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Notes.

WE gratefully acknowledge the response in money which has been made to our appeal for help. It is matter for much editorial regret that it is upon the generosity of the few that the enterprise depends. What we desire is to see a greater proportion of the members who compose the societies herein represented realize that it is incumbent upon them to take at least one copy of what should be regarded as their official organ. It seems no very ambitious desire—its satisfaction would solve the problem of our continued existence.

WE learn that our Anti-Suffrage friends are busy organizing a petition to the House of Commons praying for the rejection of any measure that would grant the Parliamentary Suffrage to Women.

If they wish any weight to be attached to this petition, they must see that their supporters confine their efforts to obtaining signatures from adults, and not persuade *children* to put their names to a paper, the meaning of which they cannot yet fully grasp.

AMONGST royal supporters of our movement must be reckoned the Sultan of Zanzibar. One of our readers, Mrs. Marianne Dale, met him recently. He at once noticed her badge, "Votes for Women," and remarked, "I approve of 'Votes for Women,' and I hope you will get them. I think women should have the same rights as men."

A WOMAN'S Suffrage Campaign is being organized for September in East Anglia. The headquarters of the touring company will be Clacton-on-Sea for the first week, and Colchester for the second week of the month. Mrs. Hicks, 7, Ornan Mansions, Hampstead, N.W., will be grateful for offers of help from local residents. Places visited will include: Wednesday, September 2nd, Clacton-on-Sea; Thursday,

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.

The paper is on sale at Messrs. Smith & Son's Depots.

September 3rd, Weeley; Friday, September 4th, Frinton and Great Holland; Saturday, September 5th, St. Osyth and Clacton-on-Sea; Monday, September 7th, Thorpe-le-Soken; Tuesday, September 8th, Walton-on-the-Naze.

MISS M. DALBY has sent us 5s. towards advertising this paper. The Index can still be obtained of the first volume, 2½d., post free; but of the complete volumes we have only three left, price 6s. each. We can supply cases at 1s. 6d. each, or bind sets supplied to us for 2s. 6d. If any friend has a number for February 27th to spare, and would forward the same to us, it would enable us to make up another volume.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

ITALY.—The commission appointed to consider the desirability of conferring the Municipal Franchise on women met on June 20th, at the Palazzo Branchi. No definite conclusion was reached. Signor Colajanni emphasized the uselessness of making elaborate investigations into the probable number of women voters, and would prefer to estimate the effect upon the morality of women of their more extensive participation in social life. The recent number of *Vita Femminile Italiana* contains an interesting article on 'Women's Rights and Logic,' from the pen of Karl Federn, an Austrian jurist, who has resided for a long time in Italy. I quote some extracts from the article, which is, in many respects, of universal application.

"There are certain illogical arguments which are constantly repeated in support of illogical institutions. Thus it is often asserted that the rich are entitled to more political rights, because they have more interests to represent. But in point of fact, men's interests are concerned more with what they lack than with what they possess, and the interests, i.e., the needs, of men who have nothing are far greater than those of men who are partly or wholly satisfied. . . . In an even greater degree does this apply to the inequalities between men and women."

Here is another well-worn argument.

"Woman is weak, she needs protection, let us then protect her! She cannot manage her own affairs, poor thing, she might injure herself (and perhaps ourselves too)! Let us deliver her from this burden."

This need of protection was recognized by the Roman law, which classed her with lunatics, and subjected her to the protection of husband and father.

"But protection has always implied domination, and clients have always been slaves. Strong men have always exacted a high price for their protection, which they invariably used as a means of exploitation. Woman was an instrument of pleasure and a tool for labour."

Far more honest is the Oriental position, which openly treats woman as a slave. Yet this is probably one of the reasons for the retrograde condition of the eastern nations. As for the modern nations, they all, with some slight modifications, follow the lines of Roman law.

"The father and husband protect the woman; but they not only protect, they also command. Do they always command what is truly useful and necessary for her, and not rather what is convenient for themselves? Men in general frame the laws and rules for this work of protection, it is they who regulate the woman's education, her conduct, her marriage, her relations to her sons and the father of her sons. But do they really frame them with a view to protecting her? Are the laws which deal with the illegitimate mother and child really framed so as to protect the woman?"

Again, laws and customs have given women some economic privileges, and in a certain number of cases, not very numerous nowadays, man not only "protects" but also "supports" woman. Often enough it is the other way round.

"And sometimes a man supports a woman for a time, as long as she affords him pleasure, just as he would maintain

an animal that he found amusing or useful. Are these veritable privileges? And even if they are, do not women pay too high a price for them?"

There are, of course, a number of cases in which the commands of the father or husband are in the woman's true interests.

"I do not think they are very frequent, because I do not believe that coercion can often be of advantage to the coerced, nor that one man can really know what is for the best advantage of another. But what of the cases where there is strife between father and daughter, between husband and wife, and the woman is in the right? Who is to protect her against her protectors?"

"All the so-called protection of women and all the laws made with this end in view are based on hypocrisy; in reality they are framed merely for the advantage and convenience of men."

The so-called chivalry of a few men and a few women is dismissed as a very inferior thing to the "freedom of the individual," and the consequences of oppression—hypocrisy, flattery, indirect influence, &c.—are very clearly set forth. In short, the whole article deserves careful study. Those of our readers who do not know Italian may obtain it in a German version from the Austrian Council of Women.

A. ZIMMERN.

A Fable.

A cock and some hens, they once lived in a yard,
And the hens' wings were clipped, which was certainly hard,
But most of the birds were too dull to complain,
For they thought about little but chickens and grain.

Their chickens were fledged, and grew strong, by-and-by,
And several attempted to flutter and fly;
They did not get far, but they managed to shock
Their mothers and brothers, and even the cock.

"It's a highly unnatural masculine trick!"
Said an elderly hen, looking perfectly sick;
"Our place is the yard; and we don't make a fuss,
But our motto is simply, 'No flying for us.'"

"Which proves it's as plain as the sun in the sky
That no ladylike fowl would endeavour to fly.
So give up this flightiness; don't persevere;
Do your natural work in your natural sphere!"

But a pullet replied to her, "Surely our wings,
Which grew of themselves, must be natural things."
"You are possibly right," the hen answered her; "but
It's the natural thing for your wings to be cut!"

The pullet was silent, but thought, as she mused,
"That hen has got custom and nature confused."

G. M. GEORGE.

Essay on "Women's Suffrage."

It is surprising that there are women till extant in England who are content with the position they occupy as non-citizens and political nonentities, content to be, as the Germans say, politically dead. That is the position relegated to them by men. Now there is the contentment of ignorance and the contentment of indolence; though contentment may often be translated indolence. Also there are thousands of women too physically weary to be anything but resigned, like "dumb-driven cattle." Women, who are not ignorant, who are not indolent, who are not worn and wan with work, but who read and reflect, are *not* resigned, are not content with their position. That they endure it is simply proof of woman's long-suffering and patience. If it be ascertained that we endure without hope, then England can be no home, can supply no real sphere of work to intelligent, independent women, demanding not privileges, only just rights. It would be an easier task to

advocate these rights were there anything but prejudice and ridicule to rebut. John Stuart Mill said the last word on the subject, so long ago as 1869, and almost all the men one meets admit that logic, reason, and justice are on our side, which leaves logical, reasonable man with nothing better to fall back upon than that *he* does not wish us to vote, does not wish us to compete with him. He much prefers to keep the law in his own hands, to fill public offices and posts of honour himself, and only of late years have we been allowed to qualify for some of these positions.

As things remain, however, we are presented with the anomaly of women holding the degree of Doctor of Laws, yet not permitted to practice their profession. We are faced, then, with prejudice, selfishness, and the fear of rivalry, using ridicule and brute force, sensible argument not being available. This A.D. 1908.

In the so-called centres of civilization, past and present, where might is right and individualism rampant, man, in his tramp to power and fame, has pushed woman aside (being physically superior), ignored her as a human being, left her behind in the race. She has had no space, no light, no air, except what harems, homes, and factories have afforded. In England and Germany she is yet being told to confine herself to the kitchen, drawing-room, or nursery, as the case may be. In Germany the Kaiser reigns. His motto for women is—*Kinder, Küche, Kirche, und Kleider*.

In Australia, New Zealand, Finland, Norway, and some of the American States, woman has forced her way into the open, the only place for healthy, vigorous growth. Some have been shocked with the Suffragette and her open-air methods. Ought they not rather to be shocked with a situation that provokes such procedure? Surely women are better employed proclaiming truth and demanding justice from a waggon in the market place than wasting their talents circulating mischievous gossip and scandal indoors, or even darning those everlasting stockings we hear so much of. These are not the only alternatives, but many people may yet be found to condone more readily the gossip and scandal.

The fact seems to be overlooked that women inherit what have come to be regarded as masculine characteristics as well as feminine, though these are just human characteristics, and woman is more than feminine, more than an appanage to man; she is human, and it is as a human being she is now asserting herself. More than one puzzled father has exclaimed: "I cannot tell how it is that our *girls* seem to have all the brains!" evidently regarding the manifestation as a freak of Nature.

Woman is fast outgrowing man's idea of her. One knows he has styled her his "guardian angel," his "better half"—that he tells us his wife has been the making of him—that he owes all to his mother. To this subtle form of flattery the woman has been ever susceptible, whilst the man has been pleased to let her play the part of angel rather than admit her as an equal, i.e., as a citizen, having the same rights and privileges as himself.

Man's appraisal and approval of woman ought not to suffice her. She must appraise and approve herself in future. What might not these wives and mothers themselves have achieved, had not a noble, though often unwise spirit of self-sacrifice led them to play the part of stepping-stones to their husbands and sons. If, with all the odds against her, woman has succeeded in gaining her present position, what may we not expect, given a free hand and a fair field? We do not know, for instance, what Thomas Carlyle or Mr. Gladstone would have been without their wives. Neither do we know what Jane Welsh and Catherine Glynné would have been without their husbands. We only know that they, with hundreds of other wives, were content to minister to their husbands' greatness and glory, to merge almost their identity in their husbands. Such sacrifice, such extinction of personality is questionable when the objects of it are worthy: when unworthy, it simply ministers to selfishness, vanity, and arrogance, and where their affections are concerned, women seem seldom able to discriminate. What of the Scottish mothers who have lived and still live in obscurity, working their fingers to the bone, to enable their sons to study at the Universities? What of the daughter's education being

neglected (and she, no say in the matter), and her very nature starved, to secure the son's advancement in life? What about this eternal sacrifice of women to men?

How comparatively rare is the devotion of a Charles Lamb! We ask not of the love that inspires, or the custom that enforces such sacrifice; but what of the selfishness—unthinking no doubt—that acquiesces and accepts it all? When are men going to efface themselves to advance the progress of women? When are they even going to put justice before party politics? Do they owe more to governments than they owe to women? As Lady McLaren points out: "the chief favourite of man is man," not woman, as she has fondly imagined, individual protestations to the contrary notwithstanding. For proof of her statement, see the laws and statutes of this country. Acts of Parliament speak louder than words. Man's betrayal of the trust reposed in him is answerable for the present attitude of women; an attitude as full of danger to *his* peace and happiness as to hers. The facts now to be faced preclude all remnants of early Victorian sentimentalism from the subject of sex.

Unless hostility to the honourable claims of women subside, and very rapidly, good and worthy lives must soon grate and founder on the rocks ahead, rocks already in sight. Men and women can never really know and love each other for what they are worth, until the one sex is as politically and economically free as the other. Only then may the marriage temple be reared, and that national disgrace, the marriage market be abolished. Only then can marriage cease to be the chief trade and profession of women, cease to be desecrated to the level of a livelihood.

It must surely be as humiliating to a man as to a woman to be married for money and position! His vanity, like hers, may be loath to admit the possibility, and in these matters woman is the arch dissembler. Monopoly of power and privilege manufactures hypocrites. The only freedom women have known has been freedom to serve. Besides serving in our own homes and other people's, in hospitals, shops, factories, theatres, &c., we are now permitted to serve on Town and Urban District Councils, on Boards of Guardians, as Prison Inspectors, and so forth; but where for us are the rights and rewards that—for men—follow in the train of service? Virtue, we know, is its own reward, but only for women has work been so considered. The noble army of martyrs reckons regiments of women in its ranks, and we are encouraged to teach in the Sunday-school, but the salaried posts and seats of dignity the Church has to offer are reserved exclusively for men, America, perhaps, excepted. That none of us may wish to become preachers or prelates is not the point. Not to desire a vote is one thing, to be debarred from voting quite another. What preachers have we not suffered patiently from the days of John Knox to Father Bernard Vaughan? Yet it is not surprising that women are the mainstay of the churches, the most religious half of the community. For not having experienced justice or liberty in this life, they naturally turn to a Heaven, where there is neither male nor female, oppressor nor oppressed. Seriously, what women feels more acutely than the oppression is that *man* should be the oppressor. There is no getting away from the fact that the interests of women are subjected to men's interests. Bitterness and resentment are bound to result from the full appreciation of this. Man is our natural companion and protector. As dictator, as master, he is unnatural, is offensive, and must stand down, whether he manifest as Cabinet Minister, Stipendiary Magistrate, drunken wife beater, or kindly patronizing husband. There can be no reason for his ascendancy over woman but the barbaric one of physical force, backed by masculine legislation. We need not fear either—for it is written that the mightier, gentler spiritual forces shall prevail.

A third of the members of Mr. Asquith's Cabinet seem bent upon blocking one of the most, if not *the* most, important channels through which these finer forces are to reach us. As ever we see, and very flagrantly in this instance, powers material vainly pitting themselves against powers spiritual. There can be no doubt as to the issue. The Great Final Authority that limits our powers and capacities it would be absurd to question;

but the purely man-constituted authority which says you shall not, though you could, we must not only question but challenge.

At last woman realizes that she is of the *genus homo*, and neither an angel floating over man's head nor a slave at his feet. The spirit and need of the times demands the emancipation of woman—demands that women the world over work and make sacrifice for women. Once free, who dare assign a place for woman, or say that her sphere is here or there? Woman's place is the world into which she is born, and her sphere, like man's, the highest to which she can attain.

KATE KILBURN.

Correspondence.

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

SIR,—In your issue of July 23rd I see that you comment on my "appeal to British women" to exert themselves in the interest of the "Empire Movement." You point out in connexion with this that women will be able to do far more in training children to be good citizens when they themselves are allowed to exercise the rights of citizenship.

As a life-long supporter of Women's Suffrage, I heartily agree with your contention. Will you allow me this opportunity, however, of pointing out what seems to me to be essential to the success of that co-operation and co-responsibility in government which women now rightly claim?

If women are to wield equal power with men in the moulding of our national life, in whatever way that power may be exerted, whether by private influence, by contributing to the industrial wealth of the country, by training the young, or by contributing to knowledge, or by participating in public life and service, it seems to me essential, if their power is to be as effective as they hope and desire, that they should train themselves for the exercise of it with all earnestness. I hold no brief for men in this respect. Only too many men lightly assume responsibility, private and public, without due preparation, and others repudiate it altogether. But is not the serious consideration of women needed to find a means whereby the training of the great body of average women shall result in an equal accuracy of both manual and brain work, and an equal willingness to accept responsibility for deeds and words as is usually demanded and obtained from men?

Among women who profit by the higher education now available to them, and among those who hold professional or public positions, it is unnecessary to urge the cultivation of these qualities. Among the majority of so-called "domestic" women, however, it seems to me that there has been a tendency, in the past, to be satisfied with a slipshod standard of achievement in all branches of work, while it is by no means uncommon for women to disclaim the financial and moral responsibilities consequent upon their own actions.

An Englishwoman with the ordinary elementary or secondary education, if thrown upon her own resources to earn her living, experiences, as a rule, the greatest difficulty in doing so, because she knows no subject really well, and cannot depend on herself to produce reliable work. Her music and languages are fair; but her mastery of them is not sufficient to enable her to teach others. The same is true of her manual accomplishments, and it is not unknown that even in the elementary work of copying legal or other documents women's work is so inaccurate that the employment has, in the end, to be given to men.

These faults are not, as a rule, so noticeable in the average man. From the beginning of his education it is understood that he will have to earn his own living, and it is obvious that this will be impossible unless he be reliable in action and his work accurate. Consequently, if his Greek translation or his algebra is faulty he gets caned, and if he just misses easy catches on the cricket field, or fails to goal-keep effectually at football matches, the responsibilities of his position are made remarkably clear to him, and he either has to act up to them

or he is thrown out of the team; and so he learns his lesson. The cause of this radical difference in the education of the sexes appears to lie in the fact that women, *quæ* women, have for generations been considered to be immune from the consequences of their own actions. If women are now, however, to have equal weight and influence with men, as they will very shortly, the time has come when this must be altered. I have, therefore, ventured to bring this aspect of the great woman question before your readers, in the hope that some means may be found for securing for our girls real equality of education. Though not all who may benefit from such education are destined to become either Cabinet Ministers or Poor Law Guardians, it is surely in the home, more than anywhere else, that such equality of treatment would make for peace, happiness, and efficiency, and for a healthier national life.

I am, your obedient servant,

MEATH.

"Suffragists' League of Prayer."

SIR,—I am sure that, among the thousands of Suffragists now engaged in the cause, many will respond to a call to united prayer on behalf of our work. To this end I proposed in *The Church Times* of July 24th that a "Suffragists' League of Prayer" should be formed.

I have had so many letters in reply, and such an encouraging response from members of all parties in the movement, that I should be very glad if you would make it known in *Women's Franchise* that the League will be started immediately if I have a sufficient and definite number of members to warrant my having the card of membership and prayers printed.

The obligations are simple. The subscription on joining, 1s., to defray the cost of printing, postage, &c. The balance—at least in part—will go to the funds of the cause.

I specially want to gain Churchwomen, for, sad to say—and there are some brilliant exceptions—as a class we are far behind, both in a sense of responsibility in the matter, and consequently in interest. The prayers are such that any Christian might use.

I hope that many will join, and that we may show those who fight and struggle so bravely that we, whose circumstances do not allow us to take so active a part, "also serve," though we only "stand and wait."

If any wishing to join will write to me, I will send all particulars.

Faithfully yours,

Mrs. SALOME E. MUMFORD.

41, Prince's Square, W.

FURTHER ADDITIONS TO THE 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE' FUND.

| | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. |
|------------------------|----|----|----|-----------------------|----|----|----|
| Allwork, Miss M. E. | 0 | 10 | 0 | Brought forward | 61 | 16 | 0 |
| Bache, Miss | 1 | 0 | 0 | Martin, Mrs. A. L. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Batson, Mrs. | 1 | 0 | 0 | Meade-King, Miss L. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Bevan, Mrs. | 1 | 0 | 0 | Methven, Miss J. C. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Boden, Mrs. | 5 | 0 | 0 | Mosely, Miss | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Brown, Mrs. Sadd. | 2 | 0 | 0 | N. S. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| C. P. | 0 | 5 | 0 | Nevinson, Mrs. M. W. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Carter, Miss E. | 0 | 5 | 0 | Nicholl, Miss E. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Chancellor, Mr. H. G. | 1 | 0 | 0 | Oaler, Mrs. A. | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Churchill, Miss C. | 0 | 10 | 0 | Paget, Miss R. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Cochrane, Miss C. | 1 | 0 | 0 | Paxton, Mrs. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Cope, Mrs. | 0 | 5 | 0 | Pollock, Mrs. M. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Corben, Miss L. | 0 | 2 | 6 | Powell, Miss R. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Dixon, Mrs. C. W. | 20 | 0 | 0 | Powell, Miss W. M. | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Durand, Mrs. R. | 0 | 10 | 0 | Rackham, Mrs. C. D. | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Elworthy, Mrs. E. | 2 | 0 | 0 | Rea, Miss Hope | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Errington, Mrs. J. | 1 | 0 | 0 | Read, Mr. A. G. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Farmer, Miss A. | 0 | 10 | 0 | Rendel, Mrs. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Fenwick, Mrs. | 0 | 5 | 0 | Ross, Mrs. E. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Ford, Miss I. O. | 2 | 0 | 0 | Russell, Mr. J. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| George, Mrs. M. A. | 2 | 0 | 0 | Sayers, Mrs. G. C. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Gibb, Mrs. E. R. | 0 | 2 | 6 | Semya, Miss S. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Green, Miss C. I. | 3 | 10 | 0 | Sharp, Miss A. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| H. K. S. | 1 | 1 | 0 | Sheppard, Miss | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Hallett, Mrs. Ashworth | 1 | 0 | 0 | Stubbs, Miss E. C. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Hansen, Mrs. M. Coates | 2 | 0 | 0 | Symons, Miss D. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Harrington, Mrs. E. | 0 | 10 | 0 | Tabor, Miss M. G. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Hartle, Miss H. J. | 0 | 3 | 0 | Winterne, Mrs. | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Heron, Mrs. C. May | 2 | 2 | 0 | Woodhead, Miss C. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Jacobs, Mr. H. | 5 | 0 | 0 | Woolf, Miss L. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| L. G. H. | 0 | 5 | 0 | Wright, Miss A. C. G. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Leonard, Mrs. | 0 | 10 | 0 | Wright, Miss | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Lewenz, Miss M. A. | 1 | 0 | 0 | Zimmermann, Miss M. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| MacGregor, Miss A. | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Manning, Miss R. | 0 | 10 | 0 | Total | 69 | 8 | 0 |
| Carried forward | 61 | 16 | 0 | | | | |

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OBJECT.—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men.

The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Secretary: Miss MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.

Treasurer: Miss BERTHA MASON.

Hon. Secretary: Miss FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A.

Organisers: Miss E. M. GARDNER, B.A. Miss MARGARET ROBERTSON, B.A. Mrs. COOPER.

Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA.

Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

OFFICES: 25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

The Union will send Organising Agents, Speakers, or Literature to any place requiring them, its desire being to form a Women's Suffrage Society in every County and Borough. All persons interested in the movement, or desiring information about it, are requested to communicate with the Secretaries. Increased Funds are needed for the growing work of the Union, and Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. MCLAREN.

Miss MARGARET ASHTON
The Lady FRANCES BALFOUR
Miss FLORENCE BALGARNIE
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And the Hon. Officers,
ex officio.

Current Topics.

As there appears to be a difficulty in finding Anti-Suffrage speakers to debate with us, we are writing to the Anti-Suffrage headquarters for a list of thoroughly well-informed, capable debaters, which we will publish in our pages. This list will prove useful to our secretaries and others who get up public meetings. We feel sure that our opponents will welcome these opportunities for putting forward their cause.

A Garden Fete is to be given at Hethersett, Reigate, on the 9th inst., when, in addition to speeches by Miss Crickmay and Miss Abadam, a performance of 'Twelfth Night' will be given in the grounds by the Elizabeth Bessie Company at 3.15; tickets 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s. From 6 to 9 P.M. there will be a Café Chantant, and dancing, and we are sure that large numbers of friends will eagerly avail themselves of so varied and attractive a programme.

A most successful drawing-room meeting was recently held at Sunwick, Berwickshire, which was opened by Mrs. Hope. Miss Hay and Miss Alice Low also spoke, the latter choosing for her subject 'The Policy of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.' Everybody was interested, and many joined the Union.

The National Vigilance Association has compiled a 'Friendly Warning to Young Women leaving their Own Country,' which will be useful to young women leaving England for foreign lands, and also to those who are interested in their welfare. The book contains the addresses of the foreign Consuls resident in London, and also the names and addresses of responsible persons in every part of Europe—in South Africa, America, Canada, the Colonies, India, and Egypt. The introduction is written in nine different languages. Copies can be obtained free by enclosing a stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary, National Vigilance Association, St. Mary's Chambers, 161A, Strand, London, W.C.

Not the least interesting and important amongst the many meetings to which the public of Dublin is looking forward during British Association week is that which the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association has organized, by kind permission of the Lord Mayor, in the Mansion House, on Friday, September 4th, at 8 P.M.

An attractive list of speakers has been arranged, amongst them being Mrs. Colby, Editress of *The Woman's Tribune*, U.S.A., who was chosen as the United States delegate to the recent International Women's Congress at Amsterdam; Mrs. Stopes, one of the foremost authorities on the constitutional rights of women; and Prof. Cole, who will tell of his recent visit to Finland, where women have the vote on the same terms as men.

A similar meeting was held with great success by the same Association during the visit of the British Association to Dublin thirty years ago, and owing to the great increase of interest during the past few years in the subject of the enfranchisement of women, it is expected that the coming meeting will attract large numbers of our visitors and our local public.

County Campaign Fund.

FURTHER donations, with totals to date:—

| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|
| Armagh.—Mrs. Cope of Drummilly | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Cheshire.—Miss Dodge | .. | 0 | 2 | 6 | | |
| Miss Oldfield | .. | 0 | 2 | 6 | | |
| Cumberland.—Collected by Keswick W.S.S. | .. | 12 | 14 | 0 | | |
| Durham.—Miss Robson | .. | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Hants.—Miss Cayley | .. | 5 | 5 | 0 | | |
| Herts.—Mrs. Smithson | .. | 5 | 0 | 0 | | |
| London.—Miss Sharman Crawford | .. | 2 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Suffolk.—Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D. | .. | 2 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Miss Garrett | .. | 2 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Surrey.—Miss Champion | .. | 0 | 3 | 8 | | |
| Yorkshire.—Miss Nelson Pringle | .. | 1 | 1 | 0 | | |
| Total to Saturday, August 29th | .. | 59 | 6 | 1 | 8 | |

Caravan News.

Cumberland.—Since Miss Gardner left us, our party has consisted of Miss Abadam, Miss Thomson, Miss Davies, Miss Marrack of Newnham, and me. The broken weather has somewhat hindered our work, but we have received sympathy and encouragement everywhere. Of our nine well-attended meetings in Carlisle, five were held in the dinner-hour outside the factories which employ women, and the seriousness and hearty enthusiasm of the girls, who clapped and cheered the speakers, made the work seem very well worth while. I am hoping that branches of the Society will be established both in Carlisle and Penrith. Our heartiest thanks are due to all our indefatigable helpers, and to the many friends and strangers whose great hospitality and kindness to us on the road it has been impossible adequately to acknowledge.

MARGARET ROBERTSON.

Yorkshire.—We started the week by taking a stall at Whitby for Regatta Day, where we attracted much attention and did a good trade in badges, &c. On Tuesday we went to Scarborough, and held meetings on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Scarborough is bound down with by-laws, so that we were not able to speak in the best places, but our meetings were all well attended, especially those on the east pier in the evening. We hardly feel as if we had been caravanning this week, as, owing to the kindness of Mrs. Cross (Fylingdales), Mrs. Acland, Mr. Daniel, and Mrs. W. Rowntree, we have been housed with the greatest luxury. But the van has been useful for meetings, and has attracted great attention as it went through the streets with our name in big red letters on its side. A society is going to be formed in Scarborough in the autumn.

I have had some picture postcards of the van printed, and these may be had from me at one penny each, or ten for a shilling, postage extra. I have also some pencils stamped in gold letters "Women's Suffrage, N.U.W.S.S." They are in five colours, and are very attractive. I expect to do a big sale, but as I had to order five gross I can spare some to individuals or branch societies. They will sell very well at market stalls, bazaars, At Homes, drawing-room meetings, &c. They may be had from me for one penny each, ninepence for twelve, or six shillings a gross.

Our chief expense now is in hiring horses, but I am glad to say that we have paid for the van, and have some money towards horses as well. We are going to take the van to rather a wild part of Yorkshire, where we hear that we are much needed, but where we cannot hope to make big collections. Names and addresses of friends in Hornsea, Driffield, Walton, and other inland places in Yorkshire will be very welcome, as we are making a circle, returning to Whitby at the end of the month. Any letters to me had better be sent to the National Union Office, to be forwarded. E. M. GARDNER.

The Attorney-General and Women's Suffrage.

It would hardly be worth while wasting powder and shot in replying to the recent utterances of so well-known an opponent of Women's Suffrage as Sir William Robson, were it not that he is a prominent member of the present Government, with whom, as with many lukewarm members of his party, his words will carry weight.

1. In reply to the first objection of Sir William Robson, "that if the vote is granted to women (which he is not prepared to admit), it must be given to *all* women," as he knows "of no fair or reasonable means of discriminating between those who should have it and those who should not," it may be pointed out that this difficulty can be overcome by the recognition and application of the principle that whatever qualification entitles a man to a vote should also, in common fairness, entitle a woman possessing a similar qualification.

The recognition of this principle, which is the basis of the demand of the National Union of Women's Suffrage, or other kindred societies, would have prevented Sir William Robson falling into the common error of confusing two distinct issues—the removal of sex disability and the reform of the present franchise laws.

2. Sir William Robson's second objection, that "the vast number of women are absorbed in other duties and interests," and "are indifferent to politics," is of a more serious nature, implying as it does an unwillingness on his part to fairly and squarely face the question of Women's Enfranchisement as an act of justice.

The vast majority of men are also "absorbed in other duties and interests than political questions," but neither this nor "indifference to politics" (a quality, by the way, not wholly confined to women) is ever advanced as a reason for the denial of the franchise in their case. Sir William Robson knows perfectly well that votes are not given to men because of their "interest" in political questions, but as a means of self-protection against injustice. Nor must it be overlooked that experience goes to show that the vote, in the case of working men, has always been a powerful lever in creating "interest," and a great engine of political education.

"Absorption in other duties and interests than political questions" has not prevented thousands of women rendering devoted and whole-hearted service to the political party of which Sir William Robson is so distinguished a member, neither does it prevent women taking an intelligent interest in the questions of the day, and an active and ever-growing share in the political life of the nation. It cannot, therefore, be advanced as a reasonable or justifiable argument against their admission to the Parliamentary franchise. BERTHA MASON.

* * * Kindly address all communications relating to the work of Societies in the N.U.W.S.S. and all paragraphs intended for these columns to Miss Hardcastle, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.; to reach her by first post Saturday. Please write only on one side of paper.

Women in Other Lands.

Two young girls are taking part this year in the final competition for the *Prix de Rome*. Mlle. Nadia Boulanger is competing as a musician, and Mlle. Heuvelmans as a sculptor. Some members voted for excluding Mlle. Boulanger because she had written an orchestral, and not a vocal fugue, but a wider interpretation of the rules prevailed, and she was classed fifth among the six competitors admitted to the final test. A month only is allowed in which the works of the young artists must be completed for the examination of the jury.—*Englishwomen's Review*.

According to the *Cologne Gazette* the question of the admission of women to university study has been settled. Women who are subjects of the empire will be admitted on the same footing as men, but women of other countries will require the permission of the Minister of Public Instruction for matriculation.

The women of Iceland have already the Municipal Suffrage, and twelve thousand women—a good deal more than half—have petitioned this Parliament for full Suffrage.

Harper's Weekly has recently published an illustrated article by Mrs. Knobe, entitled 'Votes for Women: an Object Lesson.' The most interesting feature is a Woman Suffrage map of the world, showing the forms of enfranchisement granted in various countries.

Sir E. Ray Lankester has published a letter declaring that Woman Suffrage "must make women unwilling to accept their natural duties as wives and mothers, and must make men equally unwilling to promote them to these honours and privileges." In answer, American Suffragists point out that in Wyoming women have had full Suffrage for thirty-nine years, and that to-day, according to the U.S. census Wyoming has the smallest proportion of unmarried women to its population of any State in the Union. Sir E. Ray Lankester is the same scientist who lately astonished American educators by affirming that in all the colleges the young women showed their mental inferiority by averaging lower in their studies than the young men.—*Women's Journal*, Boston.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

| | | | |
|------------|---|---|---------|
| Sept. 4. | Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association. —Public Meeting, Mansion House, Dublin | J. P. Nannetti, Esq., M.P., will preside | P. M. 8 |
| " 9. | Reigate and Redhill Garden Fête , Hethersett, Reigate.—Entrance, 6d. | By kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Auebach | 3-10 |
| " 10 & 24. | Hull , President and Committee At Home to meet Members at No. 3 Room, Oddfellows' Hall, Charlotte Street | Speakers, Miss Crickmay, Miss Abadam | 8 |
| Oct. 8. | Leicester , Soirée, Municipal Art Gallery, Museum Buildings, New Walk | J. Mentor Gimson, Esq., J.P., and Miss Edith Gittins to receive on behalf of Committee | 8-10 |
| " 9. | N.U.W.S.S. Quarterly Council Meeting , Morning and Afternoon, Sunday-School Memorial Hall, New Walk | | |
| | Exhibition of Banners , Speeches and Tea, Temperance Hall, Granby Street | | 3-6 |
| | Great Demonstration , Temperance Hall. Admission by Ticket—1s., 6d., 3d. | Chairman, J. Tudor Walters, Esq., M.P. Speakers, Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., Mrs. Billington-Greig, Miss I. Logan, Sir C. McLaren, M.P., T. M. Kettle, Esq., M.P., Franklin Thomasson, Esq., M.P. | |

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League (late W.S.P.U.).

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. GRAHAM MOFFAT.

NATIONAL OFFICES: 18, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.SC., A.R.C.S.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

National Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

Notes.

The Harvest of a Wise Experience.—"First and foremost, I insist on woman's equality with man. Woman is as important, as valuable, as capable, and as necessary to the progress and happiness of the world.

"Unfortunately, a large number of people cling to the notions of bygone ages. To many she is little more than a plaything, to others like a piece of property—a slave in everything but name. Oft-times she is treated with less consideration as to health and comfort than horses that run in omnibuses or beasts that are fattening for slaughter.

"Woman is equal to man in the value of her gifts and the extent of her influence, and I maintain that if she be given a fair chance she will prove it to be so.

"Let the boy be taught from his earliest infancy that his sister is as good as he is in all that is important to life, except, perhaps, in the physical force which he possesses in common with the brute beasts. Let the girl be made to feel that her value to God and man is as high as it would have been had she been a boy."

GENERAL BOOTH'S "MESSAGE TO THE ARMY."

Irresponsible Frivolity.—Sir William Robson, Attorney-General, replying to a resolution of the South Shields Branch of the Social Democratic Federation with respect to Women's Suffrage, says: "I am unable to agree with the resolution so far as it urges that the vote should be conferred on every adult woman. I agree that if it be given to women at all, it should be given to all women, but so long as the vast majority of women continue, as at present, absorbed in other duties and interests than political questions, I am not prepared to place the government of the Nation and the Empire in their hands."

Here is an excellent example of that childish attitude of members of His Majesty's Government on the question of the day, by which they are trying to drive the women of the country to desperation.

Sir William thinks that all women should not have the vote, and further, no woman should vote until all women vote, which is not to occur until the "great majority of women" cease to be human beings, and become "absorbed in political questions" to the exclusion of "other duties and interests." Then to these inhuman politicians Sir William will hand over the Nation and the Empire. If there were really anything but sound in these remarks it is certain that Sir William himself would have no claim to citizenship, and very few polling stations would accommodate all the voters of the country.

The Summerstown Strike.—The strike of the girl box-makers at the Curuganza Works has reached a further stage. Miss MacArthur's exertions have induced the Board of Trade to appoint an arbitrator.

Daisy Lord.—Petitions, asking for the reprieve of this poor girl, are being extensively signed by members of the Women's Freedom League, and may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, 18, Buckingham Street, Strand.

Important Notices.—Helpers are still wanted at Eastbourne, Weston-super-Mare, and in East Fife, also at the Caravan, where Mrs. Despard is in command, till the middle of this month. Please address the Hon. Secretary, 18, Buckingham Street, Strand.

Some Facts for Speakers.

THE WOMEN WHO WILL VOTE.

WHEN the political disability of women as such is removed, how many women will be put upon the Parliamentary Register, and what will be their qualifications as electors?

Women fulfil all the conditions which entitle men to vote, therefore all the existing Franchises will include a varying proportion of women.

1. **Property Owners.**—This is not a large class of the community, even when men only are considered, and the proportion of women included would be small, though looked at by themselves their number is considerable. This qualification is generally taken to be another name for wealth and idleness; but as the annual value of freehold property is fixed as low as 2l. it will be evident that this is a mistake, and in this class will come, beside the few women owning large estates, the many hundreds of women up and down the country who have a little cottage belonging to them or are earning a scanty living by hard work on market gardens or small farms.

2. **Occupiers.**
3. **Residents.**—These two classes we already know something about. The women concerned already possess the Municipal Franchise. There are about one and a quarter millions. It is the fashion in some quarters to say that the majority of municipal women voters are propertied women; the reverse is the truth. An inquiry conducted by members of the Labour Party elicited the fact that 82.5 per cent of these voters are working women.

Besides the heads of shops and offices, these women municipal voters include the wives of many working men who prefer that the house shall be taken in their wife's name, and great numbers of very poor working women, many of them widows with families to support. It must be remembered that a voter claiming as a resident is not asked the rent of the house or single room inhabited.

If the resident can keep the meanest roof over her head she can get her vote.

The recent latch-key decision has added 100,000 men in London alone to the Parliamentary Register, and would apply to a large number of very poor working women living in single rooms who are not qualified for the municipal vote.

4. **Lodgers.**—The women in this class are very numerous, including clerks, teachers, journalists, paying guests, and daughters living at home, the latter frequently being persons doing much voluntary work which is useful to the community. The rent of the lodgings must be not less than 4s. a week unfurnished, or 5s. a week furnished.

5. **Servants.**—This class will be large. Under it come all women occupying a separate furnished bedroom in an employer's house, the employer not living on the premises. These conditions are carried out by a great number of officials—matrons of hospitals and schools, nurses in hospitals asylums, work-houses, wardresses of prisons, porters, &c.; also shop assistants who live in, caretakers, and many household servants.

6. **University Graduates.**—These will include very many women of all classes earning their living in the various professions of teaching, medicine, literature, &c.

Thus it will be seen that the women parliamentary voters will be a much larger and more representative body than the women municipal voters are at present, and that they will not be confined to any one class of the community.

Women's Freedom League Caravan.

WHEN I wrote last we were at Hythe. It was a difficult place to work, because meetings are not allowed on the beach or in any public place. Everything is done, we were told, to ensure the comfort of visitors. The authorities of Hythe seem to be of opinion that Suffragettes' speeches might be harmfully exciting to their visitors' nerves. We were almost in despair, when the good landlord of the "Red Lion," whose wife is a sympathizer, came to our assistance, with a pitch for our van in his yard and a meeting-place on the ground outside his house which, though touching upon the main road, is private property.

The corner is a busy one, as the trams and motor cars in and out of Hythe stop close by. When dusk came on, and we, with our table of literature, took up our station, curious groups gathered round us. These, when Miss Neilans began to speak, came closer; and we were presently surrounded by a large crowd of people, who listened to us with close attention.

In the course of that day, while our cart was passing slowly through Dymchurch, a lady had run out to meet us from a farm on the outskirts of the village. She told us that she had been a Suffragist for many years, that her daughter from Holloway College was an enthusiast in our cause, and that there were several other visitors who felt as they did. Could we not have a meeting there? Was Dymchurch too small? No, indeed, we said, and promised to write and see her again. In pursuance of this promise, we drove out to Dymchurch the following day, called on Mrs. Pratt, and went down with her daughter to the sands. It did not seem possible to hold a meeting there. The tide was high, the sea was singing lustily, and the few grown-up people were looking after delightful children and babies—such babies! brown and rosy, and beautiful. So, thinking of a time when all babes shall be as these, I watched them in gloriously lazy enjoyment.

Later in the afternoon we met two more sympathizers—Mrs. Griffiths and Mrs. Jephson, who with their families were spending the summer in some picturesque old cottages, four of them run into one to serve the purposes of two families. We held a little council, and it was finally arranged that the Dymchurch meeting should be held on Saturday evening.

I shall always be glad that it was so ordained, for that Saturday night has left an ineffaceable mark upon my memory. The day had been stormy, and the out-of-doors tea arranged by Mrs. Griffiths had to be taken in the cottage parlour. During the tea there was talk of dark rumours—rowdiness was on foot—all the eggs in the village had been bought up for missiles—and one gallant young cricketer asserted that he would stand near Mrs. Despard and catch the eggs. Good little friend! Probably he was disappointed that there was no occasion for his gallantry. When we went to the place of meeting—beautiful and still it was under the sombre sky, the old church in front, large trees behind—we found a number of people, villagers and visitors, waiting for us. They gathered round, many more came pouring in, and their intelligent interest, the intentness with which they listened, was delightful. A brisk discussion followed the speeches; an unusually good collection was given. Many went with us to the inn, where we took up the motor-car for Hythe, and I felt so much charmed with the quaint picturesqueness of the place, so much interested in the people, that I began planning a summer retreat there, *when the vote is won*.

I must not forget to record a pleasant garden-party meeting given to us at Smeeth by the brother and sister-in-law of our colleague, Dr. Knight, during our stay at Hythe.

Folkestone was our next halt. Here we were exceedingly fortunate in enlisting the sympathy and interest of Mr. Stainer, an old citizen and a J.P., who let us have a pitch for our van in his own garden, and with his wife and daughters gave us every kind of help and hospitality. We held two large meetings in Folkestone—the first was comparatively quiet, the second was more noisy. The papers reported that we were mobbed. As a fact the crowd became packed and rather curious, and but for the kindness of Mr. Stainer and many of the young men in

the crowd the crushing might have been dangerous. As it was we reached our caravan calm and unhurt. Here our good colleague, Miss Henderson, left us, and we were joined by the Misses Tillard, the elder of whom has already done van-work. They are as intrepid as the others. I am really coming to feel that women are the *more* courageous and enduring sex; or is it that, unconsciously even to ourselves, the glory of the coming time when we shall walk free amongst our brothers is mantling through our veins, and giving to everything a new aspect? I cannot tell, I can only give my experience at Dover, where our van is stationed now. We attempted a meeting in the Market Square, and a troop of rowdies (set on by a man standing at the open window of a music-hall, whose insulting remarks did not, fortunately, reach us) jeered and howled and followed us in tumultuous procession to the pier, where we evaded them. We heard that some of the mob were in waiting below the pier with stones, but, on leaving, we separated, and so passed through quietly.

Our van life is full of contrasts. On the following day, Thursday, I went by invitation to Rye, where Miss Bosanquet had been organizing a drawing-room meeting. It was very delightful and refreshing in its peace and goodwill. My earnest thanks are due to her and to all her friends for the warm welcome they gave to us, and for their generous contribution to our funds. Miss Irene Tillard was with me. We returned to Dover, and found gallant Miss Neilans and other friends on the beach, holding a meeting. The crowd had been won: rowdiness was, for the moment, silenced. My address, in which I referred specially to the case of Daisy Lord—the girl tragedy that is haunting so many of us to-day—was listened to with respect and attention; and although the rowdy element made itself apparent as soon as the meeting was over, and we were again followed by a noisy crowd, we rejoiced that we had been able to deliver our message. Our van is still at Dover. We propose to go on to Deal, and then to Sandwich. C. DESPARD.

Dunoon Summer Centre, August 10th to 29th.

At Dunoon we lead the strenuous life. Much is expected of "the Suffragettes," and if we were not seen leaving the pier with banner and bag of literature in the morning, chalking the streets at tea-time, and drawing crowds to the Castle Hill at night, the canny Scot would consider his collection money ill spent.

In return, we have our privileges. Stalwart policemen turn their backs discreetly when we produce our pipeclay, we have even received an apology from a music-hall artiste before the inevitable reference was introduced.

During the last fortnight there have been many helpers, and although it would be difficult to add anything to the excellent work Miss Munro has been doing throughout July and August, still many hands make light work, and there is always plenty even for non-speakers to do.

Dunoon is, I think, converted, and everywhere "doon the watter" Miss Munro continues to draw large and enthusiastic audiences. Those who come to scoff remain to—well, buy badges and post cards of the speaker, in which we do a roaring trade.

As the lads at Largs, who came to interrupt, ended by singing "Will ye no come back again?" we took them at their word and returned twice, taking large collections on each occasion.

At Ayr we have had good meetings, and at Prestwick, which was visited by special request, Miss Munro addressed a large crowd in the rain. Miss McPhun kindly took the chair, and helped in advertising this meeting.

During the last week we have had the valuable assistance of Miss Esson Maule, and on Saturday we had a visit from Miss Farquharson and Miss McNeil, and held a large evening meeting on the esplanade. Miss Bell, Miss Graham, Miss McClean, Miss Martin, Mrs. Moffat, and others, have contributed largely to the success of the campaign.

The work comes to an end on the 29th, when the Cowal Sports will give us an opportunity of reaching visitors from all parts of the country. M. E. M.

East Fife and District.

WORK in this district during the past week has been restricted, owing to the illness of the organizer, for a few days. But meetings have been held in Buckhaven, Cupar, and Kirkcaldy, as well as in some of the smaller villages. Further meetings are arranged for next week, and workers are urgently needed. Budding orators in the Dundee and Dunfermline Branches should turn their attention to East Fife, where the harvest is great and the labourers are few. M. MITCHELL.

Work in the West Country.

As the Weston-super-Mare Council has continued to refuse us permission to speak in the open air we have been visiting the surrounding places. Another meeting was held at Clevedon on Saturday, August 22nd. Miss Trimmell kindly came over from Cardiff, and helped with the chalking and the selling of literature.

Miss Zimmerman arrived on Tuesday, and proved a most invigorating worker. We went to Yatton on Wednesday, and prepared for the Thursday meeting. The rain, however, interfered with the chalking, but the policeman, another of our good friends, kindly informed the residents of our coming meeting, so that on Thursday we had a very good turn-out, and an attentive and sympathetic audience. Miss Zimmerman made, at this meeting, her maiden open-air speech. I felt like calling for three cheers, as, you know, it needs no little courage to take the first step in this direction.

Between our first and second visits to Yatton we tramped along the country roads, talking to the people and giving them leaflets. Our different receptions were distinctly varied, and often amusing. I advise some of our members to try this method of propagating the gospel of Women's Freedom. Its revelations are, at times, astounding.

Next week I go to Cardiff and Gloucester. On Wednesday afternoon we have a meeting for women, arranged by the Cardiff Branch. ALICE SCHOFIELD.

Branch Notes.

Central Branch.—Despard Debating Society. All members and friends please attend the first Sharp Practice Debate of the season, on September 3rd, at 8 P.M., at the offices of the League. On September 10th, Central Branch members and friends will conduct an Open-Air Meeting in Hyde Park at 8 P.M. On the 17th, Mr. Kehrlohr will address the Branch on "The Blatchford-Hyndnam War Scare." Every one will be welcomed to this meeting, whether members of the Women's Freedom League or not. Men specially invited. P. H.

Manchester Branch.—It has been decided to take practically only Suffrage propaganda work at our Wednesday evening meetings; for this reason a series of papers will be given by various members, referring from earliest times to the present day. Mrs. MacMurray kindly lent her drawing-room for a meeting on Thursday last. It is expected that two members will be elected as a result of the work there. M. B.

Eastbourne Branch.—We are glad to hear of the formation of a new Branch here. Inquirers and intending members are asked to kindly write to Miss L. Nicholson, Meadhurst, Meads Road, Eastbourne.

London Council.

At Home.—The first of what we intend shall be a very successful series of "At Homes," was held at Holborn Town Hall on Sunday last. There was a large attendance of members and friends; again and again extra rows of chairs were brought in to accommodate late comers, until we came to the point of standing room only.

Dr. Marian Thornett, who acted as hostess, received our guests, during which time selections were played by the Marguerite Orchestra. Refreshments were served by a large corps of stewards, to whom much of the success of the evening was due. From start to finish they worked untiringly; and where all were so efficient, it seems invidious to particularize, but a special word of thanks is due to Mrs. Harbord and Miss Cecile Molony, who presided over the refreshment table.

Punctually at 8 o'clock Dr. Thornett took her place on the platform, supported by Mrs. Despard, Miss Irene Miller, Dr. Knight, and Dr. Lewin. A short and very effective recitation was given by Miss Dorothy Spencer, a young lady who hails from the land of women's votes—Australia. The next part of the programme was the presentation of a bouquet by tiny Babs Maclaren to our revered leader—Mrs. Despard—a small token of the affection and esteem in which she is held.

Mrs. Despard (who was preceded by Miss Irene Miller and followed by Miss Dorothy Molony) had a very cordial reception on rising to speak. Her address, which was punctuated by frequent outbursts of applause, was listened to with marked interest and attention as, speaking with passionate feeling, she dealt with various phases of the women's question.

The Organizing Committee of the London Council tenders its sincere thanks to the large staff of willing workers who gave such splendid help in carrying out the arrangements, and whose efforts are fully appreciated by the organizer.

Members are requested to note that Sept. 13th is the date fixed for the next Social.

DOROTHY MOLONY
(Organizer to the London Council).
MARIE LAWSON
(Hon. Sec. to the London Council).

London Council Cyclists' Corps.

On Saturday next there will be a meet at Shoreditch Church at 3.30 P.M. for a run to New Southgate, where we are to be entertained to tea by Mrs. Todd, after which an outdoor meeting will be held, at which Miss Molony will be our principal speaker. On Saturday the 12th, we meet at Buckingham Street for Dulwich; and at both of these meetings I hope we shall have a large muster of members. HELEN LEVY, Hon. Sec.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS. September 2nd to 19th.

| | | | P.M. |
|--------|--|--|----------------------------|
| Wed. | 2. The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath | Dr. Thornett Dr. Knight Mr. Duval | 7.15 |
| Thurs. | 3. "At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster | Mrs. Despard Mrs. Fenwick Miller Mrs. Nevinson | 3.30 |
| | 18, Buckingham St., Strand | Despard Debating Society Sharp Practice Debate | 8 |
| | Katherine Street, Croydon | Mrs. Holmes Miss Fraser Miss Molony | 8 |
| Sun. | 6. Brookwell Park Finsbury Park Clapham Common Wandsworth Common | | 3.30 3.30 6.30 12 |
| Wed. | 9. The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath | Miss Taplin Dr. Knight Mr. Victor Alberry | 7.15 |
| Thurs. | 10. "At Home," Caxton Hall | Mrs. Despard Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett | 3.30 |
| Sat. | 12. Tottenham, Garden Meeting, 91, Mount Pleasant Road | Central Branch Miss Molony | 8 3.30 |
| Sat. | 19. Edinburgh Branch, Reception of National Executive Committee, Goold Hall, St. Andrew Square | Public Meeting, Queen's Hall Mrs. Despard Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc. Mrs. Holmes Miss Irene Miller Chair, Mrs. Billington-Greig | 3 8 |

Caravan Route for the Week.—Deal until 4th September; Sandwich, 4th-7th; Canterbury, 7th-12th.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 38, 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. S. F. MORRIS.

Notes and Comments.

GENERAL BOOTH'S recent manifesto on sex equality has attracted widespread interest, and Suffragists have welcomed it as a sign that the vast organization of the Salvation Army may be reckoned among their allies. But in a letter published by *The Daily Telegraph* on August 27th Mr. John Manson, who is, of course, a member of the Men's League, has made it clear that "the Army's practice has not hitherto been in keeping with the generous feminist sentiments now professed by its head."

Mr. Manson points out that, although General Booth admits the equality of woman to man "in the value of her gifts," his scale of nominal weekly allowances to religious workers "has hitherto expressed a very different view," as appears from the following table:—

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|---------------------|-------------|---------------|--|
| | Single Men. | Single Women. | |
| Lieutenants | 12s. | 9s. | |
| Captains | 15s. | 12s. | |
| FIELD OFFICERS. | | | |
| | Single Men. | Single Women. | |
| Lieutenants | 16s. | 12s. | |
| Captains | 18s. | 15s. | |

Mr. Manson shows that there is a similar inequality in the Army's trust deed of July 7th, 1904, which provides for the removal and election of a general under certain circumstances. "Although," he writes, "both a husband and a wife may sit and act on the so-called High Council by virtue of their individual commissions, they have 'only one vote, which shall be given by the husband as he may think fit.'"

The evidence brought forward by Mr. Manson, of which we have only quoted a part, seriously detracts from the value and impressiveness of General Booth's manifesto. It is to be hoped that the manifesto foreshadows such vital and sweeping reforms as may enable the Salvation Army to take its proper place among the societies which are striving to raise the social and political status of women.

The letters of encouragement which are from time to time sent us by foreign sympathizers—in the United States, Poland, South Russia, and the Netherlands, to cite some recent examples—illustrate the fact that our work is part of an international movement. Mr. A. S. F. Morris, the Hon. Literature Secretary of the Men's League, has received a letter from Miss Th. Daugaard, assistant editor of the Copenhagen paper *Kvinden og Samfundet*, from which we learn that the activity of the League is watched with interest in the Danish capital.

After mentioning that *Women's Franchise* is habitually read by the staff of *Kvinden og Samfundet*, Miss Daugaard continues: "I am eager to make the public here acquainted with your League, and therefore beg you to be kind enough to forward all literature that can give me information about its history, the organization of your work, &c."

Miss Daugaard asks in particular for the reports of the speeches at our Queen's Hall meeting, and for the 'Sex

Symphony.' "I intend," she adds, "to use these for a lecture which I will read not only in women's organizations, but also, and especially, in men's societies, clubs, &c."

We venture to remind any of our readers who may be in the West Country at the beginning of October that a lecture on 'A Man's Reason for wishing for Women's Suffrage' will be delivered at Cheltenham, on October 3rd, by Mr. H. T. Mackenzie Bell, the poet, traveller, and literary critic. This lecture, which is the sixth of a series, on Christina Rossetti, Charles Kingsley, William Morris, and Portugal, will mark the opening of the Autumn Session of the Cheltenham Women's Suffrage Society.

We print to-day a brief exposure of the common, but fallacious belief that the Suffrage movement in the United States is moribund. Anti-Suffragist writers and speakers frequently allege that Women's Suffrage has been tried in America, and has failed. Full Suffrage was granted to the women of Wyoming, U.S.A., in 1869, only three years after the first petition in favour of sex-equality was presented to the British House of Commons by John Stuart Mill. In 1893 Colorado, in 1895 Utah, and in 1896 Idaho followed the example of Wyoming, and since then, as our contributor shows, the movement towards Enfranchisement has made steady progress.

In view of the recent declaration by the Government that the women of the country must bring forward evidence of a genuine and widespread desire for the vote, it is noteworthy that the signatures to the principal petitions in favour of Women's Suffrage, addressed either to Parliament or to some Cabinet Minister during the years 1896 to 1906, number rather more than 620,000. The signatures to minor petitions—and in 1897 alone there were no fewer than 1,825 of such petitions—are excluded from this total.

Many of the petitions represent special interests, classes, and districts, separate claims to the Suffrage having been advanced by the women textile workers of Lancashire (29,300 signatures), of Yorkshire (33,184), and of Cheshire (4,300), by women graduates of Universities (750), by the West Riding tailoresses (8,600), by women graduates and women engaged in the learned professions, as doctors, nurses, scientists, teachers, &c. (1,530). The petition presented to Parliament in 1903, by Mr. D. J. Shackleton, M.P. was signed by the members of seventy-one Trade and Labour Councils, and sixty-two Trades Unions, or a total of over 100,000 working men. The largest petition of all was that presented to Parliament in 1906, which bore the signatures of 257,000 women of all classes and parties. These figures, which are based on the carefully compiled leaflet, entitled 'Leading Facts of the Movement for the Parliamentary Enfranchisement of Women,' published by the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, completely dispose of the Anti-Suffragist contention that the demand for the vote is only put forward by a few "intellectuals."

We are anxious to draw the special attention of our readers to the advertisement relating to the street sale of *Women's Franchise* which we printed last week. It is much to be desired that the paper should be on sale by the ordinary street news-vendors, and individual readers can greatly assist in securing this end at small cost to themselves.

The Liverpool Demonstration.

ALL sympathizers are again invited to join in the Mass Demonstration of the Men's League, which will be held on Saturday, September 5th, in front of the St. George's Hall, and at the Wellington Column, Liverpool. Those who can take an active part are requested to write to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. R. Allerton, 8, Norma Road, Waterloo, Liverpool. The demonstration will begin at 3.30, and will be one of the largest and most important held outside London. There will be four platforms, at which the following ladies and gentlemen, among others, have promised to speak:—Miss Margaret Ashton, Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., Prof. Alexander, M.A., LL.D. (of Manchester University), the Rev. J. Mathieson Forson, Mr. Mark Howarth, Junr., Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell (National Hon. Secretary M.L.W.S.), the Rev. H. D. Roberts, Mr. Allan Tracy, and Pastor George Wise. In case of rain, a meeting will be held in the Alexandra Hall, Islington Square.

A very successful meeting was held in Smith Street on Thursday, and many of the audience promised support for September 5th. Three more meetings will be held during the present week.

Manchester News.

IN accordance with a resolution passed by the committee, a letter has been addressed by the Hon. Secs. of the Manchester Branch to all Members of Parliament in Manchester and the surrounding districts, asking them to join the League and use their influence on its behalf. For the purposes of this canvas, Members of Parliament were classified as (1) those in favour of Women's Suffrage who voted for Mr. Stanger's Bill, (2) those in favour who did not vote for the Bill, (3) those who were hostile or whose opinions were uncertain. Members who come within the third category—a very small minority—will, it is hoped, either explain or defend their position.

It is probable that the advisability of adopting a similar plan of campaign will shortly be discussed by the Committee of the Head Society, and that the League will endeavour to organize pressure upon all Members of Parliament throughout the country. Meanwhile the Manchester Branch are greatly to be congratulated on their energetic initiative.

On Wednesday evening a party of Liverpool Suffragists came over to take part in a meeting held on the Haymarket by the Men's League. The speakers were Mr. A. R. Allerton (who acted as chairman), Miss Harris and Miss Stevenson (both of the Liverpool Suffrage Society), and Mr. Lyon Blease. Though the meeting was informally arranged, there was a good attendance, and no interruption or disorder took place. Questions were asked and answered after the speeches.

The Men's League will be represented at the important demonstration which is being organized by the North of England Society for Women's Suffrage. The demonstration will be made in Manchester; a meeting will be held in the Free Trade Hall on the evening of October 23rd; and on the following day there will be a procession through the streets to Alexandra Park, where a mass meeting will be held.

The *Manchester Guardian* has expressed the opinion that "a really great and representative demonstration like this should strengthen the hands of the Government in their benevolent intentions towards the women of the country." Members of the League who are anxious to assist in the demonstration would do well to write to the secretary of the branch to which they belong.

Among those who will take part in the demonstration are members, not only of the Suffrage Societies, but also of other associations formed to promote the interests of women, such as the Women's Co-operative Guild, and the Federation of University Women. Deputations to represent Liverpool, Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, and the other principal towns of the North, will be sent to Manchester, and it is hoped that large bodies of men will be present to show that both sexes are agreed in demanding the enfranchisement of women.

The Suffrage in America.

WE sincerely trust that Lady McLaren's reply, in *The Daily Mail* of August 21st, to Mrs. Humphry Ward, will receive an equal currency with the somewhat rash assertions of the latter. That the Women's Suffrage party in America should be in "process of defeat and extinction at the hands of the women themselves," as, according to her account, it is, would be indeed a portent of evil omen. But what are the facts? Anti-Suffrage Societies exist in two States; small committees devoted to the same end in six more. Petitions presented to the different legislatures tell a like tale. The Suffragist signatories have been to the Anti-Suffragist in the proportion of fifty to one, sometimes of a hundred to one. The Women's Suffrage party, by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe's testimony, has grown in numbers and strength, and its income, since 1892, has increased twelfold.

We also recollect an earlier and less detailed reply from Dr. Anna Shaw to the same effect; in fact the Suffrage party has replied to Mrs. Humphry Ward, in the language of Mark Twain, "Reports of my death much exaggerated." In the interests of historical accuracy, we must hope that Mrs. Humphry Ward has carefully noted these corrections. We feel it is impossible to express a really adequate admiration for the simple candour which distinguishes at least one prominent member of the Anti-Suffrage League. No reason, he is credibly reported to have stated, impelled him to resist the appeal of the woman's party, no reason, but a deep-seated, nay, an ineradicable prejudice. "And prejudice, held with the fervour with which this prejudice holds me (*sic*), is stronger than any reason."

Our own opinion, exactly, only infinitely better expressed. Prejudice is, of course, incalculably the stronger—with Justice Shallow.

The Song of the Anti-Suffrage League.

THE following lines appeared in *The Bristol Times and Mirror* of the 27th July. We regret that want of space prevents our publishing the entire song.

Down, down with the banners of freedom;
Away with the champions of right;
Unfurl we the fair flag of kneedom
To masculine, muscular might.

Three cheers for the law that's lop-sided;
We love to be driven in reins;
Long, long may our sex be derided
For daring to say we have brains.

We may have the power of electing
Poor Guardians—such matters are mild—
But we can't deal with questions affecting
The nation, its home and its child.

Remember the horrid oppression
Of Queens Bess, Victoria, and Anne—
Then think of the people's progression
When ruled by his majesty, man!

JOHN EARL ROSE.

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