

# THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE).

VOL. V. No. 107.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1911.

ONE PENNY.

## NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Published by W. SPEAIGHT & SONS, 98 & 99, Fetter Lane, E.C.

## 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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## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

### A Terrible Injustice to a Woman.

No one can read with anything but indignation the particulars of the injustice done to Miss Jessie Brown, of Glasgow, and the replies to questions asked a few days ago in the House of Commons with regard to the case. The Lord Advocate for Scotland declares that the case is closed. He must be shown that the public agitation about it is only just beginning. The injustice is so flagrant that it affords another instance of the helplessness of the voteless. The facts ought to be burnt into the mind of every woman and act as a driving force to secure redress. They have been made public, but must be repeated. The story is briefly this: Miss Jessie Brown earns her living by keeping a boarding-house in Glasgow; returning one Saturday night to her home after visiting a friend, she was arrested by two plain-clothes constables, forced to go with them to a police-court, and there charged with importuning five men for the purpose of prostitution. Although she denied the charge and declared that she had spoken to no one since leaving her friend's house, she was lodged in a police cell to the following Monday morning. When brought before the magistrate she was found guilty on the witness of the two constables, but discharged after an admonition.

### A Woman's Honour in the Hands of Men.

To vindicate her honour she submitted to the indignity of medical examination, and when she was able to produce certificates of her complete innocence from two eminent doctors in Glasgow one would have thought that the case would have ended in the admission of his mistake by the magistrate. Not so; he hardened his heart and would do nothing. An action against the constables for wrongful arrest also failed. After further fruitless endeavour an action was eventually brought before the Justiciary Appeal Court and the conviction quashed, with an award of seven guineas expenses, the action of the magistrate being described as "most rash and oppressive" for convicting on the evidence of the constables without informing Miss Brown of her right to forty-eight hours' adjournment to prepare her

defence. The Personal Rights' Association took the matter up and have done everything possible by bringing the case before the Government to secure the vindication of Miss Brown's character and "a moderate sum sufficient to cover her expenses and to afford her some solace for the terrible mental and moral agony she has undergone." The result, as declared in the House of Commons last Wednesday, is that the Government is as impenitent on the question as the Glasgow authorities, acting as representatives of the Crown in prosecuting Miss Brown. Replying to questions put by Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. Watt, and Mr. Barnes Mr. Ure stated: "I am not prepared to recognise a claim for compensation in this case." This is what men have done. It now remains for women to act and to refuse to rest until the foul stigma is removed from the fair name of a woman.

### The Pit Brow Lasses Again.

The Pit Brow lassies are making a brave struggle for their right to their special work, and their visit to London last week did much to prove the justice of their cause. At the pleasant afternoon gathering for tea and talk, most kindly arranged by Miss Bertha Mason, and at the public meeting at the Memorial Hall, the excellent health, the cheerfulness, and the vigour of the lassies impressed everyone. Scotland and Lancashire joined hands in the deputation, and many a Londoner envied the workers their rosy cheeks and joyousness. The dignified statements made by the older members of the deputation, who had inherited the work from their mothers and grandmothers, carried great weight both as to the power of the women to do the work and as to the injustice of the charge against its moral effects. Everyone realised how splendidly these women, young and old, are fighting the battle not for themselves—they are safe,—but for those who will come after them. As things are at present the fate of about 5,000 women has been decided by the votes of two men; when the amendment was put in committee thirteen voted against and fifteen for it. The Home Secretary refused to receive a deputation on the ground that their case was well understood, but without hearing the women when opportunity offered, certain restrictive legislation is to be brought forward. The Pit Brow lassies have able champions in Miss Gore Booth and Miss Esther Roper, but votes for women would be their best protection.

### Without Consulting Women.

The House of Commons is now said to be satisfied with regard to the position of women under the Insurance Bill, but we do not find that the very poor can look forward to much except a poll-tax, and a new distinction has been set up between a man and a woman's contribution and its return. We may well ask how great industrial undertakings could hope to succeed if a differentiation were permitted between women's money and men's, whether in contributions or in dividends? The introduction of a sex basis instead of a wages basis is a fundamental weakness. Mr. Lloyd George's attitude to the work of women in the home, as compared with men outside, casts a slur upon the service they thus render to the State. The Chancellor has informed us that he has always intended to include a woman among the Insurance Commissioners. Very kind, but why only one?

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—15143 CENTRAL.  
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### AT HEADQUARTERS.

#### The National Executive Committee.

The National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League was in session last Friday and Saturday. Those present were Mrs. How Martyn, Miss C. V. Tite, Mrs. Sproson, Mrs. Snow, Mrs. Vulliamy, Miss Neilans, Miss Manning, Miss Munro, Miss Andrews, Miss Husband (one of the alternate Scottish delegates) and Mrs. Tudor, who automatically came on to the committee to fill the vacancy reported last month. Mrs. Despard sent a letter regretting that it was impossible for her to be present, as her work during the month had been very heavy, and since other strenuous work was in front of her, she felt obliged to take for rest the two days which had been allotted to the N.E.C.

Mrs. Vulliamy was voted to the chair, and each department had much work to report and many plans for the future to be discussed. It was decided that we should go to the Hitchin bye-election, and Miss Munro was deputed to take charge of our work there. It was also decided to send a delegate to represent the Women's Freedom League at the meeting which will be held Tuesday, December 12, in the Bechstein Hall, under the auspices of the Women's Committee in support of the Anglo-American Arbitration Treaty, the delegate appointed being Miss C. V. Tite. It was with much regret that the committee received a letter from Miss Nina Boyle, announcing that family affairs obliged her to return to South Africa at the end of the year. Miss Boyle, however, promises to return to England should the fight go against us in regard to the Conciliation Bill, and will then place her services at the disposal of the Women's Freedom League.

The following resolution was passed unanimously: "That this National Executive Committee now in session calls the attention of the President of the Board of Trade to the very serious fact that women are totally unrepresented on the Industrial Council for the settlement of trade disputes, and desires to place on record its most emphatic protest against such an omission, considering that there are nearly two million women employed in the trades concerned."

All those present at the committee meeting attended the members' meeting at Caxton Hall on Friday evening, and it was resolved to hold another members' meeting on Friday evening, December 1, when the National Executive Committee is again in session. Mrs. Despard has promised to come to the next members' meeting, and every member in London is urged to be present that evening.

#### Mrs. Despard's Visits.

Mrs. Despard pays her promised visit to Scotland this week, and we hope our friends there will meet with the greatest possible success in the meetings they have arranged for her. Our President afterwards intends to visit Manchester, and our members in Eccles have already a good sum in hand to arrange meetings for her in the district on November 18 and 20. We hope to give our readers further particulars of these meetings in next week's VOTE. Thursday, November 30, Mrs. Despard will be back in London, and we are arranging an "At Home" that afternoon at Caxton Hall, when we hope to hear her account of these tours.

#### Discussion Meetings.

These are being continued at the Lower Essex Hall, Essex-street, Strand, each Wednesday evening, until December 6. We hope our members will attend in force next week to hear Dr. Drysdale's address on "Our Food Supply and the Population Question."

#### Literature Department.

We have on sale the Women's Freedom League Calendar for 1912, price 6d., designed for us by Miss Madge Turner. This has daily tear-offs, and may be obtained in the colours, or in black and white. In a day or so we shall have our W.F.L. Greeting Card, price 2d. Members and friends are urged to buy cards and calendars without delay. It has been decided that we shall publish Mr. Housman's lecture, "The Immoral Effects of Ignorance in Sex Relations." We have received "Woman in the Church and in Life," by E. F. Howard, and "St. Paul and the Woman Movement," by Rev. A. E. N. Simms, both 1d. each; also "The Rise of the Democracy," by J. Clayton, price 2s. 6d. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### POLITICAL AND MILITANT WORK-ELECTIONS.

#### Hitchin.

Candidates:—Mr. T. GREG, Liberal.  
Lord ROBERT CECIL, Conservative.  
Organiser:—Miss ANNA MUNRO, at Mrs. TUDOR'S,  
2, The Avenue, Hitchin.

The Hitchin constituency is one of the county divisions of Hertfordshire, and includes the towns of Hitchin, Letchworth, Stevenage, and Baldock. Miss Munro has the help of Mrs. Tudor, Miss Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Vulliamy, Mrs. Clarkson Swann, and Miss Cunningham, and she will be very glad to hear from any local members and sympathisers who can give her any help, either in service or money. Mr. Greg, in his election address, has expressed himself as willing to support "the Conciliation Bill or any reasonable amendments thereto, but not a wrecking amendment." Lord Robert Cecil's splendid article in *The Standard* on Saturday emphasises the firm attitude he has always taken on Women's Suffrage, and the hearty support he is giving to the Conciliation Bill. The policy of the League will be to impress the electors with the importance of our movement, and to leave no doubt in their minds that the Conciliation Bill is one of the vital issues at the election.

#### Oldham.

Candidates:—Mr. BARTLEY DENNIS, Conservative.  
Mr. W. C. ROBINSON, Labour.  
Mr. A. L. STANLEY, Liberal.

All the candidates are in favour of our Bill, and Mr. Robinson and Mr. Stanley have pledged themselves "to oppose any amendments which in the opinion of the Conciliation Committee might cause the Bill to be rejected." The W.F.L. members in the district will remind the electors that their candidates are all pledged to support Votes for Women.

The W.F.L. will not be represented at the South Somerset bye-election.

#### THE DAISY TURNER CASE.

The trial, on October 31, at the Gloucester Assizes, of Daisy Turner for "wilfully and of malice aforethought murdering" her newly-born child, resulted in a verdict of not guilty being returned by the jury. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Vulliamy, Mrs. How Earengy, Miss Thompson, Mrs. Hyde, and several local members of the League watched the case; also Capt. Gonne, on behalf of the Men's Committee for Justice to Women. One of the first remarks after its conclusion voiced the thought uppermost in their minds: "Not one word in reference to the father of the child." Our readers will be glad to know that an influential local committee has made provision for Daisy Turner to be looked after. The action of the W.F.L. in the case certainly helped the defence. Mrs. Despard, on behalf of the League, would like to thank Dr. Earengy for the able way in which he managed the girl's defence.

It is very greatly to be desired that in these and

similar cases some body of organised women should inquire into the matter, and by giving publicity to the facts, help to rouse a public opinion which will insist on fairer and juster social conditions.

#### A CASE OF CHILD ASSAULT.

Mrs. Taylor Brown, a member of the League in Godalming, writes to draw attention to a very sad case of child assault characterised by the Mayor as "an abominable and atrocious crime." A married man, twenty-eight years of age, confessed to being guilty of committing an offence against a little girl seven-and-a-half years of age. He was sentenced to four months' hard labour, the maximum sentence being six months. Mrs. Taylor Brown writes:—"The charge should have been one of criminal assault, for the child's mother tells me the full offence was committed, not once, but many times, and that it has been going on for at least six months. The result of the trial has stirred this little town to its very depths, and people, especially working men, are asking what can be done to show the resentment they feel."

A lady, Miss Ogilvy, has just been returned at the head of the poll to the Municipal Council, to the astonishment of the town. Mrs. Taylor Brown, who is on the local committee of the Women's Local Government Association, writes, "I am not surprised, because I know that the verdict in this case gave Miss Ogilvy many votes."

We entirely agree with Mrs. Taylor-Brown that the sooner the law is altered the better, and hope that steps will be taken locally to arouse public opinion. Readers who have local knowledge of cases similar to the above should let us have early intimation of them with a view to rousing public opinion in the neighbourhood.

#### IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

The special campaign was opened at Llanfyllin on Tuesday when a most successful "At Home" was held in the Town Hall. It was quite a venture as Llanfyllin is a small place, but representative people poured in from the districts all round, three girls actually walking seven miles each way through mud and rain in order to be present. Mrs. Busch-Michell, the Vice-President of the Montgomery Burghs Branch of the Women's Freedom League, presided, and among the numerous guests were Mrs. and the Misses Luxmore, Mrs. Spencer Thomas, Mrs. Payne Dyffryn, Dr. and Mrs. Felix-Jones, Mrs. and Major Meredith, Mrs. R. A. Jones, Miss K. S. Jones, Mr. Busch-Michell.

The local Branch members had put in splendid work under the direction of Miss Clark, of Newtown, and Mrs. Felix Jones, the treasurer; every praise is due to those in charge of the tea arrangements and also to those who contributed to the excellent programme. Miss Alison Neilans made a speech full of enthusiasm, giving a clear explanation of the objects of the League and the urgent need for all women to interest themselves in obtaining the removal of the sex disability. Later in the evening a meeting for women only was held when Miss Neilans again spoke, and fourteen new members joined the Branch. A good collection was made, half of which it was decided to give to Headquarters. On Wednesday Miss Clark and Miss Neilans went to Llansaintfraid, and there held a fine meeting, with Major Meredith in the chair. Miss Clark moved the following resolution, which was carried unanimously: "This meeting records its keen appreciation of Mr. Asquith's pledge to give full facilities for the Woman Suffrage Conciliation Bill next Session, and urges Mr. David Davies to support the Bill through all its stages in order that it may become law." Miss Neilans seconded in a spirited speech, which the audience followed with the keenest interest for fully an hour. A vote of thanks to Major Meredith for presiding was cordially passed. Several questions were asked and ably answered. Miss Clark sold 34 copies of *THE VOTE* and took a good collection.

Llanymynech was visited on Thursday, and the Vicar kindly let the Church Hall to the League for a

nominal payment. Dr. Cartwright, who is very well known and respected locally, took the chair; Miss Clark and Miss Neilans again spoke. The same resolution was carried enthusiastically without a dissentient and much kindly feeling was expressed. The campaign

## "Thinking Women Read The Standard."

IN a few weeks this phrase has become a truism. Why? Order *The Standard* for a week, or a day, and you will see. It is because, since October 3, *The Standard's* daily news pages have included one headed:

### "WOMAN'S PLATFORM,"

which every Thinking Woman in the land, and very many thinking men, want to see and to study every day. "WOMAN'S PLATFORM" has ended what was called the "Press Boycott" of the serious interests of thinking women—not their ribbons and ornaments, but their thoughts, aims, claims, views, hopes, deeds, and—Work.

"WOMAN'S PLATFORM" in *The Standard* has already become the Thinking Woman's own medium in the Daily Press of Great Britain. All thinking women, modern women, are keenly interested in "WOMAN'S PLATFORM." They know that it is their own; they themselves determine how much it can serve their own interests by:—

1. Following "WOMAN'S PLATFORM" closely and day by day in *The Standard*, and using it freely in women's interests, as opportunity offers,
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continues next week, and has up to now been marked by generous collections, large sales of THE VOTE, and the addition of new members to the League. Thanks to Miss Clark's excellent organisation and foresight the campaign will not be very expensive, but donations from sympathisers will be most useful.

#### POLITICAL AND MILITANT GROUP.

In order to exchange ideas and to ensure the efficient carrying out of our political work, all the workers in this department are requested to meet Mrs. How Martyn at the office every Wednesday evening at 6.30 p.m.

#### A SUITABLE INDUSTRY FOR WOMEN\*

The recent agitation by Pit-Brow women to preserve their independence made me read with interest an article by Mr. Buchanan, called "New Careers for Women." The business of lace-making, of which I am going to write, is the newest of those he proposes, and that is about 400 years old. But if it is not new, that it is suitable for women will readily be admitted when the conditions of the industry are contrasted with the pit-brow, of which the unwomanliness was revealed to Parliament as soon as the Miners' Federation began to covet the work for its own members. Lace-making has always been so unhealthy and underpaid that no trade union has desired to monopolise it, and consequently it has always been considered a peculiarly feminine employment. The very fine and beautiful laces of the past, which are now—thank Heaven!—practically a lost art, depended on a condition of economic dependence closely resembling slavery. "Children of four years of age are sent to the lace school, where they soon learn to manage the bobbins, sixty dozen and more, with great dexterity . . . at ten they earn their living," and the writer adds that it is "a pretty sight." "The finest thread is spun in dark underground caverns, for contact with the air causes the thread to break." At Valenciennes "the lace-makers worked in underground cellars from four in the morning to eight at night, scarcely earning their 10d. a day; many women became blind at thirty." (These extracts are from Mrs. Palliser's "History of Lace.")

At Great Marlow, in 1628, a school was endowed for twenty-four boys to read, write, and cast accounts, and for twenty-four girls to knit, sew, and make bone lace. I hope that our Branch at Marlow would make a vigorous protest against any such educational ideals now.

At the present day lace-making is very badly paid. In Belgium good workers get 3-50 fr. (about 2s. 11d.) a week, and in Buckinghamshire 2½d. an hour is average pay. An exception is the lace schools at Burano, where girls can earn enough to endow their husbands with a dwelling, and, the writer naively adds, "nearly all the young men of Burano seek their wives from among the lace-workers."

Readers of THE VOTE will remember the articles on the sweated hand-embroiderers of Belfast, making 340 dots for a penny. Soon after they appeared I saw that the Hertfordshire County Council, in spite of the earnest recommendation of all the women consulted, refused to allow sewing-machines for fear that the feminine accomplishment of hand-sewing should suffer. This sentimental affection for work bound, in modern conditions, to be sweated, is entirely incompatible with the concern supposed to be felt for the health and morals of women-workers; but these industries are still artificially supported by the pernicious idea that there are some occupations essentially feminine, and that in order to become feminine women must be compelled to keep to them. The manufacture of lace has the additional "feminine" quality that the product is an art in which the worker follows a pattern given her, and its beauty is measured by a standard of fragility and meticulous industry.

K. VULLIAMY.

\* See "Women's Platform," October 30.

#### 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.

#### EVOLUTION & THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—As one who has for some time watched with interest and sympathised deeply with the Woman's Movement, I would like to express my cordial appreciation of the suggestions embodied in Mrs. Thomson-Price's article in your issue of last week. As your contributor rightly says, it was hardly fitting to ask men to work within your Societies until they had adjusted their vision, and had come to the full understanding that the battle which Women Suffragists are fighting is not for selfish interests or sex privileges, but for human justice. The active work done by the Men's Leagues and the Suffrage propaganda from platform, pulpit, and Press for which men have, at any rate of late years, been responsible, are surely proofs that you now have the thinking men of the nation upon your side. Hence I venture to believe that a generous and practical recognition by the Suffrage Societies of this sympathy on the lines foreshadowed by your contributor would meet with an immediate and ready response. In a recent leading article in *The Vote* entitled "Unity of Force" it was stated: "The Woman's Movement is bound to last, to win its way until, merged in the Man's Movement, it is able to create the New Humanity." Mr. Israel Zangwill, in his "Prologue" last week, echoed in a different way something of the same sentiment. It is, therefore, both refreshing and satisfactory to find these sentiments translated into a practical proposition.—Yours faithfully, SPANHOPE W. SPRIGG (Member of the Men's League), Savage Club, Adelphi, W.C.

Dear Madam,—The first question I asked myself on reading the suggestions embodied in Mrs. Thomson-Price's article last week was "Why not?" My second thought was, "Really, there is little novelty in it." It would entail some change in internal management, but it is only in this sense that the W.F.L. is entirely a feminine organisation. Men have already been associated largely with women in League activities, and we should, if we ran over Mrs. Thomson-Price's list of representative men who have helped us, feel that the administrative ability of most of them in our management would be a gain. They and the women who would work with them should, if chosen well, be of the new order—men who do not pay women compliments; women who do not think that looking pretty covers shuffling and self-seeking and general moral and intellectual unfitness. Let us try this comradeship and controvert in a practical way those who say women will group themselves in a hostile feminist camp. In spite of the splendid militant work of the past few years women are not yet enfranchised, and a supreme effort will be needed next year. It is said that women "cannot get votes because they have not got votes." Would it not, therefore, be of happy augury that the Conciliation Bill should be supported next Session by an immensely powerful and active body composed half of women, half of voters? I feel grateful to Mrs. Thomson-Price for making what I consider a very useful suggestion, and I hope it may be favourably considered by the Branches.—Yours truly, SARAH BENNETT.

DEAR MADAM,—In an interesting article by Mrs. Thomson-Price in your last issue appear these lines:—"In the great army of men who are fighting to-day for the recognition of the human rights of women are . . ." and then follow ten names, eight of whom are members of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage. Is it quite fair to leave out such names as Herbert Jacobs, J. Malcolm Mitchell, and R. F. Cholmeley, simply because they have not identified themselves with the Militants?—Yours faithfully, T. A. ROSE.  
46, Genesta-road, Westcliff-on-Sea.

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with great interest Mrs. Thomson-Price's article in this week's VOTE, and I think many will welcome the suggestion she brings forward. Speaking from experience, in the local Branch of the Church League for Women's Suffrage to which I belong, we have found it most helpful having men on our committee. In every way it has worked well and been mutually beneficial.—Yours truly, ETHEL M. FENNINGS (W.F.L.).

DEAR MADAM,—Mrs. Thomson-Price's suggestion that men might now be admitted with advantage to the various Suffrage Leagues has much to recommend it, but I am inclined to doubt if sufficient men to make it worth our while to alter our basis of membership would be willing to give up their strongest political sentiment—party loyalty—for the sake of Women's Suffrage. By-elections would always prove a time of much heart-searching, with inevitable defections as a consequence. All the same, I must admit that it has often struck me as a little ungracious on our part to impose a sex disability on those who are willing and ready to help us in our efforts to abolish our own.—Yours faithfully, MARION HOLMES.

DEAR MADAM,—If our leaders approve of the suggestion contained in Mrs. Thomson-Price's article last week, it is probable that many W.F.L. members will support it. Women have struck their "blow for freedom," and may surely now avail themselves to the full of the generous comradeship and co-

operation of their men-supporters in the Cause. We should advance both more rapidly and easily to the goal, learn many useful lessons on the way, and prove the futility of the Antis' belief (?) that the movement is one of sex antagonism. To be the first great Woman's Suffrage Society to open its doors to men would be a step forward and one of real evolution.—Yours truly, E. L. NOURSE.  
20, Weymouth-street, W.

DEAR MADAM,—As a member of the W.F.L. I should like to support Mrs. Thomson-Price's proposition that men should be admitted to the councils of the League. In spite of the splendid propaganda work of the Suffrage Societies during the past few years, the average man is still better educated in the theory of politics than the average woman. For this reason I have found that men are often easier to "convert" to the Suffrage Cause than women, because they know by experience the value of voting power and the disadvantages of a voteless condition.—Yours, &c., E. H. BAENZIGER.  
1, Carlton-terrace, Hastings.

DEAR MADAM,—I am inclined to agree with Mrs. Thomson-Price that the time has now arrived when men might advantageously be admitted to our League, although I must confess to a lurking fear that the innate modesty of men might make them feel that they would become "unsexed," if, throwing aside the custom of years of domination in public affairs, they consent to enter a society which has been founded and carried on exclusively by women.

I am also rather afraid that the masculine character shrinks from militancy in politics, at any rate, amongst the middle classes, from which, I presume, most of our recruits would come. However, if we decide to throw open our League to men, those who will enter will probably be in entire sympathy with our methods and aims, and I for one would welcome any willing to help, regardless of sex, nationality or colour.—Yours faithfully, JEANNETTE VAN RAALTE.  
23, Pandora-road, W. Hampstead.

#### ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Readers of THE VOTE will be delighted with the following article written by Miss Janie Gearing, the editress of *Weigel's Journal*, which has a large circulation throughout the Australian States and New Zealand:—"THE VOTE is the title of a newspaper published weekly in England and is the organ of the Women's Freedom League. In its issue of July 15 is a splendid article by Mrs. Charlotte Despard, entitled "Pledged," in which, at this critical time of the campaign, she reminds women to what they stand pledged, and to whom. Embodied in the article is a line which we women who have obtained the vote may well bear in mind, and use for our own nation's benefit. It is, 'We are coming into politics pledged to make it at least a clean and wholesome game.' THE VOTE is throughout a very interesting and instructive paper, and any women here who are not content with the meagre and often one-sided news contained in the cablegrams, but are desirous of knowing the true state of political affairs in England so far as they affect women, would be much enlightened by its perusal."

The following significant facts appear in *The Woman's Journal*, Boston, U.S.A., in an article by Lucy M. Ellis:—"The city of North Yakima, in the State of Washington, which gave its women the suffrage less than a year ago, affords an example of what women can do with the ballot. Here a typhoid-infested city has been transformed, largely by the efforts of an enfranchised womanhood, into one of the cleanest, most sanitary communities to be found anywhere in the country. Last year there were twenty-eight deaths from typhoid; this year there have been only nine. North Yakima has a health officer, who says better sanitary conditions have affected other diseases beside typhoid, notably those among infants; a bacteriologist, who analyses the drinking water daily; also a woman food inspector, authorised to compel butchers, grocers, and bakers to keep their goods in cases, and go into restaurant and hotel kitchens to see that the food is prepared under cleanly conditions. When the women "took hold," North Yakima was a natural culture-bed for typhoid, and typhoid had existed for years. Everybody knew it, but nobody talked about it; the men were afraid it would "hurt business." A Health Committee was formed by the women, and Mrs. Ham, the chairman, waited for some time for the business men's committee to call her committee to a meeting. When they did not do so, she called the men to a women's meeting, the report of which was severely criticised, the business men fearing a rumour of unhealthy conditions. The women replied that typhoid cannot be hid, and that the best advertisement the city could get was by cleaning up. The women have got that advertisement, for Dr. L. L. Lumsden, typhoid fever expert, of the Marine Hospital Corps at Washington, points to North Yakima as the most remarkable example of a city clean-up he has ever encountered!"

It was said of Razia Begum that "she had all kingly qualities except sex, and this exception made her virtues of no effect in the eyes of men."

In Louisiana a woman's signature as witness is not valid!  
C. HARVEY, Hon. Head, Press Department, W.F.L.

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#### A NEW PLAY.

The Croydon Branch of the Women's Freedom League may be congratulated on the great success of the social gathering held a week ago in the Small Public Hall, Croydon. The Hall, charmingly decorated by Miss Jessett and her helpers, presented a most striking appearance, and was crowded with visitors. Two boudoir concerts, organised by Mrs. Ridley, were greatly enjoyed. The artistes were Madame Minnie Price (medallist R.A.M.), Miss Hilda Campbell, Madame Jenny Walters, the famous Welsh singer (contraltos), and Miss Edith Layton, Signora Lofego, Miss Zeta West, Miss Douster and Miss Rosa Chessell, R.A.M. (sopranos), and Miss H. Stallard. Other helpers who did splendid service were Miss Mary Pearson, Mrs. Pyart, Miss Struthers, Mrs. Horne, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Klinge and Mrs. Snow. Mrs. Labrousse, the Hon. Literature Secretary of the Branch, effected good sales of pamphlets and THE VOTE. Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Terry and Mrs. Appleton acted as hostesses. A pleasant little incident took place before the guests arrived, Mrs. Holmes' little daughter presenting Mrs. Terry, the invaluable Hon. Secretary, with a bouquet of yellow and white chrysanthemums.

*Baby*, a new Suffrage play by Mrs. Harvey, of Bromley, was produced by the Pioneer Players under the personal direction of Miss Edith Craig, and, needless to state, both the acting and staging were admirable. Mr. Charles King, as "Mr. White," an Anti-Suffragist, and Miss Helena Moore as "Mrs. Jones," a charwoman, proved themselves artists of distinction; while Miss Marjorie Harvey, Miss Estelle Stead, Miss Elizabeth Williams, and Mr. Arthur Cleave gave excellent interpretations of the characters they depicted. Miss Phyllis Harvey, as the all-important "Baby," scored a distinct success. Mrs. Harvey's little sketch ranges from grave to gay, from lively badinage to pathos and sadness. At one moment the audience was laughing at the inconsistencies of the "Anti's," the next they were listening with the quietness that betokens appreciation and keen sympathy to Mrs. Jones' account of her life's struggle and the history of the daughter who was "pretty, wuss luck!" The artistes were recalled several times.

Mrs. How Martyn's speech was listened to with keen attention, and received very full reports in the Press. She pointed out that Mr. Lloyd George had not consulted any representative woman's Society before framing the clauses relating to women in the National Insurance Bill. Miss Boyle, in an amusing speech, referred to the recent statements of the "Anti's," and held up a high ideal of woman's place in the world.

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 1, Robert Street  
Adelphi, W.C.

Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

Directors—Mrs. C. DESPARD, Mrs. E. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc.,  
Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. L. THOMSON-PRICE, Mrs. M. H. FISHER.

SATURDAY, November 11, 1911.

### ARE WOMEN LEGAL SLAVES ?

We are often accused of gross and deliberate exaggeration when we dare to say that, under the Law and in the State British women are slaves. Often during these years which have seen the uprising of women we have been forced to this conclusion through observation of that which actually goes on in the country. But never have some of us felt it so deeply as during the past few weeks. Owing to a variety of distressing causes there have been an unusual number of unhappy, cruelly wronged women before the courts. In each case had real, even-handed justice been done, the woman would not have stood alone; and in every case it may be truly said that girls and women were tried and judged by those who were quite incapable of understanding their temptation, their sorrow, or even the nature of the offence with which they were charged.

One of these, through the watchfulness of our Cheltenham Branch, came to our knowledge four months ago. The facts must be fresh in the minds of all readers of THE VOTE, for our campaign in Cheltenham and Gloucester, the work of our organisers, the meetings held on the subject of the unmarried mother and her children, with the growth of public feeling in the district, have all been recorded in our columns.

On Tuesday, October 31, the trial of Daisy Turner took place in the High Court of Gloucester. It had been decided beforehand that as many of the members of our League as could get together should attend the court to watch the course of the trial. Before the opening of the doors we were there, in the centre of a crowd, composed mostly of men, and we succeeded in securing seats in the gallery, our position enabling us to see and hear all that went on below. The judge came in, the jury took their seats, and a case, concerning property, which ended in the acquittal of the accused, was heard. Then the air grew tense, for everyone in that crowded court knew that a long-drawn-out agony was in one way or another to reach its climax, that a young human being was to be tried for a crime which, by the strict letter of the law, can be atoned for by no penalty but one—death. The name was called, "Daisy Turner." She came in with a wardress and constable. They were a little apart from her. She sat alone—oh! the piteousness of it!—a small white-faced girl, dressed in modest garments, such as the poorer working girls wear—the simple little face, curiously passive, half shaded by her hat, the hands crossed in her lap just twitching now and then; for the rest, apart from it all, and as if barely conscious of what was going on around her.

The charge was read out: "Wilful murder; that you did of malice aforethought, kill your infant child."

Then she was told to listen, while the names of the jury were read to her that she might, if she wished, enter an objection against any one of them. Naturally she made no sign; they were all strangers to her. And next each jurymen in turn was sworn. He promised, in the quaint language of the old time, to "true deliverance make between His gracious Majesty the King and the prisoner at the bar."

These preliminaries over, the awful game began. The learned counsel for the prosecution gave, baldly, his account of the whole miserable story, omitting altogether the crime against humanity with which it had originated. Witnesses were called—fellow-servants, Daisy's mistress, her aunt, and all these gave evidence as to her character—"a good girl, gentle, a little simple, kind-hearted,

fond of children." They were examined, cross-examined, re-examined. And as we sat thrilled, now and then horror stricken, we realised dimly that, between the two counsel it was a war of wits.

Presently it became evident that the counsel for the defence was the cleverer of the two.

The two questions on which the whole of the case hinged were, had the babe lived at all, and what the meaning was of certain bruises on its head. Everything at first seemed dark. The harsh story of the prosecuting counsel and the almost brutal account given by the doctor who had conducted the post-mortem examination of what he had found, and the inferences he had drawn, made us tremble; but gradually the horror lifted. By one skilful question after another the counsel for the defence drew out the weak points in the chain of apparently damning evidence, and we breathed more freely.

The long day wore on. There was a brief clearing of the court for lunch. Afternoon came and lengthened into evening, and lighted lamps threw ghostly shadows over the court. The tension grew more acute when the poor girl herself came into the witness-box. The voice was so thin and weak that, at first, we could not catch the words; but presently, in the hushed stillness, the poignancy of the sounds gave them body and we heard. She did not know what was coming; she was ill, she was in pain. For a little she thought she lost her senses, for she didn't remember anything. Then she saw the baby. She was frightened. She put it on the bed. "It didn't breathe; oh, it didn't breathe."

Why, she was asked, did she hide it? Again the piteous cry—she was frightened. She meant to go back the next day and tell someone, and take it away. That evidence must have convinced the jury, for after another experienced doctor had been questioned and cross-questioned there was a pause, and we saw them whispering to one another. In the dead silence the foreman rose. "We find no evidence of murder," he said. The relief of tension throughout the court could be felt. There was smothered applause, rapidly stopped, for the judge was speaking. He had told the jury at the beginning of the trial that, when they had heard and carefully weighed the evidence, three courses were open to them. They might pass a verdict of murder or of manslaughter, or merely of concealment of birth.

In his brief summing-up he dealt with concealment of birth, and the jury gave a verdict to that effect. The girl was told to stand up, and the judge, in a few kind words, said practically that she had already suffered more than enough for the offence of which she had been found guilty, for, had she come before him two or three days after it had been committed, he would not have sentenced her to four months' imprisonment. He would give her one day. Whereupon there was applause in court, immediately suppressed.

So the case ended. For this poor girl it is well. She will be cared for. But let us not flatter ourselves that the trouble and horror end there! This is one out of thousands. Day after day tales of woe are being enacted in which women and young girls take the leading part. There are hundreds amongst us now who are bearing, in silent terror, as a burden of shame, that motherhood which should be a glory and a joy.

One of the most gallant of the champions of our cause—a man—travelled back with us to London that night. "There was one thing on my mind all day," he said; "I felt it so much that I could scarcely keep quiet."

We knew what he meant. Through the whole of that pitiful story, drawn out point by point, there was no faintest allusion to the real criminal. We use the word advisedly, for, until it is recognised by the State that it is a crime against humanity to torture and degrade a woman and to run the awful risk of exposing a child to danger; until the strong hand of the law which reaches the woman has reached the man, until woman, having recovered her royal gift of independence, stands

free beside her brother-man, there will be no end to the misery, no healing of this great world-sorrow.

Two other impressions were bitten in upon us by that day's trial. There was not one incident which did not force upon us the bitter consciousness that, under the present law, woman is held to be the property of man, his chattel. She has done, or is suspected of having done, that which transgresses against the rules of conduct that he has laid down. She is brought into a court composed entirely of men—judge, jury, counsel range themselves for or against her. No woman is allowed even to plead for her.

It is the privilege, dearly won, of a true-born British citizen to be tried by his peers. That law does not apply to woman; she, in these courts of so-called justice, is tried by men who, so far from being her peers, do not even pretend to understand her.

Again, the law which inflicts capital punishment upon a woman found guilty of murder under such circumstances is not now carried out. The bare thought of it outrages the public conscience, and the sentence is always commuted. Why, we ask, is not the law altered? Why cannot this particular crime be placed in a category by itself? Again and again we have cried out for this. At the time of the agitation in the case of Daisy Lord many resolutions to this effect were passed in public meetings. Since then there have been two general elections. Why was not a mandate to alter this law given by the electorate? There can be but one answer. Women were not there. Yet none can deny that it is, not a cruelty only, but a travesty of justice, to pronounce on a trembling, ignorant, and often young human being the awful doom, which all in the court know will not fall upon her.

We wonder sometimes if the respectable persons to whom all this is normal and natural have the slightest conception of what prison means. Outside there may be agitation, strong, even fierce; the name of the unhappy prisoner may be in every mouth. She knows nothing of it all. From the court of human justice she is taken to the condemned cell. Alone, with the horror of suffering behind her, with the—to her—certain doom before her, she passes the days and the nights until the unlooked-for deliverance comes.

And this will go on until women are freed from their bonds, until they are citizens of a free and just nation.

We opened with asking, "Are women legal slaves?" We answer, Yes. Under the law as it stands to-day, women are arrested, tried, judged, and acquitted or condemned as if they were chattels of men, possessing no right even to themselves. We say, further, it is the consciousness of this (in some weak, and in others strong and vivid) which is the driving force behind our woman's movement. It is because of this, and of all the misery it entails, that we are bound to stand together and to go forward, until victory crowns our efforts.

C. DESPARD.

### THE INSURANCE BILL IN COMMITTEE AND AMENDMENT.

The Bill may now be regarded as practically settled so far as women are concerned, and the contention that men are incapable of legislating for women, is, in our own times, placed beyond argument.

Briefly, none of the original injustices are removed because the alterations which have been made are only a readjustment of the previous calculation. Women are still excluded from any share of the funds built up by payments from the joint family income; these are reserved for men alone. The whole cost of helping such widows and orphans as are assisted will be borne by the women's funds.

The debate on November 2 was "most amicable"; no one wished to introduce "a discordant note," and the hope was expressed that the "agitation will no longer have any material for just continuance." The position is: (1) Those women married when the Act comes into force will not be insured, unless employed;

they are not entitled to entry on widowhood unless they become employed. The 4d. or 7d. paid from their family income is to provide for them only maternity benefit and sanatorium treatment (including children) if available. These come from the men's fund. (2) Women who have not been "employed contributors" before marriage are excluded. (3) Women who marry and leave work, having been insured persons, will have the option, to be exercised within one month, of either taking a "surrender value" of two-thirds (one third reserved for widows), or of continuing as special voluntary contributors. It was considered "impolitic" to hand over the surrender value in cash on marriage, so it may be drawn as extra 5s. a week, for four weeks, at confinement, or "similar instalments in cases of distress," "at the discretion of the society or committee."

Those who prefer to become voluntary contributors must pay 3d. a week. The "State" adds 1d. (The "State," i.e. women and men through taxation, adds 2d. a week to each insured husband.) The benefits are:—(1) Medical; (2) Sickness, 5s. per week for thirteen weeks, and afterwards 3s. per week for thirteen weeks; (3) disablement, 3s. per week.

The wife and husband would have to pay 7d. a week, if both insured, and this appears a very large sum for working people. The wife's 3d. produces very little compared with the return to a man earning up to 15s. a week, and paying 3d. His benefits would be:—Medical, sickness, 10s. for thirteen weeks and 5s. for thirteen weeks, disablement at 5s. per week, sanatorium. It should be noted that he has not to pay towards the widow.

The actuaries conclude that this voluntary scheme "is well within actuarial possibilities." We believe for 3d. a week a woman can obtain better insurance value. A widow, who is not employed, can be a voluntary contributor at this reduced rate of 3d. (instead of 6d.) for the above benefits, if she wishes, when the State grant is 1d.

Mr. Masterman (Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department) is responsible for two significant sayings: "If she is supported by her children, as many women are" (their work in the home being worthless!) and "We have been able to satisfy them [the House] in connection with women." Everyone appears satisfied, happy, complimented and complimenting—except women! LEAH ANSON.

### WOMEN AND IMPERIALISM.

There was a very fair attendance at the Lower Essex Hall last Wednesday evening, when Miss Nina Boyle opened a discussion on the subject, "Should British Women be Imperialists?" the chair being taken by Mrs. Bessie Drysdale. Miss Boyle believes that British women should be Imperialists, because the British Government and British influence are the most potent factors for good which the modern world knows. The standard of British justice, she said, is higher than that of any other civilised country. During the last war in South Africa, the British Army maintained a higher standard than has yet been set up by an army of occupation. During the time of actual hostilities no fewer than 30,000 children were educated in schools, and large sums of money were spent to keep women and children from starvation. Whatever were the faults of the Army, that will remain to its credit. Miss Boyle called upon women to take up their share of responsibility in the Imperial question. A good discussion followed, in which Mrs. How Martyn, Miss Tite, Mrs. Tanner, Miss Underwood, Mrs. Moore and others took part. F. A. U.

### 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.



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**TO SECURE A CONVICTION :  
THE CASE OF MISS SERUYA.**

The by-products of the militant Suffrage movement are only less vital than the Cause itself. One of these, the knowledge we have gained of the workings of the Law, may prove of the utmost service to the community. In some respects it has already done so. Mainly as a result of the revelations of Suffragettes certain ameliorative legislation in connection with prison rules has been enacted. But there is still much to do for those who are determined thoroughly to cleanse the Augean stables of the Law. And it is the sort of herculean task that Suffragettes like to be at.

At the very beginning of the militant tactics those who took part in them stumbled across some unpleasant but fundamental facts in relation to civic life. The police, whom we had hitherto regarded as protectors of the public, were discovered in some cases to be the worst enemies of the harmless citizen. Proficient in perjury, they lied glibly and without hesitation in the holy Halls of Justice! Not all. It is good to record that in some instances the constable's coat had not succeeded in stifling all sense of truth and rectitude.

Another illusion which direct contact with the law very quickly dispelled. In theory the prisoner tried in this country is supposed to be innocent until proved guilty. As a matter of fact, from the moment of arrest till the hour of release he or she is treated as a criminal. This was exemplified in the case of Miss Seruya, who was tried at Bow-street on Friday, November 3.

It will be remembered that Miss Seruya was taken into custody on Friday, October 27, the date of the Actresses' Franchise League matinee at the Lyceum, and charged with obstruction. The case was adjourned at her own request in order that she might call witnesses who at the moment were not available.

Two ordinary policemen and a serjeant swore, first, that the defendant had been arrested on the pavement outside the pit door of the Lyceum Theatre; secondly, that she had been warned by each in turn that she was causing an obstruction by selling VOTES FOR WOMEN and giving away pamphlets; and thirdly, that she had slapped one constable on the face with VOTES FOR WOMEN, struggled violently when arrested, and kicked all three on their shins. Miss Seruya, who is one of the finest women in the movement, who has given generously of her money and her services, and who was one of the first to suffer imprisonment for the Cause, gave evidence on oath, first, that she had only been told once by one policeman to stop selling on the footpath, and that—which was admitted—she had immediately complied by stepping into the roadway; secondly, that she had not again attempted to dispose of her wares from the pavement; thirdly, that she was selling "Alice in Ganderland," the book of the play, that she was not giving away pamphlets or anything else, that she had not a single copy of VOTES FOR WOMEN in her possession, and that, moreover, it was a paper she had never sold; fourthly, that she was arrested on the steps of the theatre while walking up in the company of friends to attend the performance. She admitted having struggled to get away, but denied, emphatically, that she had either struck or kicked any of the officers.

Miss Edith Craig, Miss Winifred Mayo, and several other women, all of unimpeachable character and eye-witnesses of the arrest, testified that Miss Seruya had been arrested on the steps of the Lyceum—private property!—and that, though she had tried to wriggle out of the arms of the constable who had taken her in charge, she had neither slapped nor kicked him. From the way in which she was pinioned it would have been impossible to do either.

Strange discrepancies between the evidence for the defence and testimony of the prosecution! It was quite obvious that the police were lying. One constable rigidly adhered to the statement that he had come upon the scene immediately after the arrest, though he did not explain how he knew it was immediately after. And this was of vital import, in view of the fact that Miss Seruya denied having been arrested on the public pavement. Indeed, the whole demeanour of the "law" conveyed the impression that the object was to secure a conviction, not to examine, impartially, the evidence on both sides. Counsel for the prosecution bullied and browbeat both the defendant and her witnesses. The behaviour of the presiding magistrate was very insulting to Miss Seruya. One would like to know if they regard such gratuitous insolence as part of their respective duties? Also, if this is done in the green wood, what is done in the dry? In spite of everything, however, Miss Seruya was not sentenced to a term of imprisonment, but merely "bound over." We knew this would be the result, as at the outset the public prosecutor had intimated to the magistrate the desirability of such a proceeding.

Now it is very clear that Miss Seruya is or is not innocent of the charged preferred against her. If not, she is also, in conjunction with her witnesses, guilty of flagitious perjury. If innocent, why should she be bound over in her own recognisances? And if guilty, why was she not sent to prison?

It is palpable that the Court knew that a "mistake" had been made, though they were not prepared to admit it. Also, that if Miss Seruya had been unable to employ counsel, and had not made it clear that she was determined, if necessary, to make a cause celebre of the case, the verdict might have been otherwise.

As I left the Court I saw two men of the working class being rudely hustled into the dock. I feared that, whatever the cost, a conviction in their case would be secured.

M. SLIEVE MCGOWAN.

**OUR TREASURY.**

A special levy has been proposed by which members will undertake to put aside a weekly sum for work at Headquarters until the fate of the Conciliation Bill, for which we have been promised facilities, has been decided. We are making arrangements to put the matter before the Branches and those who have already been visited, namely, Clapham, Northern Heights and Highbury in London, and South Shields, Sunderland, and West Hartlepool agreed to it at once. At the Members' Meeting on Friday I received more promises from the members, and hope that all will see the necessity for the plan, as our work this winter must never be hampered for lack of funds.

CONSTANCE TITE.

**NATIONAL FUND.**

(Branch and District Funds not included.)  
Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1910, £11,695 3s. 2d.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Amount previously acknowledged ..	2,311 11 0	Miss F. M. James ..	0 5 0
Miss M. A. Sidley ..	2 0 0	Per Miss Tite:—	
Mrs. E. Langwill ..	5 0 0	Collected ..	0 10 0
Miss McGilchrist Gilchrist ..	5 0 0	South Shields Branch (Collectors) ..	0 5 0
Dr. A. D. Vickery ..	5 0 0	Per Mrs. Clarkson Swann:—	
Mrs. E. M. N. Clark ..	2 2 0	Mrs. Brend ..	1 1 0
R. H. Pott, Esq. ..	2 2 0	Miss Hucklebridge ..	0 1 0
Miss L. Carr Shaw ..	2 0 0	Mrs. M. M. Jenkins ..	1 1 0
Miss C. Tite:—		Per Mrs. Despard:	
Collected ..	4 0 0	Potteries Branch ..	0 10 0
"At Homes" ..	2 5 0	Miss J. Hume Claperton ..	1 0 0
Travelling ..	2 17 0	Dr. A. V. Johnson ..	0 10 0
E. Vulliamy, Esq. ..	1 1 0	Mrs. Despard (Lecture Fee, Stoke-on-Trent) ..	1 1 0
Mrs. Hylton Dale ..	1 1 0	Per Miss Boyle ..	0 5 0
Mrs. E. Wood ..	1 1 0	Capitation Fees:	
Mrs. K. A. W. Thomas ..	1 1 0	Chester Branch ..	1 0 0
Miss M. I. Saunders ..	1 0 0	West Hampstead Branch ..	0 7 0
Mrs. Clarkson Swann ..	1 0 0	Cheltenham Branch ..	0 15 0
Mrs. Tritton ..	0 10 0	Highbury Branch ..	0 17 9
Mrs. Mustard ..	0 10 0	Sheffield Branch ..	1 11 0
Mrs. Gugenheim ..	0 15 0	Anerley Branch ..	0 2 6
Mrs. Bevan ..	2 2 0	Ipswich Branch ..	0 10 0
Miss E. E. Gill ..	1 0 0	Delegates' Expenses, Conference:	
Miss E. Y. Condy ..	1 1 0	Harrow Branch ..	0 16 2
Mrs. Reynolds ..	0 10 0	Political and Militant Dept.:	
West Bromwich Anonymons ..	0 10 6	Keighley By-Election Collection ..	0 16 6
Miss A. Mitchell (Collecting Box) ..	0 12 0	Gloucester:	
Miss H. Jastrow ..	0 10 6	Mrs. R. F. Jones ..	0 3 0
Miss Bisdee ..	0 5 0	Collectors ..	3 3 0
Miss M. Turner (Special Levy) ..	0 4 0	Cheltenham Branch:	
Miss Underwood (Special Levy) ..	1 0 0	Miss Kirkland ..	0 2 6
Miss A. Kent (Special Levy) ..	0 4 0	Mrs. Nicholls ..	0 1 0
Mrs. Nourse (Special Levy) ..	0 2 6	Miss Bault ..	0 3 0
Miss Evana Munro (Special Levy) ..	0 2 6	Miss How ..	0 3 0
Miss K. S. Binnington ..	0 5 0	Mrs. How Earengay ..	0 11 0
Mrs. Betham ..	0 1 0	Mrs. Wilkins ..	0 16 6
Miss M. J. Fagan ..	0 5 0	Collection ..	3 10 0
Miss K. R. Thompson ..	0 5 0	For Office Expenses Fund:	
Mrs. L. T. Lobley ..	0 1 0	Miss Barrow ..	1 0 0
Mrs. Diplock ..	0 1 0	Anerley Branch ..	0 10 0
Miss M. Hargrave ..	0 5 0	Per Miss Tite:	
Miss A. G. Murphy ..	0 5 0	Mrs. M. Smelt ..	1 0 0
Mrs. E. Taylor Brown ..	0 1 0	Miss J. H. Leighton ..	1 0 0
Mrs. E. Unna ..	0 1 0	Mrs. English ..	1 0 0
Miss Rendall ..	0 1 0	Collections and Sales:	
Miss J. E. Weir ..	0 5 0	London ..	3 6 2
Miss Stewart ..	0 3 0	Total ..	£2,391 19 10
Miss L. E. Jennings ..	0 2 6		
Mrs. Ager ..	0 5 0		

Cheques to be made payable to "The Women's Freedom League," and crossed "London and South-Western Bank, Ltd."  
Correction.—"Miss W. L. Boulton, 10s.," in last Treasury List, should have read "Miss W. L. Boulton (collected), 10s."

**OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.**

**The Church League for Women's Suffrage.**—President: THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN. Offices: 11, St. Mark's-crescent, Regent's-park, London, N.W.

November 10.—Alan's, 263, Oxford-street. Rev. T. G. Cree, Mrs. A. J. Webbe, Rev. A. H. Lee (chair). 3 p.m. November 11.—Mrs. Mumford's Drawing-room Meeting, 41, Princes-square, W. Mrs. Cecil Chapman. 3.30 p.m. November 13.—Hove, Livingstone-road Assembly-Rooms. Lantern lecture by Mrs. Francis, "Women and Their Needs." 8 p.m. The C.L.W.S. Christmas cards (2d. each), in two designs, by Miss Dorothy Grey, are now obtainable from the Branch secretaries and headquarters.

**The Actresses' Franchise League.**

There was a crowded attendance at the Actresses' Franchise (Continued on page 35.)

**MADAME LOUISE**



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## LENIENCY TOWARDS MEN.

It is with the utmost feeling of thankfulness and relief that we are able this week to chronicle the acquittal of Daisy Turner at Gloucester, but remembering the agony of the past four months to the poor girl as she waited in prison the coming of the dread day of trial, how can we pass over unmoved the case of a man tried for murder of his wife at the same Assizes at Gloucester? They quarrelled, it was stated; the man threw a lamp at his wife; she was set on fire and died from the shock. The defence was that it was an accident. Verdict: Not guilty. And but recently in London at the Old Bailey a man charged with shooting his wife was held to have been severely provoked; the charge was altered to manslaughter and he was sentenced to six months in the second division. These are records which must be remembered. They are significant in their indication of the value of a woman's life.

## THE THREE ESSENTIALS

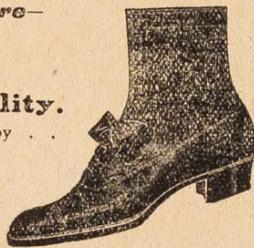
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## BRANCH NOTES.

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

**LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Hampstead.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. SPILLER, 63, South Hill Park.**

We had a very interesting meeting last Thursday to discuss the Conference resolutions and also Mrs. Thomson-Price's special proposal to allow men to join the League. Miss Lucas, Dr. Knight, Miss Bennett, Miss A. A. Smith and Miss Cameron took part in the discussion, which was adjourned at a late hour. It will be continued on Wednesday, November 15, at the Subscription Library, Prince Arthur-road, at 8.15 p.m., when Mrs. Thomson-Price will again be present.

**Anerley and Crystal Palace District.—Hon. Secretary: Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road.**

Our best thanks are due to Mrs. Myers for so kindly lending her drawing-room last Tuesday for a meeting which was most successful. All present were very interested in Miss Ethel Fenning's speech. We obtained a new member, others are likely to join. Literature and THE VOTE sold well, and a collection was taken. A Branch meeting followed. Miss Ethel Fenning's address on "The Position of Woman" was exceedingly well received at the Men's Adult School, Woodside, on Sunday; it aroused so much interest and discussion that it led to an invitation to speak again on Wednesday evening, November 22. One of the members of the school has taken one hundred specimen copies of THE VOTE to distribute in order to stir up enthusiasm for the meeting on November 22.

**Hampstead Garden Suburb.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. BETHAM, 7, Woodside.**

In spite of a torrential rain the big room at the Institute was well filled last Thursday, when the first social meeting of the Branch was held. The Branch is greatly obliged to Miss Valerie for her services. Miss Nina Boyle's witty speech upon "Some Anti-Suffrage Arguments" was received with applause, and we hope she will visit us again. Two new members were enrolled, and other names taken as likely to be added. We thank those friends who came through the rough weather from other Branches, and we were very pleased to welcome several members of the W.S.P.U. On November 17, at 7.30 p.m., a discussion meeting will be held at 21, Meadway.—E. L. BETHAM.

**Mid-London.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing, W.**

Although a notice of the special Business Meeting, held on Monday, October 30, was sent to all the members of this Branch, the attendance was so small that we had not a quorum. This has occurred before, and although I quite understand that it is not always possible to attend, and I had letters explaining their absence from a few members, still I cannot but think that out of the 150 members on our Branch list, there were many others who could have been present with a slight effort. Our quarterly Branch meeting will be held at 1, Robert-street, at 7.30 p.m., on Monday, November 13, and I must beg of all members to make a special point of attending. After the necessary business, Mrs. Vulliamy, a member of the Branch as well as of the N.E.C., will lay some proposals from the latter body before the meeting.

**Hackney.—Hon. Secretary: Miss P. LE CROISSETTE, 238, Navarino-mansions, Dalston, N.E.**

A very successful Branch meeting was held last Thursday, when Mrs. Despard was the speaker, relating her impressions of the Daisy Turner trial at Cheltenham. Mrs. Wheatley has promised to take the next meeting, on November 9, at 8 p.m. Branch members are asked to attend these meetings as often as they can. There are still some tickets left for the Whist Drive on November 16; apply to secretary or at the shop any evening. Please note that all Conference resolutions should be sent in before Friday, November 17.

**SOUTH OF ENGLAND.—Brighton and Hove.—Hon. Secretary: Miss HARE, 8, San Remo, Hove.**

Members of the Freedom League in Brighton and Hove are taking interest in the Tax Resistance Meeting, to be held in the Hove Town Hall on Wednesday, November 15, at 8 p.m. Mrs. Fagan and Mrs. Kineton Parkes will speak, and Miss Hare will take the chair. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance, as all are welcome.

**West Sussex.—Hon. Secretary: Miss CUMMIN, Easebourne Vicarage, Midhurst.**

Our Provision and Jumble Sale is now a thing of the past, and our members are right glad. They worked hard, making jam, jelly, cakes, sweets, and turning out old clothes, and on the day mustered in force to sell the goods. Our sales are always popular, and there was something like a scrimmage when at last the door was thrown open to admit the crowd, which had been waiting long. In half-an-hour we were practically sold out, and when we sat down to count our gains we found ourselves the possessors of £11 7s. 2d. Half of this sum we are sending to headquarters, while the other half will enrich our own treasury. All the money is clear gain, as the cost of hiring the hall was generously defrayed by Mrs. Rivers, one of our most devoted members.—ELSIE CUMMIN, Hon. Treasurer.

**EAST ANGLIA.—Ipswich.—Hon. Secretary: Miss C. E. ANDREWS, 160, Norwich-road.**

Last Thursday we held an "At Home" at St. Lawrence Hall. We were fortunate in having so distinguished a speaker as Mr. Henlé; his address was both eloquent and lucid. Mrs. Hossack presided, and made a good opening speech. Questions were asked and answered. Our special thanks are due to Mrs. Bastian and Mrs. Garner, who helped to decorate the hall. Will members who have not sent in their capitation fees kindly do so as soon as possible?

**WALES AND MONMOUTH.—Swansea.—Hon. Organising Secretary: Mrs. KNIGHT, 23, Walter-road. Hon. Corresponding Secretary: Miss PHIPPS, B.A., 5, Grosvenor-road, Sketty.**

On Wednesday, November 1, at Dynevor-place, Mrs. Knight read a stimulating paper on "Municipal Lodging-houses for Women." Mrs. Knight, assisted by another of our members, Miss G. Jones, Sanitary Inspector, had previously investigated the common lodging-houses of the town, and was able to give us the results of first-hand observation. After the paper, the Branch decided to send a letter to the Council, asking them to take steps to establish such a lodging-house in Swansea. Please come to our Parliamentary Debate on November 15, at Dynevor-place, and bring your friends, especially "Antis."

**LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.—Eccles.—Hon. Secretary: Miss JANET HEYES, Newholme, Hazlehurst, Worsley.**

The result of the Jumble Sale held on November 4 exceeds our highest expectations. The officers and committee desire to express their gratitude to those who worked so well. Especially are we indebted to Miss Doodson, who collected ten parcels, and to Mrs. Johnson, who undertook the billing, and who, with Mrs. Varlow, commenced her household duties at 5.30 a.m., in order to be free to help with marking and arranging of goods. The Branch now stands with £7 to its credit, enough money to make Mrs. Despard's visit on November 18 and 20 a grand success. With energy and hope to our aid, we can use the visit of our President to ensure the safety of the Conciliation Bill, so far as our own constituency goes.—JANET HEYES.

**SCOTLAND.—Glasgow.—Suffrage Centre: 302, Sauchiehall-street. Hon. Secretary: Miss MINA STEVEN. Hon. Treasurer: Miss JANET L. BUNTEN.**

A most successful Fancy Dress Party was held on Wednesday. Whilst everyone helped to make it enjoyable, special thanks are due to the artists, Miss Mary Dixon, Miss Ethel Hamilton, and Miss Neta Mackie. On Friday we hope to see a large turn-out of members and friends to hear Mrs. Despard. Tickets can be had at the Centre. On Saturday Mrs. Despard will speak again at the "At Home." Miss Buntzen would like all collecting cards and boxes to be returned before rent-day.—M. STEVEN.

**Edinburgh.—Hon. Secretary: Miss A. B. JACK, 21, Buccleuch-place. Hon. Treasurer: Miss M. A. WOOD, 67, Great King-street. Hon. Shop Secretary: Mrs. THOMSON, 39, Rosslyn-crescent.**

A business meeting was held in the shop on Wednesday evening. Miss Sara Munro, who presided, drew attention to the great importance of such meetings in a democratic society. Miss Wood submitted the annual treasurer's report, which showed an income of £239 12s. 11d., and an expenditure of £183. A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded Miss Wood for her unceasing work on behalf of the Branch. Satisfactory as is the balance, we have to remember that rent and taxes, which fall due this month, will very greatly reduce it. No effort must be spared, therefore, to make successful the two chief events of the month—Mrs. Despard's Shelley Lecture on November 15, and the Sale to be held in the shop on November 25. Tickets for the former are 2s., 1s., and 6d., and are to be had at the shop. On Saturday we hope to hold open-air meetings to advertise Mrs. Despard's lecture, and members are wanted for VOTE selling, distributing of bills, &c.—HELEN MCLACHLAN, Assistant Secretary.

## OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.—Continued.

League "At Home" last Friday, at the Criterion Restaurant. Madame Alice Esty, who presided, expressed her intention of helping forward the Suffrage Cause by all the means in her power. Referring to the present Session of Parliament as one of paramount interest to women, since the Insurance Bill, the Shop Hours Bill and the Mines Bill were all measures affecting women, she spoke sympathetically of the Pitbrow workers and their protest. If fresh air and early hours were bad for these women, who knew, she asked, when a benevolent and paternal Government would not decide that hot rooms and late hours were bad for them, and try to banish women from the stage and platform? Mrs. Stanbury, Lady Isabel Margesson and Lord Russell made valuable speeches.

**Cymric Suffrage Union.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. E. DAVIES, Racton-road, Fulham, S.W.**

The canvass of the Welsh milkshops is leading to good results. Many milkshops and similar businesses are carried on by Welsh women, spinsters and widows, who are very keen about Votes for Women. Business, however, requires constant attention, and these women cannot attend many meetings. The men believe in the Conciliation Bill. So far, we have not come across either an Anti or Adult Suffragist. Leaflets about the Conciliation Bill were given at the Welsh concert in the Fulham Town Hall.



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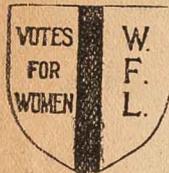
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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

### LONDON AND SUBURBS.



**DARE TO BE FREE.**

- Thurs., Nov. 9.**—FLEMING'S RESTAURANT, 307, Oxford-street (second floor). Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Nourse on "Co-operation amongst Women." *Chairman*: Miss E. J. Read. HACKNEY BRANCH MEETING, 8 p.m. Mrs. Wheatley.
- Fri., Nov. 10.**—CROYDON WEEKLY "AT HOME," W.F.L. Office, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3.30 to 5 p.m. CROYDON BRANCH MEETING, 5 p.m.
- Sat., Nov. 11.**—Jumble Sale, Tolmers-square Institute, 141, Drummond-street, Hampstead-road, 2 p.m. Private sale, new articles, 7 p.m., Friday, 10th.
- Mon., Nov. 13.**—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEMBERS' QUARTERLY MEETING, 7.30 p.m., 1, Robert-street. Mrs. Vulliamy.
- Tues., Nov. 14.**—CLAPHAM BRANCH "AT HOME," Wirtemberg Hall, Clapham, 3.30 p.m. Lady Stout, Mrs. How Martyn. *Chairman*: Miss C. V. Tite. OUTSIDE ACTON CHURCH. Mrs. Duval and Mr. R. Pott, 7.30 p.m.
- Wed., Nov. 15.**—LOWER ESSEX HALL, Discussion Meeting, 8 p.m. Dr. C. V. Drysdale on "The Food Supply and the Population Question." *Chairman*: Miss F. A. Underwood. HACKNEY SEWING MEETING, 3 p.m., 238, Navarino Mansions. POLITICAL AND MILITANT GROUP, 6.30, 1, Robert-street.
- Thurs., Nov. 16.**—WHIST DRIVE, Mrs. Catmur, 23, Terrace-road, South Hackney, 7 p.m.
- Fri., Nov. 17.**—HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB BRANCH AND DISCUSSION MEETING, at 21, Meadway, 7.30 p.m.
- Sat., Nov. 18.**—CAXTON HALL, Café Chantant in aid of London Branches Council, 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets, including refreshments, 1s. 6d.
- Wed., Nov. 22.**—MEN'S ADULT SCHOOL, WOODSIDE, at 8 p.m. *Speaker*: Miss Ethel Fennings. HACKNEY SEWING MEETING, 23, Terrace-road, 3 p.m.
- Fri., Nov. 24.**—SOCIAL MEETING, Hampstead Garden Suburb Branch, at the Club House, Willifield Way, 8 to 11.30 p.m. Dancing. All friends invited.
- Mon., Nov. 27.**—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEMBERS' MEETING for discussion of Conference Agenda, 7.30 p.m., 1, Robert-street.
- Thurs., Nov. 30.**—CAXTON HALL, "At Home," 3.30. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Nevinson.

### PROVINCES.

- Thurs., Nov. 9.**—CHELTENHAM, 10, Regent-street, 8 p.m., Branch Members' Meeting.
- Fri., Nov. 10.**—WOLVERHAMPTON. Members' Meeting, Bradley's Café, Victoria-street, 7.30. *Speaker*: Miss Neilans.
- Thurs., Nov. 16.**—EASTBOURNE. Mrs. Vulliamy.

### SCOTLAND.

- DUNDEE.**
- Thurs., Nov. 9.**—Gilfillan Hall, at 8 p.m., Miss H. Wilkie, M.A. Subject: "A Vacation School in Paris."
- Mon., Nov. 13.**—Y.M.C.A. Lower Hall, at 8 p.m. Lecture on Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound," by Mrs. Despard. *Chairman*: W. G. Anderson, Esq. TICKETS 3d.
- Thurs., Nov. 23.**—Gilfillan Hall, 8 p.m., Norval Scrymgeour, Esq.
- Sat., Nov. 25.**—E. Foresters' Hall, Sale at 3 p.m., to be opened by Miss Eunice Murray. *Chairman*: Miss Husband.
- EDINBURGH.**
- Sat., Nov. 11.**—Open-Air Meetings. Start from Shop, 11 a.m.
- Tues., Nov. 14.**—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road, "At Home," 4 p.m. *Speaker*: Miss Beck.
- Wed., Nov. 15.**—Oddfellows' Hall, Forrest-road, 8 p.m. Lecture by Mrs. Despard on Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound." *Chairman*: A. Blyth Webster, M.A. Tickets: 2s., 1s., and 6d.
- Sat., Nov. 25.**—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road, Cake and Apron Sale, to be opened by Councillor Inman, 3 p.m.

### GLASGOW.

- Fri., Nov. 10.**—MEETING in PHILOSOPHICAL ROOMS, 207, Bath-street, 8 p.m. *Speaker*: Mrs. Despard. Subject: "The Unmarried Mother." Admission 6d. Doors open 7.30 p.m.
- Sat., Nov. 11.**—"At Home" in the Centre. *Speaker*: Mrs. Despard. *Hostess*: Mrs. Turner, 7.30 p.m.
- Mon., Nov. 13.**—Dennistoun E.U. Church, Meadowpark-street. *Speaker*: Miss B. Semple.

### KILMARNOCK.

- Mon., Nov. 13.**—Temperance Hall. Miss Anna Munro.

### PERTH.

- Tues., Nov. 14.**—PUBLIC MEETING, City Hall, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard. Admission 1s., 6d., 3d.

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### SWANSEA.

**Wed., Nov. 15.**—Dynevor-place, Parliamentary Debate on the Conciliation Bill. 8 p.m.

**Wed., Nov. 29.**—Dynevor-place, 8 p.m. Address by Mr. Seyley, B.Sc., on G. B. Shaw.

### MONTGOMERY BOROUGH.

**Thurs., Nov. 9.**—MONTGOMERY, Town Hall. *Chairman*: Miss Clark. *Speaker*: Miss Neilans.

**Wed., Nov. 22.**—LLANFYLLIN, Town Hall. *Speaker*: Mrs. Despard.

**Thurs., Nov. 23.**—NEWTOWN, Public Hall, Suffrage "At Home." *Speaker*: Mrs. Despard. 4 to 7.30 p.m.

**Sat., Dec. 5.**—WELSHPOOL, Free Church Council. Debate on Women's Suffrage. Miss A. M. Clark and Mrs. Joseph Davies.

### WALES.

### THE WOMEN'S TAX RESISTANCE LEAGUE.

On Monday, October 30, a crowd of Suffragists of all shades of opinion assembled at Hawking's Sale Rooms, Lisson-grove, Marylebone, to support Dr. Frances Ede and Dr. Amy Sheppard, whose goods were to be sold by public auction for tax resistance. By the courtesy of the auctioneer, Mr. Hawking, speeches were allowed, and Dr. Ede emphasized her conscientious objection to supporting taxation without representation; she said that women like herself and her partner felt that they *must* make this logical and dignified protest, but as it caused very considerable inconvenience and sacrifice to professional women, she trusted that the grave injustice would speedily be remedied. Three cheers were given for the doctors, and a procession with banners marched to Marble Arch, where a brief meeting was held in Hyde Park, at which the usual resolution was passed unanimously.

On Saturday, November 4, Mrs. Harvey, of "Brackenhill," Highland-road, Bromley, Kent, gave a most successful drawing-room meeting to a new and appreciative audience. Mrs. Harvey, who is a loyal supporter of Tax Resistance and had a quantity of her household silver sold in June last, took this opportunity of placing before her friends and neighbours the many reasons which led her to take this action. Mr. Laurence Housman was the principal speaker, and gave an address of deep interest and instruction on Tax Resistance from the historical standpoint. Mrs. Louis Fagan presided, and made an eloquent appeal for sympathy and support for this phase of the Suffrage movement, and short speeches were also made by Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Mrs. Kineton Parkes. Sales are expected in Reading and Holborn during the coming week.

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