far more dignity than our British male-folk bring to bear on the subject—the fruit of a greater, not a less, respect for ideas and appreciation, of their eternal value over mere preconceptions and prejudices which, because we have nursed them so long, we venture to put forward as "reasons." "This question," said Mirabelli, "is one which once raised must be thrashed out [a similar prophecy was hurled at the House of Commons by Mr. Balfour] . . . Much more solid are the real reasons for women's right to vote, the origins of which are economic, civil, intellectual,



## Vox Clamantis.

Out from the dust of nations,  
Out from the tale of years,  
A cry of mourning soundeth,  
Heavy with bitter tears ;  
It has cried through all the ages,  
But always to deafened ears.

Now rising up to the heavens,  
Now creeping over the earth,  
Now dying away into silence,  
Now coming again to birth.  
The cry lives on for ever,  
And sounds through all our mirth.

Higher, deeper, stronger, fuller,  
Hear its volume swelling fast ;  
It shall reach the highest heaven,  
Never silent from the past.  
The unjust judge at length has heard her,  
WOMAN claims her own at last.

E. CLOSE.

## Book Review.

Collected Poems. By Mackenzie Bell. (Kingsgate Press.)  
Each of us is an instrument ; and each  
Is, in some notes, at least, diversely strung  
From all our fellows ; yet in this we know  
One harmony of universal love.

These words, by the author of a man's exhortation "To the Women of Great Britain," which appeared in our pages in March, 1908, seem to give expression to that diversity in unity which characterizes the Suffrage agitation and serve to remind us of the wide variety of minds and gifts which go to make up the great Woman's Movement of the dawning twentieth century.

Mr. Mackenzie Bell is one of us in comradeship, therefore we welcome the collection of his poems recently published by the Kingsgate Press, but though they provide a fascinating theme, breathing in every line a spirit of lofty aim and intense love of humanity, it is no concern of ours to deal with the poems as such.

To the militant Suffragist 'The Puritan's Farewell to his Betrothed' suggests a paraphrase in which she—not he—should urge

Truth, Justice, Conscience, plead with me,  
Then would'st thou have me, dear,  
For calm and ease and joy with thee  
To yield to craven fear ?

for many a would-be champion is kept from pursuing the course she would by the plaint of some dear one, "Wherefore bring this aching woe to me, to thee, to all !"

The volume includes, besides a dedication to Theodore Watts-Dunton, an interesting Introductory Essay, several poems suitable for recitation, and a 'Prologue to some Shakespearian episodes given at Lowther Lodge,' which appears to provide material for a most attractive form of entertainment which we commend to the attention of all enterprising hon. secretaries.

'To the Women of Great Britain,' which has recently been musically adapted to the tune of 'The British Grenadiers' and sung with success, is included in the volume.

ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN WOMEN'S FRANCHISE  
SHOULD READ

DIANA OF DOBSON'S.

PRICE 1s.

TO BE OBTAINED FROM  
THE WOMAN CITIZEN PUBLISHING SOCIETY, 13, Bream's Buildings, E.C.

## Correspondence.

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

DEAR SIR,—In the March number of *Pearson's Magazine*, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst in her article states that "Sir Edward Grey rose to speak, and admitted that he himself had been partly to blame for what had occurred, because he had refused to answer the question they (Miss Kenney and Miss C. Pankhurst), had put to him. His reason for doing this had been, he said, 'that Woman's Suffrage was entirely outside the region of practical politics, and that for this reason it could find no place in the Liberal programme, and there was absolutely no chance of its being dealt with during the coming Parliament.'"

Further on in the article one learns that as a result of this refusal to answer a question, up to the end of 1908 about 24 years of imprisonment had been inflicted on women. Another four years may be added for the first quarter of 1909.

From his public life one would have said that of all political men Sir E. Grey had the confidence of the whole nation apart from party interests. A word from Sir Edward Grey should suffice to bring about a meeting between Mr. Asquith and the leaders of the agitation for Women's Suffrage. Such a meeting might be productive of an immediate solution of this question of present practical politics. Given that solution, with how much better heart and confidence could not only Sir Edward Grey but the whole Cabinet carry on the affairs of the nation in the interests of all its people—whose servants they are.

I am, your truly,  
C. M. GONNE.

9, Fernshaw Mansions, Fernshaw Road, Chelsea, S.W.

## By-Election Policy and Mr. Howard's Bill.

DEAR SIR,—The events connected with the introduction of Mr. Howard's Bill last Friday have, I consider, a very important bearing on two questions connected with the Suffrage Movement : (1) By-election policies ; (2) The effectual support the Suffrage is likely to obtain from party organizations such as the Women's Liberal Federation.

Speaking from the point of view of a life-long Liberal, I must confess that the policy of the National Women's Social and Political Union seems absolutely justified by what took place last week. Mr. Howard, and other professed friends in the House—many of them returned to Parliament by the help of members of Suffrage Societies—show themselves ready to throw our cause to the winds at the dictates of their party. The harm done to the Suffrage movement may be gauged by the letters to the Press of the Anti-Suffrage League, who were not slow to take advantage of the opportunity afforded them.

The letters of Lady Carlisle and Lady Grove in *The Morning Post* speak for themselves as regards the second question. If these ladies are really advocates of the Suffrage, one can only suppose that, blinded by loyalty to their party, they do not know they are traitors to the Cause. I think their letters will furnish food for serious reflection to many Liberal women who are in earnest about Women's Franchise, and who are already sitting upon the party fence.

Yours faithfully,  
EVA WHITLEY.

## THE LADY COURIER'S ASSOCIATION

Is organizing a privately conducted Tour of one month in May, visiting PARIS, DIJON, GENOA, PISA, FLORENCE, VENICE, VERONA, MILAN, LAKES OF COMO, LUGANO and LUCERNE, returning via BALE, AMIENS, &c., &c.

For further particulars and details apply to—

9, ORANGE STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telegrams: "Courasso," London.

Telephone: Gerrard 4539.

## National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

On June 8th a ball will be held at Princes' Galleries under the auspices of the London Society for Women's Suffrage. President, Lady Frances Balfour.

WE wish to draw our readers special attention to an advertisement appearing in this issue for an organizer for the West Riding of Yorkshire.

BIRMINGHAM (N.U.W.S.S.).—The Birmingham Society has opened a new office at 10, Easy Row, with Miss E. M. Gardner, B.A., late National Union organizer, as Secretary. All the Suffrage magazines and other papers of interest to women are taken in there for the benefit of members.

The last week has been a very strenuous one in preparation for the big Town Hall meeting, at which Mrs. Philip Snowdon, Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., and Mr. Herbert Jacobs are to speak. Among others there has been one for women clerks and typists, one for factory girls, and one for elementary school teachers. At the latter sixteen new members joined the Society, and many said that they hoped to join shortly. At the factory girls' meeting a committee was formed to carry on work that could be done by the girls themselves.

The Birmingham Society is flourishing—new members are added every day, and if work increases as fast as it has done lately, we shall need a larger office and another paid worker.

BOURNEMOUTH (N.U.W.S.S.).—On Tuesday, March 9th, a very successful "At Home" was held at the Prince's Hall ; the Lady Frances Balfour being the speaker. There were about 700 present, people sitting on the edge of the platform, on steps, tables, &c., and many standing. Twenty-one new members joined the Society, and a collection of £9 6s. 3½d. was taken. In the evening of the same day a debate was held : Lady Frances Balfour speaking for Women's Suffrage, and Mrs. Arthur Somervell for the Anti-Suffrage Society. Every part of St. Peter's Hall was crowded, and a great many could not gain admission. A vote was taken, which was 53 in favour of the extension of the franchise to women.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND (N.U.W.S.S.).—So much delight and admiration had been expressed at the exhibition of the banners on the stage after the performance of 'Man and Woman' in Clifton that it was decided to exhibit them again while they remained in Bristol. They were shown at Hamilton's Rooms, Park Street, a number of members of the two societies carrying them round in procession at intervals, under the direction of Miss Tanner and Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, who also gave an explanation of the various banners to the visitors. An excellent photograph of the exhibition appeared in the ensuing number of *The Clifton Chronicle*.

DARLINGTON (N.U.W.S.S.).—By the kind invitation of Mrs. Baynes, Palam House, Darlington, a drawing-room meeting was held on Wednesday, March 10th, and was very well attended. Miss Graham occupied the Chair, and Miss Margaret Mein (who has just returned from by-election work in Scotland) in a most interesting address traced the history of the movement, and dwelt on the social and industrial changes of the last century, which she declared demanded a corresponding political change. The usual votes of thanks were given.

M. L. SWANSON, Hon. Sec.

EDINBURGH (N.U.W.S.S.).—As a result of the work at the polling stations on by-election day in South Edinburgh, the Committee are sending a petition signed by 1,793 electors, to be presented in the House of Commons by Mr. Arthur Dewar, Solicitor General. The Committee are gratified with the result, as owing to the wintry conditions of the weather there were difficulties in making arrangements for workers to stand in turn outside five polling booths from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. In spite of keen, biting winds, and snow and slush, however, willing helpers were found. The newspapers by snapshot and paragraph testified to the intrepidity of the workers : Miss Lamond, one of the National Union organizers, getting special notice from having been twice covered by a deluge of snow from a projecting roof above her petition table.

The Committee were glad to have the help of Miss Marjorie Strachey, Miss Fielden, and Miss Lamond for a week. A shop in the constituency was rented, and there posters and literature were exhibited, and the latter distributed and sold to inquirers.

Several meetings were held, and as a result of the week's campaign a number of new members were added to the Society.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND (N.U.W.S.S.).—We have now completed the Central Division by-election work by forwarding to Mr. Scott-Dickson, M.P., two petitions which he is going to present to the House this week. One of these has been signed by 2,052 of Mr. Dickson's own constituents, and the other by 301 voters in other constituencies within our area. These latter signatures are nearly all those of men who came into our Committee Room to help us by signing our petition, and when it was pointed out to them that the petition was only meant for Central Division voters, they expressed genuine regret that they were not allowed to help the women. It seemed a pity that we should lose their help and influence and therefore we started the petition for outside voters and I would strongly urge that this be done at all by-elections.

We have secured an office at 58, Renfield Street, which we hope to open this month. When our new arrangements are completed notice will be sent to our members. NELLIE M. HUNTER, Sec.

LONDON (N.U.W.S.S.).—The South Kensington Committee of the London Society for Women's Suffrage is holding meetings at the Kensington Town Hall on Mondays, the 22nd and 29th of March, and April 5th at 8.30 P.M. Discussion is invited, and questions will be answered.

The speakers on Monday next will be Mrs. Rackham and Mrs. Grant Richards. On the 29th Miss Frances Sterling, Miss Palliser, and others. On April 5th Lady Grove and Miss Jenner.

The question will be treated from the standpoint of women in professions, in business, and women engaged in social work, as well as from the standpoint of the community in general.

OLTON (N.U.W.S.S.).—On March 12th a most satisfactory meeting was held in the Church schools. We were fortunate in having the vicar, Dr. Butler in the chair. Miss Abadam riveted her audience by her logic, humour, and earnest eloquence. Miss Gardner also won golden opinions by giving a clear and spirited account of a recent "Anti" meeting in Birmingham—one of the stewards of which listened attentively, let us hope to his conversion. During the collection one of our members (Mr. Anderson) announced the formation (by his own initiation be it recorded) of a branch of the Men's League for Birmingham and the Midlands. The audience was the largest and most interested we have had in Olton. New ground was broken ; there was no attempt at interruption, and if any "Antis" were left at question time they showed a wise shyness. Subsequent sayings and doings prove that the enthusiasm aroused by the speakers was no passing emotion. Our devoted little band of men members being especially fired to deeds—one has already begun to work vigorously among the voters of the district "because men must give the franchise."

PONTYPRIDD (N.U.W.S.S.).—On Thursday, March 18th, at the Congregational Hall, Pontypridd, the meeting for women only in the afternoon was addressed by Mrs. Henry Lewis (Green Meadow), President of the Cardiff and District W.S.S., and by Miss Abadam, whose subject was 'The Women's Movement and Morals' ; an attentive audience of 80 to 90 women received Miss Abadam's earnest appeal with intense sympathy, and a resolution was passed asking Sir Alfred Thomas to support Mr. Gouling's Amendment on the 19th. At the evening meeting there was a very large mixed audience ; Mr. William Jones, J.P., was a most able chairman, and Miss Abadam the sole speaker ; her subject was 'Dual Control in the Electorate,' and she spoke in particular on the moral aspect of the Women's Suffrage movement.

Her clear and logical argument, and her intense earnestness and conviction, met with sincere and even enthusiastic response from the audience, and the resolution proposed by County Councillor Fleming, and seconded by the Rev. Edgar Williams, "That this meeting, believing that by the raising of the political status of women, the cause of morality will be considerably strengthened, earnestly appeals to the Government to give facilities for the early removal of the existing sex-disability in the matter of the Parliamentary franchise," was put to the meeting, and was carried with only one dissentient. About 200 copies of the Rev. R. J. Campbell's pamphlet on 'Women's Suffrage and the Social Evil' were distributed as the audience walked out, after singing the "Hen gwlad fy-nudhan." Miss Abadam has gained the whole-hearted sympathy of all her hearers, and we hope she will often re-visit Pontypridd and rouse up the energies of the district in the cause of Woman's Suffrage.

SEVENOAKS (N.U.W.S.S.).—A very successful public meeting was held in the Club Hall, Sevenoaks, on Wednesday evening, March 17th. The speakers were Mrs. Rackham and Miss Palliser, who were followed with keen and intelligent attention by the audience. The chair was taken by Councillor Hickmott, a warm supporter of the cause in the neighbourhood. The usual votes of

thanks were proposed, and seconded by the Rev. Percy Thompson, Mr. Wadsworth, Miss Glover, and Miss Platt; and a resolution in favour of the Suffrage was carried. Copies of the resolution were sent to Mr. Asquith and Mr. W. H. Foster, the local member, who is a supporter of the cause.

[Owing to pressure on our space we are obliged to hold over several notices.]

Correspondence.

Call to the Fourth Executive Meeting of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

DEAR MADAM,—An Executive Meeting of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance will be held in London, April 26th to May 1st inclusive, 1909. The affiliated National Woman Suffrage Associations of the following sixteen countries will each be entitled to send six delegates and six alternates, viz.: Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America. A special invitation to send fraternal delegates is extended to all National Associations which are in sympathy with our movement. Individuals, of whatever race, nativity, or creed, who believe in the right of the woman citizen to protect her interests in society by the ballot, are invited to be present.

The great forward movement to establish self-government for men which has made such giant strides within the past half century, will not end until equal political rights are extended to women and men alike. That Woman Suffrage will ere long become an established fact—as it already is in Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Finland, and four of the United States of America—is no longer a question. What nation will be the first to uplift the standard of justice to women, and what will be the date of its action are the only points in doubt. International counsel and international co-operation are needed to accelerate the progress of the movement. All persons interested in this greatest of present-day problems are sure of a welcome.

COME ONE, COME ALL.

Signed.

- President—CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, 2, West 86th Street, New York, U.S.A.
- 1st Vice-President—DR. JUR. ANITA AUGSPURG, Paul Strasse 25, Hamburg, Germany.
- 2nd Vice-President—MILLICENT FAWCETT, LL.D. 2, Gower Street, London, England.
- Secretaries—RACHEL FOSTER AVERY, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.  
DR. KATHE SCHIRMACHER, 63, Rue Notre Dame des Champs, Paris.  
MARTINA KRAMERS, 92, Kruiskade, Rotterdam, Holland.
- Treasurer—MRS. STANTON COIT, 30, Hyde Park Gate, London, England.

SIR,—Many of your readers will remember that at the last annual meeting of the London Society within the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, Dr. Flora Murray brought forward a resolution, which was seconded by Dr. Garrett Anderson, to the effect that no one holding office in a party organization should be eligible for election on the Executive Committee of the National Union. For some mysterious reason, which I have never been able to understand, the National Union saw in this statesmanlike policy the cloven hoof of militant methods, and great efforts were successfully made to ensure its defeat. The wisdom of the resolution is now apparent. If it had been carried we should have been spared the sorry spectacle of Mrs. Fawcett, President of the National Union, writing a letter to the papers strongly denouncing Mr. Geoffrey Howard's Bill, in company with all the other Suffrage Societies, while Mrs. Broadley Reid, a member of the Executive Committee of the National Union and also an Hon. Sec. of the Women's Liberal Federation, informs the press that she warmly approves of it.

Further comment is needless.

Yours faithfully,  
A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL UNION.

NOTTS. (N.U.W.S.S.).—The Circus Street Hall was crammed with women in response to an invitation to an "at-home" to meet Mr. and Mrs. Forbes-Robertson. In the absence of Lady Grove, Lady Maud Rolleston took the chair, and in opening the proceedings severely criticised the action of the Anti-Suffragist League for the way they sent out their "literature." The inference to be drawn from some she received the other day was that no decent woman who was not stupid could wish for a vote.

The distinguished actor expressed the hope that there were some Anti-Suffragists present so that they might possibly be converted, or, at any rate, induced to remain passive. It was now over a hundred years since the standard was first raised for this great reform. From the time John Stuart Mill was returned to Parliament in 1865 the literature on this subject had grown, until at last it had reached noble proportions, whereas the "Antis" had practically no literature. Nothing worth calling an answer had ever been given to Mill, and even the last book, published a year ago by Lady Grove, had not been answered.

Mr. Robertson, after predicting that that "mediaeval monstrosity," the grille in the Ladies' Gallery of the House of Commons, would never be seen there again, went on to contend that Women's Suffrage had proved a success wherever it had been tried, and he quoted Mr. Deakin to prove its beneficial effects in Australia.

Meetings of the N.U.W.S.S.

			P.M.	
MARCH	25.	Bollington, New Forest, Ringwood, Public Meeting, Lecture Hall	Miss Abadam 8 Speaker, Miss D. Edwards 3	
		Stratford-on-Avon, Public Meeting	Postponed	
		Leicester Drawing-Room Meeting	Hostess, Mrs. Barnard Ellis 3.30 Speaker, Miss Gill 8 Chair, Mrs. Donaldson 8 Speakers, Miss Gill, Mrs. Cooper	
		Leicester, St. Mark's Group of Suffrage Circles	Hostess, Mrs. Shaen Makepeace 3 Speaker, Dr. Flora Murray 8 Chair, A. Watkin, Esq., J.P. 8 Speaker, Miss Abadam 8	
	26.	Altrincham, Lymm, Drill Hall	Chairman, Councillor Wilson 8 Speaker, Miss Abadam 8	
APRIL	1.	Warwick and Leamington, Public Meeting	Speaker, Miss Abadam 8 Chair, Mrs. Bernard Ellis 8 Speaker, Miss Gill 4	
	3.	Bristol, Shepherd's Hall, Old Market Street, performance (third time in Bristol) of 'Man and Woman.'	Chair, Miss Abadam 8 Speakers, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Sir John Cockburn, and others	
	21.	Derby, Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'Ourselves as a means in ourselves of removing hostility to the Suffrage.'	Bristol, Westbury-on-Trym, performance of 'Man and Woman.'	
	29.	Bournemouth, Prince's Hall	Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour and Mr. Baillie-Weaver 3.30	
	30.	Derby, Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'Women's Suffrage and the case for National and Social Reform.'	Derby, Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'John Stuart Mill.'	
MAY	5.	Derby, Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'Women's Suffrage and Legislation affecting Women and Children.'	Chair, Mrs. Alfred Smith 3 Speaker, Miss E. Meynell 7.30	
	21.	Derby, Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'When we have the Vote.'	Speaker, Miss C. Hamilton (Diana of Dobson's) 4 Chair, Miss Vaudrey Moxon 7.30 Speaker, Dr. Herbert Moxon	
	JUNE	9.	Derby, Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'The Woman Movement.'	Chair, Miss Dorothy Martin 3 Speaker, Mrs. Howard James 7.30 Chair, Mrs. Frank Stones 7.30 Speaker, Miss M. Norma Smith 3 Chair, Mr. T. Mawbey, J.P. 3 Speaker, Mrs. W. Dowson 7.30
		25.	Derby, Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'Woman's Suffrage.'	Chair, Miss Cook 7.30 Speaker, Mrs. Gerard Smith

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

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

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

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

President: MRS. DESPARD.

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

Women still Fight the Government.

MR. HOWARD'S Bill has passed the second reading by a majority of 35, and has been shelved. Although the discussion mainly turned on the desirability of women having the vote, there was in no sense a clear issue. It was confused by other questions, such as the abolition of plural voting, the extension of the existing Franchise to men, the shortening of the term of residence—and women cannot accept the result as a vote on their claims.

Mr. Asquith found himself in a most undesirable dilemma. His wonderful "promise" of last year might easily have been redeemed, and he could have shown his good faith by voting for the Bill—for surely it was democratic enough! But no; that did not suit the astute Prime Minister. He found that the occasion was not worthy of such far-reaching consequences, and wished for a "prolonged discussion" before such a measure could be voted on. Surely the question of "Votes for Women" needs no long discussion. It has been discussed for over forty years, and if the previous debates have been characterized by a levity and frivolity unworthy of the deliberations of a great National Assembly, and absolutely degrading to the women themselves, we have found out the means to obtain a different note. And these means are to be pursued to the bitter end. Let all speakers and workers make a great effort to go to Croydon this week, to fight the fight against the Government, that will humble to the dust their candidate, and make them feel the power of the Woman Suffragist. It is, from our point of view, a pity the Conservatives have so good a cry as "Tariff Reform." Those who do not go to the by-elections do not know the immense influence that the women have on the electors, and how greatly their claims are turning the tide on these occasions. It is impossible, however, for the Government not to be aware of the strength of the women who are against them, and we must show those whom we want to feel our power, how much we can do, either for or against them. The Liberal Government had a great opportunity in their hands, which they utterly failed to appreciate. They thought this opportunity was a bubble, and instead of grasping it, and finding out how solid it was, they smiled and sought for means to prick it—and only succeeded in pricking themselves. Now, in anger and confusion, they wonder why it didn't collapse, and have hardly waked yet to the fact that it is a hard, stubborn reality, come to stay, and if they do not seize this opportunity, the Conservatives will.

In the meantime, we rejoice to see that Mr. Snowden is bringing in a Bill with a clear issue of the Enfranchisement of Women. Mr. Snowden has always been a friend to women, and never more so than when he told the House last Friday that the Woman Suffragists did not approve of Mr. Howard's Bill as a measure for the Enfranchisement of Women. EDITOR.

Women in Public Life.

It is with great pleasure that we print the following letter from Mrs. Hyland. It was published in *The Manchester City News* of July 25th, 1908, but was refused by other papers, as being likely to be injurious to charities. If all ladies would look into the practical working of the charities to which they subscribe, they would find that the state of things of which Mrs. Hyland complains prevails in the majority of cases. It is a well-known fact that large charity schools, such as the Foundling Hospital in London, and many others of the same kind, have

no women on their boards of management. It is not forgotten what happened to the first woman Poor Law Guardian. She was teaching children to mend or knit stockings, and finding them extremely dense in understanding what was meant she told them to take off their shoes and look at their stockings. To her amazement, she found all the stockings *footless*, the Matron having found out this easy way of solving the mending difficulty, and of putting a nice little sum of money into her own pocket at the same time.

SIR,—I desire to call attention to the absence of women on the boards of management of many hospitals, refuges, homes, and other charitable institutions. I was not aware of the fact until recently, when, on examining the annual reports of about thirty charities, I found there was not one woman on the board of any of them. It is true there are ladies' committees in connexion with these institutions, but they have no control over the funds expended upon them, although they are greatly instrumental in the collection of the money; while as these charities deal largely with women and children, it is obvious that women could render valuable assistance on the boards of management. I feel so strongly on this subject that I have resolved, as a protest against the existing state of things, to discontinue my subscription to any charity upon which after its next annual meeting women are excluded from the management, and I would strongly urge all women who at present subscribe to adopt a similar course until women are admitted.

(Signed) ROSE HYLAND.

Holly Bank, Victoria Park, Manchester.

The Cry from Croydon.—Come over and help us!

THE pace of the by-election is quickening, and more and more helpers are wanted. Polling day is fixed for March 29th, and hay must be made this week, while the sun of political interest is shining. I wish the material sun were shining too, for the showers during which we have to speak would quench the fires of any but Suffragettes. It is a very hopeful sign that the crowds will stand and listen in spite of the downpour, and our wagonette, with its gay flags of yellow, green, and white no sooner comes to a standstill than it is surrounded by an eager throng clamouring to hear about "Votes for Women." They are wonderfully orderly crowds, too. Certainly Croydon can bear the palm for good conduct. We have not had so much as a piece of orange peel thrown at us once during the campaign.

On March 22nd Mrs. Holmes, Miss Muriel Matters, and Mrs. W. H. Nevinson spoke at the Small Public Hall, and on Saturday, March 27th, I have taken Thornton Heath Public Baths for a meeting at which I hope Mrs. Billington-Greig will speak, as well as Miss Matters and Mrs. Manson. Saturday will be a busy day, as it will be the day before the poll; so will all the speakers available please come to the Women's Freedom League Committee Rooms, 40, London Road, and help to hold meetings at every street corner? The electorate still wants a good deal of educating in our by-election policy—the Liberal candidate is very popular—and it is difficult to make the man in the street understand our logical opposition to his candidature. But it must be done if we are to have as many post cards sent to Mr. Asquith from this constituency as we had from Glasgow, and it can be done if everybody will perform their part. The only necessity is work—work—and again work. M. H.

### Concrete Examples.

#### 1.—THE FACTORY HAND.

Mrs. BILLINGTON-GREIG says: "The Women's Freedom League believes in concrete examples." Now this shows how practical, and politically educated, the Women's Freedom League is become, for, unless you stuff a concrete example in front of the tip-tilted nose of an Anti-Suffragist, he, she, or it seems incapable of grasping the great idea of the women's movement.

It is my intention to put some concrete examples before the tip-tilted noses of Anti-Suffragists. My mother was an excellent concrete example of the monstrous injustice of taxation without representation. The mother of a large family, she built up the structure of a small but flourishing business, and came to employ much male and female labour; and in her business capacity as a trader and her private capacity as a householder she sent large cheques annually to the Government, who not only relegated her to a political level, lower than the Kafir at the Cape, but lower than the parties she herself employed at 30s. a week.

For myself I have inherited part of what she created, contribute my quota of taxation to the country, and that disposes of me as a rate-paying Outlander; but not as a woman employing and working among working women, with a practical knowledge first hand of the economic conditions guiding their destinies.

Let us take the girl fresh from school, entering into the working arena of life. This girl is brought to the factory by her mother, herself a grown-up work-girl. She brings her child to learn a woman's trade, and the girl is taken on at 4s. a week, 1s. a week less than a boy, because she is a girl. I have seen a bright, intelligent girl at the end of two years arrive at 7s., while a dull boy, because he is a boy, has reached his 12s. although her work is just as necessary to the success of a business, and could probably only be executed by the deft fingers of a woman, and is work a man would not, by virtue of his temperament, undertake if he could. So the girl is installed, and commences as the boy does by spoiling everything until such time as she has learnt her trade. Meanwhile she is automatically getting her rises as the boy, though with much less rapidity, because, it is assumed, that he is to make some sort of career for himself; while some fairy prince, in the shape of a carman, a painter, or a what not, at 25s. to 30s. a week, is to carry her off, and she is to settle down and live happy ever after. But what more often happens? She sits at her bench year in year out helping her family, until such time as she arrives at woman's estate. If she is an ordinary sort of human machine she can earn from 12s. to 18s. weekly, with overtime even more, and if she is extra smart she can rise to some sort of position as head of a department at 30s. a week, which in the case of a man, married or single, would result in a 45s., 50s. or 60s. salary. This girl has generally a love affair of some sort. I have seen these splendid little toilers work as cheerfully as birds because they are "walking out," and I have known in my own business, indeed two, within the last six months, girls who have been "walking out" for five or six years, jilted just as the hopes of their happiness were to be realized. Then what happens? The girl having little time and few or no means of meeting fresh lovers on mutual ground, settles down to her dim grey circumscribed life, with all her natural functions unfulfilled—husbandless, childless, ALONE.

She goes on supporting mother, father, sisters, or brothers, and the "episode" which should have ended in happy, healthy marriage, leaves her a spinster to be stigmatized by coarse minds because she is a spinster, and preached at by the State for lack of children. And the "lover"? On he goes, sowing his wild oats, reaping as he sows to the detriment of the race. Then we have the other sort of workwoman, the one who has brought her love affair to its issue, and whose work is to be "enormously curtailed" by Mr. John Burns. This woman may, nay often does, marry an honest fellow who falls by the way of life, and (unlike the aristocratic "Anti") not being endowed by a cautious and affluent parent, she is compelled to come back to the old

firm for work. Quite lately we had an interesting example of how this sort of woman can keep herself and husband off the rates. She learnt her trade, married, and her husband becoming paralyzed through the worry of unemployment, she came "in" as it is called, because more can be earned by coming in, and being exceptionally smart and clever, she was for some years able to earn from 16s. to 20s. weekly, until a short time ago when she died, and her husband had to go to the workhouse.

This was not a young woman. Often the young ones return, scarcely more than brides, linked up with loafers who have never meant and never mean to work, and who in the course of time abandon their families to join the unemployed, or go to labour settlements.

The woman may be seen almost every day in the year coming in with a bundle of work under one arm and a puny baby under the other. Now, will Mr. John Burns rob this mother of the right to feed her young; and if he does, will not the man, mother, and babies fall upon the rates, which these women by their dauntless courage help to reduce, as the perturbed woman does through taxation?

John Burns and the "Antis" will dangle domestic service in our faces, but is not domestic service work of a physically very hard nature; and has not the State, under a monopoly of male rule, dragged the children from the mothers, and educated them in a manner to unfit them for domestic service, and the very woman who pays education rates is unable to derive any benefit from a system forced on her by misguided legislators?

Quite lately, when asked what he was going to do for women, the Right Hon. Mr. Runciman answered: "My duty is to educate them." This insolent retort comes well from the head of a department partly contributed to by women, especially when Lord Onslow tells us that the increase in its public expenditure is seventeen millions in twenty years!

The attention of the Government might quickly be diverted from the religious formula of the Bills to the practical condition of the women who, by their apathy, they have allowed to be trampled in the dust, "whipped into scorpions," and turned into veritable beasts of burden.

If the Suffragists are doubted, then let the "Antis" from Belgravia, Mayfair, and the palaces of Cairo come down to the plague spots of our imperial city, and deny that with such awful concrete examples before them some new force is needed in politics to cleanse and purify them.

As a woman employing woman's labour, both points of view present themselves to me. The injustice of the system, the helplessness to avoid it until such time as the women can unite to strengthen themselves; for unless the women are strong enough to demand from ALL employers the just dues of the labourer's hire, they cannot obtain justice from the individual one, who, if he yielded to his wishes, would be himself wiped out by crushing competition.

We, therefore, must unite to raise the standard. United we stand, divided we fall; in our unity lies our strength!

MAUD ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT.

### War Song of the Suffragettes.

Women of England, rise!  
Your spotless flag unfurl!  
Vile insults on you heaped,  
Back to their makers hurl!  
Fear not untruthful words  
That cannot hurt a stone;  
But boldly enter in the strife,  
Fight! This Cause—your own.

Women of England, rise!  
Dread not the prison cell!  
Your punishment unjust  
Endure! All will end well.  
Dear Martyrs in our Cause,  
Show men you can be brave!  
Show them that you can march  
To victory—or the grave!

Women of England, rise!  
Slaves ye have helped to free;  
Now fight to free yourselves  
And free ye soon shall be!  
God gave you reason's power  
And He will help your Cause:  
Arise! arise! to victory!  
Amend our man-made laws!  
ROSA ASCOUGH HAYDEN.

### The Signification of the Woman Movement.

THE Rev. C. F. Aked, in *The North American Review*, gives the following testimony to the women's movement in England:—"It is simple fact that the zeal of the women is religious, and that their courage has risen to heroism. They are possessed by the enthusiasm of humanity, and they know the joy of sacrifice for a great cause. . . . The power of politics to raise the status of women everywhere, to ameliorate distressful industrial and social conditions, and to open out large fields of social service, is realized by them now too clearly for them ever to recede from the position they have taken. And some day they will arrive."

Mr. E. Cousins, in *The Theosophist*, speaks still more plainly when he says: "The need for the feminine element in all departments of life is continually becoming more pronounced. . . . In philosophy, in art, in music, there is a reaching out to the mystical, the beautiful, the imaginative, the emotional, the intuitive, rather than the pessimistic, the realistic, the cold, the intellectual; in short, the world-mind seems to be seeking to manifest itself specially in a feminine vehicle, instead of in the masculine form which it has honoured so long. This is the swing of the pendulum of evolution which may not be interfered with. The enfranchisement of women is the most important political movement of modern times; and it is, on the physical plane, only a symbol of the entry, on the mental plane, of the intuition to share in the operations of the intellect; and through the intuition the soul will be able to function and eventually spiritualize the materialistic tendencies of the age. In England and America, strongholds of force, materialism, and selfishness, the legalized freedom of woman to serve her country must be expected to be wrung from those in power only after years of great tribulation."

In India the desire for woman's co-operation in all measures of reform is being more and more strongly expressed. "We see that the prosperity and well-being of a nation depend on the nature and condition of its finer sex. . . . The future of India depends in no small degree on the mothers-to-be of our countrymen. . . . Woman is a potent factor in every Indian home; and man, who controls the world, is conquered by woman. . . . in bringing them together upon the common ground of reform—social reform—our future will be bright and glorious, and our national salvation will not be far distant." Thus writes a Hindu gentleman in the *Indian Ladies' Magazine*, a periodical which, as its circulation widens, and its list of native contributors increases, shows the vast strides being taken in the education, elevation, and emancipation of Indian women at the present day.

Truly those who fight or obstruct or delay this great evolutionary development are among those whom the gods first render mad before their final confusion and destruction.

FRANCES SWINEY.

### London Council "At Home."

THE LONDON COUNCIL will welcome Mrs. Despard and the other prisoners at the Small Queen's Hall on Sunday, April 4th, at 3 o'clock. Mrs. Zangwill and Mr. Joseph Clayton (who nearly became a prisoner himself) will speak. It is hoped many will come and give a hearty welcome to the gallant band who have been suffering with such splendid fortitude the unjust sentences passed upon them. Admission free.

"SOME Economic Aspects of the Woman's Suffrage Movement," by the Rev. R. J. Campbell, M.A. This penny pamphlet—a reprint of the lecture given at the Horticultural Hall on Feb. 10th—is now ready, and can be obtained from the W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, Strand. "The Hour and the Woman"—No. 2 is also on sale.

### Our Prisoners.

WE are relying on each member doing her part towards filling Caxton Hall on Thursday afternoon to help express the thanks and appreciation of the League to our recently released prisoners, who will be presented with badges of honour.

### The Green, White, and Gold Fair.

THE Green, White, and Gold Fair—Caxton Hall—April 15th, 16th, and 17th." If we are to have an attendance worthy of the occasion, these are the words which should be sounding on the tongue and noisy in the ears of the inhabitants of this great City from now until the closing day. The absolute necessity of effective advertising is fully recognized by the Committee, but unfortunately many important media are closed to us on the ground of expense; and we therefore have to rely on the energy and ingenuity of our members for the production of attractive advertisements. We have to see to it that playgoers in London receive our theatrical handbills nightly for a fortnight before the Fair, as the names of the artistes who have kindly promised their services cannot fail to prove an irresistible attraction to all interested in the drama. The railway termini must receive special attention, and the Easter excursionists should be assiduously billed. Members should be on duty outside all important meetings. Will those willing to take part in this work, which will be mainly done in the evenings, please attend at the office on Wednesday evening, the 1st inst., at 7.30 P.M. for instructions? Volunteers are also wanted to sell our advertising balloons in the streets.

GOODS FOR THE FAIR.—A special appeal is made this week for gifts of toys, bric-à-brac, and pottery and china. Promises for these stalls are coming in slowly, and as a large stock will be required for the three days' sale, it is hoped that members will make a special effort to collect goods between now and April 14th.

Contributions are also requested for the Lucky Tub. Articles suitable to the approximate value of 4d. or 6d. each can be sent in at once.

MARIE LAWSON, Hon. Sec.

### Open Letter to the Prime Minister.

Feb. 24th, 1909.

DEAR MR. ASQUITH.—It must be very tiresome to have the street you live in invaded by women who will not go away until they are scattered by the police and their leaders arrested.

Is it impossible for you to make these women understand how foolish it is to expect a busy Prime Minister to be bothered with resolutions passed by meetings of voteless people? Can you not make them see how reckless it is to risk being trampled under foot by mounted police and sent to prison in the second division? How much wiser to leave men to settle their affairs for them, since men do it so much better than women could do it for themselves. There is, however, one poor excuse for the women who have created such disturbances lately. On the day of the opening of Parliament some of them walked with that sad procession of workless women that went through London. They remembered with what difficulty the authorities had been persuaded to keep open the three small workrooms for destitute women this winter. Only women who had no possible claim on a male wage-earner were given work, and the average cost per woman was 14s. a week. It would have been less if the sale of the work had not been so greatly restricted. The cost of these workrooms was considered to be too great. But the average cost of each man sent to the Hollesley Bay Colony was 37s. a week. In this and a few other small matters it has seemed that men have not looked after the interests of women quite so impartially as women would have done for themselves, had they had the power of the vote.

The women came to ask you for this power, and as you would not see them, they very naturally tried to see you. They represented a large body of women, and strangely enough they did not see how wrong it was of them to demand an interview with you. They ought to have understood how awkward it would have been for you to answer their arguments, and they ought to have spared your "liberal" Government the embarrassment of putting in prison women who prefer justice to Liberalism.

Yours faithfully,  
A WOMAN.

Branch Notes.

THE SWANSEA BRANCH was formed on March 2nd, when a room at the Public Analyst's Office, kindly placed at our disposal by Mr. Seyler, was filled by an enthusiastic audience.

Mr. Lloyd George must be considered the founder of the branch, as his attitude at two historic Albert Hall meetings converted many of our members.

During February, however, much supplementary work has been done.

The meeting held in the Albert Minor Hall on January 31st was followed by two most successful drawing-room meetings. At the first, given by Mrs. Cleeves, "Chez-Nous," Sketty, Miss Manning spoke on 'The History of the Woman's Movement,' and a guinea's worth of literature was sold.

Great help towards the formation of the branch was given during the month by Miss Phipps, B.A., whose excellent paper on 'Votes for Women' was listened to by large and appreciative audiences, both at the Pantygydyr Baptist and at the Walter Road Congregational Schoolrooms. On each occasion a lively discussion followed.

Amongst our propaganda work we count also an entertainment given by Mrs. Lleufer Thomas to the Liberal Women of St. Helen's Ward, when Miss Bessie Manning's little play 'The Anti-Suffragette' was performed and literature distributed.

By kind permission of the Secretary and Committee of the Swansea I.L.P., a resolution affirming the principle of Women's Suffrage, and condemning the treatment of the prisoners was proposed at a large meeting held in the Star Theatre on Sunday, February 28th, and passed by an overwhelming majority.

The evening after the formation of the branch an "At Home" was held in the Unitarian School Room, when 'The Anti-Suffragette' was repeated.

All members and friends congratulate one another on the success of this evening, especially Mrs. Hukon for the excellent entertainment provided; Mrs. Berchall, who catered with the greatest equanimity and success for an unknown number of guests; and our actresses, Miss Holmes for her inimitable presentation of the "Anti," Lady Violet FitzGerald, and Miss Muriel Hutton, who played the prison wardress to the life; and last, but not by any means least, the Rev. Simon Jones, for his help and sympathy on this and former occasions.

The officers of the branch are: Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Cleeves, "Chez-Nous," Sketty, S.O., Glamorgan; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Knight, 23, Walter Road; Hon. Literature Secretary, Miss Salmon, The Training College. Intending members are asked to send in their names at once, and help to work up our mass meeting in the Albert Hall on March 31st, when Miss Muriel Matters will be the speaker.

M. E. M.

HAMPSTEAD BRANCH.—The "Antis" have been very busy here of late, distributing literature widely. We are determined not to be left behind, and are circularizing the borough, members being responsible for a certain number of roads each. We leave information about the Women's Freedom League in general and our branch in particular, and hope in this way that every one will get to know of our existence, and that we shall increase our membership.

DUNDEE BRANCH.—A large gathering assembled in the Gilfillan Hall on Tuesday, March 16th, to hear Councillor the Rev. Walter Walsh speak on 'Women and War.' The speaker dealt first of all with the physical force arguments against Woman Suffrage, and in most amusing fashion exposed their absurdity. Coming to his subject proper then, Mr. Walsh spoke eloquently of the evils of war, and especially of the military system from a physical and moral standpoint. Discussion and questions followed, and at the close of a most interesting and instructive evening several new members joined the branch.

L. C.

CENTRAL BRANCH.—Meetings will be held every Thursday evening in Miss Craig's room to help with the decorations. It is hoped that as many members as possible will come. Helpers are wanted for this work.

CROYDON BRANCH.—Miss Hilda Saint-Eve will speak on Mrs. Despard's trial at Mrs. Foster's, Homelea, 65, Coombe Road, South Croydon, March 26th, at 2.30.

Important.

THE Hackney Branch hope that members of the League who are doing their spring cleaning or changing their residence this quarter will remember the Hackney Jumble Sale. Goods should be sent to Dr. Elizabeth Wilks, 57, Oakfield Eoad, Hackney Downs.

Mrs. DUVAL, Miss Seruya, and Miss Ibbotson will be released from Holloway Prison on Friday, March 26th, at 8 A.M. The two former were not members of the deputation to Mr. Asquith, they were merely onlookers, and were sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment for the heinous crimes of being known members of the Women's Freedom League and having been in prison before! We hope there will be a big crowd to welcome them at the prison gates. As Miss Edith Craig is kindly giving the breakfast at her flat, there are only a limited number of tickets, price 2s. each. We hear there is a possibility of these prisoners being sent out with Miss Sidley and Miss FitzHerbert the day previous, so their friends had better be at the prison gates on Thursday morning at 8 o'clock.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS. March 25th to April 3rd.

Table listing events from March 25th to April 3rd. Includes locations like Holloway Gaol, Caxton Hall, and various speakers and times.

Croydon By-Election.—Meetings daily, open-air and at the Committee Rooms, 40, London Road. Helpers welcomed at any time.

Green, White, and Gold Fair, April 15, 16, and 17. Suffrage Day, Albert Hall, Sat., June 19.

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

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 40, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.

Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.

Hon. Literature Secretary: A. I. G. JAYNE.

Notes and Comments.

WE draw special attention to the list of signatures to a declaration in favour of Women's Suffrage which appears below. It has been felt for a long time that a definite statement of this kind should be made in answer to the Anti-Suffrage lists, and therefore a small committee, consisting of Mrs. Herringham, Miss Osborne, R. F. Cholmeley, J. Malcolm Mitchell, and Miss Bertha Newcombe (Hon. Sec.) was formed to carry on the work. A circular letter, signed (in their private capacities) by Mrs. Fawcett, Lady Knightly of Fawsley, Lady Frances Balfour, Lady Laura McLaren, Lady Grove, and Mrs. Philip Snowden, was drawn up, and sent out to men who were known or believed to be in favour. These men were asked to sign one or both of two clauses, one expressing approval of the principle that the Franchise should be extended to all duly qualified women (i.e., to all women who possess any of the qualifications on which men are enfranchised), and the other promising to help on the work as far as possible. The names on the opposite page are those of the signatories to the first clause: the majority signed the second clause also.

The list as it now stands represents the replies of the first five weeks, and as such is sufficiently reassuring. The rough classification adopted shows how widespread is the opinion, and the list is the more impressive inasmuch as no attempt has been made to collect the names of Members of Parliament as such. Those M.P.s who appear are classified in accordance with their other activities; the lists of those who have supported the various Bills in the House have been published widely already, and no good purpose would be served by reproducing them here.

It should be specially noted that the list is not by any means the result of systematic canvass. This work is still to be done; but it was felt that the time had arrived for a reply to the list of Lord Cromer's supporters, and as a result copies will be ready for distribution at the doors of the Queen's Hall on Friday (tomorrow) evening, at the Anti-Suffragists' demonstration. The register will be kept going, and revised editions of the list published from time to time. Apply to the Hon. Literature Secretary.

We greatly regret that owing to lack of space we are unable this week to publish either the conclusion of Mr. J. O'May's article "Votes for Women," or the report of speeches made by Mr. H. G. Chancellor on March 12th and 16th in Islington.

Sussex Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

ON Monday evening at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, Alderman Carden presided over a meeting for the formation of a Sussex Men's League for Women's Suffrage. Among others present were the Rev. A. E. Wynne, Mr. F. Merrifield, Councillor Godfree, Mr. Milner Black, &c.

Mr. J. Edward Francis, in a brief address, explained the aims and gave some account of the London Men's League, with which the Sussex Men's League proposed to affiliate.

Mr. H. R. Mackeson moved that a Sussex Men's League for Women's Suffrage be formed. Women, he said, must not work alone in this great movement. Men must be their partners and go to their aid. Women had worked so long by themselves in the Cause, it was quite time they (the men) came and stood by them if they had any manhood and chivalry. The motion was agreed to, and a number of members were enrolled.—Rules were duly adopted. Mr. Adrian Brunel (68, Osborne Villas, Hove) was appointed honorary secretary, and Mr. H. Milner Black, honorary treasurer. The following were elected to form the

Committee: Councillors Godfree and Mellor, the Rev. Keith Walden, Mr. Mackeson, Mr. L. G. Biddle, Mr. J. Edward Francis, Mr. G. Elmes, Mr. Arthur Hall, Mr. Pearman, Mr. Arthur Pratt, and Mr. V. B. Strong.—It was suggested that the Committee should arrange a meeting at Brighton Dome, and invite representatives of other societies to assist.

Clerks and the Suffrage.

MR. VICTOR ALBERY (M.L.W.S.) delivered an address on the subject of 'Underpaid Female Clerks and the Franchise' before the members of the Westminster Branch of the National Union of Clerks on Wednesday, March 3rd, when the following resolution was carried with three dissentients: "That in the opinion of this meeting it is useless for the Union to demand equal pay for equal work for male and female clerks unless the female clerks have the opportunity of influencing legislation on their own behalf by the possession of the vote, and that the members of this branch, present at this meeting pledge themselves to support the movement for an extension of the Franchise to women."

Considerable discussion took place on the subject, several stating that they had not looked at the Suffrage question in the light in which it had been put before them, and that it was of utmost importance to trade unionists.

A vote of thanks to the speaker concluded the proceedings. [We much regret that the publication of this report was unavoidably delayed.—Ed. M.L.W.S.]

Open-Air Campaign.

THE third Hyde Park meeting took place last Sunday. The chair was taken by Mr. Gugenheim, who opened the meeting from a platform lent by a rival speaker, our own being somewhat later than usual in arriving. Subsequently our own appeared, and Miss Isabella Ford gave a splendid speech before a very large audience. Her wide experience of the conditions of women workers made a great impression. Successful speeches were also delivered by Mr. W. L. George and Mrs. Nevinson, the crowd by this time having reached very large dimensions. Rain now began to fall, and though Miss Moloney and others were prepared to continue, it was decided to throw open the meeting to questions. Only one was asked, which Mr. Gugenheim successfully answered.

The thanks of the League are due to Mrs. Nevinson and Miss Maloney, the latter of whom kept her engagement at personal risk, as she is forbidden to do open-air work in wet weather, and also to Mr. Gugenheim and Mr. George. Mr. A. W. Holland, who has just taken up the open-air secretariate, was unable to be present owing to an old engagement away from London, while Mr. Mitchell, finding late on Saturday that the preparation of the annual report and the arrangements for circulation of the Men's Declaration to the press would occupy his whole time, had to wire Mr. Gugenheim to take charge in his absence. The open-air work has hardly yet been reduced to order since the unfortunate breakdown of Mr. Hopkins, and we owe both apologies and thanks to those who have, often at considerable inconvenience, stepped into the breach.

The next meeting will be held in Hyde Park next Sunday, March 28th, and succeeding meetings will take place on every Sunday in April at 3 o'clock.

Members are strongly urged to offer their services as speakers. We shall want at least a dozen more men speakers, so that in May we may be able to extend our work, according to the plan now being prepared by the sub-committee.





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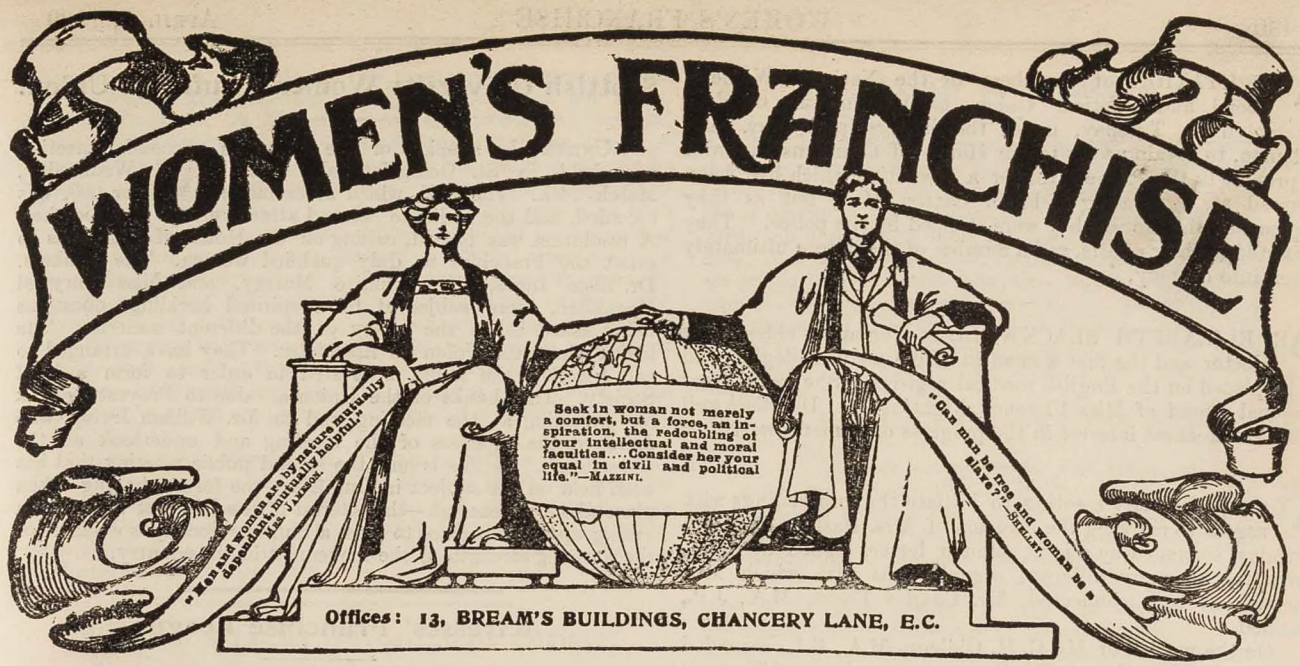
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Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.  
The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.  
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80, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin.

Notes.  
A GREAT public meeting in support of Women's Suffrage will be held in the Corn Exchange, Cambridge, by the Cambridge Association for Women's Suffrage, on Wednesday, May 5th, at 8 p.m. The chair will be taken by the Rev. R. St. John Parry, Fellow and Senior Dean of Trinity College, Cambridge; and speeches will be delivered by Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.S., F.R.C.S., Miss Abadam, Miss Frances Sterling, and Mr. Israel Zangwill. Hon. Sec., Mrs. James Ward, 6, Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge.

ON Tuesday, March 23rd, a large and enthusiastic special rally meeting was called by the N.W.S.P.U. to declare the result of the special effort week. Miss Christabel Pankhurst was in the chair, and called attention to the attitude of the papers expressed in leaders on Friday's debate in the House. Miss Mary Gawthorpe came from Lancashire specially to address the meeting, and also to explain the attitude of the Lancashire people towards the Government and the objects of the deputation on March 30th, in which Lancashire played a part. Mr. Pethick Lawrence announced the splendid results in the various departments of the self-denial weeks, which was a large increase on the efforts of past years.

LADY CONSTANCE LYTTON and 25 other advocates of Women's Suffrage, members of the N.W.S.P.U., were released from Holloway gaol last Wednesday. They were accorded an enthusiastic reception by members of the Union and, headed by a band and followed by a number of sympathizers, proceeded in carriages to the Inns of Court Hotel, Holborn, where a special breakfast welcome had been arranged. The released prisoners, in addition to Lady Constance Lytton, include Miss Daisy B. Solomon, a daughter of the late Mr. Saul Solomon, Crown Minister of the Cape; Mrs. Frank Corbett, Miss Una S. Dugdale, Miss Leslie Lawless, Mrs. Madeline Petre, Miss E. H. Chesshire, and Mrs. Caprina Fahey.

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