

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XVIII.—No. 209. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.  
Yearly Subscription, Post Free, 1s. 6d.

MAY 2, 1887.

PRICE ONE PENNY.  
By Post THREE HALFPENCE.

## Contents:

Leading Articles:—The Police Enfranchisement Bill; Mr. M'Laren's Proposed Amendment; The Mines Regulation Bill; Mr. Whymper's Report on Women in the Salt Works; Disabilities of a Married Woman as Guardian of an Infant; The Case of Rukmibhai; The Suit for Restitution of Conjugal Rights; Women as Assistants in Science and Art Examinations.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

Public Meetings:—Worcester, Peckham Liberal Club, Drawing-room Meetings:—Clifton.

Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage. Political Societies:—Westminster Liberal League. Debating Societies:—Portsmouth House of Commons, North Kensington, Merthyr Tydvil, Guisborough, Retford, Manchester, Hightown. Miners' Conference in Manchester. The Industrial Position of Women. Women as Assistants in Science and Art Examinations. Reviews. Law for Ladies. Scotland:—Convention of Royal and Parliamentary

Burghs; Town Councils; Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage. Women Poor Law Guardians for 1887. Summary of Public Petitions presented to the House of Commons. Leicester Branch National Society for Women's Suffrage. Women's Jubilee Offering. Treasurers' Reports:—Central Committee; Manchester National Society; Bristol and West of England. Parliamentary Petitions.

# Reckitt's Blue

See that you get it!  
As bad makes are often sold

# NEAVE'S (FOR INFANTS, INVALIDS, AND THE AGED.) FOOD.

Gold Medal, Edinburgh, 1886.

"THE TIMES" (Dec., 1881) says—"Bradford's unsurpassed Washing Machines and Wringers have revolutionised the labours of the wash-tub in myriads of households."

Gold Medal, Liverpool, 1886.

"My wife would not part with the 'Vowel' A1 on any account, as she can do the whole of the washing for a ven of us in about three hours, without trouble, and without wearing the clothes."

"It is a pleasure even to look at your machine, so substantially and strongly constructed, and at the same time so slighty—a contrast to much of the low-priced trash (aye, and not unfrequently high-priced trash) that abounds now-a-days."

"I am more and more satisfied with your 'Vowel' A1. To say nothing of its economy, its comfort in my family is beyond price."

"Your 'Vowel' A1 is one of our 'household treasures'; it cleanses thoroughly, and is a decided saving in every way."



## THOMAS BRADFORD & CO.

VICTORIA AVENUE, AND } MANCHESTER.  
DEANSGATE }  
CRESCENT IRON WORKS, SALFORD.  
BOLD STREET } LIVERPOOL.  
140 TO 143, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON.



"I have had a Wringer and Mangle for 15 years, and it has been of the greatest possible convenience and help to my family all that time."

Machinery Annexe,  
Manchester Jubilee Exhibition.  
Stand No. 412.

Bradford's Patent "Vowel" A1 Machine is a perfect Washer, and also a perfect Wringer and Mangle. Trial free, full instructions free, and satisfaction always guaranteed.

A liberal discount allowed for cash, and carriage paid to any railway station. New illustrated catalogue, with full particulars and revised prices, free by post, or on application at our Stand.

Bradford's Wringing and Mangling Machines are universally admitted to be the best, and although innumerable attempts have been made to design some new and fanciful patterns, there is nothing to supersede the above.

Two Gold Medals, The Healtheries, 1884. Gold Medal, Amsterdam, 1883.

MARRIAGE LAW DEFENCE UNION TRACTS.—Vol. 1, third edition, containing Tracts 1 to 43; also Historical Preface. Cloth, 2s. 6d., post free 3s., at the Office, 20, Cockspur-street, Charing Cross, S.W.; Messrs. SMITH AND SON'S Railway Bookstalls; or E. W. ALLEN, 4, Ave Maria Lane, E.C.

HISTORY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. Vol. III. Edited by ELIZABETH CADY STANTON, SUSAN B. ANTHONY, and MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE. Rochester, N.Y.: Charles Mann. London: 25, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden. Paris: G. Fischbacher, 33, Rue de Seine.

GOLD MEDAL AWARDED  
INTERNATIONAL  
HEALTH EXHIBITION

# BENGER'S FOOD

Tins, 1/6, 2/6 & 5/-  
For Children and Invalids.

"Retained after every other food has been rejected."  
London Medical Record.

Of Chemists, &c., everywhere, or free by parcels post from the manufacturers,  
MOTTERSHEAD & CO., 7, Exchange-street, Manchester.

PRINCES' HALL, PICCADILLY.—A Grand MORNING CONCERT (under the direction of Miss Agnes Larkcom) will be given on Saturday, May 21st, at Three p.m., on behalf of the funds of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage.

The following Artists have most generously given their services:—Miss Mary Davies and Miss Annie Marriott, Miss Agnes Larkcom, Miss Hilda Wilson, Miss Eleanor Rees and Miss Clara Myers, Miss Damian; Mr. Orlando Harley and Mr. Percy Palmer, Mr. Barton McGuckin, Mr. Frederic King and Mr. Franklin Clive, Mr. Maybrick. Solo Violin: Miss Emily Shinner. Solo Pianoforte: Miss Agnes Zimmermann. Conductors: Miss Florence Phillips, Herr Wilhelm Ganz, Mr. Fountain Meen, Mr. Turl Lee, and Mr. Sidney Naylor.

The Concert Grand Pianoforte by Messrs. Broadwood & Sons.

The Harmonium by Messrs. Chappell and Co. Reserved and Numbered Stalls, 10s. 6d.; Unreserved Seats, 5s. Tickets may be obtained of Messrs. Chappell & Co., 50, New Bond-street, and 15, Poultry; of Messrs. Cramer & Co., 201, Regent-street, and 63, New Bond-street; Mr. Austin, St. James's Hall; at Princes' Hall, Piccadilly; at Hays, Royal Exchange Buildings, and 26, Old Bond-street; and from Miss Balgarnie, Secretary of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, 29, Parliament-street, S.W.

MISS SPENDER'S LAST NOVEL.

"UNTIL THE DAY BREAKS." By EMILY SPENDER, author of "Restored," "A True Marriage," &c. Third edition. Price Two Shillings.—Messrs. J. & R. MAXWELL.

"Clever and entertaining."—Saturday Review.  
"A really delightful story."—Athenaeum.

TWO LECTURES to Women only will be delivered by Miss F. H. MULLER (late M.L.S.B.) at the Westminster Town Hall, Caxton Street, Victoria Street, London, at 3 o'clock, on Tuesday, May 3rd, "Real Women;" and Tuesday, May 10th, "Ideal Women." Tickets 1s., to be had by post of Miss Helen Clegg, 25, Alfred Place, Bedford Square, and at the entrance.

# TOWLE'S 1s. 1½d. 2s. 9d. 4s. 6d. & 11s. CHLORODYNE

Invaluable for Coughs, Asthma, Bronchitis, Cholera, Diarrhoea, Consumption, Spasms, &c. One Dose speedily relieves. TOWLE'S CHLORODYNE LOZENGES and JUJUBES. 6d. and 1s. per box. A. P. TOWLE, Chemist, 75, Back Piccadilly, Manchester, and of Chemists.—Post free 13½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 11s.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to the Office, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

PARLIAMENTARY PETITIONS.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

(From the Daily Votes and Proceedings.)

- March 28. Franchise, Petition for extension of, to women, of persons signing, read, and ordered to lie on the table.
- April 1. Franchise, Petition for extension of, to women, of meeting at Bristol, read, and ordered to lie on the table.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE (EXTENSION TO WOMEN) BILL.—*In Favour.*

FIRST REPORT, 28 January—1 February, 1887.

- Jan. 2 28 MARLBOROUGH, There-undersigned Inhabitants of (Mr. Long) [APP. 1] ... 60
- \*3 ,, LONDON and other places, There-undersigned Inhabitants of ... 38
- ©4 31 SOUTHPORT, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; John Unwin, Mayor, chairman (Mr. Curzon) [APP. 2] ... 1
- ©5 ,, SOUTHPORT, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; C. S. Hope, chairman (Mr. Curzon) ... 1
- ©6 ,, STRATFORD, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; William Volekman, chairman (Mr. Fulton) ... 1
- 7 ,, DAWLISH, Inhabitants of (Mr. Seale-Hayne) ... 23
- ©8 ,, CROYDON, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled; M. E. Peard, ruling councillor of the Grantham Habitation of the Primrose League, chairman (Mr. Sidney Herbert) ... 1
- \*9 ,, BRIGHTON, Inhabitants of (Mr. Tindal Robertson) ... 24
- Feb. 1 10 NOTTINGHAM, Attendants at a Meeting held in the Castle Gate Lecture Hall, on the 28th January, 1887; John Toomey, Mayor of Nottingham, chairman (Mr. Arnold Morley) ... 1
- 11 ,, SCARBOROUGH, Women Ratepayers of (Mr. Rowntree) ... 290
- ©12 ,, DUBLIN, Attendants at a Meeting held in the Mansion House, on November 1st, 1886; Henry Wigham, chairman (Mr. T. W. Russell) ... 1
- ©13 ,, DUBLIN, Attendants at a Meeting of the Dublin Women's Suffrage Association, held in Eastace Buildings, on December 3rd, 1886; Thomas J. Haslam, chairman (Mr. T. W. Russell) ... 1

Total number of Petitions 12—Signatures 442

SECOND REPORT, 2—8 February, 1887.

- Feb. Brought forward, Petitions 12— Signatures 442
- ©74 2 READING and other places, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled in the Old Town Hall on Thursday, 27th January, 1887; George Palmer, chairman (Mr. Murdoch) ... 1
- ©75 ,, SOUTHPORT Division of the Women's Liberal Association, Members of the, in public meeting assembled; Mary E. Pilkington, president, and two others (Mr. Fowler) ... 3
- 76 3 SOUTHAMPTON, There-undersigned Inhabitants of (Mr. Giles) ... 22
- \*77 4 REDRUTH, Inhabitants of (Mr. Conybeare) ... 70
- \*78 ,, CLAPTON, Women, in drawing-room meeting assembled at No. 12, Souton Road; Sara Burstall, E.A., University of London, president (Sir Guyer Hunter) ... 1
- \*79 ,, SPALDING, Inhabitants of ... 22
- 80 7 YORKTOWN, There-undersigned Inhabitants of (Mr. Hankey) ... 17
- ©81 8 OSWESTRY, Attendants at a Drawing-room Meeting held at Weston Colton, on 10th November, 1886; Mary Wyld, chairman (Mr. Stanley Leighton) ... 1

Total number of Petitions 20—Signatures 579

THIRD REPORT, 11—15 February, 1887.

- Feb. Brought forward, Petitions 20— Signatures 579
- ©175 11 LONGSIGHT, in the county of Lancaster, Attendants at a Public Meeting held in the Saint Clement's Ward Liberal Club, on the 2nd November, 1886, H. A. Noel, chairman (Mr. Peacock) ... 1

- Feb. 176 11 CLIFTON, Attendants at a Conference of Friends of the Women's Suffrage Movement, held at, on December 16, 1886; Alan Greenwell, chairman (Sir Michael Hicks Beach) ... 1
  - \*177 14 BELFAST, There-undersigned Inhabitants of (Mr. Sexton) ... 333
  - 178 15 BRAINTREE, in the county of Essex, There-undersigned Inhabitants of ... 38
- Total number of Petitions 24—Signatures 952

FOURTH REPORT, 16—22 February, 1887.

- Brought forward, Petitions 24— Signatures 952
  - Feb. ©\*289 16 OSWESTRY and other places, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled on November 10, 1886, in the Assembly Rooms, Arthur-street, Oswestry; John J. Paynter, chairman (Mr. Stanley Leighton) ... 1
  - ||290 21 EMMA JONES and others, There-undersigned (Colonel Makins) ... 5
  - ©291 ,, LEICESTER, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled on the 11th of February, 1887; Thomas Wright, chairman (Mr. Pictou) ... 1
  - ||292 22 WIMBLEDON and other places, There-undersigned Inhabitants of (Mr. Bonsor) ... 31
- Total number of Petitions 28—Signatures 990

FIFTH REPORT, 23—28 February, 1887.

- Brought forward, Petitions 28— Signatures 990
  - Feb. 434 23 REIGATE, Inhabitants of (Sir Trevor Lawrence) ... 19
  - ©435 24 NEW CROSS, Members and Friends of the Hatcham Liberal Club, in meeting assembled in the New Hall, Portland House, on the 20th February, 1887; H. A. Buxton, chairman (Mr. Evelyn) ... 1
  - ©436 ,, WOTTON UNDER EDGE, Inhabitants of, in public meeting assembled in the Town Hall on the 18th November, 1886; C. M. Harris, chairman (Mr. Holloway) ... 1
  - 437 ,, ROCK FERRY, Women Householdors of, in the county of Chester (Mr. Woodall) ... 19
  - 438 25 BEN RHYDDING by Leeds, There-undersigned Inhabitants of (Mr. Barran) ... 24
  - 439 28 LONDON, There-undersigned Inhabitants of (Major-General Goldsworthy) ... 60
- Total number of Petitions 34—Signatures 1,114

SIXTH REPORT, 3—7 March, 1887.

- Brought forward, Petitions 34— Signatures 1,114
  - Mar. ©662 3 BRISTOL, Attendants at the Annual Meeting of the Bristol and West of England Society for Women's Suffrage, held at Bristol on the 19th February, 1887; Lewis Fry, chairman (Mr. Lewis Fry) ... 1
  - 663 ,, HAMMERSMITH and Neighbourhood, Women Inhabitant Householdors of (Major-General Goldsworthy) ... 15
  - \*664 7 WANDSWORTH and other places, Inhabitants of (Mr. Kimber) ... 62
- Total number of Petitions 37—Signatures 1,192

SEVENTH REPORT, 9—15 March, 1887.

- Brought forward, Petitions 37— Signatures 1,192
- Mar. ©||885 9 WEST ISLINGTON, Inhabitants of, and others, in public meeting assembled in the Gifford Hall, Gifford-street, Caledonian Road, on 4th March, 1887; Benjamin Clarke, chairman (Mr. Richard Chamberlain) ... 1
- \*886 ,, CARMARTHEN, Inhabitants of (Mr. Rice Powell) ... 23
- 887 ,, WHITLAND, in the county of Carmarthen, Inhabitants of (Mr. Rice Powell) ... 21
- ©888 15 BRISTOL, Attendants at a Drawing-room Meeting held at Chistle Wood, Bristol, on the 10th March, 1887; Alan Greenwell, chairman (Colonel Hill) ... 1

Total number of Petitions 41—Signatures 1,238

The Petitions marked thus (©) are signed officially. The Petitions marked thus (\*) are similar to that from Marlborough [APP. 1]. The Petitions marked thus (||) are similar to that from Southport [APP. 2].

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XVIII.—No. 209. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

MAY 2, 1887.

PRICE ONE PENNY.  
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

THE Bill for the enfranchisement of policemen, introduced by Mr. BURDETT COUTTS, was read a second time without a division on April 20th. We may be permitted to hope from the alacrity and unanimity displayed by the House in removing the electoral disability attaching to one class of householders and ratepayers, that they will be equally ready, though possibly not equally unanimous, in consenting to the removal of a similar disability affecting women householders. We are encouraged in this hope by the recollection that the second reading of the Women's Franchise Bill was passed without a division in the last Parliament, and we trust that the present House of Commons will show itself not less liberal in this respect than its predecessor.

MR. BURDETT COUTTS, in moving the second reading of the Police Enfranchisement Bill, made some observations which have a wider application than was probably in the mind of the speaker, and which seem peculiarly apt in relation to the political aspirations and actions of women. He observed that it was said "it would not be well to turn policemen into politicians. A line in a statute book could not transform a man into a politician. Political sympathies were neither created nor obliterated by withholding from a man the right to record his vote. Rather were they the result of the increased spread of intelligence, the rapidity of communication, the general development of interest in public affairs, and the general demand of all classes of the community to participate in the government of the country. If you withhold political rights from any class really qualified to exercise them, you did not prevent them from being politicians—you left them politicians with a grievance—a most undesirable element in the community."

THE debate on the Police Enfranchisement Bill was diversified by the proposed amendment of Mr. WALTER M'LAREN to postpone the consideration of the Police Bill until the Women's Franchise Bill had been adopted. Mr. M'LAREN in taking this course was careful to explain that he did so on his own responsibility, and without

consultation with any member of the Women's Suffrage Society. While cordially recognising the courage and determination which prompted the action of Mr. M'LAREN, we see no cause for regret that the ruling of the SPEAKER prevented the amendment from being put to the House. It appears to us that it would be disadvantageous under the present condition of things to press for a division in which the question of women's suffrage could be complicated by any extraneous considerations. We should hold it to be a misfortune if any such division were to intervene before the House had had the opportunity, which we trust will be afforded on the twentieth of July, of giving a straightforward clear vote on the question of removing the electoral disabilities of women.

ALTHOUGH the Government Bill for the regulation of mines does not prohibit the work of women on pit banks, there is a provision that "no boy, girl, or woman shall be employed in moving railway wagons." This is a matter which should receive attention from all opponents of legal restriction of the industrial rights of adult women. It does not appear clear whether the prohibited employment is one in which women are already engaged or not. If no women are at present employed in moving railway wagons, or in any work about mines in which such labour is an incident, the prohibition is not needed to keep women out of such work. If, on the contrary, women are now engaged in such employment, the clause is as much an interference with their industrial rights as the proposal to prohibit their work at the pit banks.

MR. WHYMPER, the factory inspector at Droitwich, in a recent report, gives some interesting particulars relative to the condition of women employed in the saltworks. It was urged before a Royal Commission in 1876, that all female labour in saltworks should cease, but it was only forbidden under the age of sixteen. The prohibition was urged on the usual pretext of immorality. How unfounded was the pretext may be inferred from the records of the Droitwich Police Courts, where for more than twenty-five

years an instance can scarcely be recorded of a salt-girl appearing in connection with any charge of immoral conduct. In support of these facts and accounting for them two circumstances are adduced. One is, that for eight and a half hours' intermittent labour daily the salt-women earn ten shillings a week, and this removes any temptation to supplement their earnings by vice. The other is, that the men who contract to work the pans and to supply the female labour are married men employing their own wives and daughters, and thus the women get looked after and protected.

Under these conditions it would seem as if there was no need for the prohibition as to age, but that girls in the saltworks might be placed in the same position as regards age and hours of work as girls under the Factories and Workshops Act.

Mr. WHYMPER reports that the occupation of salt making is pre-eminently a healthy one, and that the medical experience has never recognised any evil results to the women employed in it. "They make good nursing mothers, and live long lives, many, both men and women, reaching to the age of eighty."

IN a recent case (in re Duke of SOMERSET, THYNNE v. ST. MAUR, 34 Ch. D. 465), Mr. Justice CHITTY decided that notwithstanding the Married Women's Property Act, 1882, section 1, sub-section 2, which provides that a married woman shall be capable of suing and being sued . . . in all respects as if she were a feme sole, a married woman cannot act as guardian ad litem or next friend of an infant. His lordship explained that the Married Women's Property Act, 1882, had not made a married woman a feme sole for all purposes, and although her general incapacity to sue and be sued is removed as regards matters relating to herself personally, there is nothing in the section to remove the particular incapacity to be guardian ad litem or next friend of an infant.

H. J.

PUBLIC feeling in India and in this country has been lately greatly outraged by the decision in the case of RUKMIBHAI, an Indian lady, who has just been condemned under an obsolete English law to six months' imprisonment for refusing to live with her husband.

It appears that RUKMIBHAI was married according to Hindoo custom at the age of eleven years to a man some years her senior. She remained at her parents' house, was carefully educated, and grew up into a refined and

cultured lady. Last year her husband tried to get her to live with him, and on her refusal instituted a suit for the restitution of conjugal rights in the Bombay High Court. The case was tried in the first instance by Mr. Justice PINHEY, when, it having been proved that the husband was too poor to support her, was utterly ignorant and uneducated—was in fact a mere coolie—and was, more over, consumptive, the judge expressed the opinion that it would be a barbarous, cruel, and revolting thing to compel her to live with such a man. He further held that such a suit could not lie under Hindoo law, and dismissed it. The husband appealed, and the case was argued before the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice BAYLEY. The decision was reversed, and the sentence of six months' imprisonment in case of continued refusal confirmed. At the end of this period a fresh claim can be made, therefore the unhappy lady appears to be reduced to the alternative of submitting to a loathed and incongruous marriage, or to imprisonment for the term of the natural life of one of the parties to it.

There is, however, a yet higher court of appeal to which the case is, we understand, to be taken, and beyond this there is an ultimate appeal to the Queen in Council.

It is extremely difficult to understand by what law the decree of imprisonment has been made. It may be that the Indian Government has not the strength or the courage to interfere, on behalf of the hapless child-wives and child-widows whom it is bound to protect, with the cruel laws and customs prevailing in the land. But it might, at least, leave such laws and customs to native sanction, and refrain from interfering on the side of oppression by bringing to bear for the enforcement of native customs a sanction unknown to Hindoo law, and recently abolished by an Act of the Imperial Parliament.

UNTIL 1884, a suit for the restitution of conjugal rights could be enforced by means of a writ of attachment against the person, under which writ a recalcitrant spouse was liable to perpetual imprisonment. Many English wives have at various periods been forced to hide, or fly the country, to escape the cruel alternative. No one defended this barbarous law, but so long as wives only were the sufferers no one tried to amend it. But in 1884, Mrs. WELDON instituted a suit for restitution of conjugal rights against her husband, and obtained a decree under which Mr. WELDON was bound to take his wife to live with him under the penalty of perpetual imprisonment. The moment that a husband was caught

in the meshes of this barbarous law, the machinery of the Legislature was brought into action to set him free. A Bill was introduced by the LORD-CHANCELLOR and speedily passed into law, which provided that a decree for the restitution of conjugal rights should no longer be enforced by attachment. Since that time no husband nor wife in this country can compel co-habitation under penalty of imprisonment. This being the case, it appears to be a monstrous wrong that this rule should be resuscitated and applied to the case of the Hindoo.

THE examination of the classes under the Science and Art Department will take place this month under the direction of the various special local secretaries chosen in the several districts and approved by the Department. In this connection we desire to call attention to correspondence between the Manchester special local secretary and the Department, reprinted in another column, with respect to the employment of ladies as assistants. It having been declared that ladies are eligible for such appointments, we trust that local secretaries will avail themselves of the opportunity to enlist the services of suitable women. The work is a simple one and needs no special qualification save care and conscientiousness. The duty of the assistant is to remain in charge of the class while the examination is in progress, to distribute the papers to each student, to collect them at the expiration of the specified time, and to see that all the regulations are duly complied with. The remuneration is half a guinea for each evening or day of examination. The duty is one of honour and responsibility, and no doubt there are many ladies in every district who would be found capable and willing to discharge it.

### PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *Wednesday, April 20.*  
POLICE ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS, in moving the second reading of this Bill, said its object was to enfranchise the police force in Great Britain. After addressing some arguments in support of the proposal, the hon. member said the case seemed almost strong enough for him to leave it here, but to render it complete he would like to answer the only objections which he could find against these proposals. It was said that it would not be well to turn policemen into politicians. A line in a statute book could not transform a man into a politician. Political sentiments and sympathies were neither created nor obliterated by giving to or withholding from a man the right to record his vote. Rather were they the result of the increased spread of intelligence, the rapidity of communication, the general development of interest in public affairs, and the general demand of all classes of the community to participate in the government of the country. (Hear.) If a man was prevented from having political sympathies by withholding from him the franchise, that was tantamount to saying that each successive class which, in the extensions of the franchise, had obtained the vote, did not obtain it in satis-

faction of pre-existing political aspirations. Few reformers would be found to agree with such a theory. By giving them the franchise you did endow these aspirations with a higher and keener sense of responsibility, and that, to every class and to every body of men, was a good and not a bad thing. But if you withheld political rights from any class really qualified to exercise them, you did not prevent them from being politicians—you left them politicians with a grievance—(hear, hear)—a most undesirable element in the community, particularly where it was unnecessary. The police were men who in common with their fellows took an intelligent and watchful interest in affairs, and who, it must be within the general knowledge of candidates of all parties already, had their political views and sympathies. You would neither create nor destroy these by giving them the franchise, and therefore this objection about turning them into politicians in the main fell to the ground.

Mr. WALTER M'LAREN said he opposed the Bill, although he was in favour of its principle, and held that policemen were fully entitled to vote. After stating other reasons why, in his opinion, the police should be enfranchised, Mr. M'Laren said that he might be asked why he opposed this Bill, and he admitted that the question was a pertinent one, but if hon. members would look upon the notice paper they would see that he had given notice of an amendment, which, however, he understood it would not be in order for him to move. He had wished to propose "that this House, without expressing any opinion against the enfranchisement of the police force, declines to remove the electoral disability of persons employed in, or in connection with, the police, until it has dealt with the electoral difficulty of the sex." He was not going to discuss the question of women's suffrage. It would not be in order to go into the reasons why the suffrage should be granted to women, but he desired to state as briefly as possible the reasons which induced him to take the course he proposed to do. He should like to state merely one or two of the leading points relating to the history of this question during the past few years.

THE SPEAKER: I understood the hon. gentleman was going to make a general reference to the fact, that one of his reasons for objecting to the enfranchisement of the police was that the enfranchisement of women should precede or accompany it. I do not think a discussion of the past history of the women's suffrage question would be in order.

Mr. M'LAREN said perhaps he had put it too widely. What he really wished to show was this, that again and again when the question of the enfranchisement of women came up its advocates had been told that they must wait until those questions for the enfranchisement of men then before the House should be disposed of, because to mix up the question of the enfranchisement of women in these discussions would be detrimental to the interests of men. He thought the time had arrived when the validity of that argument should no longer be acknowledged. Therefore he was strongly of opinion that the House should not proceed to deal with the removal of any other disqualification until it had dealt with the disqualification of sex. If they dealt with the question of enfranchisement at all, they ought to take that which was most important first. It might be said that the enfranchisement of the police and the enfranchisement of women were not alternatives. It might also be said that they would have a Bill before them on the 20th of July dealing with the enfranchisement of women. He admitted there was a certain amount of force in the latter argument, and he desired to state in connection with it that in raising the present issue he was acting upon his own responsibility, and was not acting on behalf of what was called the Women's Suffrage Society. He had not consulted any members of that society any way, and they were not responsible for his action. He held, however, very strongly that they should press this subject forward, and, unless they insisted on attention being given to it, they could not, in the present state of politics, secure it its proper place. Women had been kept back in the interest of men, and it was now time for the claims of women to have precedence. The position he had taken up might be illustrated by an incident which he believed recently occurred at a railway station. A burly Scotchman endeavoured to get into a train that was in motion, and the guard prevented him, upon which the Scotchman seized hold of the guard, exclaiming, "If I canna', ye shall na'." The result was that the train was stopped for the moment and both got in. If the advocates of women's suffrage would take that course they would succeed; they should insist that the enfranchisement of women

should come next in order, and should take every opportunity of fixing the subject on the attention of the House. He observed with pleasure that of the eight Conservative members who backed the Police Bill, five were known supporters of women's suffrage, and possibly the other three were favourable. He appealed to them to press forward the claims of women, and was proceeding to urge the Home Secretary to promise that the Government would not take away the 20th of July from them, when

The SPEAKER said he thought the hon. member had been allowed sufficient latitude. The enfranchisement of women was a separate question, regarding which there was a Bill before the House.

Mr. M'LAREN begged pardon for having trespassed. Nothing could be further from his mind than to contravene the Speaker's ruling. He should not, therefore, pursue the subject further, but while he was strongly in favour of the enfranchisement of the police, he was of opinion that the enfranchisement of women should come first.

Mr. PULESTON said that the Women's Franchise Bill had been lost, not through the action of the Conservative party, but in consequence of the non-fulfilment of the pledges which had been given by a large body of Liberal members. (Hear, hear.)

The Police Enfranchisement Bill was read a second time.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS.

### WORCESTER.

On April 19th a public meeting was held in the Guildhall, Worcester, in support of the movement for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to properly qualified women. Alderman WILLIAMSON presided, and there were also on the platform Dr. Kate Mitchell (London), Miss Florence Baggallay (London), Miss Eliza Sturge (Bewdley), the Revs. J. Lewitt, E. J. Boon, J. H. Scott, and F. J. Yeates, Alderman Townshend, Alderman Airey, Mr. J. Edmonds, and Mr. W. Somerville. There was a large attendance, and a great majority of those present were women.

The Chairman said the discussion of the question of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women was perhaps novel to many of them. He was proud to do what little he could to forward this great and good movement. (Applause.) It appeared to him very hard that the Parliamentary franchise should be kept from women who had qualifications similar to male electors.

Alderman Airey said the Town Council of Worcester had, by a very large majority, voted a petition in favour of the extension of the franchise to women. They compelled women to pay rates and taxes like men, when similarly situated, and therefore women ought to have the right of voting for Parliamentary representation. He moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have a right of voting."

The Rev. E. J. Boon had pleasure in seconding the resolution, because he believed it was fair.

Dr. KATE MITCHELL supported the resolution. She said she would like to refer to some of the stock arguments against the admission of women to the franchise. One was the physical inferiority of women. She would like to know what amount of muscular energy it required to record a vote for a member of Parliament. (Laughter and applause.) Some of the most intellectual men who ever lived had small frames, though very large brains. There were, for example, Napoleon the First and Nelson; and if they went into the House of Commons—though she did not know whether that should be taken as a representative assembly of clever men—they would see that one of the smallest men in that body was, whether they agreed with him or not, one of the cleverest, and that was Lord R. Churchill. (Applause and hisses.) Women had not until now had a fair and full opportunity of developing their brains, and it would only be a century or two hence that men could justly say whether or not women came up to their standard. (Hear, hear.) If the argument about intellectual inferiority was worth anything at all, no man should be allowed to vote unless he reached a certain intellectual standard. What about those two million men who had lately been enfranchised? She did not say anything about their natural capacity, but intellectually they were inferior to the large mass of educated women. She denied that political life hardened people. (Hear, hear.) If men were truly logical on this question,

why did they allow women to enter public life at all—if men were so tender about women, why did they let them go out to earn their livings and struggle for themselves and go through the difficulties and competitions of life? (Applause.) It was said that women had no political knowledge or understanding of national affairs; but what about hundreds of men who possessed the franchise who had no views at all on any question, but were taken to the polling booth by the first comer who called and talked to them for a few minutes? A woman was more talkative and argumentative, and would want to know the reason for what she did. (Laughter and applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Alderman TOWNSHEND proposed: "That a petition to Parliament based on the foregoing resolution be adopted and signed by the Chairman and officers of this meeting and forwarded to the Hon. G. H. Allsopp, M.P., for presentation."

Miss FLORENCE BAGGALAY seconded and

The Rev. F. J. YEATES briefly spoke in support of the resolution, which was carried.

Miss ELIZA SURGE, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, remarked that that was the third women's suffrage meeting she had attended in Worcester, and she could not help contrasting it with those of past times. The first, in 1872, was a very noisy meeting, and she thought the people of Worcester had now improved very much in their conduct of public meetings. She wished to thank not only the chairman, but also the audience for the very kind reception the lady speakers had had. She believed common sense and logic were on their side, and the opposition they met with was merely a matter of sentiment and feeling. If women had to pay rates and taxes they ought to have the vote, which was the compensating satisfaction for those responsibilities. (Applause.)

The Rev. J. H. SCOTT seconded the vote of thanks, which having been carried was acknowledged by the Chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

### PECKHAM LIBERAL CLUB.

On March 28th, at the Peckham Liberal Club, Mrs. Fawcett addressed a public meeting on the subject of "Women's Suffrage." The chair was occupied by Mr. W. WOODALL, M.P., who was supported by a numerous audience, comprising many ladies.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said: "Within late years many electoral anomalies had been removed, and in 1884 the distinction between rural and urban districts was abolished, and we had arrived at something like a symmetrical system. Still, however, one great anomaly survived which had been more conspicuous because of the thoroughness with which Parliament addressed itself to the removal of other anomalies. They were told that women must be dealt with exceptionally. A woman could not by reason of her sex be excused the payment of local rates; she was mulcted in the income tax, and all the other obligations of citizenship, just as if she were a man, and it was therefore important to consider whether what was regarded not as a privilege, but a right, should not be extended to her. Woman had not only been among the foremost and most valiant supporters of what she regarded as the cause of justice, but she had been the teacher and guide of man in many matters. (Cheers.)"

Mrs. FAWCETT, who was cordially received, then delivered her address, which she concluded by moving a resolution in favour of the principle of woman's suffrage.

Mr. J. A. LYON, in seconding, recalled the fact that this was no new question in Camberwell, for he remembered being present at a meeting in support of woman's suffrage held at the Rosemary Branch twenty years ago. The people who supported the movement in those days were laughed at for their pains.

After some discussion the resolution was agreed to, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding.

## DRAWING-ROOM MEETINGS.

### CLIFTON.

#### WOMEN IN ANCIENT EGYPT.

(From our own correspondent.)

A meeting of peculiar interest took place at the Manor House, Clifton, on April 20th, when Mrs. Beddoe invited a number of friends to hear an address from Miss Amelia B. Edwards, on the "Social

and political position of women in Ancient Egypt." Miss Edwards' labours in connection with the Egyptian Exploration Fund (which have procured her, amongst other signs of recognition, the Hon. Degree of LL.D., Mass., U.S.A.) rendering her so eminent an authority on Egyptian archæology, all were eager to hear, but few perhaps prepared for the extraordinary facts which were related regarding the social life of the ancient Egyptian civilization. We hope the paper is destined to come before a much wider circle than that which it delighted last week—making us feel what world-old questions these are after all, about which we are struggling to-day, and which have seemed to us as something new. Yet in Egypt women filled high and equal place in days which make our ancient history a thing of yesterday by comparison, as attested by thousands upon thousands of records which their recent researches into the "Demotic" writing have enabled Egyptian scholars to decipher. These records, some on papyrus, some on potsherds, contain bonds, receipts, contracts of all sorts, and let in a flood of light on the laws and social life of this extraordinary nation. The stories of Herodotus and Diodorus as to the position of Egyptian women, which had often been treated as travellers' tales, are in these records, more than justified; they seem as sober facts before some of the curious things which Miss Edwards read to us from the old marriage and other contracts. These shewed men and women to have been absolutely on a par in contracting powers, shewed women filling high offices, trading in large and important businesses—often with the state,—and shewed that in marriage the conditions of modern marriage were simply reversed, the property of the husband being made over absolutely to the wife. One left this interesting meeting with the sense that the great pendulum of civilization had swung from one extreme to another, and now perhaps we are in the movement which shall bring it to a just equilibrium.

### MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The Executive Committee of this Society were yesterday afternoon "at home" to their friends, in the pleasant offices to which the Society recently removed, Queen's Chamber, 5, John Dalton-street. The object was to give the supporters of the women's suffrage movement in this district an opportunity of seeing the Society's new habitation and enjoying a little social converse. Miss Becker, the indefatigable secretary, and other members of the committee, were present to receive and entertain the visitors. For the convenience of those friends who could not attend yesterday's gathering, the committee will have another "at home" on Wednesday next, and a third on Tuesday, the 26th inst. The meeting yesterday was altogether of an agreeable character.—*Manchester Guardian*, April 16th.

## POLITICAL SOCIETIES.

### WESTMINSTER LIBERAL LEAGUE.

At a meeting convened by the Liberal League at the Westminster Palace Hotel, on March 29th, Mr. E. Gibb, late M.P. for St. Pancras, in the chair, a resolution in favour of women's suffrage was adopted after a discussion lasting some time.

## DEBATING SOCIETIES.

### PORTSMOUTH HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In February, Mr. A. C. Kirk (St. Augustine) moved: "That the time has now arrived when it is desirable to extend the franchise to women householders." Mr. Sweeney seconded the resolution. Mr. Hobbins, in opposing the motion, said a woman who mixed in politics would be utterly detested. Mr. Evans (Liberal Unionist) also opposed the motion as unjust, inexpedient, and opposed to the best interests of those whom it was intended to benefit. Captain Sturgess, R.N. (Liberal Unionist), also opposed. Mr. Palin supported the motion. Mr. G. A. Cossar also supported. Mr. Jacobs (for) and Mr. R. Y. Banks (against) followed, after which the Prime Minister (Mr. G. L. Green) supported the motion, pointing out that at the present time a lady ruled this country, and it was generally admitted that she had performed her duties in a most

constitutional manner. Ladies already exercised a vast amount of political influence, as the hon. gentlemen opposite well knew. (Laughter.) The House divided, when there appeared—for the resolution, 46; against, 28; majority, 18.

### NORTH KENSINGTON.

At the usual weekly meeting of the North Kensington Debating Society, held on February 17th, in the schoolroom of the Congregational Church, Lancaster Road, Notting Hill, an address on the subject of "The Duties of Women as Citizens and Voters." A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to the lecturer for her address; and a petition in favour of women's suffrage was signed by most of those present.

### MERTHYR TYDVIL.

The weekly meeting of the Merthyr Society was held on January 28th, when the question for debate was "Women's Suffrage." Mr. L. Williams was voted to the chair. Mr. D. W. Powell opened in the affirmative the debate of the evening. Mr. D. J. Rees followed against the proposal. Mr. W. Williams also opposed. Mr. S. Guppy was very decidedly in favour of the measure, which he characterised as nothing more or less than a measure of justice. Messrs. Vaughan, Davies, Rogers, Frayne, F. James, and R. S. Rees spoke in favour of the motion, and the chairman added his quota to the discussion. He said he was distinctly against the proposal. Mr. Powell having replied, the question was put to the vote and the proposal carried.

### GUISBOROUGH.

On November 24th a public debate in connection with the Guisbro' Mechanics' Institute Debating Society took place in the Temperance Hall, Guisbro', the subject being, "Is it desirable to extend the political franchise to women?" The affirmative was moved by Mr. Arthur Buchannan. Mr. A. E. Pease, M.P., moved the negative. He did not dispute that women were endowed mentally for certain descriptions of work the same as men. (Cheers.) He argued that woman was no more fitted to be a member of Parliament or a magistrate than she was fitted to be a stone-breaker. He agreed with Mr. Buchannan so far, that if it were extended to single women it should be extended to married women also, as it would be placing a stigma on married women, and a penalty on matrimony, which was not desirable. (Cheers.) The Rev. A. P. Mitchell, Mr. W. Richardson, Mr. W. Charlton, Captain Lynas, Mr. Blakeborough, Mr. T. Allison, and Mr. G. Barker took part in the debate, at the close of which a vote was taken, the result being a large majority in favour of Mr. Pease's view.

### RETFORD.

On December 1st, a meeting of the Congregational M. U. Society was held, Mr. Trenery presiding. A paper was read by Mr. C. Altoft on "Women's Suffrage." A discussion followed and was led off by Mr. D. C. Jackson, who moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the 'Representation of the People's Act' of the late Government should have been supplemented by the passing of a measure for the extension of the suffrage to all duly qualified women, and we consider it the duty of the present Government to introduce during the present Parliament a Bill entitling all duly qualified women to their rights of citizenship." Mr. E. Burge seconded and endorsed the previous remarks. Mr. Bailey opposed and moved as an amendment "That in the opinion of this meeting the question is unripe and that the resolution be read this day six months." This was seconded by Mr. Sharp. Miss Briggs supported the resolution in a neat little speech, and Mr. Trenery also approved of the same. Mr. Altoft replied. The resolution was carried by two to one.

### MANCHESTER, HIGHTOWN.

An essay was read before a full meeting of the members of St. John's Literary Society, Hightown, on November 30th, by Mr. Wm. Birbeck, who submitted the following resolution: "That the Parliamentary franchise ought to be extended to all women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote." The opposition was headed by Mr. W. Whitehead, and a warm and animated discussion followed, every minute of time being utilised. The resolution proposed by the essayist was eventually carried by a very large majority, amidst the greatest enthusiasm of the ladies, who were present in great force. The Rev. St. V. Beechey, M.A., presided.

## MINERS' CONFERENCE IN MANCHESTER.

The conference of miners' delegates opened in Manchester on April 20th and was resumed April 21st. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the Mines Regulation Bill, and the delegates present represented 390,000 miners. Mr. T. BURT, M.P., presided.

## THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN ON PIT BANKS.

The CHAIRMAN said there was no resolution on the subject of female labour on pit banks, and he thought it would perhaps be taken for granted that there would be no discussion on the point.

Mr. S. WOODS (Haydock) said that although personally he agreed with what had previously been consented to, that female labour of the kind referred to ought to be abolished by being allowed to die out, as was suggested by a deputation which waited upon the Home Secretary, he wished to say, as a representative of Lancashire, that he had no authority from his constituents for speaking for or against the abolition. He had authority from the men whom he represented with regard to every other part of the Bill, but such had been the strength of the agitation in favour of the continuance of female labour, and so much had the girls themselves opposed any interference, that he did not feel justified in advocating the proposed abolition.

Mr. T. OAKES (Hindley) said they were going to handicap Lancashire very heavily. Why was there not a proposal to abolish female labour in the nail and chain trades of South Staffordshire and Worcestershire, and to prevent females from hiring themselves to do agricultural work in other counties? To send the women away from the pit banks would be to glut the female labour market, which was already glutted in the mill districts of Lancashire. Why not go into the post offices and telegraph offices and do away with female labour there? (Laughter.)

Mr. B. PICKARD, M.P., asked if the Lancashire men were going to repudiate the resolution on the subject unanimously carried at a previous conference. He was sorry there should be any harking back on this matter. If he was not mistaken, the resolution against female labour had been introduced by Lancashire representatives at a previous conference.

Mr. WOODS said that was not so.

Mr. B. PICKARD said it was not fair to the Conference to bring up this matter at the eleventh hour. It would be misleading both to the Government and the country.

The CHAIRMAN said the miners' representatives had passed with an overwhelming majority resolutions against the employment of female labour about mines. At their interview with the Home Secretary he (the chairman), speaking as he thought with the unanimous voice of the representatives of the miners of Great Britain, laid great stress upon this point. Mr. Matthews asked whether they were unanimous, and he (the chairman) replied that he thought he had a right to say there was not a single dissident. It was cutting the ground from under them if they were to have any attempt now at the eleventh hour, when the Bill was about to go into committee, to have a rediscussion of the subject and intimations from various quarters, not only that there was not unanimity, but that there was not general approval of the action previous conferences had taken. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. W. PICKARD said he thought the Bill took a fair and impartial line, and they should honestly support the Bill in a firm way, whatever might be the diversity of opinion in connection with female labour. There was no comparison between post-office and telegraph employment for women and the employment of the sex about pit banks. He could remember the great outcry there was against prohibiting female labour within the mine. That legislation had had good results, and he believed that good would come from letting female labour on the pit banks die out. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. JOHNSON (Durham) said the agitation in favour of continuing the employment of women was simply a cheap labour agitation.

Mr. T. ASPINWALL (Skelmersdale) said that if the ladies who had supported the agitation really knew the character of the work of the pit bank women they would disdain to be connected with the movement.

Mr. J. WILSON (Central Board) said he hoped it would be understood that there was no want of unanimity in the conference, only the Lancashire delegates wished it to be known that they did not represent people whose opinions were unanimous on this question.

## THE INDUSTRIAL POSITION OF WOMEN.

At the Westminster Palace Hotel, on April 18th, a conference was held of ladies and gentlemen interested in the industrial position of women, with a view of endeavouring to take steps to remedy the *status* of English working women. Mr. J. Stuart, M.P., presided, and, in opening the proceedings, remarked that the subject of the industrial position of women was one upon which there were many views—not as to the evil situation in which industrial women were placed, but as to the causes and the remedies. This evil situation, one of the phases of which was the low remuneration for their labour, affected the condition of the whole of the labouring classes. Many remedies were proposed, and he for one was an advocate for political liberty for women as a security for their position. A conference might be held to deal first with the facts. It was necessary that these facts should be placed in an accessible form, and this could only be done by a body who set themselves to this task. Mr. Walter Besant moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting of men and women expresses its belief that the time is opportune for organising a deliberate and determined attempt to force the conscience of the nation to take cognisance of the conditions which distinguish the labour and life of the working women of our capital and country, and resolves that a national conference and public assembly shall be called within the next three months, with a view to collect, collate, and bring before the public in a definite and concrete form the facts affecting the industrial position of women, and thereby to provide material for the pursuit of a permanent and persistent effort in the direction of reform." The mover said that this proposed inquiry would be better than calling a public meeting and giving vent to indignant speeches on the platform. It was impossible to prescribe remedies for an unknown disease, for though the disease was known to exist, its cause and character were not known. The inquiry must precede the laying down of remedies, and this must be carried on in no hysterical manner. Theorists were not required for this work, for what was wanted was the collection of facts. Mrs. Heckford seconded the motion, and Miss Lydgett and Miss Rogers supported it, while Mrs. Ashton Dilke expressed the view that the subject of women's labour was inextricably mixed up with men's labour, and the fear that any new organisation might tend to fritter away useful energy. The motion was carried *nem. con.* A further resolution was carried nominating the committee. Among those present were Lady Frederick Cavendish, Mrs. Frederick Verney, Miss Müller, Miss Hart, and others.

## WOMEN'S ASSISTANTS IN SCIENCE AND ART EXAMINATIONS.

The Special Local Secretary for the May examinations under the Science and Art Department in the Manchester District, Mr. Wyatt, clerk to the Manchester School Board, addressed a letter to the Department enquiring whether ladies were eligible as special local secretaries' assistants. The following reply in the affirmative has been received:—

Science & Art Dept., London S.W.  
7th April, 1887.

Manchester, &c., District.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., and to inform you that ladies are eligible for nomination as Special Local Secretaries' Assistants.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. H. WYATT, Esq., 6, St. James' Square, Manchester. G. F. DUNCOMBE.

## EXTRACT FROM SCIENCE AND ART DIRECTORY.

Assistants for XXXIII. Assistants will be appointed to help the Special Local Secretary. The number of Assistants required will depend upon circumstances, and will be fixed by the Special Local Secretary, subject to the approval of the Department. Each of the Assistants will receive a fee of half a guinea for each night of examination, for each afternoon of examination in Practical Chemistry, or Practical Metallurgy, and for each day of examination in Art subjects of 3rd grade on which he may be required to be present.

## REVIEWS.

IS LOVE A CRIME? A novel by Mrs. Jagger, author of "Rookery Mill." London: Swan, Sonnenschein & Co.

This is a well-written, interesting story, in which the course of true love is made to run counter to social and class distinctions, and to difference of opinion on most of the current questions of the day. True love is in the end victorious all along the line. A high-born brother and sister, of Tory parentage, fall in love, the one with the daughter of the village shoemaker and his gipsy wife; the other with the Radical M.P. who has displaced their father in the representation of the family borough. The sister, Mary Rufford, is a worker in the enfranchisement of women, and many pages of the book are devoted to the exposition of her views. Her lover, Edward Lister, ultimately wins her consent, after he has made her feel that he can fight her battle better as a husband than as a friend, and distinguishes himself by making an effective speech in favour of the Women's Suffrage Bill.

A COMITIST LOVER, AND OTHER STUDIES. By Elizabeth Rachel Chapman, author of a "Sonnet Idyll." London: T. Fisher Unwin, Paternoster Square, 1886.

The principal study which gives its title to the volume represents a pair of betrothed lovers, Austin and Aimée, conversing after a fortnight's separation, enjoined by the lady on recently hearing her lover's announcement that he had definitely joined the Positivists. The decision arrived at by Aimée, after the fortnight's deliberation, is that she must break off her engagement; and the book consists of dialogues in which the lover seeks to justify his position, and convert his lady to his new creed, while she explains her feelings and defends the decision to which she has arrived. The book is full of thought, and is well written. Other studies consist of a disquisition on the extension of the law of kindness, with reference to the vivisection controversy, and other matters.

## LAW FOR LADIES.

Mr. John Indermaur has published a pamphlet entitled "Ladies' Law: a Book for Spinsters, Wives, and Widows" (G. Barber, Cursitor-street), the aim of which, he says, is to furnish ladies with knowledge, in a readable shape, concerning their legal rights and positions.

Spinsters Mr. Indermaur addresses as follows:—

"If I were simply to tell you that, in your capacity of a spinster, you are quite as good as a man, I expect you would thank me for nothing, for we all indeed know how much better than that you are; but yet I want to convey that knowledge to you, in a legal sense, meaning thereby that legally you are able to do what a man can do and be what he can be, save only in a political and public sense. Of course all people under the age of twenty-one years are subject to certain disabilities; but you have no more than the male species. You are, though a woman, quite as competent to acquire and to hold and dispose of your property of every sort and description. You can enter into contracts; you are liable for your wrongful acts, or 'torts,' as they are technically termed; you can make a will; you can act as a trustee, or executrix, or generally, as I have said, as anything."

In setting forth the change of status upon which woman enters after marriage, Mr. Indermaur gives the following exposition as to the liabilities of husband and wife for debts:—

"As a wide generality, rest assured that your husband, with whom you are living, is liable for your debts, the reason being that you are deemed to be acting as his agent. For some things he expressly gives you authority to bind him, but for the greater proportion your authority is implied from the position that you hold. Your ordinary functions are to manage the household; and I am sure most of you who are married will exclaim, 'Well, I do do that,' and those of you who are not as yet married will resolve that you will do so when the time arrives. If this is so your authority to order necessaries for the household is implied, and your husband is liable; but he is only liable, on the principle of implication, for things that are necessaries. Please understand that by

the expression 'necessaries' is meant not merely meat, groceries, bread, and the like, but everything that is reasonable according to your position in life—*e.g.* flowers for your dinner parties, the hire of a brougham, &c., but all this is a question of degree, to be governed by your circumstances. But it is also the law that your husband and you can agree that you shall not have this righteous power; or your husband may, alas! prohibit your power. Suppose, in starting life, your husband distinctly says to you, 'Maid, you shall be but an ornament; you shall do nothing, order nothing. I will manage everything, order and pay for everything myself;' or that, apart from this arbitrary direction, this is the distinct understanding between you both. In either of these cases away goes your power, for it is but a matter of implication, and how can an implied authority exist when there is express agreement to the contrary, or express prohibition? This may sometimes touch an unsuspecting tradesman hardly; for who can suppose that all of you will be so minded as to obey such a direction or to conform to such an agreement? Suppose, therefore, you go and order various things coming under the denomination of necessaries—say, dresses for yourself. The tradesman thinks all must be right—he cannot imagine such a husband—and he supplies the goods, sends in the bill, and lo! your husband can refuse to pay, and the tradesman has to look only to you, and you, at any rate, will be liable, for, please remember, for all your debts—that is debts incurred personally by you, and not as agent for your husband—you are liable in so far as you are possessed of any separate property."

The following passage has reference to a woman's rights over her children:—

"The old common law of the realm is that the father is entitled to the custody of the children of the marriage, and, if that custody is withheld from him, he may recover it by the time-honoured writ of habeas corpus. No matter what he may be, what he may have done, or how evil his influence may be, there is the right. Such a state of things in its entirety, even in only early days of civilization and enlightenment, could not be allowed to exist, and the Court of Chancery shed a ray of light where, but for it, all would have been darkness. You will remember, please, that the Court of Chancery was a court of conscience, formed, in its very origin, to temper the harshness of the common law. Here, indeed, was harshness requiring to be tempered, and if it did not go far enough in its modifying influence, at least it did a great deal. This court laid down the rule that though the father was primarily entitled to the custody of his children, yet, if he was living in habits of gross moral misconduct, it would deprive him of their custody. Suppose him then to be a man living an openly profligate and wicked life, the court would step in and help the mother or any other relative to obtain and retain the custody of the children, appointing such person guardian. This is the doctrine now, and a moment's thought must show you how beneficent such a power must be in this world of ours, when rightly exercised. It may strike you, however, as rather strange that the court will not assist unless the infant has some property. The reason is tinged with satire—the court has the jurisdiction, but does not consider that it can usefully exercise it unless the infant has property. Still this difficulty may easily be got over by making a small settlement, say of £100, on the child, for then the court will interfere."

Here is some advice upon the important question of pin-money:—

"Pin-money is of a somewhat ancient origin, and may be described as a yearly allowance settled upon the wife before marriage for the purchase of clothes or ornaments, or otherwise for her separate expenditure, and in order to deck her person suitably according to her rank and station, and to prevent constant recurrence to the husband. The marriage settlement should, therefore, contain a provision for you of this character, and it is to be hoped that it may be sufficiently liberal to enable you to dress and to have all the ordinary little *et ceteras* without recourse to your husband. The pin-money is not meant as a fund for saving but for spending; and if, therefore, you do not get it paid up, the general rule is that, no matter how much is in arrear, you cannot ordinarily recover more than one year's arrears."

In dealing with the position of woman as a widow, Mr. Indermaur says:—

"But I must not deal with this matter in negatives, but rather tell you something definite in its character. Your husband is dead—well if he has left no children, you take one-half of his personal estate, and if he has left any child or children you take one-third. This is, if you like, idiotic! I am hardly disposed to agree with you if you come to that conclusion. You, his widow, you who were his wife and the recipient of his kisses, you who tended to his every want, only to be considered to be worth a third, or at most, a half. Your new-born baby takes two-thirds, you, who have loved him and had his love for years, one-third! You, only a half, and the rest to the Crown, because he has, it so chances, no other relative on earth! Can it be? Well may you be astonished. It is so, however—that is the rule, one-third if there are children, if none, then one-half; the rest to any distant relatives who may come in under the style of next-of-kin, and if none, then to the Crown."

SCOTLAND.

CONVENTION OF ROYAL AND PARLIAMENTARY BURGHS.

The annual meeting of the Convention of Royal and Parliamentary Burghs was resumed in the High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh, on April 6th.—Lord Provost Clark, Edinburgh, preses.

On the motion of the SENIOR COMMISSIONER for EDINBURGH (Baillie Walcot), seconded by Lord Provost MARTIN, Perth, the Convention, without discussion, agreed to petition Parliament to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women.

This vote represents, collectively, all the 82 town councils of Scotland.

TOWN COUNCILS.

In addition to the burghs named in our last issue, the councils of Elgin, Wick, Helensburgh, Whithorn, Greenock, Tain, Hawick, Lochmaben, Dunfermline, Dumfries, Dunbar, Kilmarnock, Dysart, Linlithgow, and Stirling have petitioned in favour of the Women's Franchise Bill, making twenty in all up to date.

EDINBURGH NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

COPY OF LETTER SENT TO MR. WALTER M'LAREN, M.P.

13, Raeburn Place, April 23rd, 1887.

Dear Mr. M'Laren,—Will you allow me, in name of our Edinburgh Committee for Women's Suffrage, to tender you our sincere and heartfelt thanks for the noble and courageous protest you made in the House of Commons on the 20th inst., on behalf of our claim for Parliamentary representation. We feel proud that we have such a champion, bearing the good old honoured name, still left to watch over our interests and even brave ridicule and sneers in the cause of the "voiceless multitude" of women who are deprived of making their own wrongs heard, and who, I fear, have few loyal-hearted men left, like yourself, either in or out of the House who dare to make our cause theirs. Once more thanking you for this and all other efforts in our behalf,—I remain, dear Mr. M'Laren, for the Committee, very gratefully yours,

ELIZA KIRKLAND, Secretary.

86, Portland Place, April 25th, 1887, W.

Dear Miss Kirkland,—I thank you very warmly and through you the Edinburgh Women's Suffrage Committee, for your most kind letter regarding my action in the House on Wednesday. I am more strongly in favour of women's suffrage than of any other measure before Parliament, and I felt it would be right to protest against this additional insult to women, the enfranchisement of the police, while they were still left out. It was a matter of some difficulty, as the Speaker held that the two subjects had no connection with each other, and hence it was impossible to raise a debate as I had hoped. But though my particular action was freely condemned, almost everyone who condemned it said he was in favour of women's suffrage. The papers naturally suppress all this, but a good many members have since told me that they are anxious to have women's suffrage, only they could see no reason for delaying the Police Bill. I assure you that your kind expressions give me much pleasure, and you may always rely on me helping the cause to the utmost of my power.—I am, yours sincerely,

WALTER B. M'LAREN.

WOMEN POOR LAW GUARDIANS FOR 1887.

Table with columns: PLACE, NAME, ELECTED. Lists names and election dates for various locations in England and Scotland.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, FROM 27TH JANUARY TO 15TH APRIL, 1887.

Table with columns: Subject, No. of Petitions signed Officially, Total No. of Petitions, Total No. of Signatures. Includes Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill.

LEICESTER BRANCH NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

COMMITTEE.

- Dr. Blunt, Miss Bolus
S. Lennard, Esq., Miss Isabella Ellis
A. Pochin, Esq., Miss Margaret Ellis
W. Wright, Esq., Miss Siltens

Chairman: The Rev. J. Page Hopps.
Hon. Sec.: Miss Beale.
Treasurer: Miss Kilgour.

ENGLISHWOMAN'S REVIEW.—Published on the 15th of each month. Price 6d., or 6s. per annum.

CONTENTS FOR APRIL 15TH, 1887.

- 1. Women Members of School Boards, by Miss Blackburn.
2. A Philanthropist of the Last Century, by Mrs. Napier Higgins.
3. Marie Calm.
4. Local Elections.
Notices of Books, &c.
Correspondence:—Associated Homes.
Record of Events:—London University, Cambridge Local Examinations—Alexandra House for Students—Women's Liberal Association, Bristol—South Kensington Liberal Club—Poor Law Guardian Elections, Boddington, Shere, Eastbourne, Bedford, London—Women Overseers—Medical Women, Edinburgh, Dublin—Land Transfer Bill—Suffrage—Victoria Home for Invalids, Leeds—The Hindoo Marriage Law—Obituary—Miscellaneous.
Foreign Notes and News.
Published by Trübner and Co., Ludgate Hill, and at 22, Berners-street, London, W.

WOMEN'S JUBILEE OFFERING.

The following contributions have been forwarded to the Editor of this Journal for transmission to the Fund:—

Donations already acknowledged, £6.2s. 8d. Princess Mele Barese, £1; L. E. Becker, 5s.; Miss Jessie Knox Smith, £1; Mrs. Susan Good, 1s.; Mary Lucy Good, 3d.; Margaret Woodcock, 1s.

Collected by Miss Louisa Becker, Disley: Louisa Becker, 2s. 6d.; Mary Withington, 2s. 6d.; Grace Hardy, 3d.; Edith Spence, 2s. 6d.; Jeanette Marsh, 1d.; A. Lightbown, 2s. 6d.; E. Lightbown, 2s. 6d.; Elsie Micholls, 6d.; Maud Micholls, 6d.; Freda Micholls, 6d.; Mary Micholls, 2s. 6d.; Maud Beddington, 6d.; Beatrice Beddington, 6d.; Ida Shea, 1s.; Alice Crompton, 6d.; Winifred Mary Crompton, 1d.; Mary Henderson, 6d.; Victoria Crompton, 6d.; Kate MacRae, 6d.; Kate Hollins, 2s. 6d.; Isabella Ardern, 6d.; Bella Macleod, 1d.; Esther Becker, 1s.; Elizabeth Curtis, 6d.; Sarah Beswick, 6d.; Elizabeth Schofield, 1s.; Marian Schofield, 1s.; Sarah Hague, 2s. 6d.; Annie Murray, 1s.; Jennet Whittaker, 6d.; G. Allen, 6d.; Mary Hithersay, 2s. 6d.; Margaret Whittaker, 2s. 6d.; Mary Bullock, 6d.; Edith Ryan, 1d.; Sarah Harrop, 1s.; Katie Garratt, 2s. 6d.; Ethel Bell, 1s.; K. M. Moreson, 2s.; Alice Hollins, 1s.; E. Walmsley, 6d.; Nancy Shorrocks, 5s.; Clara Smith, 2s.

Collected by Miss S. M. Backhouse, Manchester: Mary Ann Hall, 2d.; Jane Jevons, 3d.; Alice Jevons, 3d., Emily Vaughan, 1d.; Elizabeth Jones, 1d.; Nellie Pratt, 1d.; Annie Addy, 2d.; Sarah Mellor, 1d.; Laura Mellor, 1d.; Annie Willis, 1d.; Kate Warburton, 1s.; Polly Mould, 6d.; Lucy Merritt, 6d.; Amy Parker, 1d.; Jane Hobson, 2d.; Eliza Penny, 1d.; Jane Rider, 3d.; Mary Chatterton, 2d.; Kate Chatterton, 1d.; Mollie Chatterton, 2d.; Rowena Baldwin, 1s.

Collected by Miss Blackburn, Bristol: Mrs. Beddoe, 5s.; Sophia Beddoe, 1s.; Mrs. Barlow, 2s.; Margey Barlow, 3d.; Isabella Barlow, 2d.; Annie Lloyd, 3d.; Florence Bayley, 1d.; Fanny Paul, 2d.; Emmeline Paul, 2d.; E. Stephings, 1d.; Clara Arthur, 1d.; H. Montgomerie Beddoe, 1s.; Mrs. Walker, 2s.; Miss Agatha Walker, 1d.; Miss Coleman, 2s. 6d.; Fraulein Henn, 1s.; Emily Sturge, 1s.; Beatrice Blackburn, 3d.; Helen Blackburn, 2s. 6d.

The contributions will be forwarded to the Treasurer in May. Further contributions should be sent to the Office, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester, not later than May 15th.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM APRIL 28TH TO MAY 28TH, 1887.

Table with columns: Name, Amount. Lists names and amounts for the Central Committee.

LAURA M'LAREN, TREASURER, 29, Parliament-street, S.W.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SPECIAL EXTRA FUND OF FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS.

We have to thank friends who have kindly responded to our appeal for donations to the Special Extra Fund for help, by which considerable progress has been made towards freeing the Committee from its liabilities. Much yet, however, remains to be done; we therefore beg to appeal to all friends interested in the question who have not as yet become subscribers to the Special Extra Fund for such support as will enable the Committee to prosecute with vigour the work to be done in preparation for the Parliamentary campaign of the present session.

ROBERT ADAMSON, Treasurer.
LYDIA E. BECKER, Secretary.

Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester, May, 1887.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, APRIL, 1887.

Table with columns: Name, Amount. Lists names and amounts for Manchester National Society.

ROBERT ADAMSON, TREASURER, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM MARCH 25TH TO APRIL 23RD, 1887.

Table with columns: Name, Amount. Lists names and amounts for Bristol and West of England Society.

Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT, TREASURER pro tem., 69, Park-street, Bristol.

LADIES, BUY YOUR DRESS FABRICS AT FIRST COST. LADIES, PATRONISE HOME MANUFACTURES.

Write for Patterns of Novelties in Dress Fabrics for the present Season, which are forwarded Post Free, from the

ANY LENGTH CUT AT MILL PRICES.

Prices varying from 3 1/2d. to 6s. per yard. For lowness of price, combined with perfect taste, there are no goods in the market to compete with the celebrated "GIRL AT THE LOOM" Fabrics.

The leading Dress Journals speak highly of the advantages of dealing direct with the B. M. Co. Carriage Paid on all orders over £1 in value.

HIGHEST AWARDS WHEREVER EXHIBITED.

Please write at once; you will be astonished at the splendid assortment of patterns and remarkable value for money.

BRADFORD MANUFACTURING CO., BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE.

The Largest Stock in the Kingdom. Manufacturers to Her Majesty the Queen and other Members of the Royal Family.



CAUTION.

See that every article sent from the B. M. Co. bears their registered Trade Mark—"A Girl at the Loom"—without which none are genuine.

Mention the Women's Suffrage Journal.

# CASH'S CAMBRIC FRILLINGS.

A large variety of Patterns with both PLAIN and FANCY Edges  
always kept in stock.

SOLD BY DRAPERS EVERYWHERE.

**J. & J. CASH, COVENTRY.**

**DO NOT UNTIMELY DIE.**

Sore Throats Cured with One Dose.

**FENNINGS'  
FEVER CURER.**

**BOWEL COMPLAINTS** cured with One Dose.

**TYPHUS or LOW FEVER** cured with Two Doses.

**DIPHTHERIA** cured with Three Doses.

**SCARLET FEVER** cured with Four Doses.

**DYSENTERY** cured with Five Doses.

Sold in Bottles, 1s. 1½d. each, with full directions, by all Chemists.

Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 18 stamps.

**FENNINGS' EVERY MOTHER'S BOOK** sent post free on application by letter or post card. Direct Alfred Fennings, West Cowes, I.W.

SORE THROATS CURED.

EASY TEETHING.

**DO NOT LET YOUR CHILD DIE.**

FENNINGS' Children's Powders Prevent Convulsions.

ARE COOLING AND SOOTHING.

**FENNINGS'  
Children's Powders.**

For Children Cutting their Teeth, to prevent Convulsions.

Do not contain Calomel, Opium, Morphia, or anything injurious to a tender babe.

Sold in Stamped Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. (great saving), with full directions. Sent post free for 15 stamps. Direct to ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I.W.

Read Fennings' "Every Mother's Book," which contains valuable hints on Feeding, Teething, Weaning, Sleeping, &c. Ask your Chemist for a free copy.

SAFE TEETHING.

COUGHS. COLDS. BRONCHITIS.

**FENNINGS'  
LUNG HEALERS.**

The Best Remedy to Cure all

Coughs, Colds, Asthmas, &c.

Sold in Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d., with directions. Sent post free for 15 stamps. Direct to ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I.W.

The largest size Boxes, 2s. 9d. (35 stamps post free), contain three times the quantity of small boxes.

Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 18 stamps. Direct A. FENNINGS, West Cowes, I.W.

BRONCHITIS CURED.

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSEHOLD REMEDIES!!!

## HOLLOWAY'S PILLS & OINTMENT

These excellent FAMILY MEDICINES are invaluable in the treatment of all ailments incidental to every HOUSEHOLD. The PILLS PURIFY, REGULATE and STRENGTHEN the whole System, while the OINTMENT is unequalled for the removal of all muscular and outward complaints. Possessed of these REMEDIES, every Mother has at once the means of curing most complaints to which herself or Family is liable.

N.B.—Advice can be obtained, free of charge, at 78, New Oxford Street, late 533, Oxford Street, London, daily between the hours of 11 and 4, or by letter.

ESTABLISHED 1835.



By the use of which, during the last Forty Years many Thousands of Cures have been effected; numbers of which cases had been pronounced INCURABLE!

The numerous well-authenticated Testimonials in disorders of the HEAD, CHEST, BOWELS, LIVER, and KIDNEYS; also in RHEUMATISM, ULCERS, SORES, and all SKIN DISEASES, are sufficient to prove the great value of this most useful Family Medicine, it being A DIRECT PURIFIER OF THE BLOOD and other fluids of the human body.

Many persons have found them of great service both in preventing and relieving SEA SICKNESS; and in warm climates they are very beneficial in all Bilious Complaints.

Sold in boxes, price 7½d., 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d., by G. WHELPTON & SON, 3, Crane Court, Fleet-street, London, and by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors at home and abroad. Sent free by post in the United Kingdom for 8, 14, or 33 stamps.