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Notes.

WE thank warmly correspondents for their kind letters. The writers represent not only members of the three Societies at present making this paper their official organ, but also other Unions, constitutional and militant. This is especially gratifying as affording fresh evidence of the extent of our utility.

THE Report of the Executive Committee of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association for 1908 is most admirable. While giving a succinct account of the activities of their own society, room is found not only to deal with other suffrage events in Great Britain, but in addition, to give in a terse form the advancement made in other lands also. We cannot refrain from quoting one paragraph *in extenso* :—

"The action of our militant friends beyond the Channel in again and again endeavouring to invade the House of Commons, and in opposing the supporters of the Government, and especially the Members of the Cabinet, on all public occasions, has been severely censured by many sincere Suffragists; but though, in the judgment of your Committee, such tactics are not suited to the condition of things in Ireland, we refuse to join in the easy, but not very chivalrous, denunciation of the women who, under the severest provocation, and in some cases subjecting themselves to brutal outrages, have adopted them, and a large number of whom have suffered imprisonment, under degrading conditions, in consequence of their devotion to what they believe to be their duty. It should not be forgotten that, assuming them to have sometimes resorted to unwise methods, they have been goaded into those methods by the persistent denial, for over forty years, of constitutional rights which are freely conceded to released criminals. The continued denial of those rights by Government after Government, for nearly half a century, has become an intolerable grievance; and the women who have gone to prison, in their efforts to remove it, are entitled to our warmest gratitude, and none the less because we, under different circumstances, have not felt called upon to follow their example."

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Weekly Numbers, 1½d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; half-yearly, 3s. 3d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. All Subscriptions must be paid in advance. Back Numbers can still be obtained at the Office.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,
13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

MISS CLEMENTINA BLACK, at a dinner at the Royal Patriotic Club, said that it was becoming "increasingly necessary that women should have a hand in making and regulating some of the industries." The Rev. Dr. Cunningham expressed his opinion that the underpayment of women was largely due to the competition of women for what were called "genteel" occupations. Has he forgotten the 56,000 employed in agriculture, the 4,000 in mines, the 58,000 in metals, machines, &c., of the last census; under this head does he include coach-building, nail-making, brick-making, coin-making, sword and bayonet making, and brass finishing, which we understand are amongst the number of genteel (?) occupations to be represented at the forthcoming Women of all Nations Exhibition to be held at Olympia in September?

ADMIRAL the Hon. Sir E. R. Fremantle contended that the work in the home, the tact and influence there to be exercised, offered the best field for women's effort. If they were first in the home they could not claim to have a foremost part in the work outside. Unhappily there are some 40,000 widows, with young children, who needs must be first in the home, but who are forced by their desperate case to claim something of the work outside too. Unfortunately, too, there are thousands of home workers, the "best field for whose effort" is the miserable room, or two rooms, used for sleeping, cooking, living, and working, where, in addition to the litter of a squalid family life, lies the trade refuse of the tailoress, the matchbox maker, the smell of cloth or sour paste, the heat of the stove for heating and drying. If he and such as he cannot hear the pathetic cry of this great army of workers, all the harder must we strive to open the deaf ears. Those of us who hear cannot, without all loss of self-respect, remain, as suggested by a writer in a current weekly, in woman's "proper place—a judicious obscurity mitigated by the capture of a husband!"—however much the prospect pleases! It is difficult to remove from the minds of men the misconception that the educated and more or less leisured women, whom they hear making claim for political rights, make their demand from no selfish or anti-man motive, and to make them realize that the driving power behind is the consciousness of bitter wrong done to that very salt of the earth—the woman of the so-called working classes.

A FORMULA for a new by-law relating to the admission of women to the examinations for the diplomas of fellowship and membership, and of the licence in dental surgery, was submitted at the quarterly Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, and was referred to a committee to take into consideration and report upon.

AT a meeting of the Microscopical Society a resolution was moved to the effect that the by-laws of the Society be altered as might be found necessary to admit women to the meetings of the Society, and to remove any other restrictions of privileges due to the distinction of sex. A special committee was appointed to further consider the question—upon which we note the name of Lord Avebury, who with Prof. Dicey considers that women are not able to form an opinion on the questions of the day.

THE Blackpool Educational Committee have appointed Dr. Victoria C. M. Bennett, of London, as their lady medical officer, at a salary of 200*l.* a year, rising by annual increments of 10*l.* to 250*l.*

MILLE. JUSSELIN, the first woman judge, has been sworn a member of the Conseil de Prud'hommes, where she will try disputes between employers and employed. We, in England, have not yet arrived at the more elementary stage of

justice, for, as we were reminded at the recent great meeting of Professional and Industrial Women, no representative of women workers has yet been suggested for consultation on points to be decided by the Court of Arbitration.

AT the Annual Meeting of the Association of University Women Teachers, the President, Miss Janet Case, laid great emphasis on the question of women's political enfranchisement as "the necessary leverage to secure attention to the interests of women teachers."

Miss Janet Case, who is a candidate for the vacancy on the Hampstead Borough Council, has a natural interest in local government, being a niece of the late Sir James Stanfeld, the first President of the Local Government Board, which he was instrumental in establishing during the Gladstone Ministry of 1869-74, and the friend of Mazzini. She herself has already served an apprenticeship to municipal work, having acted as hon. secretary of the Town Ward Committee of the Hampstead Non-Political and Progressive Association since its formation in 1900. Miss Case had a distinguished career at Girton, and enjoys the distinction of being the only woman who has acted in the Greek play at Cambridge. She is a well-known Greek scholar and lecturer.

MISS MARGARET BOOTH SCOTT has sent 7*s.* and "A Friend" 1*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* towards the expenses of publishing *Women's Franchise*.

We have been requested by the CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION to insert the following communication:—

We are glad to be able to report that the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association is receiving much hearty support in various parts of the country. A meeting is being arranged in Edinburgh for January 29th, and another in Glasgow for the 30th, at both of which Miss Packer will speak. In February we have several important meetings. We are holding one in London, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, on February 18th, at which the Lady Knightley of Fawsley will preside, and the speakers will include Mr. L. S. Amery, Conservative candidate for Wolverhampton, and author of 'The Times History of the Boer War,' and Mr. Cecil Chapman, the well-known magistrate for South London, who will speak from first-hand knowledge of the subject, and of the advantage the possession of the vote would be to those women who have a stake in the country.

Miss Packer has been organizing at Bath and Bristol, and has met with much encouragement. Her hostess at Clifton was Miss Alice Winkworth, the co-author of the biography of Catherine and Susanna Winkworth, which has just been published. These ladies were friends of the most famous people of the Victorian era, and Susanna signed one of the first petitions in favour of Women's Suffrage. Miss Packer spoke at the Clifton Ladies' Club, which was crowded with an interested audience, and among the ladies who afterwards offered help was one occupying an important position in the local habitation of the Primrose League. Miss Packer also had several private interviews, four out of five being most successful, and she attended two "At Homes," which were specially arranged for her. The hostess at one of them was Mrs. Green Armitage, whose name is widely known in Church circles. A lady who was just going out to Shanghai promised to try to interest the English residents there in the subject. She said the question was being taken up well in Rhodesia and Cape Colony, and that the attitude of the Boer men was chivalrous on the subject.

At the invitation of Col. Blathwayt and Mrs. Ashworth Hallett, Miss Packer attended a meeting at Bath, where everybody was most keen, and a Bath Circle was then and there started, a committee was formed, and hon. secretary and hon. treasurer appointed.

The local press has given excellent reports of Miss Packer's work, and *The Clifton Chronicle* published a long interview with her. As a result of her work two public meetings have been arranged, one at Bristol, which takes place on February 22nd, and another at Bath on February 23rd. Lady Knightley has promised to speak at both of them. We hope all readers of *Women's Franchise* who have Unionist friends in any of the towns where we are holding meetings will let them know the dates, and ask them to communicate with our local secretaries. At Edinburgh with Miss Alice Neaves, 5, Rothesay Place; at Glasgow with Miss Baker, Albany Chambers, Charing Cross; at Bath with Miss Van Donop, 31, Park Street; at Bristol with Mrs. Gronow Davis, 4, Manilla Road, Clifton; and Mrs. Gilbert Samuel, 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, will gladly answer all inquiries concerning our London meetings.

We have been requested by the "VOTES FOR WOMEN" SYMPATHIZERS SOCIETY to insert the following communication:—

Those who work for the cause of Women's Suffrage in rural districts will understand me when I speak of the multifarious difficulties that stand in the way of progress; the indifference, ignorance on social matters, and diffidence that has to be overcome, and the almost impossible task of holding the interest when aroused.

The above title is the name given to a new society, formed by the West Sussex branch of the Women's Freedom League, and which, it is hoped, may prove a solution to some of these difficulties.

We find that although many people are sympathetic, they cannot, for various reasons, join the League. Some cannot meet the prejudice of their family or business circle; others are afraid that it will bring them into publicity; and many take exception to the militant tactics of the League—so that we have endeavoured to frame the rules of this Society to meet the views of all sympathizers, without infringing the rules laid down by the League.

We hope through the medium of this Society to cement the interest of casual sympathizers; to gauge the strength of the movement in the district; to augment the funds; and last, but not least, by drawing its members into closer touch with the movement, to break down a great deal of the prejudice born of ignorance of the aims and methods of the League.

We thought it necessary, for the sake of those who have little knowledge of the question of Women's Suffrage, to set forth some definite objects that the movement has in view.

We had one hundred cards of membership printed (cost 5*s.* 6*d.*) stating these objects, together with three simple rules, which members are pledged to adopt:—

OBJECTS.

Direct.—To obtain the Parliamentary Vote for women, as it is, or may be, granted to men.

Indirect.—To reform the social conditions of women, particularly with regard to Sweating, Immorality, and Intemperance.

RULES.

1. Sympathizers will not be required to take any active part in the movement.

2. They should pledge themselves to uphold the *justice* of the demand for the Parliamentary Vote for women, as it is, or may be, granted to men.

3. And show their sympathy by attending the meetings and making them known among their friends, and by annual subscriptions (minimum, 6*d.*), for carrying on the local work of the movement.

This society has been in existence but three months, and we have already twenty-five members, drawn from all classes and both sexes.

We have reason to think that it is an influence for good on the work of this branch; and should any other branches feel inclined to adopt this method of recruiting followers, I shall be very pleased to give any further information that may be required.

(Miss) A. N. ROFF, *Hon. Sec.*

Easebourne, Midhurst, Sussex.

House of Lords—Scottish Women Graduates' Appeal.

DONATIONS TOWARDS DEFICIT OF £150.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	47	19	0
Mrs. P. Stanfield	1	0	0
Miss Mary E. Dalley	0	10	0
Miss Borland	1	0	0
Mrs. Henry Richardson	1	1	0
Miss Annie Abraham	0	2	6
Miss M'Gregor	1	0	0
Miss Jane Atkinson	0	10	0
Dr. Elizabeth Wilks	1	1	0
Mrs. Docker	2	2	0
Miss Edith Bateson	1	0	0
Miss Alice C. Hooper	0	5	0
Mrs. Snell Anderson	0	5	0
Mrs. H. H. Balmford	0	5	0

£58 0 6

This leaves a present deficit of £91 19*s.* 6*d.*

Those who sympathize with the legal action are asked to send donations to the Secretary at Corstorphine Hill House, by Murrayfield, Midlothian.

CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN, *Hon. Sec.*

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

FRANCE.—Although the Suffrage movement in France has, during the last few years, shown signs of activity, it has not yet been possible to found a National Society and affiliate to the International Suffrage Alliance. There is some hope, however, that this may now be achieved, and that at the London Congress France may definitely enter the Alliance. That enterprising paper, *La Française*, which has successfully conducted various "crusades" against long-standing abuses, is now commencing a series of articles on Women's Suffrage. The author is Madame Jeanne Schmahl, known to all our readers as the promoter of the French Married Women's Property Act, often familiarly described as the Loi Schmahl. The leisure so well earned by the successful conclusion of her labours in this direction she now proposes to devote to the Suffrage. She writes under the heading 'Propos d'une Suffragiste,' and she quotes a sentence from an article published as long ago as 1866 in the *Phare de la Loire*, over the signature Emile Accolas: "The declaration of the rights of man left out in the cold one whole aspect of justice; it forgot to proclaim the rights of women and children." Many writers since his time, she points out, have inclined to the belief that this omission was the cause of many of our social troubles. It was assumed that when men had their rights they would naturally see to it that the women would receive the necessary protection and consideration. They failed to realize that it was not in their power to understand the views and needs of women as they could do themselves. Men must make mistakes in legislating for women, since they never consult them in framing the laws which regulate their position in the family and in society. In former times, before the revolution in economic conditions, the disadvantages ensuing from this state of things were less than now, when many millions of women are struggling against the moral and material difficulties which masculine sentimentality had not foreseen, and the disastrous consequences of which to society and the race it is quite unable to avert. At present there are many able minds that hope to find in philanthropy a remedy for this difficult situation. But the majority of feminists have come to the conclusion that Women's Suffrage alone is capable of effacing the injury done by the notorious omission from the Declaration of the Rights of Man.

We congratulate *La Française* on this new departure, which is in part, at any rate, inspired by England. Madame Schmahl is more than half English, for she was born here, though of a French mother. She began her medical studies at Edinburgh

in the early days of the struggle for higher education, and finally sought and found in Paris the hospitality which at that time the Scottish University refused her. We wish all success to her work of popularizing the French Suffrage movement, and look forward to hearing that her labours have been rewarded when she comes here in April to report of them to the Congress.

ALICE ZIMMERN.

Let the Wife have a Vote.

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund White,
Quarrel and wrangle day and night,
About their cook, and the food they eat,
And over the people whom they meet;
About their money, and poor relations,
And over their "no trump" declarations;
But Mr. White is very strong
On Woman's Suffrage being wrong,
And if you take a different view,
This is the reason he offers you—

"Let the wife have a vote? No, no!
For I'm certain you would note, if so,
What I'm very very sure
That you never saw before,

A dissension in the home we would all of us deplore!"

Mrs. and Mr. Henry Lee,
Have never been known to disagree;
They could not argue, if they tried,
For all their opinions coincide.
If they speak of murders, or bottled ale,
Of motor cars or *The Daily Mail*,
Of the books they read, or the latest strike,
They always, always think alike!
Yet if Woman's Suffrage is mentioned, they
Solemnly shake their heads and say—

"Let the wife have a vote? No, no!
For I'm certain you would note, if so,
What I'm very, very sure,
That you never saw before,

A dissension in the home we should all of us deplore!"

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dunn,
Share their opinions, excepting one;
She wants a vote, while he is clear
The home is her only proper sphere,
Which makes her argue that if it is
The stock exchange is plainly his;
Yet when he votes, he must admit,
He doesn't neglect his work a bit.
They squabble in and out of season,
And this is always his final reason—

"Let the wife have a vote? No, no!
For I'm certain you would note, if so,
What I'm very, very sure,
That you never saw before,

A dissension in the home we should all of us deplore!"

Commonplace couples take their views,
From *The Daily Mail* and *The Daily News*,
From *The Clarion* or from *The Morning Post*,
Or whichever paper they like the most;
But this is certain, at any rate,
They would vote for the self-same candidate!
And if a Radical should claim
The heart and hand of a Primrose Dame,
It would not soothe her, I expect,
To feel her views had no effect.

I cannot tell, but it seems to me,
Though she had no vote, they would disagree,

"Shall the wife have a vote? Yes, yes!
For our efforts must promote success,
If we make a gallant fight,
If we strive with all our might,

And try to be convincing, and not merely impolite!"

G. M. GEORGE.

Sex Tyranny.

MEN and women are beginning to realize fully that the strongest barrier we have to fight against in order to obtain the enfranchisement of women is that of the age-worn, hideous spectre of sex disability. That monster has haunted us ever since, according to the Biblical version of the creation of man, our first parents were driven, by the flaming sword of the Archangel out of the Garden of Eden. Although that Biblical version distinctly says that the Almighty gave our first parents equal dominion over the whole creation, all down the ages civilized man has flaunted in the face of Eve the apple of Eden as an excuse for his dominion over her, which is much of a piece with his cowardly evasion in throwing all the blame upon her. The motive of her conduct in eating the apple was curiosity, or perhaps cupidity or ignorance; the motive of his evasion in participation in that act was undoubtedly cowardice. Which was the greater sin?

I remember when a child being greatly exercised in mind as to those three curses pronounced against the man, the woman, and the serpent, and it always seemed to me that the woman got more than her share, that, indeed, she came off the worst of the three; for has she not, alas! too often added to her own burden [that of her husband "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread until thou return unto the ground from whence thou wast taken"—especially in these latter days of cruel sweating! And setting aside the world-wide subjection of woman, which man, as the stronger, has forced upon her—that added burden of labour and responsibility has been increasing, age after age, down to our own times, until woman is beginning to have an enormously augmented share of the world's work without any share in its freedom and citizenship. And the progress of the age, the march of civilization, the evolution of the race demand that women shall have this added burden of labour in the world's markets; but surely reason and justice require that she shall cease to be placed on a lower platform, that she shall take her fair share in the world's *condos*, honours, and civil benefits. Hitherto she has had but few of these. Among all the different forms of tyranny which man has inflicted on his brother man—first and foremost the religious tyranny, which has found vent in holocausts of persecution, in Spanish inquisitions, in Smithfield burnings, in Indian suttee, in priestcraft of every form and description, the tyranny of black and white slavery, the tyranny of caste, the tyranny of the mob—there is surely nothing so cruel and far-reaching as man's tyranny over his sister woman! It is world-wide, perpetual, many-sided, effectual, and almost insurmountable because of its having become so interwoven with our very life, with all the instincts and usages of society, so bound up with religion, law, custom, and convention. It is a system which makes of woman, among savage nations a slave and a beast of burden, and among civilized ones a puppet, a plaything, or a dependent.

Think of the life of the caged odalisque, robbed of all her womanly rights and even of her reason and her soul; of the miserable, crushed-down existence of the Indian widow and child-wife; of the cruel conventions and customs of Chinese women; of the horrible sweating (which is the real white slavery), and the spread of the social evil among our own women, and then let us realize that it is the tyranny of the strong over the weak; that it is a tyranny, to the cruelty and injustice of which both men and women in this twentieth century are at last slowly and surely awakening; that it is a tyranny to which woman can never again submit when once she has tasted the sweets of equal political, educational, and intellectual freedom, of adequately remunerated labour, and of justly administered laws.

GERTRUDE F. W. TORRY.

Extract from 'Passages from the Past.'

BY THE DUKE OF ARGYLL.

"CHIEF JUSTICE CHASE I found to be quite in favour of giving the blacks all rights, including the right to vote.... 'You must remember this,' said he, 'we consider the right to vote is of itself a good education; we believe that the best education a man can receive is the privilege of voting. He becomes a person of importance, and is run after and spoken to in a very different way than when he has no vote.... It is true that power would be given to many ignorant men, but the giving of that power is the best means of dispelling the ignorance.'"

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OBJECT.—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men.
The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.

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

Organisers: MISS E. M. GARDNER, B.A. MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON, B.A. MRS. COOPER. MISS HELEN FRASER.

Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON.

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON
THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR
MISS FLORENCE BALGARNIE
MRS. ALLAN BRIGHT

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. MCLAREN.
MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT, M.P.
MISS EDITH DIMOCK
MISS I. O. FORD
MISS MARTINDALE, M.D. (Lond.)

MISS WARD
LADY STRACHEY
And the Hon. Officers,
ex officio.

London Society "At Home."

THE first of the new series of the London Society's receptions at the Doré Gallery took place on Tuesday, Jan. 18th. It was largely attended, and much interest was taken in the speeches. Mrs. Fawcett, from the chair, reviewed the progress of the movement during the past year, and referred to the fact of *The Times* having commented in its recent summary of events in 1908 on the unmistakable degree to which the procession of June 13th had attracted public attention in the best sense.

Mr. Yorke Stanger delivered a speech of exceptional interest, in which he explained the procedure followed in the conduct of a Bill through Parliament. He replied in particular to certain criticisms published by Mrs. Billington-Greig concerning his action in connexion with the Bill for which he was responsible, pointing out that he did so in order that those who had entrusted their cause to his hands should understand that he, in concert with the supporters of the Women's Suffrage cause in the House generally, had adopted the course best calculated to forward its interests. He stated that the Bill was put down for Committee within ten days of its second reading, and was on the order paper for every day of the autumn session, and emphatically denied that the Government, either through their members or their whips, had attempted to bring any pressure on him in the matter of the Bill.

Work in Littlehampton.

LITTLEHAMPTON and Arundel are supposed to be strongholds for the Anti-Suffrage League, for meetings have been held here, and a petition signed against Women's Suffrage. The doctrines preached seem to have fallen in good soil, for the Antis have withdrawn to the sanctity of their homes, and are heard of no more. At any rate I have never met one.

My work down here has been made difficult by the fact that a special mission is going on, with services four and five times a day.

A meeting was held in the Church Street school room, by kind permission of the Rev. — Bebbington, and was well reported in the local papers. Miss Wallis acted as chairman.

A meeting of sympathizers will be held on Monday next, when I hope to get a committee formed. As it is impossible to get a hall in Arundel, an open-air meeting will be held at 3 P.M. on Tuesday next, when Miss Palliser, Miss H. D. Cockle, Mrs. Stanbury, and others will speak. Miss W. Hobday has been working with me the whole time. HELGA GILL.

Actresses' Franchise League.

A MEETING of the Actresses' Franchise League will be held on February 5th, at 3 o'clock, at Clifford's Inn Hall, Fleet Street, W.C. Members of the National Union and of other Suffrage Societies will be welcome. A meeting held on so historic a site, and addressed by Mrs. Marion Holmes and Miss Lillah McCarthy, will doubtless be crowded out. Let those who wish to go take warning.

Meetings at Portsmouth.

ON January 18th a successful meeting was held in the Town Hall, Fareham, which was crowded, many standing outside on the stairs. Mr. Sandys, J.P., C.C., occupied the chair. Mrs. Hawksley moved, and I seconded a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage. The meeting was friendly, but less keen than the others have been, although the women were deeply interested. A moderate collection was taken up, and new members are coming in. On the 19th I had the privilege of addressing the Shop Assistants' Trade Union. There was a very interesting discussion, many questions being asked and answered.

On January 20th members of the Portsmouth society and their friends enjoyed a lecture given by Miss White on Women Composers, illustrated by songs and pianoforte solos from their works. Mrs. Laphorn presided, and before the lecture began Miss N. O'Shea gave a report of the work of the society, and outlined the new departure of the National Union to try and reach the representative people in each sphere when they meet in conference. On the 20th Miss N. O'Shea and I addressed a meeting in the Co-operative Society's lecture-room, arranged by the Women's Co-operative Guild. Mrs. Crocker presided. A good many questions were asked, and the usual resolution was proposed by the President of the Society, and seconded by the Chairman of the Educational Committee, who expressed their unqualified approval of the work of the Portsmouth branch and the National Union.

On Friday, the 21st, Miss N. O'Shea and I attended a branch meeting of Carpenters and Joiners. As I remarked on only two questions being asked, the chairman said: "The discussion will take place in the yard to-morrow morning after this meeting has been held," showing clearly that our efforts to arouse interest in the question are of use. The Rev. W. E. Moll, M.A., is now announced to speak with Messrs. Hudson and Curran at our meeting in St. James's Hall on the 29th.

A meeting is also arranged for Havant on the 28th, at which the speakers are to be Mrs. Stanbury and I. J. N. HARRISON BELL.

Campaign in Leeds.

THE Leeds Society opened its campaign with a meeting outside the Leeds Forge on Tuesday. It was very successful, but quite illegal, as a by-law has recently been passed forbidding street meetings. It is lucky that ignorance of the law enabled us to get this one in, as we shall not get many more opportunities, and our work is very much curtailed when we are not allowed to go to the factory gates.

On the 20th a crowded drawing-room meeting was held at Mrs. W. Foster's, and in the evening the first of the Leeds "At Homes" was given. Several new members were enrolled at these meetings.

On the 21st a small midday meeting was held on the Armley Recreation Ground, but later in the day the fog became so thick that further work was impossible. As it was still bad on Friday we left Leeds and spent the day in Pontefract, where we held a splendid outdoor meeting in the Butter Market at 7.15. This was the first Suffrage meeting ever held in Pontefract. In spite of the boys, who made much noise and who ended by throwing eggs at us, the meeting was very sympathetic, and passed a resolution in our favour by a large majority.

Branch Societies.

DARLINGTON.—A large and successful meeting was held on January 19th in the Drill Hall. Mr. H. Pike Pease, M.P., presided, and supporting him on the platform were Lady Grove, Miss Mein, Mrs. White (who kindly entertained Lady Grove), Mrs. A. Forster, Mrs. Harbottle, Miss Harbottle, Mrs. R. L. Pratt, Miss Berry, Miss Graham, and Miss Swanson (hon. secretary). The chairman, for whose able speech on Mr. Stanger's Bill last year we all feel grateful, gave a convincing summary of arguments in favour of Women's Suffrage. Mr. Woolward proposed the resolution in favour of the parliamentary enfranchisement of women, which Lady Grove seconded, and Miss Mein supported. The resolution was carried with only two dissentients.

BIRMINGHAM, Salfley.—On January 17th Miss Abadam addressed a meeting of "men only" on the moral aspect of the question of Women's Suffrage. This was her first experience of speaking to men only, and it proved a great success, as the men were profoundly touched and interested.

Threepenny-Bit Fund.

Mrs. Rackham (20), 5s.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- | | | P. M. |
|----------|---|-----------|
| JAN. 28. | Dennistoun , Meeting Literary Society | 8 |
| 28. | London , <i>Paddington</i> , Public Meeting, Paddington Town Hall | 8 |
| | London , <i>Chelsea</i> , Debate, Christ Church, Parish Hall | 8.30 |
| | New Forest , <i>Ringwood</i> , Lecture Hall, Club Room, Public Meeting | 7.30 |
| | Nottingham , Discussion, Mikado Café | 4.30 |
| | Stratford-on-Avon , Public Meeting for Working Women | |
| | Woburn Sands , Public Meeting | |
| 29. | Leeds , Drawing-room Meeting | 3.30 |
| | Evening Debate , Brunswick Literary and Debating Society | |
| | Lenzie , Public Meeting, Public Hall | |
| | London , <i>Chelsea</i> , Social Gathering, Sydney Hall, Pond Street | 8-10 |
| | London , <i>Wandsworth</i> , Drawing-room Meeting, 45, Bolingbroke Grove | 8.30 |
| | Manchester , Weekly Meeting, 85, Deansgate Arcade | 7.30-9.30 |
| | New Forest , <i>Burley</i> , Public Meeting, Parish Room | 7.30 |
| | Portsmouth , <i>Havant</i> , Public Meeting | |
| | Portsmouth , Public Meeting, St. James's Hall | |
| | Reigate and Redhill , Public Meeting, Constitutional Hall, Horley | 3 |
| | Redhill , "At Home," King's Hall | |
| 30. | Bristol , Annual Meeting, Victoria Rooms, Clifton | 3 |
| 31. | London , <i>Chiswick</i> , Public Meeting, Parish Hall, St. Michael's Church, Bedford Park | 4 |
| | Haslemere , Public Meeting, Educational Hall | 8 |
| FEB. 1. | Leeds , Meeting, Women only | 3 |
| Feb. 1. | Leeds , Evening Public Meeting , Albert Hall | |
| | London , <i>Highgate</i> , 3, Holly Terrace, Discussion of Anti-Suffrage Literature | 3.30 |
| | Southampton , Public Meeting, Art Gallery | 8 |
| 2. | Derby , Public Meeting | |
| | Leeds , Public Meeting, Temperance Hall, Armley | 7.30 |
| | London Society Reception, Doré Gallery | 4.30-7 |
| | Nairn , Public Meeting, Public Hall | |
| | Sutton , Drawing-room Meeting, Shirley, Cavendish Road | 4 |
| 3. | Leeds Society , "At Home," Mechanics' Institute | 3 and 8 |
| | London , <i>Wandsworth</i> , Public Meeting, 31, Spencer Park | 8.30 |
| | Manchester , Drawing-room Meeting, Leaf Sq., Pendleton | 3 |
| 4. | Hull , Annual Meeting of Members, Oddfellows' Hall, Charlotte Street | 8 |
| | Leeds , Meeting for Women only | 3.30 |
| | Evening Public Meeting , Albert Hall | 8 |
| | London , <i>Chelsea</i> , Meeting Polytechnic Literary and Debating Society, Manresa Road | 8 |
| 5. | Edinburgh , "At Home," Café Oak Hall, Princes Street | 4-6 |
| | London , <i>S. Kensington</i> , Drawing-room Meeting, 19, Redcliffe Street, S.W. | 8 |
| | Manchester , Weekly Meeting, 85, Deansgate Arcade | 7.30-9.30 |
| | Reading , Public Meeting, Town Hall | 8 |
| | Scarborough , Public Meeting, Londesborough Theatre | 8 |
| | Worcester , Public Meeting | 8 |
| 6. | Leamington , Drawing-Room Meeting | |
| 8. | Newcastle-on-Tyne , Annual Meeting, Drawing-room Café | |
| 9. | Fleet , Public Meeting | |
| | London , <i>Kensington</i> , "At Home," 57, Bedford Gardens, Studio 1A | |
| | London , <i>Wandsworth</i> , Drawing-room Meeting, 31, Spencer Park | |
| | Sutton , Drawing-room Meeting, Umballa, Worcester Park | |
| 10. | Basingstoke , Public Meeting | |
| | Fleet , Meeting for Women only, The Garth | 11 A.M. |
| | London , <i>Highgate</i> , "At Home," Drumtochty, Cholmeley Park | 3 and 8 |
| | London Society Lecture, 130, Inverness Terrace | 8 |
| 12. | Manchester , Weekly Meeting, 85, Deansgate Arcade | 7.30-9.30 |
| 16. | Newcastle , Debate, Assembly Rooms, Jesmond | |
| | Uxbridge , Address on Women's Suffrage, Rockingham Hall | 8 |
| 18. | Hull , "At Home," Memorial Church Schoolroom | 8 |
| 22. | Newcastle , Public Meeting, Drawing-room Café | |
| 25. | Nottingham , Discussion, Mikado Café | 3.30 |

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. WOOD.

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.
NATIONAL OFFICES: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.S.C., A.R.C.S.
Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

President: MRS. DESPARD. Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

Parasitic Patriotism.

It is not my intention in this little article to inquire into the ethical value of patriotism (a highly debatable question), but rather to suggest that the patriotism of women, by reason of their parasitical dependence on men must (where it exists) necessarily be a borrowed sentiment, exactly resembling and synchronizing with that of the men to whom they and the country belong; and to consider how far this is a healthy condition.

The first point will be at once conceded. There is not a doubt that, at any time of patriotic excitement, love of country and pride of race is displayed in more or less degree by the men, and faithfully echoed by many of the women. Men thrill and glow at the thought of their superiority over other men in the matter of bloodshed. Women thrill and glow over the same thing. Men trace their origin with pride, through the male line, back to some murderous robber who knew more about killing and thieving than his neighbours, and who consequently won famous victories and became possessed of many acres. Women trace back their origin with equal pride through the same male line to the same murderous ruffian. Men glorify the men who fought and won for them their liberties; women also glorify those who fought and won for men their liberties. And so we get the remarkable phenomenon of patriotism, developed at times to the height of religious fervour, in people who are possessed of no country or nationality, who are thrust outside the pale of citizenship, and whose national status in the country of their birth is slightly below that of the lower animals; for, after all, once a Scotch terrier, always a Scotch terrier; but not so with a Scotch woman. If a Scotch woman marries a German, she forthwith becomes a German and a foreigner, even though they may live in Aberdeen, and she may teach him the Scotch language. After her marriage she must, if she wishes to be patriotic, transfer her thrills from Bannockburn to Leuthen, and if she refuses, and says that "Nature is stronger than man's law," she merely brings "dissension into family life"; and she finds when she is old that Nature is, at any rate, not strong enough to give her a British pension in defiance of man's law. Even if the German is dead she is still foreign, merely the dead man's "relict" or bit over.

Nationality such as this, which changes with that of the men women may belong to at different times, seems hardly a satisfactory basis on which to found a lasting or real patriotism. Why should a woman love a country which disowns her, and upon whose laws and institutions she is not allowed to leave the impress of her character and attainments? Is it good for the health of the community that she should keep up a spurious kind of patriotism which is likely to lull her into a false sense of her position, and blind her to the fact that she is an alien and outlaw in the land of her birth?

I have no hesitation in answering this question most emphatically in the negative, although I do not wish to dogmatize on the subject. "I'm not tellin', I'm sayin'," as the West Indian negro says when he fears to appear too authoritative. Patriotism, like religion, is a matter for the conscience and reason of the individual; but I thus state my views in order to remind other women to examine theirs.

The time will shortly be here when it will be our duty as citizens to love and work for our country. Are we then going to be satisfied with imitating men's patriotism? Consider what it amounts to at the present moment in the British Isles. In Ireland we find in the majority a pathetic love

of the native soil, and a passionate race-loyalty bred of ages of injustice and intolerance from without, combined with a bitter and undying remembrance of past wrongs; in the minority a subservient "loyalty" and submission to the will of the conquering nation. In Scotland patriotism seems to resolve itself into pride of race, and a tendency to glorify the bloody deeds of half-savage ancestors. What of England? Here we find pride of race non-existent, "the true-born Englishman" being as much a mongrel now as he was in the days of Defoe; love of the soil destroyed by reason of a dispossessed peasantry and the massing of the people into towns. One looks in vain in England for a patriotism worthy of the name; it has succumbed before the sordid miseries of the masses, the money-grubbing propensity of the unimaginative middle classes, the pleasure-loving Philistinism of an under-educated and irresponsible upper class, and in its place we have an unholy lust for empire. The average middle-class Englishman, when he turns his attention from football, wants to paint the map of the world red. Not that he desires to do it himself; he is a firm believer in the delegation of such duties to experts, and he is content to stop at home and do the shouting, just as he is content to have his political thinking done for him by politicians, his religious thinking by priests.

To paint the map of the world red, while the heart of the empire bleeds white; to ignore the social cancers that are eating into the life of the nation at home; to carry ruin and bloodshed into other lands at the bidding of the Stock Exchange; to steal mines in order to fill with gold coffers already overflowing, while children and men and women huddle in slums and die for want of food in our streets; to allow the interests of the people to be sacrificed to the interests of shallow and unscrupulous party politicians, who play their dishonest game while the nation suffers and dies. This is British patriotism! Is it to be merely duplicated when women are citizens? That is the question we must ask ourselves on the eve of our enfranchisement; and if the answer is in the negative, if we know this kind of patriotism to be unworthy of women, is it not time we stopped encouraging it or endorsing it by our silence? May we not, even though parasites, begin to pave the way to that future time when men will be ashamed of past massacres; when sympathies will no longer be bounded by geographical lines; when a narrow and selfish patriotism will have given place to universal brotherhood; and when men and women together will paint the map red with "Love's scarlet tide"?
BRIANNA BORU.

Master Gribble of 'The Daily Chronicle' on Woman.

In a column of a recent issue of *The Daily Chronicle* dealing with the traditional criticism of the female sex, Master Gribble (who is obviously very young) concludes with the words: "Even in crime she still is and always will be feminine."

"Probably," says Master Gribble, "in her heart of hearts the girl of to-day wants pretty much the same things as her ancestress wanted; her ancestress probably wanted very much what she wants, and wanted it just as badly."

And it is because woman's not unreasonable wants have been so persistently denied her, the Suffragettes have at last realized that until the status of the woman is raised, and she can claim the just dues of a human being from whom the State exacts a heavy toll, her life will continue to be one of perpetual "wants."

Suffragism, as depicted by the pen of a Gribble, is spinsterhood out on strike at the lack of husbands, for does he not quote: "They only want votes because they want husbands." That the great leaders of the movement, with one exception, are mostly married women and mothers is beside the mark. Suffragism is the spirit of motherhood out on strike at the intolerable conditions forced on it by a monopoly of male rule that does not and never can understand its agony and glory. They want the vote because they want justice, law, and order equitably balanced between man and woman.

The Suffragette has often worked in sad and sordid surroundings with an open heart and mind, and whatever charges may be laid at her door, lack of imagination is not one; and it is this imagination which has revolted her at the condition of her helpless sisters, and has goaded, inspired, and is now guiding her to her destiny.

Master Gribble says of his superwoman, "that all that is wrong in the world is wrong chiefly because she has not been called in to set it to rights;" he finds her standing on a chair saying so outside West Kensington station, and that, "if she really meant it, one would have to stop short, even in the midst of an article, and consider whether their claims were justified."

Nothing, indeed, would redound more to the credit of our critics than to stop short, even in the midst of these articles, and come and see the real cause for which the Suffragettes are fighting.

To know all is to forgive all, and to see all is sometimes to understand. Let the Anti-Suffragists come down to St. Luke's and view the awful world that men have made. Here is priceless property belonging to the commissioners of a great hospital creating its own patients. Let them walk leisurely round and view the tenements "To let," and then let them pass on through the streets in the same vicinity and on adjacent properties belonging to other great slum landlords, and see the hovels which the poor atoms of depraved humanity are *born* into, and then fostered and *educated* by a State which expends millions of money for the purpose, money extracted from the woman outlander as well as the male citizen.

What are Toryism, Liberalism, and Socialism doing for this condition of things, when, with all their propaganda and talk of reforms, Governments after Governments allow these dwellings to remain.

What has the Anti-Suffragist to say of the divorce law, which this week has allotted 10,000l. damages to a man for the loss of his wife, and does not even give a woman freedom in the like circumstances, much less damages for the loss of *her* love and honour.

One can afford to ignore all the pretty piffle of "Suffragettes wanting elections once a fortnight and special costumes to vote in," &c.

Listening to Dr. Tekla Hultin, M.P., and Madame Malmberg at Queen's Hall, one's thoughts were not so much attracted by what they wore as by what they were; and their personal appearance was as charming and distinguished and as foreign to the grotesque creatures of the Antis' pen and pencil as this great cause appears to be to their imagination.

Master Gribble says that "invariably the dishonest woman is merely a stalking horse, and that there is a dishonest man screened by her skirts, advising her and telling her what to do next." I do not hold these views, and would no more charge man as man with the responsibility of woman's dishonesty than I would make woman as woman responsible for man's shortcomings.

Each sex appears to be born with very much the same capacity for human weaknesses and for human virtues, though they are educated and express themselves so differently.

And it is through this difference of expression that we mainly come to misunderstand each other. Women are, therefore, asking for the rights to express themselves silently, by the power of the vote, at the ballot, though to gain that silent right they must be quite articulate to-day.

Men need not fear them. They do not wish to harm men or men's rights. They only ask to be understood; and when the vote is won they will be, as they "always have been—feminine."

MAUD ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT.

Correspondence.

"The U.K."

MADAM,—We are learning the importance of the right use and exact meaning of many hitherto unimportant words since the Suffragists set foot upon the warpath. "Person," "parent," "rush," and "message" have all been severally and differently defined. May I now challenge another?—not "Britain," but "United."

The Union of Scotland with England was, as Mrs. Stopes rightly points out, a marriage by pre-nuptial contract. Neither of the contracting parties can feel any offence offered to them in the term "United Kingdom."

But this is by no means the case with "the Union with Ireland" or with Ireland's subsequent condition. This was a *marriage by violence*—according to one party of Irish opinion and according to the opinion of the "powerful minority," an attempt at union by indefeasible means which happened so long ago that "bygones must be bygones."

To use the U.K., therefore, as an inclusive term for England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland is not merely not to please Ireland, but is, I contend, not being "non-party."

If the Women's Freedom League wishes to be true to its policy, and to stick to its constitution (and to *something safe*), it will follow the example of the wily Continental hotel-keepers, and avoid the highly questionable "Royaume Uni," recognizing that Messieurs les Anglais most object to the "Iles Britanniques," which appeals to Irish, Scottish, and Welsh guests, as well as to the children of "the predominant partner," and who do not want to risk possible losses by a mere Hotel des Anglais. They, like Shakespeare, know all that is in a name.

N.B.—That U.K. is a "party" term; that B.I. is safe and sound, politically innocuous, and geographically accurate. By using B.I. you will demonstrate to admiration that you do "know how to deal with the Irish." Yours faithfully,

K. M.

[By using "B.I." we should probably also demonstrate to admiration to some minds that we were alluding to British India, and we should find ourselves landed in a "colour" controversy. As we have quite enough to do in combating sex-prejudice, we will leave the colour, race, national and religious difficulties for the present in the able hands of men, who can be safely trusted to keep them going till we have time to attend to them.

As our Scotch friends have been assured that the 'U.K.' was written in no spirit of animosity, and as we frankly admit the stupidity of that kind of joke, and as the Irish agree with the remark made about themselves, we may now without unfairness declare this correspondence closed.—ED. W.F.L.]

Special Notices.

Members' Meeting.—Every member of the League in or near London will, of course, do her best to be in the Blue Salon, Eustace Miles Restaurant, at 6 P.M. on Saturday, the 30th. It is suggested that in the case of branches at a distance from Charing Cross at least two delegates should be sent, and their fares paid by the branch.

King's Speech Meetings.—In case any branch secretary has not sent to headquarters notice of her King's Speech Meeting by the time this is in print, we ask her to do so at once. No pains must be spared to make Votes for Women the topic of the day from now till February 16th, when we shall know the fate of our demand.

Horticultural Hall, Westminster, Rev. R. J. Campbell will lecture on "Some Aspects of the Women's Movement" on February 10th, 8 p.m. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d. Will any more members offer to get posters shown or to deliver handbills? We want volunteers for the latter on January 28th and February 4th (morning and evening), and on January 31st (morning, afternoon, and evening) especially.

London Council.—Future monthly meetings to be held on the last Wednesday in each month. Next meeting, Feb. 24th.

MARIE VANCE, Hon. Sec., L.C.

Branch Notes.

Manchester Branch.—Work for 1909 began with the meeting held in the Portico Library, Mosley Street, in honour of Dr. Tekla Hultin and Madame Aino Malmberg, a unique and stimulating experience for those who are renewing a struggle with an enemy as difficult of defeat, if somewhat less barbaric, than the Russian bureaucracy.

The usual branch meetings have been held, and on Wednesday, the 20th, Miss Manning addressed an appreciative audience at the Adult School, West Gorton. A desire was expressed that a debate with an "Anti" should be held on some future occasion, and the speaker readily assented, on condition that the "Anti" was forthcoming.

On Friday, the 29th, a special "At Home" will be held in the Portland Café, 114, Portland Street, when Miss Broadhurst, M.A. (of the Liverpool University), will speak.

Cardiff Branch.—Two very successful meetings were held in Cardiff on Monday, Jan. 18th. The first meeting, for women only, was addressed by Mrs. Despard at 3.30 P.M. A fair number of women were present, and Mrs. Despard's address was greatly enjoyed.

For the meeting in the evening we had taken great precautions. On every other occasion when Mrs. Despard has come to speak for us our meetings have been broken up, and we have had the dissatisfaction of seeing Mrs. Despard leave Cardiff without having obtained the hearing to which her eloquence entitles her. This time we were determined she should have a hearing. We put a certain restriction on men's tickets. We obtained splendid police protection both inside and outside the hall, which looked as if it were in a state of siege.

The meeting was well stewarded, Mr. Hubback (secretary of the Men's League in Cardiff) having undertaken this work, which he organized admirably. Unfortunately these precautions resulted in our audience being rather a small one, but, however, an enthusiastic one. Speeches of Mrs. Despard and Earl Russell were greatly enjoyed.

Mrs. Despard's earnest eloquence brought home not only the righteousness of our cause, but also its necessity in the welfare of humanity; the necessity of woman's influence in political life, and through the latter in the social, industrial, and moral life of the nation.

Earl Russell dealt principally with the arguments put forward by the Anti-Suffrage Society, and under his telling criticism and humorous pointedness these flimsy arguments were disposed of one by one. His address was greatly appreciated, and to hear one of their own sex so heartily supporting our cause cannot fail to produce an impression upon the many men present.

A resolution put by the Chairman calling upon the Government to grant the Suffrage next session was carried with one dissentient. Questions were asked at the end of the meeting.

Dundee Branch.—The usual fortnightly meeting was held last Tuesday. A most thoughtful address was given by Miss Angus on 'A Crown of Wild Olive,' by John Ruskin. A very interesting discussion followed on the gospel of "getting on," with its attendant evils.

It was intimated that Mr. Churchill had agreed to receive a deputation on the question of Women's Suffrage on his next visit to Dundee. T. A. SMART.

Liverpool Meeting.

THE meeting in the Picton Lecture Hall, Liverpool, on the 15th, under the auspices of the Men's League and the Women's Freedom League, was the largest and most successful ever held in that city in the cause of Women's Suffrage.

Miss Manning, Miss Nellie Smith (Chester), and a number of enthusiastic local workers, assisted by several members of the Men's League, made it the occasion of strenuous propaganda work, and for more than a week before the meeting interviewed secretaries of institutions and heads of business houses.

On Friday afternoon an open-air meeting was held on the Stock Exchange, when Mrs. Billington-Greig was very favourably received.

In the evening the three speakers—Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mr. Baillie-Weaver, and Miss Manning—were much appreciated, and when Miss Manning mentioned her prison experiences the audience broke into enthusiastic cheering.

It is hoped that a branch will shortly be formed as a large number of names was given in at the end of the evening.

E. WOODALL.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

January 28th to February 19th.

JAN.			P. M.
Thurs. 28.	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Chair, Mrs. Cope Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Mabson, Mrs. How Martyn, A.R.C.S. Earl Russell	3.30 5 8
	Clapham, Belmont Hall, King's Speech Meeting	Countess Russell Mrs. Wynne Nevinson Mr. Duval, Mrs. Duval	8 6.30
	Cheltenham, Mostyn Villa, Hales Road	Debate	6.30
Fri. 29.	Manchester, Portland Café, 114, Portland Street, "At Home"	Miss Broadhurst, M.A.	7.30
	Willesden, 59, Wrentham Avenue	Miss Hicks, M.A.	8
	Upminster, The Cottage, Corbet's Ley	Mrs. Hicks Miss Benett	
Sat. 30.	Cheltenham, 41, Winchcombe Street	Mrs. Melliquham	5
	National Executive Committee, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi		11 A.M.
	The Blue Salon, Eustace Miles Restaurant, Chandos Street, Charing Cross	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. How Martyn	6
FEB.		Meeting for Members only.	
Mon. 1.	Birmingham		
	Maida Vale, 15, Sandringham Court, King's Speech Meeting	Countess Russell Dr. Marian Thonett Miss Bessie Hatton	8.15
Tues. 2.	Sheffield, Montgomery Hall, King's Speech Meeting	Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Whet- ton, Mrs. Amy Sanderson	8
	Birmingham, King's Health Co-operative Guild	Miss Schofield	
Wed. 3.	Hackney, King's Speech Meet- ing	Countess Russell	8
	South Croydon, 38, Blenheim Park Road	Mrs. Fagan	
Thurs. 4.	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Countess Russell Mrs. Despard, Miss Matters Miss Isabel Logan	8 8
	Highbury, Northampton House, St. Paul's Road, King's Speech Meeting	Mrs. How Martyn Mrs. Hicks Miss Cicely Hamilton	8 7
Fri. 5.	Lewisham Annual Meeting, 62, Inchmery Road, Catford, S.E.	Members	7
	"At Home," Members and Friends, Address on King's Speech	Countess Russell, Miss Isabel Logan, Mrs. Manson	8-10
Sun. 7.	Steinway Hall, Lower Seymour Street		7
Mon. 8.	Birmingham, Selly Oak Institute	Mrs. Despard	3
	West Bromwich Library	Miss Schofield	8
Tues. 9.	Tunbridge Wells, Great Hall, King's Speech Meeting	Countess Russell	8
	Burton-on-Trent	Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Holmes Miss Schofield	8 3
Wed. 10.	Moseley	Miss Schofield	3
	Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster	Rev. R. J. Campbell, M.A. Countess Russell	8 8
Thurs. 11.	Woking, King's Speech Meeting Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand	Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Holmes Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Hicks Countess Russell, Mrs. 8 Holmes, Miss Fitzherbert, Miss Lawson	8 8
Fri. 12.	Harringay, Council School, Mattison Road, King's Speech Meeting	Mrs. How Martyn, A.R.C.S. 8 B.Sc., Miss Muriel Mat- ters, Miss Isabel Logan, Mr. G. E. O'Dell	8 7.30-10
Sat. 13.	Midhurst, King's Speech Meet- ing	Countess Russell	8
Sun. 14.	Trafalgar Square	Earl Russell Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Despard	3
		Mrs. How Martyn, A.R.C.S. Countess Russell	8
Mon. 15.	Croydon, King's Speech Meeting Holborn Hall, Social Evening	Chair, Mr. Clayton Miss Chrystal McMillan Mrs. Beith	7.30-10
Wed. 17.	Portman Rooms, King's Speech Meeting	Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mrs. 8 Despard, Mrs. Marion Holmes	8
Fri. 19.	St. James's Hall	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Billington-Greig Miss Muriel Matters	8

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 38, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 9958 CENTRAL.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.

Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.

Hon. Literature Secretary: A. L. G. JAYNE.

Queen's Hall Meeting.

A FULL report of the meeting held in the Queen's Hall on Tuesday, January 26th, at 8 P.M., will be given in our next issue. The Committee desire to thank all those members and friends of the League whose co-operation in the work of advertisement and organization so materially helped to make the meeting a complete success from every point of view.

Notes and Comments.

Now that the Queen's Hall meeting is over the Committee will devote time to the arrangements for the open-air campaign in the London parks. As announced last week, we shall begin early in March in Hyde Park on Sunday afternoons, with a small portable platform, and providing our members and friends combine to make this initial venture a success, we shall have a van, which will enable us to visit all the places where open-air oratory is practicable. We trust that members will give real and regular help to this important branch of our work.

THE attention of members is specially called to the scheme for open-air meetings, of which a notice appears in another column. The Hon. Sec. will be glad to receive names of volunteers. Several members promised to help in such work when the project was considered at the Holborn Restaurant meeting last autumn. Unless they withdraw that promise, it will be assumed that it still holds good.

An impression appears to have been created by some speakers at the Special General Meeting, and notably by Mr. Clayton, that the Committee of the Men's League consists entirely of supporters of the Liberal, Labour, and Socialist parties. This is so far from being the case that four members of the Committee, including one of the Hon. Treasurers and the Literature Secretary, are Unionists. The Committee may thus fairly claim to represent the non-party character of the League. We are authorized to state that three of its Unionist members were present at the meeting and voted against the first resolution; the fourth desires us to add that he also voted against it, by letter from Christiania, but his letter was lost in the post.

Meeting in Keswick.

A VERY successful meeting was held at Keswick on Saturday, January 23rd, in the Pavilion. It was organized by Westmorland and Cumberland Suffragists with the object of forming a branch of the Men's League for those two counties. The chair was taken by Mr. F. H. Marshall, of House End, Keswick, an old member of the League, and the speakers were the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Broatch (the local Conservative agent), Mr. Jenkins, and others. Although a large number of meetings have been held in Keswick and Penrith recently, and although Saturday is not a good day for a political meeting, there was a large audience, including a fair representation of Anti-Suffragists. A resolution strongly asserting the urgent necessity of the enfranchisement of women was passed, and it was further resolved that copies be sent to Mr. Asquith, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Henderson, and Mr. Redmond. The audience listened very closely to the arguments, and at the conclusion put a number of questions, which showed that they were really interested in the subject. A curious suggestion was that of Canon Rawnsley, who, while approving, apparently, of the limited franchise for women,

argued that Adult Suffrage would mean that women outnumbered men by three to one!

The Chairman announced that twenty men had already promised to join the new branch, and that some seventy others were expected to come in later.

The League is very grateful to Miss Catherine Marshall and Miss Broatch, who were responsible for all the arrangements, and succeeded admirably in bringing the Men's League to the notice of the whole of a wide and thinly-populated district.

Cardiff Meeting.

THE meeting, held on January 18th at Cory Hall, Cardiff, by the Women's Freedom League and Men's League for Women's Suffrage, though small in numbers, was a great success from the point of view of the enthusiasm aroused. Mrs. Despard and Earl Russell both held the audience breathless. Mrs. Despard dealt with the general aspects of the cause, whilst Earl Russell gave most of his attention to demolishing the special arguments of the Anti-Suffrage Society. Thanks to a sturdy body of stewards, I.L.P. and others, any possibility of rioting was done away with, and Mrs. Despard had a more peaceful time than we were able to secure for her last meeting.

F. W. HUBBICH, Hon. Sec. M.L.W.S., Cardiff.

Prize Competition.

THE prize of one guinea for the best epigram on Pascal's maxim *C'est la force qui est reine du monde, et non pas l'opinion, mais c'est l'opinion qui use de la force*, is awarded to Miss Augusta Lamont, Knockdow, Toward, Argyllshire. There were numerous competitors, but the level of the verse sent in was not high. We print the winning epigram.

The Race is not at all times to the Swift,
Nor is the Battle always to the Strong,
Since Might and Muscle are not always Right,
Must Mind or Weakness be for ever Wrong?

Open-Air Meetings.

At a Committee meeting held on January 12th it was decided to begin open-air meetings in Hyde Park early in March. Preparations are in hand for the provision of a small portable platform, and if we find that a sufficient number of successful speakers are available, it is proposed to hire a proper van or cart which will enable us to hold meetings in various parks and at street corners during the summer months. A small committee will probably be formed immediately after the Queen's Hall meeting to carry on this work.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED.

In the meantime we ask all who will help in the work to send in their names. A corps of speakers will be needed, and those who do not as yet feel able to speak can help in carrying the platform and distributing literature. Special donations are asked for to cover the initial expenditure, which will amount to not more than £5. If it is found that the members are prepared to give keen support to this most necessary work, the plan will be considerably extended. There are hosts of people who cannot be induced, especially in the summer, to go to a formal political meeting; open-air work such as our members have been doing in connexion with the women's societies is the only method of approaching such people.

Correspondence.

[The Men's League is essentially a non-party organization, in which all shades of political opinion are represented. For this reason we feel bound to state that the League is not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.]

"Lord Curzon and Woman's Suffrage."

SIR,—The *Westminster Gazette* of Oct. 24th, 1908, contained the following paragraph:—

"Lord Curzon protests against being classed as an opponent of higher education of women: 'So absurdly untrue is it, that in my scheme of reform for Oxford I am going to propose that degrees (and not merely examinations) shall be open to women on exactly the same basis as men.' The statement is made in connexion with the Glasgow Rectorial Election, which takes place to-day."

This statement was made on the eve of the election, for which the female students are eligible as voters, and consequently the women are to be reckoned with and propitiated by the candidates.

When the committee of men for opposing Woman's Suffrage was formed, one read in *The Daily Mail*, December 4th, that "telegrams were read from Lord Curzon, Lord Shuttleworth, and Mr. Austin Chamberlain"; and in *The Times* of Tuesday, January 19th, it was reported that "The Men's Committee for opposing Female Suffrage... has grown with such rapidity that it has been found necessary to enlarge it into a league, and this league came into being under the title of 'The Men's League for Opposing Woman's Suffrage,' at a meeting held yesterday at Caxton Hall, Westminster."

Then follow the particulars of the meeting, the absence of the President (Lord Cromer), the adoption of the constitution, the discussions as to future plans, and a blazing list of titled gentlemen as vice-presidents.

Recollecting Lord Curzon's attitude respecting the "higher education of women" before the Glasgow election, and his telegram of December 4th, I wrote to the Secretary of the Men's League for Opposing Woman's Suffrage, asking him for Lord Curzon's views on the subject, and signing by initial M. Sennett, and have just received the following communication:—

Men's League for Opposing Women's Suffrage.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your inquiry of the 20th inst., I beg to inform you that Lord Curzon is very strongly opposed to Women's Suffrage. In a letter written two months ago he says that the time has now arrived when "strenuous co-operation and perhaps even active action (*sic*) are required by those who feel that this movement is opposed to the best interests equally of the female sex and of the nation." He also declares his cordial sympathy with the intentions of this association, and expresses his "willingness to aid and abet it" by every means in his power.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE CALDERON, Hon. Sec.

M. Sennett, Esq.

Lord Curzon is entitled to his opinions, which are, apparently, that a woman shall be eligible to vote him into the Chair of a Lord Rectorship though not into a seat in Parliament (assuming always he was not in the Lords!); but it is surely due to the progressive women students of Glasgow, as well as to the prospective ones of Oxford, to be hereafter emancipated by Lord Curzon, that his views on their enfranchisement should be clearly elucidated; and it will be interesting to know what use the higher education of women, which Lord Curzon so earnestly advocates, will be to them, if, having fully developed their faculties, they are to be denied the full expression of them. It is a significant feature of these elections, Parliamentary and Rectorial, that there is nothing a man will *not* do before the election when at the polls, to raise up the status of woman, and nothing that he *will* do once safely seated.

And if the time is come when "strenuous co-operation" is required to oppose our enfranchisement, the time is also come when the men who express those views shall clearly define once and for all the position of woman in the State, and decide whether

she is to be cherished, guarded, and protected as a helpless child, or to be allowed to develop her faculties and take her place in the evolution of the world as man's partner, comrade, and equal.

If she is to be classed as a lunatic, criminal, pauper, or child, then the State should protect her as such; but while the State exacts a heavy toll from woman, and places intolerable burdens on her shoulders, then it is the duty of the State to politically remove her from the submerged classes whom she helps to support, and allow her to vote for the men who tax her resources, compel her obedience to oftentimes cruel laws, and legislate for her and her children.

Yours obediently,

M. ARNCLIFFE SENNETT.

Woman and War.

SIR,—In the illuminating article which you published last Thursday, Mr. C. F. Atkinson emphasized the truths that while the physical side of war is mainly an affair for men, the moral side is equally an affair for women; and that, as war becomes more and more a national enterprise, and less and less the private venture of a sovereign or a ruling class, the part played in it by women tends proportionately to increase.

If women, even more than men, help to furnish the power which drives the dynamo—the moral impulse which sustains armies fighting in a national cause—those who seek to exclude them from the rights of citizenship on the ground of their inaptitude for military service, would do well to remember Napoleon's oft-quoted maxim: "In war the moral is to the physical as three to one."

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

A BELIEVER IN CONSCRIPTION.

SIR,—Mr. C. F. Atkinson's article 'On the Relation of Women to War' comes as a wholesome corrective to the tone of certain recent letters in the *Morning Post*. Several of the *Post's* correspondents tried to prove that by adopting Woman Suffrage we should rule out the principle that every citizen should be ready and willing to serve his country in time of war. That is a principle which many who are, like myself, members of the Unionist Party as well as Suffragists, would be loth to abandon; we therefore welcome the lucid and convincing argument by which Mr. Atkinson resolves the apparent contradiction between two cardinal doctrines of our political faith. How unreal that seeming contradiction is may be shown by the fact that Australasia is the only British community which has granted the vote to women, and also the only one in which all classes and parties are in earnest on the question of universal military service.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

UNIONIST.

Foreigners and the Men's League.

DEAR SIR,—It would be interesting to women Suffragists to learn the extent of their indebtedness to the foreign friends who have helped the cause by joining the Men's League.

To Mr. Zangwill, the distinguished founder of the League, our lasting gratitude is due, and I believe Mr. Prelooker is one of our ardent supporters. Will you kindly inform us through your columns to how many more enlightened foreigners we owe thanks? It has been suggested that more Britishers would, perhaps, join the League were it not manned by so many foreigners. If this should even partially explain the indifference of our own menfolk to the rights and wrongs of their womenfolk, then indeed they are doubly disgraced, and we doubly unfortunate in our self-styled protectors.

I greet the foreigners, and hope that you, sir, as an enlightened Britisher of whom we are proud, will publish this appreciation. Faithfully yours, KATE KILBURN.

Meltham, Yorks, January 21st, 1909.

[Our correspondent makes a curious error in describing Mr. Zangwill as the founder of the League. The League was conceived and founded by Mr. Herbert Jacobs, who has been Chairman of the Executive ever since. About one hundred members were on the list before Mr. Zangwill joined.

Ed. M.L.W.S.]

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