

The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

Women's Suffrage

Societies.

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FEBRUARY 29, 1912.

ONE PENNY.



THE MODERN SINTRAM.

Notes and Comments.

A Political Speech.

Mr. Lloyd George amply redeemed his promise to make his speech at the Albert Hall a discussion of the Parliamentary prospects of women's suffrage...

Mr. George's candour in responding to reasonable interjections was plainly shown by his immediate correction of his unqualified statement that "no party" had adopted Women's suffrage.

Another Important Point.

Another important statement made by Mr. George was that in which he said that if he were convinced that no other franchise were possible, he had always said his attitude would be a different one.

The Press and the Meeting.

Some of the newspapers have made the very most of the silly interruptions at the Albert Hall, but they emanated from a very few individuals, certainly under a score out of the 8,000 present...

There is a curious difference of opinion as to the voting on the resolution. The Times, Daily Telegraph, and Daily News say it was "unanimously" passed...

The Conciliation Bill.

The Conciliation Committee met on the 21st, and decided to present the Bill in precisely the same form as last year, and to make no attempt to refer it to Grand Committee.

Mr. Birrell and the Suffrage.

The Irish ladies who waited upon Mr. Birrell on February 20 did not get very much out of him. He was of opinion that when women had obtained the vote in England, in this year, it would be impossible to deprive them of a vote for the Irish Parliament...

On the other hand, his answer to the Bristol Anti-Suffragists, who waited upon him on Saturday, was a characteristic essay, couched in his genially cynical style. Mr. Birrell is one of the kindest of politicians who have no illusions about politics...

What Women?

Suffragists have for some time past reckoned Mr. Winston Churchill as an opponent, and we regret, for the sake of his own reputation and the honesty of political life, that he does not frankly acknowledge himself opposed to the granting of votes to women.

Now, since that Manchester election, when he "believed" the country was in favour of Women's Suffrage, what has happened? Suffrage Societies have increased to certainly ten times their size and number...

We have read with the utmost disgust the description in "Votes for Women" of the petty persecution carried out by members of the W.S.P.U. on the occasion of his Belfast meeting...

Mrs. Fawcett's History of Women's Suffrage:

We have just received this little book, published by Messrs. Jack, 67, Long Acre, price 6d. net, and hope to review it next week. It can be obtained from the National Union.

Our Cartoon.

The women's cause is now actually entering the "dark tower." No carnal weapons will help the champions. "Justice to women!" "Right is might!" These must be their device and their weapons spiritual.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

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CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and book-stalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., giving the name and address of the news-agent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

Contents.

Table listing various sections such as Cartoon, Notes and Comments, Annual Council Meeting, Success and Failure, etc., with their respective page numbers.

The Spirit of the National Union.

On reflection, my first impressions of the great historic meeting of Friday last—absolutely unique in more particulars than one—are confirmed and deepened. It was most peculiar and distinctive, and its peculiarity and distinction were gravity, dignity, weight, a sense of responsibility pervading not only speakers and officials but the great audience which had, unorganised and collected from all parts of the kingdom...

There is no doubt at all that it was the spirit of the National Union which made this triumph possible. It is not easy to say what that spirit is because it is made up of many elements, and it is the product of many years of training in self-govern-

ment. The National Union has, while agitating for power, never ceased to be the finest training ground for the wise use of power: the system of popular election, the decentralisation of our work, the responsibility thrown upon every individual member, not only to act but to think, have all tended to a steady growth in political knowledge and sagacity and to that balance of mind which comes from free discussion and criticism.

It is not fantastic, I think, to find in the rich, deep and harmonious decorations of the Artists' League a remarkably just symbolism. The banners of the societies and the scutcheons of the Federations hung around the two tiers of the great semicircle in ordered and regular sequence; the general impression was that of a symphony in which a vast number of separate notes were harmonised to one accord and at the back of our minds this resultant harmony was made intriguing and subtly exciting by the thought of the millions of stitches, the art, labour, patience and ingenuity that had by degrees made up these items of a great scheme—something like the emotion one has in contemplating the patient brick on brick that makes the cathedral at Westminster—art, labour, patience and ingenuity, shown in all the infinite gradations of human variety and all tuned to one accord—we like to think of these as symbolised in the design of the Artists' League and as expressing the soul of the National Union.

A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL UNION.

A Degree Standard in Home Science.

The paragraph in your issue of February 15th, in which you comment on the endowment obtained by King's College for the study of Home Science and the building of a hostel to be called after Queen Mary, expresses, I hope, the views and feelings of a large number of thoughtful, open-minded, progressively-inclined women. Real pleasure at this munificent recognition of women's activity in the home as a profession, which, like any other profession, requires to be learnt if real efficiency is to be attained, and appreciation of the labour of those who have brought about this gratifying result, are tempered with certain regrets and definite fears.

templated. The policy followed by the promoters and the organisers of the King's College scheme assumes possibilities of a speedy and easy rout of empiricism, together with scientific capacities on the part of the students, which I believe to have no counterpart in reality; this serious fundamental mistake is, I think, bound to impair the efficiency of the work accomplished, besides which, indirectly in various ways it may do and is, I fear, already doing actual harm. But this is much too big a subject to be treated of exhaustively in a letter, and since it is obviously desirable for me to restrict myself to one special point, Miss Oakeley's letter published in the COMMON CAUSE of February 22nd, in which she tries to justify the use of the term "degree standard" as applied to the work done at King's College, indicates the choice most suitable under the given circumstances. I should like, however, to state that, strongly as I feel on this particular point, I consider it incomparably inferior in importance to the question of whether the status and the efficiency of the domestic worker, as tested daily in thousands and thousands of homes, will be raised or not. If I could feel sure, or even hopeful of success in this respect, I should be little troubled by even flagrant misuse of the term "degree standard."

Before setting out my reasons for denying to the study of domestic activities the claim to a degree standard, it may be well to point out what to me seem the weak points in Miss Oakeley's evaluation and presentation of her case.

(1) She repeats the stock argument with which all adverse criticism of home science, however detailed, however clearly specified, has hitherto been met. We are reminded that whenever a new subject has claimed and won academic recognition, it has encountered opposition which subsequent experience has proved unreasonable. From this perfectly correct premise we are evidently expected to draw the perfectly erroneous conclusion, that criticism of Home Science is unjustifiable; no further trouble is taken to show that Home Science has reached a stage of development which is comparable with that of history and the other subjects quoted by Miss Oakeley in her charming description of some of the quaint features in the struggle of the new for recognition by the side of the old. But this manner of brushing aside specific criticism cannot be convincing to people who, whilst cognisant of what constitutes a degree standard, also possess enough technical knowledge to evaluate the possibilities afforded by Home Science, and who may even carry boldness so far as to deny the very existence of such a subject. The appeal to history made by Miss Oakeley does no more than show that the existence of opposition does not necessarily prove Home Science to be unworthy of getting what is asked for; but this is a negative argument only and contributes nothing on the positive side—viz., the substantiation of the claim by appeal to scope, method, and above all, *achievement*.

(2) Miss Oakeley gives it as her experience that the King's College Home Science course awakens interest and makes demands on will and intelligence. This is only what anybody would have expected; but does this by itself affect the question at issue—namely, whether the ability and intellectual effort required for the study of Home Science are at all comparable with what would be demanded by the study of any other academic subject? Moreover, it is an unfortunate fact that pseudo-science can so easily masquerade as true science, and that with every appearance of mental effort having been made, and made to some purpose, the achievement may consist merely in doing vigorously, with much show of interest and satisfaction, something scientifically and practically worthless. And what more favourable breeding-ground for such make-believe than the "kitchen laboratory," where girls, with a mere smattering of scientific knowledge, without full grasp of scientific knowledge, without full grasp of scientific method, perhaps even without extensive first-hand acquaintance with the controlling conditions of real cookery, are brought face to face with problems so intricate that it takes all the knowledge, all the experience, all the scientific imagination of the highly-trained chemist and bacteriologist even to understand their nature?

Whilst it seems to me, therefore, that Miss Oakeley has not succeeded in adducing any positive evidence of a university standard being reached in Home Science, I believe that a critical examination of the King's College syllabus can be made to prove the contrary. The course seems to me to consist of three parts quite distinct at least in theory—viz., (i) pure science, (ii) applied science, (iii.) domestic crafts; and in examining whether the work as a whole is of degree standard, it will, I think, be best to consider in how far each of the separate sections is likely to contribute to such a result.

(i) Pure science (and allied subjects). The large number of subjects worked at during the first two years—six in all—viz.,

chemistry, physics, biology, physiology, hygiene and economics—must make it impossible to reach anything approaching academic standard. Not only is the time allowance for each subject at any stage very small (physics, the science fundamental to all others, is disposed of in thirty hours' lectures and sixty hours' practical work, and physiology fares even worse, with thirty hours' lectures and only twenty hours' practical work), but worse still, no single subject is continued long enough for the students to reach the more advanced and difficult parts of it, in consequence of which their outlook on science as a whole must be restricted, and proper understanding of the nature of scientific discovery rendered almost impossible. Twenty five years' experience of teaching chemistry to students preparing for the Cambridge Natural Sciences Tripos has shown me what the average young woman with her average inadequate school preparation in science can accomplish at each stage of a three years' University course, even when three subjects only are attempted; I feel convinced that if the work were not carried beyond the stage reached at the end of the first or second year, much of it would be valueless, because it is only in the third year that pieces of knowledge, hitherto detached and only partially understood, sort themselves into their right places and assume their proper value.

(ii.) Applied science. The work in pure science being undeniably of a nature so distinctly elementary that those directing the Home Science course could not, I think, themselves describe that part of it as of degree standard, it may be presumed that they base their claims mainly on work of a higher and more advanced nature on the applied side. Even the most casual examination will however show that, as a matter of fact, in this section of the work things are no better; and further, that they cannot be better considering the present position of what—using terms in their usual sense—would be called Domestic Science—i.e., a fairly comprehensive, well-proportioned application of physics, chemistry, physiology and bacteriology to the production of certain definite effects required in the daily life of a household. It is here that comes in the fundamental difference between Domestic Science and an established applied science, a difference which is so persistently ignored when agriculture and engineering are used to supply arguments from analogy, as though the cases were at all comparable. The new subject, or to use Miss Oakeley's expressive phrase, the new grouping of subjects called Domestic Science, the existence of which is postulated, has not yet shown that first sign of conscious life, the attempt to find a voice in print. Surely never before has a branch of knowledge claimed academic recognition which had not even a *vestige* of a literature in proof of its specific character; a touchstone whereby can be judged its nature, its scope, its method, its *achievements*! And here offers an opportunity for mentioning one of the few bright spots in what to those who think with me is rather a gloomy picture—namely, that the advocates of Domestic Science are doing signal service in drawing attention to the fact that here is a field vast and promising for the worker in science and in housecraft. An enormous amount of material requires to be verified, sorted, classified, used for empirical generalisations, calling for the services of women who have had a thorough training in *pure* science on the usual non-utilitarian lines, and who have followed this up by thoroughly learning the craft of cookery, preferably from "a *practical* cook," a proceeding which I regret to say Miss Oakeley decries. There is, of course, also any amount of scope for real research work, revealing the inward nature of materials and processes; this however is of so difficult a nature that it must always be the prerogative of the few. But there is nothing, or at any rate, next to nothing, out of which the ordinary teacher can for the ordinary pupil shape a really educative and practically useful course of University standard.

(iii) Domestic Arts. Recognising the special bent of the King's College scheme, it is not surprising that the time allowance for this part of the work is on a much smaller scale than at technical colleges such as Battersea and Gloucester; all the same, the data given in the prospectus (of 1909-1910) show this difference to be so great as to make one wonder whether cookery, the craft which requires for its complete mastery so very much practice, can really be learnt in the time available. But be this as it may, it is certain that under such conditions the study of the crafts cannot present any special features deserving of special recognition and raising this part of the work to a level which would favourably affect that of the course as a whole. As things are, the directly utilitarian section of the work comes off worst in the time table, and one wonders whether this is a necessity yielded to with regret, or whether there does not come into play a certain amount of resentment against work in which

willy-nilly the rule of empiricism must be acknowledged. A critic of the King's College policy on one occasion tried to illustrate her view that loose theory might prove a danger to sound practice by saying "After all, the final test must be the production of, say, a good cake," and was promptly answered "No, not at all, it is the principle of the cake we consider to matter most!"

This finishes the statement of my case against the existence of a degree standard in Home Science; I fear I have been very long, but I have tried to subordinate the subjective to the objective in my treatment, wishing not merely to express opinions, but also, as far as possible, to give the facts on which they are based. Miss Oakeley, in her letter, tries to reassure us by saying that the question whether a degree standard in Home Science can be and has been attained, may be safely left to the decision of the University of London. Now, whilst fully recognising the high standard hitherto maintained by the tribunal thus appealed to, I cannot help feeling that the case about to be submitted to its judgment is of so novel and exceptional a nature that there is real danger of exceptional treatment. Miss Oakeley herself supplies a case in point. She quotes Sir Walter Raleigh as having expressed the opinion that technical subjects such as agriculture and domestic science, are rightly included amongst University studies. Now I consider that in this confession of faith two very distinct points are involved. Professor Raleigh is no doubt fully justified in forming an opinion, even if only on *a priori* grounds, on the general question whether technical subjects (applied sciences?) should or should not be studied under the supervision and fostering care of Universities and even receive some kind of hall-mark. But an affirmative answer surely could not be meant to include all technical subjects, whatever their nature, scope and development; and when it comes to deciding on the merits of any *special* case, his competency to judge may well be doubted. Thus when he groups together Agriculture and Domestic Science, he must have completely taken on trust the *existence* of a *science* of the home; and this one fears may be the position of a number of the men with whom the decision will rest. Many will be without the necessary scientific qualifications for testing the claim made. To others it may seem that, since women are best qualified to judge the nature of the particular problems dealt with in Home Science and to evaluate the intellectual activities required in their solution, it would be lacking in liberality, nay, in justice, to refuse to women the help which they say recognition by a University would give them in the accomplishment of a task universally admitted to be of the highest and most far-reaching importance. For this reason I consider the expression of a dissenting opinion, like that contained in the COMMON CAUSE of February 15th, most opportune, and I would urge further that every legitimate and suitable occasion should be seized for proclaiming with no uncertain voice that there are a large number of women who, whilst most anxious to see the status of domestic work raised, yet guided by their knowledge of matters educational, scientific and domestic, entirely disagree with the view that this object can be best achieved by investing the work with the artificial glamour of a degree.

IDA FREUND,

Chemical Laboratory, Newnham College, Cambridge.

The Need of Specialisation.

As the recent holder of the Gilchrist Post Graduate Scholarship in Home Science and Economics at King's College for Women, I would like to add a few words to the statements on the scheme that have already been made in your columns.

I share your desire to aid every effort which may tend to the more efficient treatment of domestic work, but I am convinced that the Home Science scheme is not one of these. In fact, the strong disapproval of the entire scheme which led to my resignation of the scholarship was due to the conviction that the scheme was such as to hinder the development of housecraft and could not in any particular be considered progressive.

I would ask your readers to write to the College for the latest circular on the course, and to peruse it at their leisure. The circular is highly instructive, and to anyone gifted with imagination supplies sufficient information to compel unqualified condemnation of the entire scheme.

The three years' course, for which University recognition as a fitting course for a science degree is sought, includes study of the following:—Biology, chemistry (pure and applied), physics, hygiene, physiology, household work (cookery, laundry and

housewifery), and economics (including a short course in book-keeping and business affairs) with bacteriology, ethics and psychology, and practical psychology as optional subjects, one of which may be taken by the student in addition to *all* of the above. I need only remind the reader that for the science degree in every recognised University four subjects are taken up to the Intermediate standard, and three of these to the Final standard in the same period of time.

After all this the circular goes on to state that the scheme may be regarded "as the special contribution made by women to the general recognition of the necessity for specialisation in order to maintain a high standard of national efficiency."

Nothing more seems necessary to prove that the course does not provide what it claims to provide, namely, "education in science and economics of a University standard."

Couple with this the statement made in the Calendar of the London University, for the information of the student intending to teach, that "The student who has taken the three years' course will offer rather less general science than the science graduate, but will have more specialised knowledge in hygiene and economics, and will undertake the practical teaching of simple cookery, laundry-work and house-work to schoolgirls, but will not, as a rule, offer lessons in advanced cookery, nor will possess necessarily any high degree of manipulative skill in the domestic arts," and it becomes obvious that the scheme provides neither education in science nor training in domestic arts of a standard equal to that attained in the schools of domestic arts.

Furthermore, I fail to see that the scheme will lead to the development of house-craft. On the contrary, as already stated, I feel that it will hinder such development. The present inefficiency in all matters connected with the house is due to the lack of specialisation. No advancement is therefore possible through a scheme which seeks to increase the complexity by mixing up the training in house-craft with the study of subjects such as chemistry, economics, biology, which have nothing whatever to do with the house.

History has shown that specialisation becomes possible only when the various crafts are taken from the home, but then they can no longer be termed "domestic."

It is certain that very considerable advancement will be made in the future in cookery, laundry-work and in cleaning, and it is possible that such detailed study will be necessary as to make the science of chemistry or physics applied to each of these fitting subjects for a degree in science, just as the science of chemistry applied to dyeing and the chemistry of leather manufacture are accepted for the science degree in one of our Northern Universities at the present time. Even then it will not be possible to conceive of a degree in "domestic science."

I trust that all readers of your paper will take the advice given by Miss Oakeley and give further and serious consideration to the King's College scheme. I feel convinced that the scheme would then have to face more ridicule and condemnation than it would be able to withstand, and the promoters of it would be compelled either to remodel it completely or to withdraw it.

RONA ROBINSON, M.Sc.

(Late Gilchrist Scholar, King's College, London).

Womanly Work.

*That the pavement of Golgotha should be white as snow,
Not red, but white;
That the waters of Babylon should no longer flow,
And men see light.*

There is a good deal in common between this* and another terrible book, *Das Tagebuch einer Verlorenen*. Margarete Böhme's book describes in the form of a diary the life-history of an "unfortunate" in a country where there is regulation, and some of the most awful situations are those caused by the body of men called with unconscious irony "police des mœurs." The scene of Mr. Kaufmann's book is laid in New York, and here again the police, whether bribed by brothel-keepers, or setting the law in motion to bring defenceless women before their vile "Night Courts," are among the most potent factors for driving down to lower and lower depths of degradation the women whose first step may have been one of childish indiscretion and ignorance only.

Women ought to read these books. In Mr. Masfield's preface to this one, he says that, although it is written of America,

**Daughters of Ishmael*, by Reginald Wright Kaufmann. (Stephen Swift and Co., pp. 396. 6s.)

with the confidence which is born of that knowledge, knowing that whatever may be the difficulties, whatever may be the anxieties at this particular moment, the future is ours." He was hopeful, but he did not wish to be over-sanguine. There were many difficulties in the path; there was possible disagreement among the friends of this principle as to its precise application. Their duty was to promote unity among as many sections as possible.

Parliamentary situations were changeable, and sometimes upset the calculations of the most shrewd observers. Also, their opponents would use every device which was afforded by the Parliamentary machine to secure their defeat. But while he knew all this, he also knew that this Session presented the best opportunity they had ever had for carrying their cause to victory. He knew the temper, the earnestness of purpose, of those engaged in that cause, and he believed that the members of the House of Commons knew it, too. He appealed to those present to do nothing which would make the task of those in Parliament more difficult. Those who had criticised their confidence in the present opportunity were right in a sense when they said that the cause of Women's Enfranchisement could not rest upon the pledges of individuals in the chances of a Parliamentary situation. "It rests," Lord Lytton continued, "upon something greater than that. It rests upon something more important than any pledge. I will conclude with these words from the Shakespeare Calendar of to-day:—

"Now put your shields before your hearts and fight
With hearts more proof than shields."

QUESTIONS.

Mrs. Fawcett announced that, owing to the unseemly and discourteous interruptions, the time allowed to questions must be reduced from twenty to ten minutes.

Mr. Lloyd George said: "There are three questions, practically, when you boil them down. One is with regard to the Referendum, the second is with regard to my attitude to the Conciliation Bill, and the third is with regard to the difficulty of obtaining a Parliamentary majority for any amendment except a narrow one. I will take the three and answer them as shortly as possible.

CONCILIATION BILL.

"With regard to the Conciliation Bill, I have never, as Lord Lytton has said, concealed my attitude towards a narrow Franchise Bill. I have held that view during the whole of the time I have been in Parliament, and I have expressed it. I still hold it, and, what is more, I am entitled to hold it. If I were convinced that no other franchise were possible, then, I have always said, my attitude would be a different one. I think it is so important that you should get the franchise for women embodied in an Act of Parliament that, if I were convinced that, owing to Parliamentary difficulties, no other measure were possible, I should certainly support, much as I dislike it, even the Conciliation Bill. But I am not convinced. I believe that it is possible to carry through the House of Commons a measure for the enfranchisement of women upon the basis of every extension which up to the present time has been given in any country of franchise to women. In our Colonies, in the United States of America, in Norway, the franchise has been conceded upon broad, democratic principles, and I am firmly convinced that with unity and common sense we shall be able to carry it this year.

REFERENDUM.

"The second question is the Referendum. The question is put to me—Do you express your own opinion or the opinions of the Government?"

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

OBJECT: To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.
METHODS: (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in this country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

Hon. Secretaries: Miss K. D. COURTNEY, Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
President: Miss EDITH PALLISER (Parliamentary).
Hon. Secretary to Press Committee: Miss EMILY M. LEAF.
Hon. Secretary to Literature Committee: Miss I. B. O'MALLEY. Telephone 1960 Victoria.
Telegrams: "Voiceless, London." Hon. Sec. to Literature Committee: Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

A Message from Mrs. Fawcett.

I feel I must write a few lines of very hearty thanks to all the societies in the National Union, and to each individual member who attended our magnificent meeting in the Albert Hall. An organised attempt was made by a comparatively small number of individuals scattered in different parts of the hall to break up the meeting by reiterated and discourteous interruptions of Mr. Lloyd George and later to a slighter degree of Lord Lytton. This attempt was frustrated by the admirable discipline and loyalty of the great bulk of the vast audience. They had been strongly urged by circulars distributed in the hall in the event of disturbances to keep silent, to remain in their seats, and not even to look round in the direction from which the noises proceeded. The stewards were cautioned by no means, whatever happened, to use physical force towards the disturbers of the meeting, but to concentrate their attention on keeping the rest of the audience perfectly quiet. So loyally were these instructions carried out by both the stewards and the audience that no general disturbance took place. The interrupters were readily distinguishable from the mass of orderly people by whom they were surrounded. It was a great triumph, and never in my life have I felt more proud of the National Union or more grate-

ful to all the members of it for saving our magnificent meeting from disaster.

It was a triumph also for Mr. Lloyd George, because, although he was perpetually interrupted and also assailed by insulting epithets, he never for a moment lost the thread of his discourse, and he never lost his good-humour or let fall any expression in retort which—however excusable—would have lowered his personal dignity. I cannot help feeling that he, too, was helped by the concentration of the audience on not allowing the meeting to be broken up, by its whole-hearted enthusiasm for our great cause, and its determination to welcome him as a man in the front rank of politics who was willing to use his great powers to promote the enfranchisement of women in 1912.

The insults to Lord Lytton created a feeling of profound revulsion. No man has worked more generously and wisely for women's suffrage, or been more loyal in word and deed to every section of the Women's Suffrage movement. But he knows that his devoted and self-sacrificing work is deeply valued and appreciated by the great mass of suffragists in all the societies, and we hope he will endeavour to forget the few unseemly interruptions which he met with on Friday evening.

MILLCENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

February 24, 1912.

The Anti-Suffrage Meeting.

As we go to press we receive the refusal of a press ticket, for which we made application several weeks ago. The antis are apparently determined that we shall not have a chance of judging what their packed meeting is really like.

Annual Council Meeting.

The annual Council meeting of the National Union was held in the Portman Rooms, Baker Street, on Saturday, February 24th. The proceedings on this occasion only occupied one day, partly because of the unanimity which existed on most of the points brought forward, but principally owing to the fact that the policy of the Union was fully laid down at the special Council meeting held in December, and nothing had happened which called for any alteration.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

Mrs. Henry Fawcett, in her presidential address, said that her first words must be of thanks to those who had arranged the magnificent meeting at the Albert Hall on the 23rd, the organisers and workers of the London Society. The members of the Artists' League had surely made the outward aspect of the meeting the most beautiful which had yet been seen. She thanked all the members of the Union and the audience generally for the dignified restraint which they had shown in face of the unmannerly interruptions to which not only the chief speaker, who had been the guest of the evening, but also Lord Lytton, had been subjected.

Mrs. Fawcett emphasised again the policy of the National Union in accepting the pledges of the Prime Minister. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had made it additionally clear that the promises made on November 17th were those of the whole Government and not of the Prime Minister only, and that it would be absolutely impossible to be a party to throwing them over, either in the letter or the spirit. The National Union must persist in its policy of securing the largest amount of support possible for an amendment to the Reform Bill, and also for the Conciliation Bill. On Friday night they had had the additional satisfaction of hearing from Mr. Lloyd George, in relation to the Conciliation Bill, that if he were convinced that owing to Parliamentary difficulties no other measure was possible, then he should certainly support that Bill. "I do not think he has ever said quite so much before," Mrs. Fawcett said. The National Union must educate itself to distinguish the essential elements in the situation from those that were non-essential. The interruptions on the 23rd proceeded from the depths of political ignorance; the least grain of political education would have prevented the stupidity of many of the questions asked.

Mrs. Fawcett, in alluding to the new faces amongst us since the last Council meeting, spoke of the great affection and admiration felt by members of the Union for Miss Dimock, whose illness (from which she is now happily recovering) prevented her from being present. The members of the Council responded by rising in their places and cordially applauding Miss Dimock's name. Mrs. Fawcett's references to the invaluable services of Miss Leaf in the Press Department, and Miss O'Malley in the Literature Department, were also very warmly received, and she paid a graceful compliment to the self-sacrifice of the Manchester Society in having yielded up Miss Courtney to the services of the Union at headquarters.

Miss Palliser reviewed the Parliamentary situation in regard to the Reform Bill, the Plural Voting Bill, and the Conciliation Bill. Miss Sterling announced that the collection at the Albert Hall had reached the sum of £5,410.

MRS. AUERBACH'S LETTER.

The following letter from Mrs. Auerbach was read:—

Deal's Hotel, East London, South Africa.
DEAR COUNCILLORS,—I regret that I cannot be present at this year's important Council meeting, but I send you my heartiest greetings and best wishes for the successful outcome of your deliberations. I shall be with you in my thoughts, and shall humbly share in your high hopes of the coming triumph of our cause.

I know that each of you is deeply imbued with a sense of the magnitude of the task that lies before us, and of the effort which we are once more called upon to make. I wish I could be among you at the Albert Hall meeting. It will be a signal demonstration of the enthusiasm that animates our Union. Our forces are steadily increasing, but we shall need a record sum for the coming campaign, and I am sure that all will contribute their utmost towards it.

The money that you give will strengthen the spirit quite as much as the body of our vast army, for it will be a symbol of your faith and of your ardour. It will not only serve materially to extend the scope and the limits of our work, but it will also give renewed hope and fresh

courage to our brave and heroic leaders, from whom we ourselves derive our inspiration, and who have laboured through long years with all their heart and with all their soul for women's enfranchisement.

So our great Union lays upon each, according to her strength, the burden of devotion and of self-sacrifice, and gives us back in return the glorious knowledge that we have not alone the will, but also the power to pursue our quest and to achieve victory, and everything that victory means to us.

Thanking you for all that has been accomplished in the past year,—I am, yours gratefully,
HELENA AUERBACH.
To the members of the Council of the N.U. (annual meeting, Feb., 1912).

The following letter from Sir Edward Grey was read to the Council. It will be remembered that Sir Edward Grey was unable to accept an invitation to the special Council held in December, and then expressed the hope that another opportunity might offer:—

DEAR MRS. FAWCETT,—I am very sorry not to be able to come, but this week in particular I can do nothing except the work that is inevitable. I am sorry, for, although I have nothing new to add to what I have already said in public, I should like to have been at your Council meeting; but I must forego all outside engagements if I am to do the work that is the first charge upon me, and that is just now exceptionally heavy.
Yours sincerely,
E. GREY.

RESOLUTIONS.

Urgency was moved for the following resolution, a copy of which was sent to Mr. Lloyd George in the course of the afternoon, and which has already appeared in the Press:—

"That the National Union, in Council assembled, thanks Mr. Lloyd George for his eloquent advocacy of the cause of Women's Suffrage at three great public meetings since the Prime Minister's announcement of a Reform Bill. It deeply regrets the repeated interruptions to which he was subjected by a few individuals at the meeting convened by the National Union at the Albert Hall on February 23, and congratulates him on his persistence notwithstanding. It welcomes his reiterated assurance that he will oppose a Referendum on Women's Suffrage, and the statement that, if he were convinced that the larger amendment which he desires could not secure a majority, he would be prepared to further a smaller measure."

The annual report and financial statement, of which a summary is given below, were unanimously adopted, and after a number of amendments to the rules had been carried, the following resolutions were passed:—

"That this Council expresses its confidence that the Prime Minister will not adopt a course so inconsistent with his pledges given to Woman Suffragists and with the professed views of the Liberal Party, as to consent to the use of Government time to establish the Referendum system for the purpose of dealing with the question of Women's Suffrage."

"That this Council heartily welcomes the resolution passed by the Labour Conference at Birmingham on January 26th to the effect that no Bill extending the franchise to men which does not include women can be acceptable to the Labour Party, making it clear that the Labour members in the House of Commons will vote against the third reading of the Bill unless it includes some measure of Women's Suffrage."

It was also resolved that the Executive Committee should be empowered to appoint an assistant Hon. Parliamentary Secretary for this year.

THE REPORT.

The annual report presented at the Council meeting is a substantial document, and provides a useful history of the past year. During the year, 104 new Societies have joined the Union, making a total of 311; the membership (estimated by annually subscribing members only, on whom a capitation fee of 3d. is paid to the Union) has increased from 21,571 in last report to 30,408 in this. There are 17 Federations, and the whole country is now covered by them with the exception of Herefordshire and Dorsetshire, which it is hoped will soon be absorbed into the scheme. The organisers number 18, some of them wholly supported by the Federations, and others supplied by the Union.

Out of 22 by-elections, no less than seven fell in Scotland; the National Union took part in all except one. In only six elections were both candidates unsatisfactory, and in no case were they both positive anti-suffragists; in six cases they were all entirely satisfactory, and in nine more cases, one was entirely satisfactory. There were only eight declared Anti-Suffragists in the total of 49 candidates.

To the list of 48 local Councils which was published last year, 84 more are added as having passed women's suffrage reso-

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PUBLIC RECEPTION, TUESDAY, MARCH 5,

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Speakers:—Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D., Rev. LLEWELLYN SMITH. DISCUSSION INVITED. Duologue arranged by Miss Elsie Fogerty.

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some eminence, and a devoted worker among the poor of her city. She expresses the wholesome opinion, which we wish was more acted up to in these islands, that there should be absolutely no politics in municipal affairs.

Abbethune. Feb. 26th. A. J. MACGREGOR.

Mrs. SPRING RICE writes that what she said on the Irishwomen's deputation to Mr. Birrell was incorrectly reported in the Press. She said "some of the ladies" who had come over belonged to a militant society, and had hoped not to have to take part in militancy any more. Mrs. Spring Rice belongs to the National Union, and is therefore not a militant herself.

Forthcoming Meetings. ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION. (The meetings are given only a fortnight in advance.)

Table of upcoming meetings with dates, locations, and chairpersons. Includes entries for February 29 and March 1-5 across various locations like Marple Bridge, York, and London.

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Table of meetings in London, including entries for March 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14.

Table of meetings in London, including entries for February 29, March 1, 4, 5, and 6.

Table of meetings in London, including entries for March 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Table of meetings in Scotland, including entries for February 29, March 1, 7, and 8.

Table of meetings in Glasgow, including entries for Glasgow-Office, Abingdon-Corn Exchange, and Sutton Coldfield-Town Hall.

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