

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

"General" Booth.

The wide world has recognised that a great man passed away when "General" Booth "laid down his sword." Monarchs and slum dwellers have been moved to express their sense of loss. Contrasting the dignified but most sympathetic messages sent by King George, Queen Alexandra, the German Emperor, statesmen, leaders, philanthropists, with the tearful comment of the navy who exclaimed, "He's gone to heaven, worse luck," we may see the same underlying recognition of a true servant of God and humanity. Suffragists can well appreciate the courageous persistence of "General" Booth, for the great movement for which he lived and the great movement for which women are living have much in common. At first the Salvation Army met with obloquy and scorn; open-air meetings, processions, bands, and banners were unconventional enough to arouse fierce opposition; personal abuse was followed by violent assault. Yet the Army fought on and conquered. We may thank God and take courage. In a definite and practical way, "General" Booth has done great ser-

vice to the woman's movement; he recognised that if the Salvation Army were to succeed it must be by the equal co-operation of men and women. The world was amazed when he entrusted responsibility to untried girls, but he had faith in them and more—he gave them confidence in themselves; and what the Salvation Army lasses have accomplished is beyond computation. Small wonder, however, that this wise policy was adopted, for "General" Booth has not hesitated to declare how much he owed to the inspiration and organising power of his wife, so much, indeed, that he used to say, "Without Catherine Booth there would have been no Salvation Army!" There is no distinction of sex among his soldiers in the fight against evil, and there will be more hope for the well-being of the nation when the men at the head of affairs follow the example of "General" Booth and understand that they, too, need the help of women as citizens, not as chattels.

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"Another Superstition Exploded."

In these days, when the army of opposition to votes for women is adopting tactics which turn a blind eye to facts by declaring that the woman's movement has perished of inanition, it is useful to chronicle evidence to prove its all-conquering vitality. A quotation from *Collier's Weekly*, the most influential



and widely circulated illustrated weekly in America, which has stood aloof from the controversy, will show "How It Strikes a Contemporary." Under the heading of "Another Superstition Exploded," the following editorial note appeared in an issue recently to hand:—

With each succeeding year of development more of the hasty generalisations concerning women's unfitness for a life of affairs are relegated to the pleasant land of myths. One of the last is that of woman's ability to see with sane and unexaggerated feelings a public issue, for which her enthusiasm is very much aroused. Many still expect a movement supported almost entirely by women to be conducted with hysteria. The Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association has just sent out a circular letter to its members and others whose financial assistance it wishes to enlist. The letter reads:—

"A country, a people, must progress if it is to continue strong. We believe that women's suffrage is part of the progressive movement toward a more efficient and real democracy."

"We believe that *tax-paying women* need the vote to protect their financial interests."

"We believe that *mothers and home makers* need the vote to enable them to secure legislation concerning sanitary conditions, food supply, educational and moral conditions."

"We believe that *working women* need the vote to give them power to effect legislation determining the conditions and hours of their work."

"We believe that *all women* need the vote because it is the accepted method of individual self-expression in matters concerning all."

"We believe that the State needs to utilise directly the knowledge and experience of women in those matters of social welfare in which they are especially interested, just as it needs to utilise directly the knowledge and experience of men in those matters in which they are especially interested."

"We believe that a representative government should represent all classes of a community which cannot be definitely shown to be a menace to the community."

The comment of *Collier's Weekly* runs thus: "That is all, except a few simple details concerning the sending of remittances. How many man-managed organisations have surpassed this for sanity, clarity, restraint, and completeness in the statement of a complex and difficult issue?"

Women Law Makers.

We go a step further, and note the definite legislative measures for which the women members of the Finnish Parliament have been responsible. Finland's example cries shame on England. Had British women possessed any political power the White Slave Traffic Bill would not have lost its trenchant title nor had its effectiveness killed in committee, nor would a Pure Milk Bill have been hung up month after month, sacrificed to vote-catching measures. Here is a fine record for women legislators, as chronicled in the "Woman's Platform" of *The Standard*—a daily and notable help to the Woman's Cause:—

A striking proof of the excellent work which can be performed by a small Parliamentary majority is furnished in the record of the legislative Bills brought in by the women members of the Finnish Parliament. They include such progressive measures as the establishment of laws for child protection against ill-treatment; the complete freeing of the wife from the legal guardianship of her husband; the raising of the marriage age from fifteen to eighteen years; the organisation of colonies for youthful criminals; the right of women to assist in the department of public medicine; the abolition of police observation over unfortunates. Women's Bills at present awaiting decision deal with maternity insurance, establishment of Government midwives, the right of a wife to dispose of her children, the appointment of women as factory inspectors, and the removal of sex disqualifications in all departments of the Government.

We may add, too, that Dr. Thekla Hultin, whose visit to England three years ago to help the Women's Freedom League is still fresh in our memory, was successful in carrying through a Bill for the construction of a railway in a part of Finland where it was badly wanted.

On the Penitent's Bench.

With candle, bell, and book, the Rev. C. F. Andrews, of Calcutta, has done penance for the evil deed of voting, some time ago, against University degrees for women. Speaking at Cambridge last week at a meeting of the National Union, he made confession thus: "I repent very deeply." He went on to explain the reason of his conversion and his present insistent demand that British women should get the vote as quickly as possible. His long experience in India had taught him that however benevolent and paternal the Government might be, it was unable to see what was the mind of India unless that mind became effectively articulate. The

measure of representation recently given to the people of India had been a boon to the whole of the Indian Government, and had already been exercised with untold benefit. Summing up the case, he observed:

When he was told in England that women could gain all they wanted by private means, he emphatically said that they could not. They must have internal representation. India tried every kind of private means for any amount of years, but in the last three years, with representative government, they have gone ahead with progressive measures, and the Government had accepted suggested measures in a far more speedy manner than ever before. Therefore he had become a clear and convinced convert of the necessity of the vote.

He concluded by declaring that the enfranchised women of the West had a great work to do in helping their sisters in Asia. Mrs. Chapman Catt's comment on the effect on Europeans in Asia of the status of women is noteworthy. Writing about her experiences in Burma and the pleasant surprise of the economic independence of Burmese women, she points out that their recognised status makes white men think more highly of white women.

Women and Work.

The fact that discussions are going on as to whether women are fitted for work until now regarded as exclusively the domain of men is evidence that barriers are breaking down. Some critics in America are blaming a woman signaller for an accident on an American railway, and are asking whether women are to be relied upon as Marconi operators in times of emergency. It is since the Government appointment of Miss Mabel Kelso to the position of wireless operator on the liner *Mariposa*, at San Francisco, and the opening up unofficially of wireless telegraphy to women operators both in Canada and the United States, that the excitement has arisen. We have only to look back on the record of railway disasters to prove how men signallers have failed, sometimes through overwork and long hours, in great crises, and serious loss of life has ensued. There can be no generalisations in this respect; some men succeed, some fail; it would be the same with women. The Rev. Hatty Baker contends that sheer necessity has made women good financiers and managers of money, and that on the principle of economy alone, it would pay to give women a voice in the government of their country. We are being told that women are much more sympathetic as librarians than men. We leave the contradictory evidence of librarians about thefts charged to women to rank with the complaints as to what happens in the reading-rooms of men's clubs where no women are admitted, and take note, with regard to women's work as librarians, that Canada supplies the latest evidence of the increased friendliness between men and women as colleagues in library work. The American Librarian Association has recently held its annual Convention at Ottawa, and for the first time in its history a woman, Mrs. Theresa West Elendorff, was elected President of the gathering.

ONCE to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of Truth with Falsehood,
For the good or evil side;
Some great cause, God's new Messiah,
Offers each the bloom or blight,
And the choice goes by for ever
'Twixt that darkness and that light.
Then to side with truth is noble,
When we share her wretched crust,
Ere her cause bring fame and profit
And 'tis prosperous to be just;
Then it is the brave man chooses,
While the coward stands aside,
Till the multitude make virtue
Of the faith they had denied.
Though the cause of evil prosper,
Yet 'tis Truth alone is strong;
Though her portion be the scaffold,
And upon the throne be Wrong,
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above His own.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

Trafalgar-square Meeting.

Now that the summer holidays are practically over we are making preparations for a strenuous autumn Suffrage campaign which will begin with a rally in Trafalgar-square on Saturday afternoon, September 21. Will readers kindly note this date and make the demonstration as widely known as possible? The speakers will be announced in next week's issue of THE VOTE.

Caxton Hall Public Meetings.

These will be substituted for the usual "At Homes" each Wednesday afternoon at 3.30 from September 25 until December 11—with the exception of Wednesday, November 13, the date on which the Freedom League's International Suffrage Fair will be opened at Chelsea Town Hall. On September 25 we shall have the good fortune to listen to Mr. D. M. Mason, M.P., who moved the rejection of the present Franchise Bill on its first reading because women were not included in it. We have an excellent list of speakers for these Public Meetings, and would strongly urge all our friends to keep every Wednesday afternoon free to attend them. We are doing our utmost to make them a success, and should be glad to hear at once from volunteers for stewarding, bill-distributing, envelope addressing and poster-parading.

"Vote" Selling.

More VOTE-sellers are wanted in London, and Mrs. Huntsman will be glad to hear from any of our members and friends who can spare time during the week to sell our paper.

Office.

During the winter months 1, Robert-street will be open until 6 p.m. Saturdays, 1.30; Tuesdays, 9 p.m., so that those who cannot come to the office in the daytime may have an opportunity to do so in the evening. F. A. U.

KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY.

East Carmarthen By-Election: Result.

Rev. J. Towyn Jones (Liberal)	6,082
Mr. Mervyn Peel (Unionist)	3,354
Dr. J. H. Williams (Labour)	1,089

Liberal majority over Unionist .. 2,278

The lesson to be learnt from East Carmarthen is twofold. No sympathy or enthusiasm, however kind and encouraging, can prevail without system and organisation; and the Labour forces lacked both. And the Liberal candidate professed to be an ardent and consistent supporter of women's suffrage, so that it was difficult to persuade friends of our Cause that at the crack of the party whip he must support or desert the women's champions in the House when the question comes up. From the success of Mr. George's under-study in this constituency we may deduce that Liberal tenets still attract the working man, even when he belongs to the ranks of organised Labour, far more than the Labour gospel; and that a specious and unreal display of friendship is the most dangerous weapon against the suffrage which the Liberal armoury holds. It is good to know that Provost Brown, in Mid-Lothian, has avoided the error into which Dr. Williams and his committee fell, of imagining that a fortnight of feverish energy could make up for a solid basis of organisation

and the spade work of propaganda. We should not, however, like that kindly gentleman, whose attitude towards the suffrage question was generous and honourable in the extreme, to entertain the idea that we regard the work put in at East Carmarthen in support of his candidature as having been wasted or thrown away. The same support would be ungrudgingly given were he to stand again at another contest against a Liberal opponent; but we should be glad to know that the organisation so tardily set in motion will not be allowed to go out of action, that the wheels will not rust and clog between now and the next call to work.

A further lesson should be read to Dr. Williams and his comrades. The salient feature about his campaign was that never a woman, of all the keen, intelligent, quick-witted women attached to the Labour cause in Wales, was inspanned to help at the committee room. It is a fatal error to overlook the women; and if these lines should reach the eye of Mrs. Owens or Mrs. Arthur, we offer for their consideration the suggestion that they there and now start a Parliamentary Election Committee of women, to keep Dr. Williams before the labouring public as their future candidate, and to bring every influence to bear to improve and widen the already excellent influence of the suffrage propaganda. It would be well worth while, and would be productive of admirable results.

Midlothian.

Candidates: Major J. A. Hope (Unionist).
Hon. Alexander Shaw (Liberal).
Provost Robert Brown (Labour).

The Headquarters of the Women's Freedom League during the by-election will be our Edinburgh Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road. Our Scotch members are returning from their holidays, and we expect to start at once a vigorous campaign. Further particulars will be given in next week's VOTE. C. NINA BOYLE.

POLITICAL NEWS.

Suffragists and Strategy.

"P. W. W.," the Parliamentary Correspondent of *The Daily News*, discussed, on August 21, the question of tactics and the Reform Bill. He wrote:

"Although the Committee Stage of the Reform Bill is not expected until January, or thereabouts, the months of September and October will be fully occupied with activity for and against women's suffrage. All parties recognise that a most critical struggle, of profound importance for the whole future of politics, will then commence."

He dealt with three of the Suffrage Societies and their policy. Of the National Union he observed:

"The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has made arrangements to approach members of Parliament, irrespective of party, by means of deputations, which will begin in September and continue far into October, until the investigation is complete. In every case the object will be to secure a definite pledge or a renewal of old pledges to vote upon the women's amendments, or, at least, to abstain from voting against those amendments."

He also referred to the vigorous campaign being carried on throughout the country.

Of our League, he writes thus:

"The Women's Freedom League, which is associated with the name of Mrs. Despard, has frankly adopted the view that the case for the vote is now, as it were, actually *sub judice*, that a decision upon it cannot be evaded by the High Court of Parliament, and that, at this particular period, therefore, militancy is not needed. Indeed, there is a strong feeling that a revival of militancy would arouse passion, and so prevent that appeal to reason and fair play which is likely to be most effective when this grave issue comes to be argued before members."

"For the moment, then, the Women's Freedom League may be numbered among the non-militant organisations, though, unless I am misinformed, it should be clearly understood that the League will resume its liberty of action, as, indeed, will other non-militant suffragists, if the amendments go wrong."

With regard to the Women's Social and Political Union, he remarked:

"In the case of the Women's Social and Political Union, there is, indeed, a lull, due to the Recess, but it is believed, doubtless with excellent reason, that the old campaign will be resumed in

QUALITY AND VALUE.

A perusal of the illustrated catalogue of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company, Ltd.—which can be obtained post free from 112, Regent-street, London, W.—convinces one that purchasers of gem jewellery and gold and silver plate may there obtain the utmost value for their money.

a few weeks' time, with all the unpleasant consequences of arrest and imprisonment.

"I need not here repeat the weighty and sympathetic appeal for a suspension of these methods, which was so powerfully signed by eminent suffragists of both sexes. There is undoubtedly a strong conviction that further attacks on Ministers and further disorder in and around Parliament-square will retard rather than accelerate the obtaining of final pledges. . . . But, at the moment, it would be an immense gain if, leaving abandonment on one side, there should be a suspension of militancy, determined, from week to week, and from month to month, by circumstances.

"The nation is fully aware of the fact that a number of women are ready at any time to undergo sufferings out of devotion to the cause of their enfranchisement, and that their methods of necessity bring them into acute conflict with the law. The nation also realises that the matter has now got to be decided one way or the other, and it is surely due to the nation that the whole case should be summed up afresh in all its bearings by the women who, whether militant or non-militant, have studied it most closely. Public opinion is neither so unreasonable nor so unimporant as, perhaps, some militants imagine.

"Women's suffrage is, doubtless, very unpalatable in many quarters, but it is none the less right within the zone of actual politics, and if militancy continues it will divert the issue from the end to the means, from the object to the method. People will argue, not on the merits of the suffrage, but about hatchet-throwing and theatre-burning. Moreover, there will be the suspicion—and in politics suspicion plays an important part—that the object of militancy is not so much to get the suffrage as to break the Government."

The Militants' Reply.

Miss Rachel Barrett, replying for the W.S.P.U., writes to *The Daily News* to say that the Union refuses to depend upon the unofficial amendments to the Manhood Suffrage Bill, and observes: "Nothing, therefore, can save the situation except the introduction of a Woman Suffrage clause by the Government. For this Government proposal the Nationalist Party and Liberal members would be compelled to vote in order to maintain the Government in office. As the fate of an unofficial amendment can be so accurately foretold it is futile to postpone militancy until women have been finally left out of the Manhood Suffrage Bill. Militancy after the event would certainly be a necessity, but militancy before the event is more necessary still. It affords the only hope of getting votes for women, and if it should fail the reason of that failure would be that women who ought to be pursuing militant tactics had been lulled to a sense of false security by the Government's illusory and worthless pledge."

The Constitutionalists' Advice.

Mrs. Fawcett, writing to the Press, emphasises progress attained by women during the past fifty years in many spheres of activity by law-abiding methods and maintains faith in them to accomplish the enfranchisement of women. She concludes: "The task of the constitutional Suffragists is more than ever to strengthen the constitutional agitation, to point out that justice long deferred has always led to revolutionary outbursts, and that the business of those who believe in representative institutions is to prove their sincerity by admitting to their benefits the only section of the population now excluded from them. Force is no remedy. Mr. Asquith said not long ago, 'Great is the magic of free institutions.' Let him try this magic now in the case of women."

First He Wouldn't, Then He Would.

Mr. Borden, the Premier of the Dominion of Canada, has consented to receive a deputation from the Women's Social and Political Union, and from those interested in the cause of Woman Suffrage in Canada. The deputation will wait on the Canadian Premier at the Savoy Hotel at 10 a.m. on Saturday. When first approached on the subject Mr. Borden declined to receive a deputation owing to the pressure of his engagements, but subsequently he changed his mind and telegraphed an acceptance.

"The Morning Post" and Midlothian Miners.

Discussing the prospects of the Labour candidate, Provost Brown, *The Morning Post* says with regard to "his second article of faith, votes for women": "That the miners of Midlothian really desire to see the women of this country enfranchised we refuse to believe. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald has persuaded the Labour Party into this doctrine because it suits his earnest, sympathetic, and emotional style. It is imposed upon the poor working man from above like all the sham and shoddy political-sentimental economy for which Ruskin stood, and which the Labour Party has taken over holus-bolus from Ruskin. It is part of a sickly sentimental creed with which the working man has at heart little or no sympathy."

Suffragist Prisoners in Ireland.

Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington, Mrs. Palmer, and the Misses Murphy, Irish Suffragists imprisoned in Dublin for window-breaking, were released from Mountjoy Prison last week on the completion of their sentences. Mrs. Baker, one of the English Suffragists, was also released after a special meeting of the Visiting Justices on the ground that further detention would be injurious to her health, as she was of delicate physique and had refused to take food for some days.

Replying on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to the

Suffragist memorial for the release of the prisoners in Mountjoy Prison, Dublin, Sir James B. Dougherty says that after full consideration of all the circumstances of the case his Excellency has been pleased to order the release of Lizzie Baker, but as regards Gladys Evans and Mary Leigh, who are undergoing sentences of five years' penal servitude in connection with the Theatre Royal outrage, his Excellency regrets that he does not feel justified in interfering with the course of the law. Mrs. Leigh and Miss Evans have been on hunger strike for the past week, and they are being forcibly fed.

Seizure of Mr. Pethick Lawrence's Furniture.

Execution has been levied at Holmwood, Surrey, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, by the direction of the Treasury solicitors, in satisfaction of an order for the payment of the costs of the prosecution in the suffragist conspiracy trial last May. At present Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence are touring in Canada, and, as the costs were not forthcoming, the house was entered and the furniture seized. The costs included the sum of £350 payable to the Attorney-General.

The Pope and Woman Suffrage.

According to the Geneva correspondent of *The Daily Chronicle*, Dr. Fritz Speiser, of Basle, has been appointed by the Pope delegate to the International Congress of Catholic Women, which will be held at Vienna on September 8 and 10.

Several questions of interest to women will be discussed at the Congress. Dr. Speiser favours the woman suffrage movement, and the Pope's choice appears to show that his Holiness is not in disagreement with the woman movement.

White Slave Traffic.

The Austrian League for the Protection of Women and Children has started a vigorous campaign against the double code of morality, the Government regulation of vice, and urges the raising of the maximum term of imprisonment for white slave-traders, without the option of a fine. The league, which keeps a specially keen watch at Trieste, which is known to be the centre of the exportation to the East, was instrumental last year, with the willing aid of the police, in rescuing 1,124 women and children from the clutches of the traders. It was, however, unable to make any big convictions, the people responsible for the traffic always remaining in the background.

In Japan.

One of the first acts of the new Mikado has been to take a step which will eventually greatly improve the position of women in Japan. He has given notice to the Master of the Household that in future the Empress will ride with him in the Imperial carriage. It was remarked that at the first reception of the new sovereign the Empress was present, and that the wives of dignitaries and officials were also invited.

United States Nurses Strong Suffragists.

The equal suffrage resolution passed at the recent Convention of the American Nurses' Association at Chicago proves very conclusively the enormous strides that the woman movement has made in the United States during the past year. The membership of this Association is representative of more than 25,000 nurses, and at all its previous conventions, when the subject of equal suffrage was brought forward, it was almost unanimously defeated. At the Chicago meeting the vote was strongly in the affirmative.

NATIONAL FUND.

(Branch and District Funds not included.)

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1911, £14,208 13s. 7d.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Amount previously ac-		Mrs. Quigley ..	0 1 0
knowledged	1,760 18 10½	For By-Elections:	
Birthday Fund, Fourth		Mrs. Tudor ..	0 10 6
List (see last week's		Miss Geiler ..	0 10 0
Vote)	13 10 4	Miss Mary Anne	
Mrs. Grace Snow ..	0 7 6	Grant ..	0 5 0
Mrs. Clark ..	0 6 0	For the Caravan:	
Miss A. Sherwood ..	0 5 0	A Friend ..	5 0 0
Miss E. J. Sherwood ..	0 5 0	Mrs. Fox Bourne ..	1 0 0
Miss Doe ..	0 1 0	Collected ..	4 1 1½
Miss K. B. Smith ..	0 1 0	Collections and Sales	0 8 2
Mrs. Cutting ..	0 1 0		
Mrs. Lapidus ..	0 1 0		
Mrs. Cooper ..	0 1 0		
			£1,787 13 6

INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE FAIR.

Important.

Will all members who have not yet sent in their measurement papers kindly give the following information:

- Size of Wrist.
- Size of Arm just below the Elbow.

Also whether they are dark or fair?

WATCH THIS SPACE EVERY WEEK FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE FAIR.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NURSES DECLARES FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to attend and take part in the Congress held triennially by the International Council of Nurses. The first week of this month an invading force of some 550 women (and a few men)—trained nurses from almost every quarter of the civilised world—captured the historic city of Cologne-on-the-Rhine! This peaceful invasion was welcomed by the citizens, who had made extensive and hospitable preparations for their reception.

Internationalism is no new thing among members of the nursing profession. Thirteen years ago, a small body of earnest-minded women, whose keynote was solidarity and whose motive was love—in its widest interpretation—met together to discuss, to plan, and to organise. The result was co-operation of nations in a profession that has no nationality. As I let my fancies free, it seems to me that the "Gürzenich" was a particularly appropriate place in which to hold our meetings. This magnificent building was erected by the City Fathers in the fifteenth century for the purpose of entertaining strangers. Our sessions were held in the Banqueting Hall. In the truest sense we enjoyed a banquet of intellect!

I had no hand in the organisation of the Congress, which fact leaves me free to say that it was splendid in its symmetry, order and harmony. The subjects discussed were many, but the aim and purpose was one—namely, how the blessed attainment of knowledge could best be extended, utilised, and shared for the common good of the sick public. It is worthy of note and—in view of the position of women in England—an interesting fact, that the guests were welcomed by a representative of the Government. The reason probably was that the nurses of Germany enjoy State Registration; therefore they constitute a political entity. They have at least professional enfranchisement. Consequently, they are recognised by the Government, and their international sisters welcomed for their sakes. Three years ago our Congress was held in London, when no such courtesy was extended to its members by the British Government.

There can be no doubt whatever that the Woman's Movement is spreading everywhere, and that the question of Women's Suffrage is the dominant question of the day; it is an international question. It was therefore very natural that the large body of women of so many nations and languages (twenty-one) who had come with open minds to learn from one another, should take it as a matter of course that this dominant issue should be embodied in two of the preliminary speeches of the Congress, made by Fräulein Rosa Kahnt, representing the German Association of Women's Rights, and Frau Dr. Block, representing the Prussian Association of Women's Rights, who also in a few appropriate words acknowledged the work of skilled nursing to be a valuable social entity. Then followed a resolution, which was unanimously adopted by this very representative assembly:—

Resolution.—In the belief that the highest purposes of civilisation, and the truest blessings of the race can only be attained by the equal and united labours of men and women possessing equal and unbridled political powers, we declare our adherence to the principle of Woman Suffrage, and regard the Suffrage Movement as a great and moral movement, making for the conquest of misery, preventible illness and vice, and as strengthening a feeling of human brotherhood.

Surely such a significant event as this should give encouragement to those who, perhaps, are beginning to lose heart just a little.

Many papers were read in the English and German languages, dealing in a large measure with the social side of the work of nurses, all of great interest and very enlightening. Among the notable women was a German nurse, who read a paper upon her work as Police Assistant—work to which she has consecrated her life. She is a clever and capable woman, and has

done splendid work in this way for years. Her remarks from the platform revealed that she was a firm believer in Women's Suffrage. How could she help it? Her work must have made her so. "Throughout the world all women are asking for a voice," she remarked boldly from the platform. She told me privately that she had endured great persecution from the authorities in one particular town where she had been working, "because," she said with a merry laugh, "of my revelations." But she is brave and fearless, and I think her motto must be: "Dreadnought but wrong!" She was the first woman to be appointed Police Assistant in Stuttgart, but now women are doing this work in many places of Germany.

I dare not trespass too much upon the valuable space of this paper, but I am anxious to show that as the work of the trained nurse of to-day brings her into such intimate touch with all those "who are in any ways afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or estate," so her outlook upon life must be wide and comprehensive, and her knowledge of the needs of the people must be more thorough than that of many other classes of workers. Thus her thoughts are gradually and surely drawn upwards towards the Suffrage goal as a solution of many social problems and a remedy for many existing evils.

The Congress was inaugurated by a pageant, the purpose being to show by means of a series of living pictures that tenderness and sympathy for the sick is an inborn faculty. The last picture, "The triumph of Hygeia," illustrated the evolution of the profession of nursing in a picturesque manner. The goddess, as a marble statue, tall and beautiful, mounted on a pedestal, held aloft in her right hand the symbolic torch; while around her gathered a large crowd of those coming out of past ages, who had cared for the sick from the first Christian century, represented by Phœbe of Cenchrea, of whom St. Paul speaks as "a succourer of many and of myself also," down to the up-

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KATE HARVEY, Hon. Organiser,
"Brackenhill," Highland Road,
Bromley, Kent.

to-date, fully trained nurse of the present day, who did homage to her and made offerings of red roses—red the colour of fire, and therefore the colour of love. There was beautiful symbolism, too, in the bridging over of the centuries, showing that time cannot kill fraternal love.

The Congress was an inspiration, and its work, born of solidarity and unity of purpose, is certain to bring forth abundant fruit.

BEATRICE KENT.

THE MEN WHO GOVERN US.

Mr. George's Understudy.

The new member for East Carmarthen has been described as a typical Welshman. It would not appear to be altogether a compliment to Wales. Mr. Townyn Jones's speeches during the recent campaign consisted mainly of reminders to his people of his long and faithful service to them, mingled with beseechings that they would not omit to serve out the reward. His willingness to sacrifice himself for their welfare and his readiness to die for their beloved country, formed a satisfying text for his discourses, and evoked an amazing amount of applause. The real point, overlooked in the general enthusiasm, is that no one is required just at present to die for Wales; and that there is no question of sacrificing anything. On the contrary, by dint of reminding the electorate of his capacity for sacrifice, Mr. Jones has got a very snug billet at the national expense, and has exchanged an obscure country pulpit for the greatest one in the world. His record of sacrifice, therefore, which he begged an emotional audience to remember, "witness his hands and his feet," leaves us cold. We can only hope that this fervid gentleman will not prove in action the attitudinarian his utterances would make him appear.

We are reminded, grotesquely, of the story of a well-known evangelist of Victorian days, who had thrown up a commission in the Army, and taken to preaching. He married three times, each wife bringing him a comfortable fortune. On the announcement of the third of these interesting alliances, a lady, who had hitherto been an admirer, exclaimed that it really was more than she could swallow. Another and more ardent admirer then spoke reprovingly. "Surely," she said, "the righteous may be rewarded sometimes in this world."

Conspiracy!

Ulster—or as much of Ulster as believes in Sir Edward Carson—has learnt a lesson from Suffrage experience. Her valiant henchmen are not looking for prosecutions for conspiracy, and have cleverly "hedged" in their "declaration of independence." Only "passive" resistance is to be employed; resistance to taxation and so forth. Really, we suffragists may flatter ourselves on setting an attractive fashion. It is a pity that *The Daily Express*, in its ardour, should set these precautions at naught and "give the show away" by its revelations of the 60,000 rounds of ammunition used weekly at the ranges. We fear Unionist leaders are not as good, yet, at plotting as their Nationalist opponents. They still want practice.

We also learn, from *The Daily Express*, that "prominent Belfast Unionists . . . fear that their letters have been tampered with in the post." History repeating itself again; it is precisely what happened, under Conservative administration, during the Parnell disturbances. "In no other way," says this ingenious organ—it is astonishing how simple these great journals are at heart—"can they explain the fact that their confidential plans have become known outside their own immediate circle." We seem, somehow, to hear echoing in our ears the word "informer," with which previous Unionist leaders and journals, in the troublous days gone by, used to make so free. Is it possible? However, we will not pursue the speculation.

Nervous persons will learn with interest, from the same bright source, that "a highly organised system of

espionage on their movements is being carried out" by the Government and the rebels *in posse*. We fear this will prove cold comfort. When we reflect upon the value of this "highly organised system of espionage," for which, by-the-by, we have not yet seen the bill, to the shopkeepers of London when our friends of the W.S.P.U. were "Ulstering" on their own, it does not seem as if the Government had much help in store for peaceful folk beyond the Irish Sea, once the Carsons take to arson, and the Londonderrys begin derringy in earnest. Let us never forget, however, that these are the people who are shocked and scandalised by "militant methods."

C. NINA BOYLE.

THE PIONEER PLAYERS.

The first annual report of the Pioneer Players makes interesting reading, and the balance-sheet shows £37 2s. 4d. to the good on the year's account. Among the nine plays produced were *Jack and Jill and a Friend*, by Cicely Hamilton; *In the Workhouse*, by Margaret Wynne Nevinson; *Pains and Penalties*, by Laurence Housman; *Macena*, by Christopher St. John; and *Nellie Lambert*, by J. Sackville Martin. Miss Ellen Terry gave a lecture on "Shakespeare's Heroines." The list for the coming season includes: For the first performance, *The Good Hope*, by Herman Heijermans (translated by Christopher St. John); a new play in three acts by Cicely Hamilton; a mystery play by the Benedictine nun, Hroswitha, the first dramatist of the Christian era; and new one-act plays by Mr. Laurence Housman, the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, and Mr. W. B. Yeats. The objects of the Society are (a) to produce plays dealing with all kinds of movements of interest at the moment; (b) to assist social, political, and other societies by providing them with plays as a means of raising funds, and to undertake, when desired, the organisation of performances for such societies by professional or amateur players. The president is Miss Ellen Terry, and Miss Edith Craig is hon. general director, to whom all applications for membership and information should be made at the offices of the Society, 31, Bedford-street, Strand.

The following report of the latest performance of the Players shows how excellent is their work, and we can only wish for them still greater success in the future:—

Those who were fortunate enough to see the Pioneer Players in Miss Christopher St. John's powerful drama, *Macena*, at the King's Hall, Covent-garden, were impressed with the powerful acting of Miss Ellen O'Malley, who, in a part that might easily have degenerated into sentimentality, never failed in maintaining the impression of high courage and splendid defiance which characterised the persecuted men. The pitfalls of religiosity and sensationalism were avoided—no easy task; and the demonstrative applause, which called actors and author back to the stage again and again, was well deserved. Miss O'Malley was supported by a cast of which not one member fell short of the standard set by the principal performers.

Nellie Lambert, Mr. Sackville Martin's three-act play, which followed, was "propaganda" all through. The intrigues of the self-seeking politician, the "unco guid" parson and the lustful bigamist, and the struggles of the hunted, hounded woman in the toils of unemployment, an evil man, and an "old-fashioned" mother left a bad taste in the mouth which even "The March of the Women" failed to allay. The villain of the piece was a magnificent piece of characterisation by Mr. Clayton Greene, and other members of the cast played their parts with admirable taste and judgment. Altogether, the Pioneer Players gave a fine production, in which the art of both dramatist and player struck a singularly high level.

WHAT we expect of the House of Commons and the Cabinet is statesmanship. The keynote of statesmanship is responsibility. We ask that the woman's question shall be dealt with in a statesmanlike way.—A. BROADHURST.

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HOW SOME MEN PROTECT WOMEN.

[The object of this column is to show not only how women suffer from acts of violence, but how slight a penalty the law exacts for such violence, in comparison with crimes against property. All members who kindly contribute newspaper cuttings, &c., are heartily thanked for their valuable co-operation.]

Criminal assault on Rachel Annie King, aged nine, by Thomas Campbell, at Merthyr, Arthur Tandy aiding and abetting. Tried before Sir Marchant Williams, the stipendiary, who, saying that "Little children must be protected, and anyone who assaults a child and comes before me must expect severe punishment," gave four months and one month respectively.

John Reed, 62, indicted at Hampshire Assizes before Mr. Justice Channell with having improper intercourse with Jane Dawes, knowing her to be an imbecile woman. Three days.

Albert Simmons, before the Recorder, Southsea, charged with theft of coat and gloves from the hall of Gladstone House. Previous conviction of penal servitude. Recorder, saying he knew how difficult it was for a man who had served one term of imprisonment to regain his place in society, bound him over under probation for two years.

Gosport Police Court, before Col. Rodney, Col. Martin, C.B., C.M.G., Alderman Cooke, Major-General Woodburn Hunter, Vice-Admiral Denison, and Capt. Stansfeld, R.N.

Thomas Ferris, using obscene language. Explained that "he had a few words with his wife." P.C. Eversley heard his indecent language through the open window, having come on account of the complaints made by the neighbours. Fined 15s., including costs.

Thomas Sullivan, ejected from public house, using obscene language. Fined 9s. and time to pay.

William Bush, of East Cowes, charged with attempted criminal assault on little girl of 6½ years. Lenient treatment asked for, as it was a "first offence," and he "bore a good character." One month.

Jim Boye, coloured man, of Frith-street, Soho, who "hoped his name would not appear in the papers," charged at Marlborough-street with assaulting a constable. Fined 10s. 8d. or seven days.

Samuel Roult, charged with shopbreaking at the Preston Assizes. Two months' hard labour.

Window-smashing by Men.

John Nolan, 49, of Putney, charged at South-Western Police Court, before Mr. Hopkins, with wilfully smashing motor-bus windows by throwing large stones through the glass as the buses went past at night. Explained that he did it as a "protest" against their noise, which disturbed him. Said he had been doing it since July 20, and should go on. Mr. Hopkins said he would have to stop in prison. Prisoner: "Yes, until I get justice!" Fined 25s. and 26 6s. costs.

Lieut. Sutor, charged at Bow-street with breaking windows, as a "protest" against his own private grievances and circumstances, with two previous convictions for the same offence. Fined 10s. and 50s. damages: 21 days in default of payment.

James Armes, of West Hartlepool, charged at Thirsk with drunk and disorderly conduct. Refused to leave the train compartment, kicked a porter in the stomach, had to be held down on the platform. Kicked a guard, assaulted a conductor, and smashed two windows. Fined £4 and costs.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION appointed to fix the standard of radium has adopted that prepared by Mme. Curie.

Elizabeth Chilton, Chorley, convicted at Preston Sessions of stealing a shawl. Six months' hard labour.—*Manchester Evening News*.

Several women charged with "importuning" in Commercial-road. No evidence but that of constable who made the arrest. Four sentenced to seven days, and one allowed time to call witnesses to her character.

Alice Shepherd, domestic servant, charged before Alderman Sir G. Couzens and Mr. Mark Gill with stealing two pairs of boots from her place of employment. One similar case of petty larceny against her. Three weeks' hard labour.

Caroline Smith, using obscene language in Fortin-road. Bench said her language was the most filthy they had heard. Fourteen days.

Olive Drier, accused of asking a military bandsman for 2d. for beer, and also with making the same request of three sailors, convicted of begging and sentenced to fourteen days' hard labour.

Ellen Seaton, married woman, same street, charged in same court with same offence in same case on same evidence. Fined £3 or fourteen days.

Margaret Chambers, charged with theft of articles of clothing at the Preston Assizes; three months' hard labour.

ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Young Armenia.

Dr. Hosanna Makigmon, a young Armenian, who left her native country to study medicine at the Boston University Medical School, has the distinction of being the youngest licensed woman physician in the United States, being only twenty-one years of age, as well as the first woman to graduate from this school as M.D. After practising in the United States a few years Dr. Makigmon will continue her studies at the European universities, with the intention of becoming a specialist for the diseases of women and children, returning to her own country to practise as its pioneer woman physician.—*The Standard*.

Woman Bank President.

A bank has been established at Tokio, the president of which is Mrs. Seno Kin, who is sixty-five years of age. Her eldest son is the managing director, whilst her daughter-in-law is auditor.

International.

At a recent meeting of the Swiss National Union of Women's Societies in Berne, it was unanimously decided to hold later in the year an International Congress of Advocates of Woman Suffrage in order to arrange an international suffrage campaign for Europe and America. An organising committee has been formed, with Dr. Graf, of Berne, a prominent Swiss Suffrage leader, at the head. This committee is entrusted with the task of evolving an international programme for the procurement of the vote. The conference, which is the first of its kind, will be held at Berne, and Mrs. Chapman Catt, president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, has been nominated, *pro tem.*, for the chairmanship.—*The Standard*.

For Pure Milk.

Mrs. Carton de Wiart, wife of the Belgian Minister of Justice, is organising a campaign throughout Belgium in favour of the establishment of municipal milk depots. This movement is the outcome of a resolution passed at the recent congress for the protection of infants, the first of its kind ever held in Belgium, which expressed the desire that the municipalities might take in hand the question of a pure milk supply in order to lessen infant mortality.

The Value of Human Life.

When a United States Commissioner asked Congress for an appropriation of \$3,000 for the employment of an expert in the welfare of children, objections were raised, though Congress is appropriating millions for experts in the welfare of plants and animals. The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture boasts that he has at his command three thousand of the best experts in the world always ready for any duty they may be called upon to do. Three thousand of the world's best experts on the welfare of hogs, bugs, &c., and one little \$3,000 expert on the welfare of 20,000,000 children!—*Journal of Education*, U.S.A.

President Taft's Dictum.

"Josh Billings used to say that the man who consented to be a lieutenant on his wedding day was never promoted. My experience is that where the man is the lieutenant the family is best governed."

Man's Work.

A white man and a coloured man held the following conversation, after the former had watched the latter fishing for forty minutes in a South Carolina brickyard pond without pulling up his hook:—

"Are there any fish there?"

"No, sah, I reckon not."

"Then what particular object have you in view?"

"De obijck, sah, of my fishin' for fish whar dere haint any fish is to let de ole woman see dat I han't got no time to pick up de hoe and work in de truck patch!"

K. HARVEY, Hon. Head Press Department, W.F.L.

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SATURDAY, August 31, 1912.

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EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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AND STILL—IT MOVES!

Once more, with a certain exaltation and a smug superiority which has its comic side, men are assuring themselves that the woman's movement is dead. A few years ago there was, indeed, a sense of expectancy. It was felt then that there was something to be hoped for from woman. The hope, they tell us, has died down. To quote from a clever and very subtle article in *The New Age*: "Having once examined and, in its occult fashion, weighed the movement, the conclusion to which the general public came was that there was little in it and little, therefore, to come out of it. And from that moment, we contend, the public has ceased its active interest for or against woman's suffrage."

And the writer proceeds to show that the whole of the movement is based on fallacies. It is not economic, and never can be, for the industrial side of life belongs to man. Woman goes out of industry into marriage, which proves that she does not love industry, that, indeed, she is a strange figure there.

Politics deal with industrial questions and imperial interests with which women, naturally, have no concern. Therefore the great public have rightly judged that her place is outside the political arena.

That which strikes one first in all this is its complacency, its vast impertinence, its masculine superiority.

The public, that big, much abused, though much flattered entity, stands aside. The middle and upper-class man disapproves. Wage-earners, thirsting for emancipation from wage slavery, have no place in their movement for women, who are actually blacklegs. The woman's movement, having no kinship with any other, cannot last. Therefore the stalwarts of the old brigade may take courage. A danger threatened them; but it is passing away. The little ugly world of steam and revolving wheels, and murder-dealing machines and exploited lives which they love, is safe. The womanly woman, whom they have trained to answer to their call with all her pretty blandishments, is returning. Woman, the rebel, has fallen, never to rise again.

How beautifully it is all arranged, and how satisfied are our men-children, when, women being warned off, they lay stone to stone, and build high and call this thing which they have made the House of Life!

Life? Why, most of our politicians and commercial magnates cannot even faintly conceive the meaning of the word. As for their House that they have built to the heavens, there are ominous signs of crumbling and decay. It would not be for the first time that such things have come to pass; great civilisations, mighty empires, world-systems that seemed strong as eternity, have passed away. Why? For want of the new, living

blood—free blood of a free nation—that might have redeemed them.

Let the narrow-souled man of to-day take note, or before he has had time to prepare himself, the waters of the great deep will be upon him. He will go down to posterity as one of those feeble beings who failed to read the lessons of his time.

The story is told of Galileo, the astronomer, that when, having saved himself from threatened death by denial of his great discovery—the revolution of the earth round the sun—he stood before his judges, there came from his lips a murmur. Only those who were near him heard what was said. Yet the whispered words have come down through the ages. They were the protest against falsehood of a truth-loving spirit. "And still—it moves." So answers the woman of to-day to those who tell her that her movement is dead; but not in a whisper, for in the ranks of the rebels she has been learning courage.

"It moves!" Let those fools and blind remember that movement presupposes force. Had there not been at the back of the rebel-woman such a force as can scarcely be conceived by bland *New Age* writers, the movement would never have reached its present significance.

But it has no significance. The public has weighed it and found it wanting. Woman has actually lost her status in the eyes of the world since she set out on this adventure. So say they!

What public? What eyes? Are these people so inconceivably foolish as not to be able to perceive that the woman's movement is world wide? In different countries, indeed, it takes different forms. Here, in Great Britain, women are asking for the suffrage. That is their first objective; and we of the Women's Freedom League, who are, perhaps, better informed as to public feeling than some of our journalists, know that, so far from the interest in Women's Suffrage having abated, it has greatly increased. Sometimes we encounter opposition, much oftener sympathy; but interest is never absent. If we look out over the world, we see everywhere signs of that awakening force which the masculine man ignores.

Mr. Shuster, in his deeply interesting story, "The Strangling of Persia," gives a splendid tribute to the women. "Without," he says, "the powerful moral force of these so-called chattels of the Oriental lords of creation, the . . . revolutionary movement . . . would have early paled into a mere disorganised protest. The women did much to keep the spirit of liberty alive." He tells further how they were organised in secret societies and learnt everything that was going on. They gave Mr. Shuster much valuable information. Finally, when the Russian ultimatum was before the Medjliss, the women, to the number of no less than three hundred, marched out of their harems, and demanded speech of the President. He consented to see a delegation. Many of them were armed with pistols. They drew them out, tore aside their veils, and threatened to shoot their husbands and brothers, and to die themselves if "the Deputies wavered in their duty to uphold the liberty and dignity of the Persian people and nation."

A fine scene, worthy of its place in the woman's movement!

Others amongst the Eastern women, notably in China, are showing the same spirit. A remoulding of these nations is in progress. The women have determined to take their share in it. If we turn to Europe we find the woman's movement everywhere. In France, the women are conquering economic power. In Germany events seem to be taking the same direction. Always the one incontrovertible fact stands out. Women are awake. They are dimly aware of their power; they are beginning to be conscious of their responsibility. Their movement has in it the element of vitality.

As regards ourselves, we know that our cause cannot die; delay there may be; again, as in the past,

WOMAN, OLD OR NEW?

BY ISABEL C. TIPPETT.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

DOLLY ROCHESTER.

BILL ROCHESTER.

JOHN HARLINGTON—their Friend.

SCENE—A pretty and well-furnished drawing-room.

DOLLY (turning the pages of a railway guide): Ah! Here we are at last! Liverpool-street, 3.27; Hoxbourne, 5.30. H'm—well, I suppose that will have to do, only I can't possibly get back the same night!

BILL: Where are you going, Dolly; and what are you going for?

DOLLY: Dear old Bill! If I tell you, you won't make a fuss, will you?

BILL: Depends! Well, go on, Dolly!

DOLLY: Supposing I said I had been asked and was going to a dance, would you mind?

BILL: Of course not! Go, and enjoy yourself.

DOLLY: But you see, Bill dear, it is not a dance. As a matter of fact, I have been asked to speak at a meeting.

BILL: Oh, a meeting! A meeting for what, pray?

DOLLY: The Necessity for the Higher Education of Women.

BILL: Ah! Now look here, Dolly, you know I do not like that sort of thing!

DOLLY: I know. That was why I was not anxious to tell you.

BILL: What on earth you want to go about the country making yourself conspicuous for, I don't know. I didn't expect you to do this sort of thing when I married you.

DOLLY: My dear Bill, when you married me, or rather when we married each other, we did it just because we fell in love with each other. Well, I don't think either of us has much to grumble at. We still love each other, don't we?

BILL: Yes, of course. But all the same, Dolly, I do wish you would not take up this hysterical New Woman business.

DOLLY (laughing): Dear stupid! What is wrong with the New Woman, as you call her? It seems to me she is a great improvement on the old sort!

BILL: Then you are very much mistaken. Of course, I may be wrong, but the sort of woman my mother is, is quite good enough for me.

DOLLY: Yet I often hear you say, she is awfully extravagant. Take her dress bills alone: now you have to pay them, you don't seem to like them very much. And considering she was not left without a pretty fair income, for one woman alone, I don't blame you!

BILL: Oh, nonsense! Of course, a man grumbles a bit at the bills. If one didn't, they would be twice as big next time. When my governor was alive, he did the same. She never could manage her money. No woman can, and they are not expected to, anyhow, in our class. But I know all the same she has got to dress to her position. And I must say, Dolly, I wish you would follow her example a bit more! I don't know what it is, but your things are not like hers. They are not smart enough.

DOLLY: Thank heaven for that! How on earth could I get through all I do, if my waist and hips were pinched in by the awful cast-iron sort of armour you see advertised at the end of fashion papers? And what on earth could I do in those tight skirts that won't allow one to use one's legs properly? Heavens! What a nasty, sulky temper I should develop, simply from violent indigestion, if I couldn't take healthy exercise because of my fashionable figure. And surely, Bill, with your mother's bills to pay, you are not longing for the same kind from me, too?

BILL: Look here, Dolly, you may think you are a good deal cleverer than my mother, but you aren't! I never remember my father having these unpleasant sort of scenes. I don't like it, I tell you; I don't like it.

DOLLY: And do you know, Bill, why she didn't have scenes, as you call it?

BILL: Because she is an old-fashioned kind of woman, and didn't go in for "Higher Education," and all that nonsense.

DOLLY (laughing): It was nothing of the sort! There were not scenes because both you and your father had been trained by her to do exactly everything she wished. If not, you suffered in an uncomfortable way by her most expressive silence—and other annoyances! Why, she told me so. "Remember, a man wants managing, my dear," she said, "and if you find Bill inclined to take things too much for granted, keep him humble by quietly amusing yourself with other people. I always kept my husband a little bit on the anxious side, and found it an excellent policy." Well, I did not tell her so, but I did not think it a dignified way of retaining her husband's love.

BILL: Which just shows how young you are, and what a lot you have to learn. My mother is a woman of the world, and she knows well enough that if a husband sees another man admiring his wife, he will admire her, too. Now you just go the other way about, and treat men as if the whole lot of them were your brothers.

DOLLY: Surely, you don't want me to treat them as if they were my lovers?

BILL: Of course not! Don't be silly, Dolly! A man is a

we may be forced out into the wilderness; but failure is impossible.

We may be asked, why have we this confidence? We answer, because we have seen. Men boast that they have created the industrial world. Yes, as it exists to-day—factories, ill-ventilated workshops, tall chimneys belching smoke, fortune and unstinted service for the few, degrading and deteriorating poverty for the many! Poplar, Bermondsey, East and West Ham, on the one hand; Westminster, Belgravia, South Kensington on the other. Men's world, and we women burn with shame and wrath as we behold it!

Let the writer in *The New Age* and men of his type look at one or two pictures. These are from Poplar. A young woman, with the gentle face of a Madonna, lying in a little bare room, where the bed seems to be the only furniture. By her side a two-days' old babe, dainty and beautiful, though the worry, we are told, brought it into the world sooner than it was expected. No comfort. Only such food as the relief fund was able to supply. And she a mother, fitted in her whole body, for her divine task.

Another woman, in a horrible court, where rents of four shillings a week are paid for two little hideous, dilapidated rooms. Five children and their mother we find in a room where it is scarcely possible to turn. Again, the bed occupies almost the whole of the floor-space. Again, unspeakably bad conditions. Little wonder that the babies are pallid, that, even in their mother's arms, they look old, and that many of the elder children's eyes are clouded with ophthalmia.

And this is man's world. These are pawns in the game which he contemplates with pride. At such a cost as this he holds the industries, many of which he took long ago from the hands of the women. For in simpler days, before modern commercialism had fallen upon the land, all the domestic arts belonged to woman, and her home was her workshop.

We do not pretend to think that these days can return. Neither a people nor an individual can become children again. But, looking back into the past and recognising its mistakes and its failures, they can move forward into something truer and better.

In the current number of *The Nation* there is a review of Mr. Havelock Ellis's new book "The Task of Social Hygiene." "By Social Hygiene he means a great big wash of a dirty world, and nothing else." Throughout the book he shows clearly that with all the vital questions, woman's position is inextricably connected; and that, therefore, no true regeneration can be expected until, as human being and as woman, she shares in the work of legislation. That was written twenty-four years ago. This, then, is behind the woman's movement—a divine discontent with society as it is; a vision of what might be if the fulness of human love and energy were set to the task of purification; a passion born of these that cannot die until it has achieved its purpose.

Say what you will, therefore, men of the world, condemn us at your leisure. Nothing you say or do can alter facts. "IT MOVES." C. DESPARD.

ON THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT.

In the sorrow-darkened homes, 'mid dirt and strife,
 There are women nobly slaving
 For a greedy city's craving,
 In the gloom and sorrow braving
 Work and Life.

And in poverty and hunger, and neglect
 By their brothers who should tend them,
 By all those who should defend them,
 —For no legal rights befriend them—
 Lives are wrecked.

But the time is coming, when, though all may rail,
 Stronger sisters, realising
 Their own power, to freedom rising,
 Shall right wrongs, where enterprising
 Men now fail.

A FUTURE W.F.L. MEMBER.

man, and a woman is a woman, and in Society you have to remember that fact accordingly. And that's another thing. You won't take your place in Society, the place my mother has, for instance. You say it bores you.

DOLLY: I say too much of it bores me, and so it does. Why should I be forced to spend my life at dinners and parties and theatres? It's all right now and again, but I wasn't born simply to amuse people and be amused. Don't you see, dear? I am a woman, and I want to do my share in this world of work and labour, and help things on a bit, even if it is only a tiny step. I was given an ordinary amount of brain, and I do want to use it intelligently.

BILL: So you can, by sticking to your first duty as my wife, and taking your proper place amongst my friends.

DOLLY: My dear Bill, you seem to overlook the fact that I also have a duty to myself. Listen, I will tell you a secret if you like. You know I am fairly high-spirited, don't you?

BILL: I know you can be jolly obstinate when you like.

DOLLY (cheerfully): All right, put it that way! Well, when one is awfully healthy and has any amount of energy, and a big wish to make a lot out of life, and the most of the little time one has to live, if you don't keep a good watch out, and expend that health and energy on a certain amount of work, why, you simply get rid of it in mischief. Oh, yes, I assure you that is very true.

BILL: Rubbish! You are just the same as every other woman. They get along all right without speaking at meetings on every sort of woman question you can invent. And look here, Dolly, I want you to stop it. I don't like it. Do you think it is nice for me to see your name reported in the paper, and the other fellows asking me if it is my wife?

DOLLY: Bill, if you ask me to "stop it," as you call it, I am afraid we shall quarrel!

BILL: There you are! You own up. You can see for yourself what infernal mischief it does! You new women are playing with a dangerous sort of fire! You are breaking up homes, and destroying domestic peace.

(Enter JOHN HARLINGTON. He stands in the doorway, but both DOLLY and BILL are too heated to notice him.)

BILL: And look here! I am not going to have that happen in my home. You must see your way to giving up that hysterical craze for speaking on platforms about what you don't in the least understand.

DOLLY (losing her temper): All right! I will take a chair and speak in Hyde Park, if you object to a platform, about what I do understand—a man's tyranny and selfishness. "I won't have my, my, my wife ——" Good heavens! How would you like it if I were always saying: "I won't have my, my, my husband doing this and that"?

JOHN: Hum! Shall I go?

BILL (turning round): Who the devil —? Oh, you, John!

DOLLY: Good heavens! I never heard you come in.

JOHN: I really don't wonder! The sounding of the last trump would probably have left you both unconcerned. Were you discussing politics?

BILL: No. We were discussing a wife's duty to her husband. And, damn it all — (thumping his hand on some needlework lying on the table)! Ow, Great Scott! What on earth do you stick the needle up like that for?

DOLLY: Those are your socks I was mending, like a—dutiful wife!

BILL: Oh, confound it, Dolly! I tell you I am sick of it. I won't put up with it! I shall go to the club!

(Exit BILL. DOLLY takes the socks and flings them violently to the other end of the room.)

DOLLY: There! Now I feel a little better, thank you.

JOHN: Can't say you look it. What's the row, Dolly?

DOLLY: Oh, nothing. Oh, isn't it a horrid sort of world at times?

JOHN: Not a bit of it. You are depressed, Dolly.

DOLLY: No, I am not. I am only angry. I shouldn't mind crying a little, though. Just by way of relieving my temper.

JOHN: What is it all about? Go on, Dolly. You might just as well tell me. Surely I am an old enough friend of yours and Bill's for that! What's wrong? And why are you and Bill quarrelling after only six months of wedded blessedness? Come along, be sensible, and tell me! Who knows, I might be able to help!

DOLLY (laughing rather tearfully): As a matter of fact, I believe we were quarrelling over the old, hackneyed trouble of mother-in-law—but it's mother-in-law on my side instead of Bill's.

JOHN: Not very lucid. Besides, I thought you got on with Bill's mother?

DOLLY: So I do, because we do not see too much of each other. But it's Bill, who wants me to be the old type of woman like she is.

JOHN: But I always thought she was pretty go-ahead. Prided herself on her worldly wisdom, and all the rest of it!

DOLLY: I know. That's the point. You see, John, I don't care two pins if I am worldly-wise or not. I just want to be a woman who uses her brain as it pleases her best. For one thing, I went to college.

JOHN: I know. I have seen you in your B.A. cap and gown. It's awfully becoming, Dolly!

DOLLY: There you are! Exactly like every other man!

JOHN: Why, are you flying out at me, now?

DOLLY: Would you say to a man, "Your cap and gown are very becoming"?

JOHN: It isn't. Men are such ugly brutes. Oh Dolly, Dolly! When will you learn to make the proper allowances for the great fact that we are, after all, only men? The best of us, my dear, are only half-grown up, as far as women are concerned.

DOLLY: But it is so stupid, that!

JOHN: It comes from a man's training. Take the average public school boy. He does not learn much from his masters, but he knocks about amongst the other fellows, can play cricket and football pretty well, and turns out with an excellent organising capacity, and a pretty firm and reliable grip on the practical and material side of life, which is of first-rate importance, and make him at once into a natural colonist and a useful member of the nation.

DOLLY: Yes, I know. But why don't they go on and develop a little further? Why do they dogmatise and tyrannise over the woman, for instance?

JOHN: Because from time immemorial man has had the unique and precious privilege of bullying a woman.

DOLLY: But that is exactly what has at last made us arise in revolt.

JOHN: Quite so! But you won't remember that words are the poorest weapon you can employ. Because you say a thing is so, to a man, you are not going to make him all at once go back on centuries of inborn impressions and subconscious instinct that woman is one of man's personal and private properties.

DOLLY: But that is such a disgusting idea!

JOHN: But such a very old one! It was the greed of private property that brought about that little tragedy for Adam and Eve.

DOLLY: May be. But it isn't much comfort to me now about Bill. And you know, John, I am awfully fond of Bill, and he is such a good sort in everything but this.

JOHN: I know. Only remember by instinct Bill is a staunch Conservative. He thinks what was good enough for his most remote great-grandfather is good enough for him.

DOLLY: But it is not good enough for me! And what's more, my common sense tells me it isn't really good enough for Bill.

JOHN: Supposing you make Bill realise that by a little object lesson?

DOLLY: I only wish I could! I don't think he would like me to be a vain, frivolous, stupid fool, who thought of nothing but dress and amusements.

JOHN: Would he have married you if he did? But look here, Dolly, supposing you tried it on, just to see the effect of it on Bill?

DOLLY: Oh, but what exactly do you mean?

JOHN: Take Bill's mother for an example, only be just a little bit more so. An object lesson is one of the best ways of teaching a child, sometimes even that grown-up child we miscall MAN, all writ large in capital letters.

(DOLLY walks up and down the room, thinking. Suddenly she stops and laughs.)

DOLLY: I think I will try it on. But you will have to help!

JOHN: Me? Oh no. You are quite clever enough to manage by yourself. Leave me out of it!

DOLLY: I can't, to do the thing properly. Listen! Bill told me just now that if a man sees another man admiring his wife, he will admire her, too!

JOHN: All right in theory perhaps, but in practice—dangerous!

DOLLY: Just so! That is why I shall practise with you. It's so safe.

JOHN: Thanks, awfully!

DOLLY: Not at all. Whenever Bill is near, I will flirt my head off with you.

JOHN: But I say, Dolly —

DOLLY: Stupid! It's only for Bill's good. Besides, I will do most of it. Just look pleased and flattered, that's all.

JOHN: But Bill's my friend, too, remember!

DOLLY: Which fact, thank God, with a really nice man like you, makes it so safe. Now if I began to flirt with Bobby Ranshaw, for example! And he is Bill's friend, too.

JOHN: Yes, yes. For heaven's sake don't try that on with Ranshaw. No, as you say, if it must be somebody, I had better be the slaughtered lamb for sacrifice.

DOLLY: I think so, too. Go and find Bill, and bring him here. We will start at once.

JOHN: At once! Good gracious, Dolly, you don't lose much time. Besides, Bill has gone to the club.

DOLLY: Not he; he is being fearfully wretched and miserable, all alone in his study, thinking what a badly-used husband he is. Oh, I know Bill! Dear old Bill! I almost wish it hadn't got to be done!

JOHN: Then don't. I daresay it was rather a rotten idea of mine.

DOLLY: Coward! As a matter of fact it was a very good idea of yours. Go and find Bill and bring him back.

(Exit JOHN.)

(To be continued.)

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HOW AMSTERDAM DEALS WITH THE HOMELESS.

Who can remove the blot on fair England's face by bringing order out of dirt and disorder in our slums? We have had a Royal Commission on the Poor Law; files of recommendations have been pigeon-holed; much water has flowed under London Bridge since that date. Thousands are still homeless each night. Not a pleasing sight to our visitors from Dominions over the sea, as they told us last year. Lives squandered here which are wanted there!

For the last eight years Amsterdam has been dealing with the question of how to lift the bottom dog and his belongings to respectable citizenship. What the writer was impressed with on the night of August 20 was the absence of miserable creatures wandering aimlessly up and down the streets—a sight, alas! so frequent in England—avoided by perhaps less deserving though more fortunate citizens. The explanation came when, after calling on a friend for the purpose of visiting the Wilhelmina Hospital next day, we were asked whether we would like to visit the Wilhelmina Gasthuis (night shelter), which was not far off. Such an offer was not to be refused, though we were somewhat hungry, dusty and tired after the day's travel.

Accompanied by our two kind friends, we were taken by a short but dark way across the park through a wood. It was pitch-dark and we stumbled at times, but eventually came in sight of the lighted building which gives food and shelter to five hundred and upwards every night. An old building discarded by the hospital authorities, after remaining empty for some years, has been by the energy of one man, the contributions of many others, with the help of willing woman workers, turned into a haven of rest without the grating key and grunt of Bumble and his successors. Doors are opened at seven in the evening and until eleven o'clock the staff is fully occupied in receiving, registering, bathing, feeding and putting to bed five hundred of Amsterdam's homeless.

As we walked up to the entrance, a little girl with a baby in her arms stood in front of the gate, behind her the mother with two others little more than babies. These five passed to the reception-room, where a kindly "Sister" took down particulars and then passed them on to bath, food and bed.

We were taken to see the Director, Mr. Jonker, a man who impressed one with his energy and determination to lift some of these miserable creatures into a better mode of life, or as he more than once said, "to help themselves, rather than herd them together, and then make an exhibition of them." His clean white jacket indicated readiness to check the spread of disease by himself aiding in removing what is a blot on civilisation.

Every applicant on reception is registered, then given a bag on which is a large number and in it a clean shirt. After bath and food he goes to bed, putting his clothes into the bag. This bag of clothes is conveyed to the disinfecting-chamber, put into the zymotic oven at one end, and, after being subjected to great heat, taken out at the other, sent back to the dormitory, and placed on a chair at the foot of the bed, ready for the morning. At any time after 5 a.m. the man or woman can get up, put on their clean clothes, have breakfast, and set forth to find a job, more fit to mix with others, not so likely to be rejected by employers as if they were dirty and breakfastless.

Three nights' lodging is given free; then, if unsuccessful in obtaining work, the man must go before the Director, who endeavours to find where the difficulty lies. If inefficient, he is helped by some training or has to cut wood, sort paper, &c. He must do something. Big boys are dealt with more rigorously, to avoid the danger of drifting into the shiftless class and increasing the population without knowing how to provide for them. Women are treated in much the same way.

Babies go to one division, where, in plain but clean cots, they have the opportunity of sleeping, the mothers coming every three hours to those fed at the breast, then returning to their own division to sleep.

Ours was quite an unexpected visit. The building, though old, with great beams overhead, was white-washed; tables, stools, floors were well scrubbed, and although nearly all the beds were full, the ventilation seemed ample; there was no stuffiness. In the boys' dormitories there were extra beds down the centre, indicating pressure for accommodation, but no unpleasantness from want of air. Commenting on the crowded state of this division, we were told that it was due to one being closed for disinfection. Again asking a question as to certain beds, we were told that it was necessary to teach some boys habits of cleanliness by strict rules. The bedsteads were iron-framed, with sacking laced up on each side, thus being easy of removal for washing, and supplied with two brown blankets. Clean and quiet, the good night's rest must be a better preparation for the toils of the coming day than a night under an arch or on a bench in the park in dirty clothing.

This disinfecting of the clothing is a great check on the spread of disease, to say nothing of bringing the people into touch with those who think life is worth living. An interesting description in Dutch, with many illustrations, is to be obtained, and the Director would give any information desired, as he, like many others, has been distressed at the sight of London by night. He and his wife most kindly gave us supper at midnight after our tour of inspection. Refreshed and heartened, we returned to our hotel, remarking on the absence of the miserable from the streets of the city. Amsterdam's example is worthy of imitation.

CLARA LEE.

TAX RESISTANCE PROTEST.

The thanks of our League are due to our courageous fellow-member, Miss Mary Anderson, for the splendid opportunity provided by her for carrying our gospel into new quarters. The quiet little village of Woldingham, one of the beauty spots of England, has been thoroughly roused by Miss Anderson's spirited protest against the tyranny of taxation without representation; and a great gathering of its inhabitants attended at the sale of her goods on Saturday last.

Our energetic and honoured workers, Mrs. Snow and Mrs. Fisher, most ably seconded Miss Anderson in organising the protest. By the courtesy of Messrs. Jarrett, the King's officers, whose consideration and forbearance call for our kindest appreciation, the sale was to have been held on the village green, close to Miss Anderson's residence; but owing to the inclement weather, the adjacent public hall was "commandeered" for the ceremony. In spite of an incessant downpour, the hall was packed with an appreciative audience.

The sale was conducted, laughably enough, under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League and the Women's Tax Resistance League; for, on obtaining entrance to the hall, Miss Anderson and Mrs. Fisher bedecked it with all the insignia of suffrage protest. The rostrum was spread with our flag proclaiming the inauguration of Tax Resistance by the W.F.L.; above the auctioneer's head hung Mrs. Despard's embroidered silk banner, with its challenge "Dare to be Free"; on every side the green, white and gold of the W.F.L. was accompanied by the brown and black of the Women's Tax Resistance League, with its cheery "No Vote, no Tax" injunctions and its John Hampden maxims; while in the front rows, besides Miss Anderson, the heroine of the day, Mrs. Snow and Mrs. Fisher, were seen the inspiring figures of our President and Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, vice-president of the W.T.R.L.

Mrs. Huntsman took the chair as soon as the sale was completed and the necessary sum realised. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Cobden Sanderson were the principal

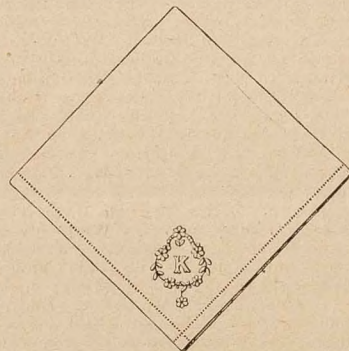
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speakers, Miss Boyle expressing the acknowledgments of the two Leagues and of Miss Anderson to the King's officers for carrying out the stern duties of their office with so little unpleasantness.

A resolution, proposed from the chair, and carried with only one open dissident, was couched in the following terms:—"That this meeting supports Miss Anderson in her protest against the tyranny of taxation without representation, and calls upon the Government to include women in the Franchise Reform Bill."

At the close of the ceremony the goods, bought in by her friends, were presented to Miss Anderson, who briefly returned thanks, and expressed her intention of maintaining that form of protest.

Among those present were Miss F. A. Underwood, looking very well and sunburnt after "holiday" with the Scottish campaign; Mr. Snow, to whose kind support no words will do justice; Mrs. Harvey; Mrs. Fox-Bourne and her son and daughter-in-law; Mrs. Lawrence and her little sons; Miss Charrington; Mrs. Robert Barr and her daughter and son-in-law; Mr. and Mrs. Galbraith, Colonel and Mrs. Eales, Mrs. O'Sullivan, Mrs. Croad, Miss Watson, and other well-known residents of the neighbourhood.

The next event of a similar kind to which we may look forward is the breaking of Mrs. Harvey's barricade at Bromley. Mrs. Harvey, with the greatest resolution, has kept the King's officer at bay for months; and she should be heartily applauded for flying the flag of resistance, and invading with suffrage protest and propaganda so notorious a centre of anti-suffrage activity as Bromley. It is hoped that all good Freedom-Leaguers and all good Tax Resisters will rally in force to the protest when the final act is being played.

ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE. GERMAN WOMEN A CENTURY AGO.

This fascinating book, "Some German Women and Their Salons," by Mary Hargrave (published by Werner Laurie, 7s. 6d. net.) comes at an opportune moment. There are those who wonder over the present uprising of women. History shows us the movement in its pioneer days. The story as told in the volume before us, of the brave and noble women who threw aside the conventions of their time and became centres of a vivid, intellectual life, may help us to understand what is going on to-day. The stories are varied, but each one has its charm. Elizabeth, mother of the poet Goethe, occupies the first place. We like her genial independence, her cheerful philosophy, and her pride in her poet son.

Henriette Herz and Rahel Varnhagen, who were the first to create the brilliant Jewish salons in Berlin which, early in the nineteenth century, formed the centres of Romanticism, come next. The most famous men and women of the time—poets, artists, dramatists, politicians and journalists—flocked to the drawing-rooms of these clever and brilliant Jewesses, who had learned, in those days of subjection, to think and to speak independently. Henriette was peculiarly interested in women. She started a woman's club for the purpose of exchanging ideas by correspondence—a great boon in the days when newspapers and books were scarce. Rahel Varnhagen, born in 1771, has been called the "first great and modern woman in Germany." She had a very masculine father, who wished to train her after his own fashion. and Rahel tells us later how she suffered. She would retreat to a room at the top of the house—her own sanctum! "My attic, where I lived, loved, suffered, rebelled. Learn to know Goethe: Grew up with, adored him unspcakably."

It was a period of intellectual ferment in Germany. Lessing, Kant, Fichte had proclaimed religious tolerance and spiritual freedom. Goethe, the great revealer, had "embodied the Revolt of Nature against Convention." Rahel entered into this atmosphere, absorbed it, hailed the dawn of a new era, and became—*bourgeoise* and Jewess as she was—a personage in Berlin. Her father died when she was still young, and, although her brothers controlled the family purse, she was allowed a measure of economic freedom. Before she was thirty she became the centre of an intellectual life, whose influence was felt not in Berlin only, but throughout Germany.

The note of Rahel's character is independence; and what she claimed for herself she preached to others. A Swedish poet, Brückmann, then very young, was studying in Berlin at this time. He tells, in memorable words, how she taught him "the importance of moral courage. Enthusiasm must glow from within us. Everything depends upon thinking for oneself. The highest morality can only come through the highest freedom." And he says, further: "The embodiment of this idea which he had sought in vain in philosophers and religious persons, he found in the 'attic' of this rare, original thinker."

Rahel was not a writer, save of letters, and these had a peculiar

charm, for she was one of those happy letter-writers who could write as she talked; but many of her brilliant and witty aphorisms have been preserved. I draw one or two from this delightful little record of her life!—

"Pure, delicate and holy as the budding leaf within the almond is our truest inmost wish."

"There will come a time when national pride will be ranked with self-love and other forms of vanity and war and fighting."

"What is man but a question! He is here for asking honest, bold questions and humbly waiting for answers. Not asking boldly enough and giving self-flattering answers, that is the deep source of all error."

"Justice for others: courage for ourselves" was her favourite motto, one which Suffragists in Great Britain may well adopt, for the spirit of it lies at the base of their movement.

Other most delightful portraits of women may be found in this book. Beltina von Arnim, the immortal child-friend of Goethe and Beethoven, who lived to old age, but remained ever a child at heart. The beautiful and adored Queen Louisa of Prussia, who died worn out before her normal years were run. Caroline Schlegel and Charlotte Stieglitz find a place in its pages. I have no space in which to deal with these admirable studies. They are full of interest to the women who are warring with a larger hope for that which they—our pioneers—saw in the dim distance. Having deeply enjoyed myself the reading of these life-stories, I recommend them to the readers of THE VOTE.

C. D.

WITH THE CAMPAIGNERS.

The Caravan.

Our Van is pitched in a delightful spot at Cromer, owing to the care Dr. Knight took to secure us a pleasure place in which to anchor for a time. Mrs. Despard addressed two meetings on Monday on the Cliff—one at midday, the other in the evening. Both were well attended and resulted in good collections and sales of THE VOTE and other literature. In the evening Miss Clarke arrived and has since greatly helped in the sale of THE VOTE, in spite of the handicap of bad weather, and in the work of the campaign.

On Tuesday Mrs. Despard had to leave us, much to our regret; and visitors at Cromer expressed their great disappointment because of her short visit and early departure. Miss Peggy Lewis joined us the same evening and has helped by taking the chair and in many other ways. We have had good audiences at Cromer and many have visited our Caravan. Four came specially to tell us of the impending arrival of Mr. Winston Churchill at Cromer. As the rain was coming down in torrents we were not tempted to form part of the crowd assembled to do homage to the first Lord of the Admiralty.

On Wednesday we held a meeting on the Cliff at Overstrand. Mr. Guggenheim, of the Men's League, very kindly spoke for us. Several people in the crowd could scarcely wait till the end of the meeting, so eager were they to ask questions. One Anti-lady wanted to know how we could expect to vote if we did not fight; what would women do if they were on a desert island and had no men to keep the enemy at bay! Near Overstrand is situated "The Garden of Sleep," so called from a song of that name, composed in a quaint little churchyard where at poppy time the ground is one mass of rich red colour. On Thursday another of our party, Miss Elliott, left us after having done a fortnight's splendid work for our Suffrage Cause. We visited Runton, a picturesque little seaside place a mile or two away, and held a meeting on the sands from a platform lent to us by a sympathetic fisherman. Dr. Knight accompanied us. The audience at first was rather unsympathetic, but their interest was soon aroused. After the meeting they formed little groups to argue out different points raised during the speech. At the end of the week rain came down in torrents, and we felt as if we were living in a bathing machine. To-day there is an improvement, and we are looking forward to holding more meetings in Cromer and also in Mundesley and Sheringham. Mrs. Hyde, besides doing her share of speaking, has done the valuable work of housekeeping in a most capable way. The tour is drawing to a close, and we trust the work done will bear fruit in the future.

CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

Scottish Coast.

In spite of heavy rains the meetings at Rothesay, Dumoon and Largs have been extraordinarily successful. Holiday makers from various parts of Scotland, Lancashire and Yorkshire have, by their presence at Miss Munro's meetings, shown a keen interest in Votes for Women. Of course there have been hecklers. Last week a visitor to one of the Rothesay meetings definitely stated that women did not want the vote, and expressed the view that not half the women present in a crowd numbering between 1,500 and 2,000 people were in favour of women's political enfranchisement. Miss Munro asked the women who wanted the parliamentary vote to signify it in the usual way. The immediate response was a forest of hands, the only persons expressing a contrary view being a few youths at the back of the crowd who, evidently for the time being, wished they were women! Another heckler at Dumoon was quite certain that the speaker would be far better employed if she stopped at home and tried to learn how to do a little domestic work. Miss Munro explained that the Suffragettes with her had taken a house at Rothesay where they did all their own work and all their own cooking, besides coming out to address people on the subject of

Votes for Women. Several opponents seemed to be obsessed with the idea that the parliamentary vote was a reward framed by the British Constitution for good behaviour, and members of the Women's Freedom League were regularly informed by gentlemen who almost invariably were not quite sober that women wouldn't get the vote until they "behaved better." Hecklers have added to the success of all our meetings in this district Miss Lena Connell and Miss Shaw, of Edinburgh, are rendering valuable service to Miss Munro this week, which will see the close of the holiday campaign on the Clyde Coast. Mrs. Despard will address a meeting in Rothesay, September 18, and Miss Munro on October 18, so that the Rothesay Branch already has a good deal of work in hand. The warmest thanks of the Women's Freedom League are offered to the many friends in Rothesay, Dumoon and Largs who, through innumerable manifestations of friendliness and kindness, have made the work in Scotland so pleasant and enjoyable to those who have taken part in it.

F. A. U.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

* Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

COMMENT AND SUGGESTION.

To the Editor.

Madam,—Perhaps the reflections of a student of the constitution may be of a little interest; they are put forward with great diffidence, as I need not say.

It is surely not the violence of so-called "militant" methods which is objectionable as repulsive or unladylike—but their futility. Jeanne d'Arc was not unladylike, because she was not futile. It is the ineffectiveness of struggles with policemen that is repellent. This is not to say that what is called for is greater violence. Greater violence would not be less futile. It would be more futile. What is really wanted is effectiveness.

Is it not worth while taking a glance at the history of the Irish party? Parnell saw that the constitutional campaign of Butt and Shaw was leading to no result. But he did not therefore organise outrage. He looked for the weak point of the opposing forces. He found it in the rules of parliamentary procedure. He broke the House of Commons. The closure and the guillotine destroyed it as a deliberative assembly. In the party-ridden body which took the place of the House as Pitt and Palmerston had known it, his compact party held the balance.

I am far from suggesting that precisely the same means ought to be taken now. They cannot be. What I do suggest is that the energy which runs to waste in futile demonstrations might well be turned to account in seriously examining the conditions of the problem, and the line of least resistance. Perhaps "militancy" as we have known it, counted upon the existence of chivalry as the weak point in the armour of the opponents of the suffrage. Now that we know that chivalry does not exist, as a practical force, it is surely time to concentrate in another direction.

One might suggest the organisation of a Feminist Parliament, to which all who believe in Feminism should be eligible. Such a formal convention would, I think, attract a great and growing body of support.—I beg to remain, yours very truly,

Temple, London, E.C.

T. BATY.

IN HYDE PARK.

The Hyde Park meetings, under the auspices of the Mid-London Branch of the Women's Freedom League, both last Sunday and the Sunday before, were very excellent and drew large crowds. On the 18th instant, Mrs. Nevins and Dr. Drysdale were the speakers, with Miss Palmer in the chair; both aroused great interest. Dr. Dorothea Moore, a lady well known in connection with the Suffrage question in California, asked if she might say something, and was at once invited to do so from our platform. She had only arrived in England a week or two before, and gave an interesting little speech with regard to the fight there had been in her own land and that which was going on here.

On Sunday, August 25, Mrs. Merivale Mayer spoke to a large crowd on the present position of the White Slave Traffic Bill. Some Antis present, who resented the severe treatment the speaker gave the bullies of this vile trade, adopted the usual "Ways of the Antis"—i.e., personal abuse; violent language on the part of at least one member of the audience provoked the speaker to remark that she hoped it was not a case of the cap fitting. The crowd showed its appreciation of Mrs. Mayer's speech, which lasted nearly an hour and a-half, and her treatment of the subject and its opponents, by shouts of "Bravo!" and general applause.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS. Thurs. Aug. 29.—CONSULTATION COMMITTEE, 1 Robert-street, 11 a.m. FINSBURY PARK, 7 p.m. THORNTON HEATH CLOCK, 8 p.m. Mrs. Marion Holmes, Highbury Corner, 8.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Watson. Chair: Miss Killingsworth. Hanover Park, Peckham, 8 p.m. Mrs. Pickering and Miss Spriggs. Fri. Aug. 30.—THE TRIANGLE, Penge, 7.30. Mrs. Watson and Miss Fenning. AMHURST PARK, Clapton Common, 8 p.m. WEST END-LANE, Hampstead, 8.30 p.m. Sat. Aug. 31.—SOUTHALL, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Cunningham and Miss Anson on "The Present Situation."

DARE TO BE FREE.

Boyle, Chair: Mrs. Nourse. Mon. Sept. 2.—DOWNHAM-ROAD, Kingsland-road, 8 p.m. Miss Underwood, Chair: Mrs. Stebbings. LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL MEETING, 7 p.m., 1, Robert-street. Tues. Sept. 3.—THE FLAGSTAFF, Hampstead, 8.30 p.m. PRINCE'S HEAD, Battersea, 8 p.m. Wed. Sept. 4.—LONG-ROAD, Clapham, 8 p.m. Thurs. Sept. 5.—CLAPHAM BRANCH MEETING, 7.30 p.m., 1, Imperial-mansions, Bromells-road. Sun. Sept. 8.—HYDE PARK, noon. Miss Anson on "The Present Situation," and Mr. J. Y. Kennedy. Sun. Sept. 15.—HYDE PARK, noon. Mrs. Tanner. Sun. Sept. 15.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. Chair: Mrs. Nourse. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson. Fri. Sept. 20.—NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1, Robert-street, 2.30 p.m. Sat. Sept. 21.—NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 10 a.m., 1, Robert-street. TRAFALGAR-SQUARE MEETING, 3.30. Sun. Sept. 22.—HYDE PARK, noon. Miss Munro. Sun. Sept. 29.—HYDE PARK, noon. Mrs. Mustard.

PROVINCES.

Wed. Sept. 4.—CHESTER, 13, Abbey-square. Members' Meeting, 8 p.m., to meet Mrs. Close Shipham.

Caravan Campaign.

Thurs. Aug. 29, to Sat. Aug. 31.—CROMER AND DISTRICT. Speakers: Miss C. E. Andrews, Mrs. Clarendon Hyde.

Manchester.

Thurs. Aug. 29.—46A, MARKET-STREET. Social Evening. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

Sat. Aug. 31.—BURNAGE, Garden Village Hall. "At Home." Guest: Mrs. Despard. Music: Mrs. Georgia Pearce and others.

Mon. Sept. 2.—WALKDEN. Public Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

Mon. Sept. 9.—BURNAGE BRANCH MEETING.

SCOTLAND.

Clyde Coast Campaign.

Thurs. Aug. 29, to Sat. Aug. 31.—Dunoon, Milport and Largs, 12 and 3 p.m. Rothesay Pierhead, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro and others.

Thurs. Sept. 5.—Glasgow.—BRANCH MEETING, 70, St. George's-road, 8 p.m.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.—159, St. Stephen's House, Westminster, S.W.

Sun. Sept. 1, at 6 p.m. Hyde Park, near Marble Arch. Speakers: Mr. John Simpson (chair), Mr. Laurence Housman, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell.

BRANCH NOTES.

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

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

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Anerley and Crystal Palace District.—Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road, Anerley.

Damp weather and even the prospect of heavy rain does not affect our Penge audiences, and although once again Miss Ethel Fenning had to do the double duty of chairman and speaker, a large crowd assembled and THE VOTE sales were good. She spoke for some time on militancy, and it was noticeable that the only objections to it came from men who said they were opposed to women having votes, but had no reasons to give for their convictions. Next Friday we hope to have Mrs. Watson, Peckham (Group).—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. PICKERING, 23, Albert-road, Peckham.

In spite of the impossible weather, we have done the impossible—persisted in our open-air meetings, and drawn and held good and attentive audiences. Last Thursday there was no opposition, and our crowd was unanimously in favour of the recognition of women as citizens. We hope to continue our meetings, and shall be glad to welcome new members and friends, as also all old ones.

DOCTORS AND WORKING MOTHERS.

A protest by a midwife against the treatment of the poor by the doctors of Guildford has been brought before the Board of Guardians.

Miss Griffin, a midwife practising in the town, it was announced, had written the following letter to the medical officer: I am beginning to experience difficulty in obtaining medical

help in cases where a patient is too poor to pay or to find the money at once. . . . In one instance a distracted husband called upon eight doctors before one could be induced to come, and then—I feel almost ashamed to state the fact—it was only through the aid of the police, to whom the poor man turned in his extremity, and as a last resource. If such a state of things continues, sooner or later life will assuredly be lost. The clerk said that originally the Guardians gave a fee of 10s. 6d. This was increased to 15s., and at present the fee was a guinea. The grievance lay in the fact that, when a doctor was called in in the ordinary way, a charge of two guineas was made.

TEA.—Order your Tea of the Merchandise Department.—Apply to the SECRETARY, MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., 2, Robert-street, Adelphi.

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"How the Law Protects the Wife."
"How the Law Protects the Mother."
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"THE PREHISTORIC ARGUMENT," supplied in black and white and coloured. Size and prices as above.

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FORTHCOMING POSTERS.

All the Coloured Supplements which appear in THE VOTE will be issued as posters. They will be supplied in 40 by 30 size in accordance with the demand for this size.

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Sizes approximately from 15 by 10 to 30 by 15.—"The Paid Piper," "Waiting for a Living Wage," "A Bird in Hand," "Anti-Suffrage Ostrich" (coloured only), "The People's Horse" (black and white only). Price (black and white), 1d. each, 6d. doz., 3s. 6d. 100; (coloured), 2d. each, 1s. 9d. doz., 10s. 100.

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Women's Freedom League.

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YORK.—Mrs. ROBINSON, 30, Ratcliffe-street, York.

SCOTLAND.

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