

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. IV. No. 101.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 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.

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## EDITORIAL.

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

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## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

### French Red Tape: Women Inadmissible.

The application of two French women as candidates for a vacant position in the Ministry of Public Instruction is attracting considerable attention in France and beyond the ranks of the French suffragettes. The very word suffragette, we may remark, has now become international. The official reason for the refusal to entertain the application of the women is that all candidates for public office in France must have done their military service. Obviously, then, women are inadmissible, seeing that they do not serve in the army! It is a curious comment on this incident that a battlefield memorial is about to be inaugurated to commemorate a great French victory over the Austrians at Jemmappe (Belgium) in 1792. In this battle two women warriors took part, Mlles. Félicité and Théophile de Fernig, wearing uniforms, and holding staff appointments as aides-de-camp to Dumouriez, the General in command. Both of them, says an account of the engagement, achieved distinction. The elder sister galloped in the charge led by the future King Louis-Philippe; the younger brought home a Hungarian major as her prisoner. The Convention was so pleased with the General's report of their noble conduct—he said that they were as modest and virtuous as they were brave—that it voted them swords of honour, and decreed that their house, which had been destroyed in the course of the battle, should be rebuilt for them at the public cost.

### The Courage of Women.

We do not advocate in these days the formation of regiments of amazons; women have other work to do which requires courage of a high order; but history affords many instances of the valour of women in the fighting line when need arose. That great pacifist, Anton Wiertz, the Belgian artist whom some call mad and others a seer, writing about his picture, "The Box on the Ear by a Belgian Woman," in which he depicts a woman replying with a revolver shot to the hated advances of an invading soldier, declares, "Where the liberty of a people has been menaced, history relates marvels of courage on the part of women, and shall our women of to-day be regarded as less great than those of history?" Wiertz, living in times of

outbreaks and tumults, was ready to give women the opportunity of training in shooting, not to fight on the field of battle but to be able to defend their homes. "The half of a population," he writes, "is composed of women; is not this a formidable power?" Wiertz, however, had higher ideals for women than to be skilled shots. In the great war against war which he carried on in his own amazing way, he represents a woman, a heroic figure, twisting and breaking "The Last Cannon" into a mass of useless metal.

### Using Our Brains.

In the stirring address which Miss Cicely Hamilton gave at last Sunday's "At Home" of the Mid-London Branch at the Caxton Hall, she declared that women must be ready to take considerable blame upon themselves for their position in the world; it is not all the fault of the men. Women, in the general routine of life, have had their path made so plain to them that they have accepted it without using their own brains and thinking for themselves. The failure of democracies in the past, she insisted, was due to the fact that they had not the intelligence to use properly the great power won. In urging women to develop their own power of thought and prepare themselves to use worthily the new conditions which the possession of the vote will bring, Miss Hamilton touched a most practical issue. Great as will be the value of the political victory, the deepest benefit of the woman's movement will be that it has compelled women to think.

### Canada's Example.

News from Western Canada shows that women are using their brains in a most practical way. In the agricultural Province of Saskatchewan women are realising that there is more in farm life than farming; so home-making has been made an extension course of the Provincial University. This should be good news to the "antis," who are ever preaching that the duty of woman is in the home. Why the possession of the vote should hinder true home-making is a mystery we have never been able to solve. The Saskatchewan University courses are for the younger women, but those who have already made their homes are determined not to be left out of the progressive movement. The older women have formed "Home-makers' Clubs," which are under the supervision of the University. In a few months the movement has gained ground so rapidly that, in spite of immense distances, there are now more than twenty of these clubs with over three hundred members. Such practical questions as a satisfactory substitute for a dower law and of homesteads for women are being considered, and the efforts which the organised Home-makers' Clubs will be able to bring to bear will have great weight with those who have to be influenced when action must be taken. It seems that the women of the new world are, as Miss Cicely Hamilton urges, using their brains to make themselves women who want votes because they will know how to use them. These women are informing themselves and exchanging opinions on a great variety of subjects, including sanitation, the care of children, nursing, medicine, education, literature, house architecture, as well as cooking, dressmaking, and gardening. We shall watch with the keenest interest this practical use of women's intelligence.



## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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### AT HEADQUARTERS.

We are now in the swing of the autumn work, and every member should realise the value of her individual effort in making the Women's Freedom League a power in the land. Suffragists are urged to be present at the Small Queen's Hall, on Wednesday evening, October 4, to challenge Mr. Chesterton's views on democracy and woman suffrage. There are still some 2s. and 1s. tickets to be sold for this meeting, and they can be obtained from 1, Robert-street.

### Essex Hall Discussion Meetings.

We have had to make one or two slight changes in our programme. Wednesday evening, October 11, Mrs. M. Wynne Nevinson will open a discussion on "The Present Political Situation." Mrs. Nevinson's views will certainly be of the greatest interest to our members and friends, and if they will kindly make this meeting well known, we cannot fail to have a crowded audience.

### Branch "At Homes."

The Mid-London Branch deserves the highest praise for the successful meeting it arranged last Sunday in the Council Chamber of Caxton Hall. Everyone was pleased, and many members of other Branches who were present went away encouraged and with the full determination to win success for the "At Homes" they have undertaken to organise in their own districts.

Every day brings us reports of the activity of members of the Women's Freedom League. Magnificent work is being done in Scotland under the direction of Miss Anna Munro. We have encouraging accounts from Wales, and a great deal of propaganda is being undertaken by our members in the provinces.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### KILMARNOCK BY-ELECTION.

Organiser:—MISS ANNA MUNRO.

Headquarters:—302, Sauchiehall-street, Glasgow.

Our campaign goes forward apace. Wherever our colours are flying large and interested crowds await us.

On two occasions we have had a mass demonstration with the N.U.W.S.S. and the W.S.P.U.: on Thursday night at Kilmarnock, where Mrs. How Martyn was our representative, and on Friday Miss Eunice Murray at Dumbarton. Very large crowds were present, all entirely favourable to our Cause, notwithstanding the fact that at the latter place the anti-suffragists were also present. The anti-suffrage activity forms one of the special features of the election. At Rutherglen, on Tuesday evening, as Miss Munro finished addressing a very orderly crowd, the "antis" drove up and proceeded to hold a meeting. The crowd was audibly hostile to them, peppering them with questions, advising them to go home and cheering for Votes for Women. One man came over from their meeting to tell us "They are doin' real good propogand for you." When they had driven off amid the hisses of the crowd we held another meeting to answer the "anti" objections. Hearing the rowdiness which had just been evidenced we were a little apprehensive; but the meeting which followed listened with unbroken attention and much enthusiasm to Miss Munro's statement of our case. Literature and badges were almost cleared out at the close. Mrs. How

Martyn, visiting Rutherglen the next evening, had a remarkably interested audience, one man telling us that he had been to all the meetings, and "this was the biggest, wi' the best speaker o' the lot."

Miss Semple, at Kilmarnock, unfortunately had to face some organised opposition on Monday evening.

Our thanks are due to our speakers, Miss Jack and Miss Lauder, who came from Edinburgh to help, Miss McIntyre from Kirkintilloch, Miss Eunice Murray, who has done so much at Dumbarton, Miss Semple and Miss Shennan, of Glasgow, as well as the members of the Glasgow and Kilmarnock Branches, who have assisted so well with the literature and collections, and Mrs. Clarendon Hyde, who has so ably "chaired" at many of the meetings.

Further donations:—Miss Jack, 7s. 6d.; Miss Lauder, 3s.; Mrs. McConnell, 1s.; Mrs. Taylor, 2s. 6d.; Miss Munro, 5s.

### THE PRESS BOYCOTT BROKEN DOWN AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

We are able this week to make an announcement which, we think, will appeal to every reader of THE VOTE.

We are informed that *The Standard* is about to give a lead to the daily newspapers of the metropolis in the matter of logical recognition of the interests and activities of the larger half of the population.

Our information is that on Tuesday next, October 3, *The Standard* will begin the daily publication of a feature headed "Woman's Platform," the whole aim and object of which is the provision of a free and open platform in the daily Press for women workers and women thinkers. We understand that among the distinguished authorities whose contributions will appear in the first issues of this daily "Woman's Platform" are Lady Jersey, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Despard, Lady Selborne, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Lord Cromer, Lady Betty Balfour, and others of similar prominence.

The undertaking is to be strictly impartial and absolutely non-party-political. The amount of space it is to occupy must necessarily depend upon the varying pressure of news touching women's interests. Its opening in next Tuesday's *Standard* will probably fill two whole pages of that journal; and one page will regularly be at the service of thinking women and the interests of the Woman's Movement.

It is claimed, not without reason, that such a Platform in the daily Press, rightly conducted, should, in the matter of educating the general public outside the movement, inaugurate a new era in women's work and progress. We understand (and are glad to understand) that *The Standard's* Woman's Platform will be equally open to Suffragists, anti-Suffragists, and thinking women in every branch of industry, the professions, public life, and so forth; that it will be truly comprehensive. In short, it aims at furnishing an equal opportunity to all thinking women, and men who think of women's interests, of conveying understanding of those interests to the ordinary newspaper-reading outside public.

Thus it will be for the workers themselves to say just how much use to them this "Woman's Platform" is to be. Rightly used, it should prove of inestimable value. We in this League shall do our utmost to extract from it the fullest possible measure of service for our Cause, and we hope that every worker for the Woman's Cause will co-operate cordially in this task by following the "Platform" carefully, from day to day; by contributing to it regularly as occasion offers every possible item of intelligence calculated to help our movement; and by helping in every way possible to extend its reach, not only among our own sympathisers, but, more important, among the indifferent and the unconverted.

A Platform in the daily Press is not a thing to be neglected. Every sympathiser should examine next Tuesday's *Standard* carefully and judge for herself or himself.

The Women's Freedom League has promised

the undertaking all the assistance it can give in the interests of publicity for the Woman's Cause, and our readers will find our records in the "Platform" day by day. Articles, letters, reports, announcements, suggestions, explanations, appeals, contradictions, names, dates, plans, programmes—send them all along to the "Woman's Platform" (envelopes to be so marked), *The Standard*, 104, Shoe-lane, London, E.C. Study the "Platform" (from Tuesday morning, October 3), contribute to it, urge its study upon everyone.

### SIX WAYS TO HELP "THE VOTE."

1. In order to increase the usefulness of our paper and to add to its interest, we are anxious to enlarge it by adding at least four more pages. As a first step in this direction it is necessary that we should greatly increase our circulation. This will add to our revenue and make it possible to carry out the desire of the directors. An earnest appeal is therefore made to every member of the Freedom League to make a point of taking at least one copy—and, if possible, three copies—of THE VOTE every week. One copy should be kept for binding, the other two should be given away or sent by post to persons who are interested in the Suffrage Cause, and who might possibly become subscribers.

2. It would greatly help THE VOTE and the Cause if readers would make a point of asking for the paper at any newsagent's shop they may happen to enter. If the newsagent does not keep THE VOTE he should be asked whether he is willing to do so, and to exhibit a poster weekly, also whether he will distribute a few specimen copies to his customers. The name and address of the newsagent should then be sent to Mrs. Snow ("VOTE" Sales Department), THE VOTE office, 1, Robert-street, London, W., who will see that the specimen copies and the poster are promptly despatched.

3. One of the most valuable ways in which readers can help THE VOTE is to undertake to sell at least six copies every week. Some readers regularly sell several dozen copies weekly in the street at the entrances of halls where lectures and entertainments are being given, on the parade in seaside localities, and outside railway and tube stations, restaurants and tea-shops. Miss Clark, one of our most enthusiastic workers, recently sold 1,000 copies of THE VOTE during one month at Eastbourne. We particularly want members of the League in provincial towns to help us in this way, and we shall be grateful to Branch secretaries who will bring the matter before their members and endeavour to enlist volunteers in this service.

4. We believe that among the members of the League there are many clever and talented journalists. Offers of and suggestions for articles will be welcomed. Those who have brilliant ideas are invited to give us the opportunity of adopting them. As soon as space permits we want to introduce many new features, and we shall, in the meantime, welcome the co-operation of all "sisters of the pen" who are willing to aid us in increasing the attractiveness of our paper.

5. We have on several occasions drawn our readers' attention to the great service they can render THE VOTE by patronising our advertisers. The advertising revenue is the financial back-bone of every paper. Every time you support an advertiser in THE VOTE by buying goods you are helping to support the Suffrage Cause. In the advertising columns of THE VOTE you will find advertisements of clothing, food, fuel, laundry work, furniture, stationery, printing, pottery, floral work, &c. You can have your windows cleaned, your teeth attended to, your watches and clocks repaired, your house or flat let, apartments found, governesses, trained, nurses, secretaries or typists supplied; even situations may be obtained through the medium of "VOTE" advertisers. Do not, therefore, fail to study the advertisement columns of THE VOTE, and to satisfy your requirements through our advertisers whenever and wherever you have the opportunity. One

word more in this connection. Do not fail to inform the advertiser that you saw his or her advertisement in THE VOTE, and that it is for this reason you are giving your support.

6. There are still some shares in the Minerva Publishing Company, Ltd. (THE VOTE) which have not yet been taken up. The shares are 5s. each. We should like at least a hundred enthusiastic members of our League to offer individually to take up at least four shares within the next fortnight. Some may like to take up considerably more than this. We shall be delighted to send application forms to those of our readers who feel inspired to take advantage of this suggestion and to become part-proprietors of THE VOTE. L. T. P.

### THE SACRIFICE OF WOMANHOOD.

Frances Low writes bitterly in *The Daily Mail* of the sacrifice of womanhood at the Cradley Heath chain works, and upbraids "the pretensions of those who desire to govern the Empire," because "they" (presumably the Suffragists) have not shown interest in the conditions of these slaves to a cruel industry. But it is the case of these women workers, and many others worse off than even they are, which inspires Suffragists to demand power to prevent such conditions existing. It is better to prevent than to tinker at evils. On whom should the greater blame be laid—those who "desire to govern the Empire" because they may then have definite authority to intervene; or those who have arrogated to themselves the government of the Empire, and who, while allowing such horrors to exist, blame those who have neither power nor authority for not assuaging the ills which are the direct result of mismanagement and power abused? Frances Low says, with bitterness, that "with consummate wisdom, in at least three of the towns I have recently visited, the fine technical institutes are built at least a mile away from the mills, instead of being at their door." May we remind her that it is not Suffragists who were guilty of this folly; their claim for power is based on the desire to make such waste and muddle impossible.

But, supposing Frances Low to be right in saying that "fortunately, the remedy does not involve turning the world upside down." It needs, she says, "the devoted service of women of the educated and refined classes, deeply imbued with the necessity for this crusade" (against the death of the domestic spirit among these sweated girl workers of fourteen and sixteen). Let us suppose her to be right; why are not these devoted women forthcoming, then, and from the ranks in which one might reasonably expect to find them—the Anti-Suffragists? What are Mrs. Humphry Ward and Miss Violet Markham, and their cohorts of the "National" Society for Opposing Women's Suffrage, doing? Suffragists are "deeply imbued with the necessity" for quite another kind of crusade; will Frances Low's plaintive appeal fall in vain on "anti" ears? NINA BOYLE.



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## A WOMAN APOSTLE IN PERSIA.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The following incidents, which have been thrown into the form of a story, are historical. Quarratu'l Ain, a noble Persian woman, did actually so live and suffer and die. Her martyrdom took place about sixty years ago. C. D.

### CHAPTER I.

#### THE ROSE-GARDEN.

In a hidden bower of a rose-garden in Persia sat a woman, with a letter on her knees. The chatter of many voices and the tinkling of a fountain and the fluttering of silken garments reached her where she sat. She took no heed of anything but the lighting of a new flame within herself.

"I have always rebelled," so her thoughts ran. "I have felt it was an ill thing to be a woman, and worse to rail against the decree of Allah in making woman subject. And I have fought against my free mind as evil in a woman—and now—"

She was recalling a scene out of the recent past. A pavilion, with a curtained window that looked down upon the court of a great house. She and her young sister, standing hand in hand by the window, and listening. There were men in the courtyard, as they could see through a slit in the curtain—many of them, and they were sitting in a circle on mats, their eyes cast down and their faces still. For they, too, were listening. And one spoke. His voice was very calm and sweet, and yet there was that in it which inflamed the soul. That the world changed; that customs and conventions and ideas, good for one generation were as cruel fetters for another; that every man and every woman—how she, Quarratu'l Ain, and her sister trembled behind their curtain!—had a right to freedom; that all religions were good, and that brotherly love and toleration would hold families and nations together. More she had heard; but this had stamped itself upon her mind, and had made those moments behind the curtain heroic.

Later, she had been told who the speaker was. No one knew much about his origin, for he had come into the narrow world of Persia as a surprise. He claimed to have a mission, not to Persia only, but to the world, and his followers, who seemed to be numerous, called him "Bâb"—the gate. That which to this high-souled Persian woman marked him out as different from all other teachers, was that he demanded the same liberty—he claimed the same humanity—for woman as for man.

Her longing to hear more of this new faith and hope became too strong to be denied. Through an uncle, who had become one of the Bâb's disciples, she had received his written teachings; once she had even spoken to him, and, as she sat in the rose-garden of her father's house, she had been reading over and over again a letter addressed to her by the master himself.

It was known now that Quarratu'l Ain was a disciple of the Bâb. With an eloquence made fervid by her love, she had preached to others the gospel that had come as a light to her own soul; she had even proclaimed the coming release of woman from her slavery; and one of the results had been banishment from her husband's home; but she had not yet cast aside convention or spoken with unveiled face to her brothers.

In this letter she is told, not only that the Bâb desired the emancipation of women all over the world—which would come to pass, for the Word of God spoken through His servant, could not fail of its effect—but that she, Quarratu'l Ain, was destined to be a voice to those sitting in darkness, that it was for her to begin the task of breaking the fetters with which her sisters were bound!

While she was musing, the rushing of many feet, as the women of the house were called inside, and the deep, angry tones of men's voices aroused her.

Wrapping her veil round her face she left the pavilion. She was immediately addressed: "The iniquity which you have supported has begun to work," said

a turbanned man, moving towards her. "Seek the seclusion of the house, false woman, and repent, in dust and ashes."

"Speak not so to the noble daughter of Haji Mulla Salih," said another.

Quarratu'l Ain, turning white beneath her veil, asked what had happened.

"Your uncle has been slain by a wicked Bâbi, in revenge for the just doom that fell upon his infidel friends," said her father. "Your own life is in danger, for the people are rising against these enemies of the Prophet. Be wise in time, my daughter! Recant your errors. Your husband's house is still open to you. Return to him as an obedient wife."

"No, father, not to save my life will I be untrue to my principles, will I forswear my hope. That this should have happened I deeply lament. The Master we follow teaches peace and tolerance. Alas! if a Bâbi has done this deed, passion must have blinded him."

Slowly she went into the house, taking her precious letter with her. The thought in her soul was—"the Master is right. Women must go out; women must preach the gospel of peace. I will obey his bidding." And, indeed, not many weeks had passed before it was known by Quarratu'l Ain's devoted friends that her father's house was not safe for her. The Bâb was in prison, inaccessible to his followers. Already, however, knowing that his own life would be soon cut short, he had designated Baha'u'llah as the manifestation of the light to which he had opened the way. A fierce persecution, led by the priests, had begun, and the followers of the new sect, as it was called, were being killed and tortured in every city. Baha'u'llah, who knew of the courage, the faith, and the eloquence shown by Quarratu'l Ain, sent a letter by the hand of one of the faithful, warning her to escape, and offering her a refuge at Teheran, where many Bâbis were gathered together.

It was not without searching of heart that she consented. To leave her father and her young sister, Fatima, and her two fair children, not knowing when she might meet them again, was bitterer than death. But the voice of her shackled sisters, whom she might help, prevailed. Late one night, when all the house was sleeping, she stole out unobserved, reached the city-wall, succeeded, by the help of a rope, in scaling it, and found a faithful disciple, with a chariot and horses ready to receive her, and to take her to the Bâbi camp. C. DESPARD.

### OUR OPEN COLUMN. MARRIED WOMEN AND VOTES.

DEAR MADAM,—In 1907, a Bill was passed in Parliament called "The Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils) Act, 1907."

This short Act stated that neither sex nor marriage should disqualify a woman from becoming a councillor.

Having been a ratepayer in my own right for some time, and thus fulfilling the responsibilities of a Burgess, I determined last year to contest a ward for a seat on the Council of my town, a town entirely governed by men in which conditions exist of a perfectly shocking nature, and which usually possesses the proud distinction of having the highest infant death-rate in all England!

I succeeded in securing the help and sympathy of our Town clerk. The Revising Barrister acknowledged my claim and left my name on the register side by side with names of other worthy and unworthy Burgesses.

My nomination papers as a candidate were accepted. No objections were raised. We entered upon our campaign. Lots of men who assert that they want their wives to have votes came out and opposed me. Many others worried about the unseemliness of one woman councillor sitting alone amongst a lot of men, should I be returned at the head of the poll. Councillors are supposed to look after babies municipally, and babies have died here at the rate of 45.6 per cent. in some districts!

Then it was thought that I should withdraw—that I would never face a poll. However, it was rumoured that I was in deadly earnest and would win. My opponent—a sitting Councillor—grew alarmed. The money he spent, poor fellow! The hoardings were covered with his literature. Handbills of the most startling character flooded the streets. The electors were solemnly warned against trusting "novelties in the shape of a woman." He secured Aldermen, Councillors, Guardians, publicans, priests and sinners—a motley crew—to proclaim

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from his platform to a bewildered electorate against putting any power in the hands of such an inferior thing as a woman!

Of course, I was defeated. But I gave them "a run for their money." This year the Overseers were astir betimes. They crossed my name off the rate book. I protested, and with good result. It was re-inserted. But on compiling the Burgess list I was carefully catalogued as a "parochial voter" only. Again I protested, but of no avail. The Revising Barrister must decide.

On Monday morning a new Revising Barrister appeared. The 1907 Act has not been repealed in the meantime, yet he declared it gave me no status whatever as a married woman from a municipal point of view. He refused to acknowledge my claim. He proclaimed that a married woman's politics were covered by her husband's—that she has no municipal life!

And Winston Churchill has said that women have not yet made use of the opportunities afforded them by such Acts, and shown their usefulness by securing seats on City Councils!

When will the Chinese puzzle be solved? When Revising Barristers disagree who shall read the meaning of such Acts?—  
Yours faithfully,  
MARION COATES HANSEN.

### WOMEN AND AGRICULTURE.

DEAR MADAM,—You are good enough to express interest in my views on the subject of founding a Women's Agricultural Colony in England. Although my experience is only in the more limited field of gardening, not in that most comprehensive one of agriculture, I should like to express appreciation of the idea you have put forward, as such a scheme, it seems to me, should give opportunities for every kind of farming and gardening work. I should imagine that it would be best promoted by first securing some land at a short distance from London, or some other large town, to be rented by individual women-gardeners and farmers, the land being divided into small holdings and allotments of varying acreage.

Thus it would be possible for poultry farmers, dairy farmers, owners of mixed farms, market gardeners, nursery gardeners, bee-keepers; in fact, any and every sort of recognised and competent worker on the land—to be represented, and to practise profitably her own craft. Scent-making and fruit-preserving industries could, in addition, be established.

Many obstacles with regard to labour conditions, the supply of markets, and so on, might be more easily surmounted if this were done, and the colony would by-and-by obtain a recognition in the agricultural world which isolated effort must necessarily miss. In addition to the marketing of produce,

(Continued on page 284.)



## THE VOTE.

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

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SATURDAY, September 30, 1911.

### UNITY OF FORCE.

It will sometimes happen that the strength and swiftness of a movement such as that of woman's Suffrage, to the advance of which we are pledged, possesses us so fully that we fail to see its full significance. We cannot, perhaps some of us dare not, look at it from the outside, yet since all movement presupposes force, and since to know the nature of the force is to understand better the meaning of the movement, it is wise to take an occasional survey, quick and unimpassioned, of the various forces engaged in the great world-battle of which it forms a part.

If we look deeply enough we may find that all these are with us; nay, that the power, "the everlasting not ourselves that makes for righteousness," as Matthew Arnold would describe it, is one. And this conviction will give us confidence.

Let us then look out upon the battle. At first it seems to us a bewildering chaos of contending forces, a clamour of piteous voices in blind tumult beseeching to be heard; but presently, if we look steadfastly enough, we shall see certain dominant issues standing out from the confusion.

There is the Labour force (man and woman). Now first in the ages Labour is becoming conscious of itself, of its power and its responsibility. This is beautifully symbolised in the Greek legend of Prometheus, the giant chained to the rock of pain, yet ever preserving inviolate his heroic secret, so that when the hour strikes he is able to go forth as a world redeemer, to free himself and his children. There is the child-force. "And a little child shall lead them," said an ancient prophet. In these later days we seem to have discovered the child. For though the child has ever been with us, we have not known it. Now, through the emergence of this spiritual light we are beginning to see, and the beauty and mystery of the child, with its importance in the life of the nation, is felt as it never was before.

There is the force, typified, though feebly, in the inter-racial congress held lately in London, which is bringing races and nations together, and which is making the world respond to the words of an ancient seer: "He hath made of one blood all the nations upon earth."

Running through these like a golden thread, belonging to them, though for the time distinct from them, is the force of the new womanhood—woman the worker, one with her brothers who are subduing the earth, comrade, not rival; woman, the mother of nations that are to be. As we consider these forces, dimly realising their kinship, another and still more important question arises: Whither do they tend? Each natural force has its result. These results are so certain, to those who know, that to-day the flight of a comet can be traced and its return, after long distances of time, predicted. Nothing in all nature is more immutable than the law of action and reaction. Were it not so, any ordered life would be impossible.

That spiritual forces follow the same law as physical forces has long since been admitted. But if this be so, there must be some common consensus of causes behind the world movements of to-day.

What that is we may discover if we look at each force separately. The Labour movement has for its aim expansion of life. The worker will no longer live the limited existence of a slave, chained to the galley. He claims his share of the world's joy. The child movement is towards expansion of life's possibilities.

Men and women, out in the world to-day, are feeling their lack of opportunity; many of them blame, and justly blame, their early training for the narrowness of their lives, and they desire that their children shall have a fairer start than they have had. The coming together in amity of races and nations brings with it expansion of life's horizon. The woman's movement which—greatest phenomenon that the world has ever seen—runs through all these, has for its aim the expansion of life's power, in the very citadel of life itself. In one word, the world movements of to-day are towards liberty.

There remains yet another question. Let us imagine liberty won. How will it be used? There is such a thing as licence; and some would keep the fetters for fear of an ill use being made of unfettered limbs. This argument has been used about the Purdah woman in the East. Give her freedom, we are told, and, losing the gracious qualities she now possesses, she will actually descend to a lower level of humanity.

Something of the same sort is said in the West by those who fear the invigorating wind of progress, and would keep Society as it is.

Neither East nor West, neither the tradition-bound man, nor the timid, fearful woman, has truly faced the issues that are before us. The subjection of woman must cease because it is only in freedom that beautiful things can grow. Human evolution demands the casting down of barriers, because these obstruct its onward march. It is life which asks and which will not be denied. The story is told of a seedling that, forcing its way between prison stones, became first the solace and then the joy of a lonely captive, bordering on madness in the awful solitude of his cell. If such be the force of vegetable life, must not the ever-expanding life of humanity be incalculable in its strength? That it is so, the tragic records of the past yield abundant evidence. Looking back over the economic history of our own country, watching the hosts of enslaved men, and neglected, hardly driven children and despairing women pass from birth to death, the student wonders at the vitality of the race, wonders, sometimes, that so many have grown up at all. Life to thousands upon thousands of human beings has not been worthy of the name of life. It has been a bare existence. Those mighty forces which are in the world to-day, and which form a unity of hope and endeavour that nothing can conquer, are pushing the generations of humanity into Life. Therefore we welcome them. For this the woman's movement is so dear to us. The force that ruthlessly breaks away from outworn forms; the force that, moulding character, makes through its action new conditions for the human family; the force that causes those it animates to face danger, suffering, and even death with serenity, so only that the world is served; the force that draws from the past its stores of hidden knowledge and brings them into manifestation, for the healing of the nations—these we have seen and felt in our great modern movements.

It is because they are behind our woman's movement that it is bound to last, bound to win its way until, merged in the man's movement, it is able to create the new Humanity. And this reminds us of one of Shelley's most beautiful prophecies. It occurs in his "Prometheus Unbound," where the Earth, rejoicing in her recovered liberty, tells of the spirit that animates her sons and daughters.

Man, oh! not men, one linked chain of thought,  
Of might and love, to be divided not.

Man, one harmonious soul of many a soul,  
Whose nature is its own divine control,  
Where all things flow to all, a river to the sea.

C. DESPARD.

NOT only will the community gain, but the women themselves will gain by enfranchisement. They will have a greater interest in life, and will therefore be happier. With the vote, woman will have something to fall back on when things go wrong.—*Rev. Hugh Chapman.*

## A DELIGHTFUL RENDEZVOUS. THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

A meeting-place for men and women of all nations, irrespective of creed or party, but bound by one strong and dominating purpose—the enfranchisement of women—such is the aim of the International Women's Franchise Club. It is the realisation of a need which was urgently felt after the last International Suffrage Congress in London. Sooner or later most enthusiastic workers for the Cause find themselves in London. The various Suffrage Societies have, of course, their headquarters, but the stress of work prohibits social functions, and in this great Metropolis there was no place open to those keenly interested in the subject where they could both entertain and be entertained.

In three years excellent progress has been made. To saunter into the Club premises at 9, Grafton-street, W., on a hot afternoon, and enjoy the delicious tea available, is both a privilege and a joy, only to be equalled by tea and hot cakes by the side of a blazing fire when a winter's storm is raging outside. Tea is not the only meal obtainable; very excellent cold luncheons and suppers are served at really moderate prices, and a move to the smoking-room afterwards would probably include an interesting chat with a Suffragist who had a different view, perchance as to methods, from your own. From the extreme constitutionalist to the extreme militant and all the intermediate stages, representatives are to be found among the 1,500 men and women members of the Club, so there is no lack of opportunity for the interchange of wit and wisdom.

Enter the bright and spacious drawing-room on a lecture evening any time during the year, except the holiday months. You will find it difficult to secure one of the comfortable arm-chairs or a corner of a couch. You may be thankful if you get a seat at all, for usually the room is filled to its utmost capacity. The lecture may be on a subject connected with suffrage, or it may be on some subject of general interest; it is felt that suffrage workers sometimes need a change, and the Club therefore arranges accordingly, even to the extent of familiarising its members with the favourite science of aviation or leading them along literary paths. The lecture is both important and valuable, but the great achievement is the coming together of workers in friendly intercourse. Your next-door neighbour may be a woman who is a member of Finland's Parliament, or a Hungarian, striving for the recognition of the women's point of view in the Dual Monarchy; or an Indian, not even asking for the franchise because her husband, father, or brother has not yet received it, but drawn into the great movement which is touching women of all nations. Doubtless, too, on any occasion you may well expect to find an American or Canadian worker at the Club; its great interest is certainly the delightful surprises which take place.

The comfortable rooms have just undergone a complete refurbishing; everything is spick and span, ready for the energetic work of the coming season. A large majority of keen Suffragists are not possessed of very well-lined purses, but on the common platform of the one dominating interest the lining of purses does not seriously count. In order to draw all within its sphere of influence, the subscription is kept low; town members pay one guinea, with an entrance-fee of one guinea; country members, living fifteen miles beyond Charing Cross, pay one guinea, without, as yet, entrance-fee;

foreign members pay half-a-guinea, and foreign and colonial visitors may use the Club for a period of two months for a fee of five shillings.

A glance over the list of officers and members of Council shows the very broad "platform" of the Club. It exists for the benefit of those advocating one object—woman's enfranchisement—and representatives of the various methods taken to achieve that object find a place on the Council. The Earl of Lytton is president, Mr. C. A. V. Conybeare chairman, and Miss Gray Hill secretary. We of the Freedom League may well rejoice that Mrs. Despard is councillor to the Club, and in company with her are Mrs. Strickland, Mrs. Stanbury, Miss Gawthorpe, Mrs. Conybeare, Mrs. Philip Snowden—to mention but a few. The Club emphasises the association of men and women working together for the end in view, and not a few well-known men serve on the Council; among them may be mentioned Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., Mr. Cecil Chapman, J.P., Mr. Victor Duval, Captain Gonme, Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, Mr. W. R. Snow, and Mr. Herbert Jacobs.

The Club carries out the association of men and women in its life and organisation, so it would be a good object-lesson to the "antis" to go to Grafton-street and see the result; they might in this way gain a foretaste of what the same association in true citizenship will do for the nation.

Another particularly interesting point is the international character of the Club. Recently, at the Universal Races Congress, Dr. Felix Adler, of New York, the inspirer of the Congress, declared that those who had grievances should not merely hug their own and dwell on them, but should realise that others suffered in a similar way, and in merging them strive to ameliorate all. At the International Franchise Club one may well realise the political grievances of women of all nations and the various stages of progress which have been reached. While the woman member of Finland's Parliament from her advanced position watches with keenest interest the struggle in Great Britain, the French woman, the German, the Italian, and many others look to England as an encouragement in their struggle, and feel how much the English woman's victory will mean for them. It is this atmosphere of comradeship which is the real value of the International Women's Franchise Club, and London may well be proud of possessing a meeting-place where such comradeship is in being.

A. A. S.

### GREAT SUFFRAGE DEMONSTRATION IN HOLLAND.

The workers for Suffrage in Holland made good use of the occasion of the opening of the Dutch States-General at The Hague a few days ago. A great demonstration was organised, attended by twenty thousand people from all parts of the country, in favour of universal Suffrage. Demonstrators have now learned how to manage so great a gathering, and the Dutch Suffrage workers arranged six platforms with two leading speakers at each. Excellent order was maintained and keen interest shown. The Minister of the Interior will have a busy time in opening the ninety-three boxes containing petitions which have been forwarded to him!

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Photo, E. E. Mills, 6, Stanley-gardens, Hampstead.

EARL LYTTON.

(President of the International Suffrage Club.)



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sales could be effected both on the spot and through local and postal connections, which latter would receive a real stimulus so soon as judicious advertisement had once brought the Colony before the public eye.

Apart from the possibilities of market-gardening, firms of women nursery-gardeners should establish themselves for the supply of hardy and tender plants, and in connection with these, the work of the woman-gardener in what, for want of a better term, we call at present jobbing gardening, could be carried out. The heads of the larger firms would be open to consultations and plan-work, and be prepared to send out trained women to undertake or supervise the care of gardens in and outside the neighbourhood.

These are but a few of the possibilities of such a scheme as was suggested in the recent issue of THE VOTE—a scheme which needs more than anything that its promoters should be drawn from the ranks of practical farmers and gardeners, women whose idealism will not lead them astray from proper working methods and a sound business outlook.

In conclusion, your mention of Miss Edith Bradley reminds me of her work as President of the Guild of the Daughters of Ceres, and of the County Extension scheme which she has lately inaugurated and has so much at heart.

May I point out, also, that the whole matter would probably present a field for the activities of the Women's Agricultural and Horticultural International Union—an association which was formed to band together and assist women-gardeners and farmers in every possible way.—Yours faithfully,

Lyceum Club, Piccadilly, W. HELEN COLT.

### A GOOD SUGGESTION.

Dear Madam,—May I be permitted to make a suggestion to fellow members of the W.F.L.? Just at present we are, not unnecessarily, I think, turning our thoughts to ways and means of helping our Branches financially. The rent day comes round with alarming persistence, and office expenses mount instead of decrease, which is such a healthy sign we cannot but face it cheerfully. Nevertheless we have to own meetings do not always pay for themselves, or if they do, leave little over to defray other expenses.

It was suggested, therefore, it would not be a bad idea to form a little amateur company to perform suffrage plays, which should be at the disposal of the different Branches. I think this might mean a little grist to the mill, besides playing its part in propaganda work.

If such a company could be formed in London by faithful and true members of the W.F.L., I would most willingly provide

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the plays (free, of course, of all author's fees) and stage manager if desired. If this was run on strictly economical lines, I do not see why the Head Office and the Branches should not reap a certain profit. Nothing but travelling expenses would be charged by the company, and the Branches wishing to give the performance has but to hire a hall and—take the proceeds joyfully.

In Ipswich a little while ago we put on two one-act plays, and made £5 clear profit. But it seems to me a sound policy to have one small company instead of each branch (desiring to run such an entertainment) wasting time and labour to get together a company, plays, &c., &c., for perhaps one day only, and have no further use for it, when for such small trouble and cost the Head Office would send them such an entertainment ready-made.

If you think this suggestion at all worth while, would those members who have a gift for acting send their names to Miss Underwood, who has kindly promised to find a capable secretary, &c., &c.?—Believe me to be, yours loyally in the Cause,  
Wetherden, Suffolk. ISABEL C. TIPPETT.

### TRADE UNIONS AND WOMEN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Dear Madam,—Would you allow me to comment on the able and powerfully written article by Mrs. Coates Hansen in the last issue of THE VOTE? She voices her indignation at the contemptuous attitude of the Trades Union Congress towards the women's movement, and asks: "Are we women to be inside or outside such movements—inside, to lift our voices in protest . . . or outside, to be helpless witnesses . . .?" I say uncompromisingly, Outside, every time, until we come in, by special invitation, on equal terms. Mrs. Coates Hansen says: "Let women enter every movement." I say, let them sternly boycott every movement rather than, themselves handicapped, strengthen those movements at their own expense.

Why should women strengthen Trades Unionism when it has ever been their worst enemy, smiting them here and there remorsefully, and taking trade and wage and bread and living from them? Why should we strengthen them so long as we know that chivalrous champions like Snowden and Shackleton, Hardie and Barnes, are held in less and less esteem by Trades Unionism and Socialism the more they advocate our cause? Why should we enter the Trade Union movement when, by its fury at the Osborne judgment it stands confessed as a political party and not an industrial machine? Why should we help Labourism when we have made and encouraged others to make painful and personal sacrifices in cutting free from Liberalism and Unionism? Does it not savour of treachery to those other women who have left the other parties and taken up the non-party attitude, or does Mrs. Coates Hansen mean that the non-party attitude has been a mistake, and that we should have remained inside and not outside party politics?

Trades Unionism for women should be regarded, in any case, and apart from the party aspect, as a mere temporary expedient until we get the vote. We have had an example in how crude a weapon it was, and had men known how to use their political power, it need never have been wanted at all. It is beginning to crumple up in working men's hands; they are beginning to look to industrial federation and to talk of internationalism. Why should we take up an antiquated weapon just as they are beginning to cast it aside? It is like buying muzzle-loaders when your neighbours have got magazine rifles.

The best "unions" ever founded are the suffrage societies. Cannot we learn from men's mistakes and go ahead of them, saving ourselves thereby time, money and wear and tear? When we are voters—and we must for the present concentrate on that, using all other considerations merely as means to this end—we shall not need sectional unions of this or that occupation; for any wrong to any woman in any direction will be a wrong to be resented and righted by the whole organised weight of the "Women's Movement."

May I add that I do not write this as one having authority, nor do I know whether the W.F.L. as a whole will agree? I write as a worker who has made a heavy sacrifice in personal and party ties and comradeship for the sake of the non-party freedom from bias; and I shall never cease to preach the doctrine of aloofness to those strong enough to accept it, until such time as we stand on equal terms with men. I know there are overwhelming numbers who will not sever the party tie, and for those, within-the-party work is better than no work; had we been able to capture them our task had long been over. But for us "whole-hoggers" there is no attraction or inducement left in the old sectional movements to make it worth our while to "sacrifice our sacrifice."—Very faithfully yours,  
3, Chelsea-gardens, S.W. NINA BOYLE.

### EAST AND WEST.

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the reception given by the Oriental Circle at the Lyceum Club to a Parsi member, Miss Cornelia Sorabji, who is shortly returning to India. The chair was taken by Mrs. Rentoul Esler, who introduced Miss Sorabji as a woman, learned in the law, having an official position in India that brought her constantly in touch with the hidden lives of purdah women. She also expressed her great satisfaction over the excellent work done by the Lyceum Club in bringing East and West together.

Miss Sorabji then spoke in fluent, well-chosen words. In speaking of the difference between East and West, she said that, to her, returning to England after an absence of years, had been like stepping out of the second into the twentieth century. She was not, however, one of those who wished, in any way, to hurry the second century. So far as I could gather she considers that Indian purdah women are not fit for freedom. She seems to fear the change which a larger life would produce in them. She proceeded then—so at least I felt—to give cause for a much more rapid change than she would think to be advisable. The life of the zenana, its narrowness, the subtlety of the influence wielded by the imprisoned woman on the only men she can see—her husband and her father—her little instrument of rebellion, the sulking room, where, when she is offended, she takes refuge, and refuses to perform her ordinary tasks; the lack of education, and therefore of variety in these shut-in lives; even the shrinking of the women themselves from the change that would set them free—all these she depicted. She spoke also of the finer qualities of these Hindu women, of how the narrow material outlook seemed to force them to wider spiritual horizons, and she feared that, were purdah and veil removed, some of this would pass away. Miss Sorabji, who is a Parsi, has never lived the purdah life, and it struck me while she was speaking, that she somewhat failed to realise its restrictions.

Other speakers followed her, and commented upon the effect of zenana life, not only on the women themselves, but on their children, and therefore on the nation. Miss Sorabji spoke, in answer to questions, on the urgent necessity for education, and expressed her conviction that the form of education should be of the East rather than the West.

The occasion was of great interest, and, as the questions raised were of the deepest importance, not to India only, but the world, I propose to deal with them more fully in our next issue. C. D.



## BRANCH NOTES.

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

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

A Branch meeting was held at "The Hermitage" on Tuesday, September 19. The treasurer handed over £5 9s. 6d., being half profits from the garden medley held jointly with the C.L.W.S. on September 5. Three pounds of this sum was voted unanimously to be sent to headquarters for the special Conciliation Bill campaign. An appeal was made by the secretary for more "VOTE" sellers. Afternoon drawing-room meetings were arranged for Tuesday, October 17, at 149, Croydon-road, and on Tuesday, October 31, at 112, Marlow-road. The secretary will be pleased to hear from anyone who would like an invitation. Our meeting at South Norwood Clock last Friday was very successful. A small but attentive crowd listened to Miss Nina Boyle's interesting speech. THE VOTE sold well. We shall be there next Friday at 7.30 p.m.

**Acton.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. ARNEY, 11, Willeott-road, Acton-hill.

The Acton branch starts its autumn Conciliation Bill campaign by an open-air meeting at the Market-place, Acton, at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3. Should the weather be favourable this will be followed by a similar meeting each week for six weeks. The names of the speakers will be announced in THE VOTE.

**Croydon.**—Office: W.F.L., The Arcade, High-street.

We have had a busy week in moving into our new and very satisfactory office. We have a spacious window in which our colours are proudly displayed, as everywhere else. As we are situated in the heart of the town we are anticipating a great increase in our sales of literature and THE VOTE. We are most grateful to Mrs. Pyart, and Mrs. Klinge, on whom fell the major part of the task of the removal. Everything was in excellent order for our first "At Home," on September 22, when the office was crowded with members and friends anxious to hear Mrs. Tanner on the unequal moral standard of the sexes. The address was greatly appreciated. Miss Jessett, one of our promising and successful young speakers, presided at the open-air meeting in the evening, when Mrs. Tanner again spoke to an attentive audience. The Editor of *The Norwood News* has kindly placed space at our disposal every week, for Suffrage news and Croydon W.F.L. activities. The secretary is to meet the secretaries of the other local Suffrage Societies, to confer with them with regard to canvassing the district for another Town Council petition. Our membership grows rapidly, and we are anticipating a great success for our "At Home" on October 30, when the N.E.C., and we hope hundreds of others, will be our guests at the Public Hall. Members are urged to attend the weekly Friday afternoon "At Homes" at the office, and the open-air meetings on Friday evenings.—E. TERRY, Hon. Secretary.

**Highbury.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss B. M. JOHN, 65, Marquess-road, Canonbury.

Members and friends are now asked to do all they can to make the "At Home" at Bamsbury Hall on October 10, when Mrs. Despard and Mr. Chancellor are coming to speak, a great success. The public meeting is for 8 p.m., but Branch members and friends are invited to come at 7 p.m. in order to meet Mrs. Despard and other members of the N.E.C. It would greatly facilitate matters if volunteers to help with refreshments, and for a sandwich parade on Saturday, October 7, would send in their names as soon as possible, so that time and place of meeting can be arranged.

**Mid-London Branch.**—Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing.

We had a very good meeting in Hyde Park on Sunday, September 24. A most attentive audience listened to Miss Bennett's fine speech; the chair was taken by Miss Palmer, and Mrs. Law, a Californian lady in the audience, asked if she might say a few words about the question of Women's Suffrage in her country. We were only too pleased to consent, and her speech proved most interesting. Our Branch "At Home" took place on Sunday afternoon, and was a great success. The hall was crowded, as was to be expected with Miss Cicely Hamilton and Miss Nina Boyle as the advertised speakers. The chair was taken by Miss Tite.

It was a great pleasure, which we had not anticipated, to see our President, Mrs. Despard, among the audience. As she had expected to be out of Town we had not been able to secure her as a speaker, and although she found it possible to join us after fulfilling another engagement, we felt bound to respect her wish that she should not be asked to speak.

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For surely some of the corsets offered for sale must be fossilised by now. Their styles were fossilised years ago.

What are these fossilised models doing on the shelves? Waiting. Just waiting for the Lady Who Doesn't Know to come along and ask for a pair of corsets. She doesn't ASK for fossilised corsets. But she gets them. Down from the time-worn shelves they are eagerly snatched. Briskly the dust of ages is whisked away. With pattering heart the radiant saleswoman sets them before the Lady Who Doesn't Know, says what lovely smart corsets they are, gets her cash-book and pencil ready, and hopes for the best. Next thing that happens is the lady's money is travelling on the cash-railway, and the fossilised corsets are bidding a last good-bye to the home where so many happy years of their existence were whiled away.

There's nothing so easy as making a mistake in buying corsets; and unless you insist upon ROYAL WORCESTER KIDFITTING CORSETS you can hardly blame anyone but yourself if you are lured into buying a pair of fossils that will spoil your costly dresses, and perhaps work irreparable mischief on your figure. But if you get ROYAL WORCESTER CORSETS you are bound to be right, because they are the corsets that set the fashion to the corset world—the very corsets standardised as the correct corset base by the fashion authorities of Paris and New York. You cannot get the same beautiful shapes in any other make, even at four times the price.

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**Stamford Hill.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. CUNNINGHAM, 114, Holmleigh-road.

Mrs. Despard's lecture gave great pleasure to members and their friends assembled at St. Andrew's Hall on Tuesday last. Interest was well maintained throughout the lecture, and it will doubtless be long before our Branch forgets the intellectual enjoyment afforded by our President's remarks. The first papers of the session will be read on Wednesday, October 4, at 4 p.m., at Mrs. Cunningham's, the authors being Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Goodwin, and Miss Popplewell. The speakers' class meets for the first time at 4 p.m. at Mrs. Thomson's, 7, East Bank. It has been decided to confine our attention to one subject; this term, treating different aspects of it at each meeting. The one chosen is as follows: "The need in all municipalities of a duly elected municipal corporation of women, in status equal with the existing municipal corporations of men; such a body to deal exclusively with the interests of women and matters not at present within the purview of local or any other government." Sewing parties meet at Mrs. Cunningham's every Friday at 3 p.m., and members may bring their own work or have it provided for them.

**West Hampstead and Cricklewood.**—Hon. Secretary, MME. JEANETTE VAN RAALTE.

Our jumble sale will take place on Saturday, September 30, at 41, Palmerston-road, Kilburn, at 2.30 p.m. Helpers will be cordially welcomed. The hon. secretary will be glad to receive more goods and also the names of any Freedom Leaguers willing to assist in the sale. A Branch meeting will be held at 23, Pandora-road, at 8.30 p.m., on Wednesday, October 4. Will members kindly make a point of attending?

## SOUTH OF ENGLAND.

**Brighton and Hove.**—Hon. Secretaries: Mrs. FRANCIS, 51, Buckingham-place, Brighton; Miss HARE, 8, San Remo, Hove.

There will be a members' meeting by kind permission of Mrs. Jones-Williams at 12, Buckingham-place, on Wednesday, October 4, at 8 p.m. All members are asked to attend. We hope to have a successful jumble sale on October 24, so members and friends are asked to collect any superfluous clothes, &c. Some social evenings and a whist-drive are being arranged, as well as drawing-room meetings, and it is hoped that Mrs. Despard will speak for us next month. Further particulars will be given at the members' meeting.

## EAST ANGLIA.

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

The Antis have arrived in Ipswich, and have been holding meetings on the Cornhill. This ought to have the effect of stirring up ardent Suffragettes to fresh efforts. We shall shortly be arranging meetings for women Municipal voters. Will any friends with a little time to spare send in their names for canvassing? We want more sympathisers to attend our working parties on Thursday evenings, as there is still much preparation to be done for the sale of work on October 6.

## WALES AND MONMOUTH.

**Swansea.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss PHIPPS, B.A., 5, Grosvenor-road, Sketty.

A Branch business meeting was held at Dynevor-place on the 20th inst. Mrs. Knight was unanimously elected organising secretary, and Miss E. Holmes, B.A., was elected a member of the committee. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday (please note change of day), October 4, at Dynevor-place, at 8 p.m., when Miss Downs, late of Queensland, and now of Aberystwyth University College, will address us on "Women Suffrage in Australia." The Branch has decided to hold a jumble sale in November, a dramatic and musical entertainment in the middle of December at the Training College (by kind permission of Principal Salmon), and in January an Albert Hall meeting on the Conciliation Bill, which we hope will be addressed by Sir Alfred Mond, M.P. The treasurer, Mrs. Hutton, presented a really encouraging financial statement, and we arranged to send a small donation to Mrs. Sproson's imprisonment fund.

## OPEN COLUMN.—Continued.

## THE KILMARNOCK BY-ELECTION.

Dear Madam,—On reading the account given in THE VOTE of the attitude taken up by the Woman's Freedom League with regard to the by-election in Kilmarnock Burghs, the question suggests itself: "What is the by-election policy of the W.F.L.?" Your report says Mr. McKerrall is entirely in favour of Woman Suffrage, and will support the Conciliation Bill. That being so, why cannot the W.F.L. give its support to the only one of the three candidates whose replies on this topic are fully and entirely satisfactory? Having always understood that the W.F.L. was only concerned with the stand taken by a Parliamentary candidate on Woman Suffrage, it seems to me a suicidal policy to throw over a staunch friend because of his views on other subjects which are quite outside the question at issue.—Yours truly,  
ADELINE WEST TRIM.  
74, Walm-lane, Willesden-green, N.W.

## AN IMPROBABLE COMEDY.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—We hope to publish next week several other letters on this subject.



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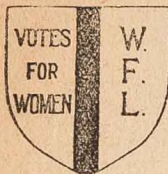
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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

## LONDON.



**DARE TO BE FREE.**

- Thurs., Sept. 28.**—Hackney Branch "At Home," St. James's Parish Room, Lower Clapton, N.E., 7 to 10 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. How Martyn. *Chairman:* Mrs. Mustard.
- Fri., Sept. 29.**—Thornton Heath Clock 7.30 p.m.  
South Norwood Clock, 7.30 p.m.  
"At Home," at the W.F.L. Office, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3 to 5.30 p.m.
- Sun., Oct. 1.**—Hoxton Hall, P.S.A., 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Mustard.  
Hyde Park, near Marble Arch, 12 noon. *Speaker:* Miss M. Wright, Mr. Theodore Gugenheim. *Chairman:* Miss C. V. Tite.
- Mon., Oct. 2.**—7.30. 1, Robert-street, B. Anches Council.
- Tues., Oct. 5.**—Market-place, Acton, 7.30 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. Tanner. *Chairman:* Miss Raleigh.
- Wed., Oct. 4.**—Small Queen's Hall, 8 p.m. **Mr. G. H. Chesterton on "Female Suffrage—The Last Blow to Democracy."** *Chairman:* Miss C. V. Tite.
- Fri., Oct. 6.**—National Executive Committee Meeting, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, 2.30 p.m.  
Thornton Heath Clock, 7.30 p.m. Mr. J. Y. Kennedy.
- Sat., Oct. 7.**—National Executive Committee Meeting, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, 10 a.m.
- Sun., Oct. 8.**—Hyde Park, near Marble Arch, 12 noon. *Speaker:* Mrs. Sproson. *Chairman:* Mrs. Clarkson Swann. Caxton Hall, "At Home," 4 to 6 p.m.
- Mon., Oct. 9.**—Debate at Abney Congregational Church Literary Society, Stoke Newington, N., 8 p.m. Mrs. Mustard, supported by Miss Le Croissette.
- Tues., Oct. 10.**—Highbury Branch "At Home," Barnsbury Hall, Barnsbury-street, Upper-street, N., 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M.P. *Chairman:* Miss F. A. Underwood.
- Wed., Oct. 11.**—Discussion Meeting, Essex Hall, Essex-street, Strand, 8 p.m. Mrs. M. Wynne Nevinson, "The Present Political Situation."
- Mon., Oct. 16.**—Edmonton. Mrs. How Martyn.
- Tues., Oct. 17.**—Meeting at 149, Croydon-road, Anerley, 3 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle.
- Wed., Oct. 18.**—Discussion Meeting, Essex Hall, 8 p.m. Mr. Laurence Housman on "The Immoral Effects of Ignorance in Sex Relations." *Chairman:* Mrs. Vulliamy.
- Thurs., Oct. 19.**—Hampstead Branch "At Home" at the Subscription Library, Prince Arthur-road. Miss Nina Boyle, Miss C. V. Tite. *Chairman:* Mrs. Nevinson.
- Mon., Oct. 23.**—Herne Hill and Norwood Branch "At Home." Mrs. Despard, Mrs. How Martyn.
- Wed., Oct. 25.**—Discussion Meeting, Essex Hall, 8 p.m. Rev. Hatty Baker on "Women in the Ministry."
- Mon., Oct. 30.**—Croydon Branch "At Home," Public Hall, Croydon.
- Wed., Nov. 1.**—Discussion Meeting, Essex Hall, 8 p.m.
- Wed., Nov. 8.**—Discussion Meeting, Essex Hall, 8 p.m. Miss Sydney Keith. *Chairman:* Mrs. Despard.
- Tues., Nov. 14.**—Clapham Branch, "At Home," Wirtemberg Hall, Clapham, 3.30 p.m.
- Wed., Nov. 15.**—Discussion Meeting, Essex Hall, 8 p.m. Miss Cicely Hamill on. *Chairman:* Mrs. Nourse.
- Wed., Nov. 22.**—Discussion Meeting, Essex Hall, 8 p.m. Miss E. Seymour Bennett, "Women's Work and Tariff Reform."

## PROVINCES.

- Sat., Oct. 21.**—Potteries Branch. Mrs. Despard.
- Wed., Nov. 22.**—Public Meeting, Llanfyllin. Mrs. Despard.
- Thurs., Nov. 23.**—"At Home," Public Hall, Newtown, Mrs. Despard.

## SCOTLAND.

- DUNDEE.**  
**Thurs., Sept. 28.**—Branch Meeting, Gilfillan Hall, at 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Mr. R. Stirton, J.P. Subject, "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyám."
- EDINBURGH.**  
**Wed., Oct. 4.**—"At Home." Miss Sara L. Munro, *President.*  
**Wed., Nov. 15.**—Oddfellows' Hall, 8 p.m., "Prometheus Unbound." Mrs. Despard.

THE OLD ENGLISH CRY OF "SWEET LAVENDER," which we have lately heard in our streets, suggests the old-world dower chest, with its piles of linen laden with the scent of lavender. The Lavender Laundry, Trafford-road, Acton, W., is up-to-date in its methods but old-fashioned in the special care which it takes to preserve the snowy whiteness of its linen and to return it to the home in excellent condition. The laundry is conducted by a Suffragist, who makes a point of giving good wages to her employees and seeing that they work in healthful surroundings. Another important point is that the charges made to customers are moderate. We recommend our readers to send a postcard to the laundry for the tariff card.

tribunals in such cases.  
HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO SELL?—If so, advertise it in our Bargain Columns. You will thus be doing yourself and the Cause a good turn.

## OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

**The Church League for Women's Suffrage.**—Offices: 11, St. Mark's-crescent, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

Sept. 28.—East Ham: St. Barnabas' Parish Hall, Rosebery-avenue, 3 p.m. Miss Haslam, Rev. C. Hinscliff. Sept. 29.—Chorley Wood: Mrs. Findlay's Garden Meeting, "Roanoke," Station-road, 3.15. Mrs. Robinson (Watford), Rev. C. Hinscliff. Oct. 2-6.—Church Congress Campaign, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. Offices in the Masonic Hall, Hanley, open daily 10 a.m.—7 p.m. Organiser, Mrs. Hinscliff, Bowden Hotel, Stoke. Oct. 3.—Hanley: Temperance Hall, High-street, 8 p.m. Hon. Mrs. Henley and others. Rev. J. Carnegie Mullin (Milton, Stoke), chairman.

**The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.**—*Hon. Secretary:* Miss KENDALL, 22, Wilberforce-road, Finsbury Park, N.

Members are asked to note that a public meeting will be held at the small Queen's Hall on Thursday, October 26, at 8 p.m., and offers of help to make this known are especially requested.

**The New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.** *Hon. Secretaries:* Miss JEAN FORSYTH; Miss GLADYS WRIGHT, B.A.; *Office:* 8, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge.

The Tuesday Office *At Homes* will begin again on October 10. The committee beg members to attend in large numbers to hear and discuss plans for the autumn, including campaigns in Dorsetshire and in Sussex, and to interest themselves in the jumble sale.

**Cymric Suffrage Union.**—*Hon. Secretary:* Mrs. M. E. DAVIES, 57, Racton-road, Fulham, London, S.W.

Saturday being Welsh Day at the Crystal Palace, the secretary donned Welsh costume and distributed Welsh leaflets of the Conciliation Bill. The reception given to both distributor and leaflets was most flattering, and promises of help were many and numerous. Cymru am Byth.

**The Actresses' Franchise League.**

The Actresses' Franchise League will be "At Home" to members and friends at the offices in Robert-street on Friday, September 29, at 3 p.m. Miss Adeline Bourne will speak, and plans for the autumn and winter will be made known. The first public "At Home" will be held at the Criterion Restaurant on Friday, October 6, at 3 p.m. Invitation cards may be obtained from Miss Conolan.

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