

Vol. II.—No. 46.

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Notes.

A BALL in aid of the London Society for Women's Suffrage, will be held on Tuesday, June 8th, 1909, at Princes Galleries, Piccadilly. Tickets, 15s. each (including supper and champagne cup) can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Miss F. Gladys Wright, 10, Linden Gardens, W., and from Mrs. Carl Hentschel, 55 to 56, Chancery Lane, W.C. Telephone 2046 Holborn. Early application is advisable, as the number of tickets will be strictly limited. Ashton's White Viennese Band (with Herr Kramer) has been engaged, and dancing will go on from 9.30 to 2.30. We have received a preliminary list of patronesses, which is a most influential one, and the names of the committee.

A DEBATE on Women's Suffrage will be held at 8.30 P.M. on Wednesday, May 19th, in the Small Town Hall, Kensington, in which representatives of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, and the London Society for Women's Suffrage will take part. Miss Packer (Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford), will speak on behalf of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, and it is hoped that members will make every effort to be present and to bring friends. Admission may be obtained by payment of 1s. at the door of the Hall.

THE Kensington Committee of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association is arranging a meeting which is to be held on May 25th, at 32, Onslow Square (by kind permission of Mrs. Tabor Brooks). Miss Packer will be one of the speakers. This Committee has already held meetings in Kensington and Bayswater, and is very glad of this opportunity of starting work in South Kensington.

AS this issue reaches the hands of our readers the National Women's Social and Political Union will be opening the Women's Exhibition at Prince's Skating Rink. The excellent programme is before us, and we advise all our readers to visit the Exhibition, which only remains open for a fortnight.

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Weekly Numbers, 1¹/₂d. 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 M.S. 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, BREM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

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80, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin.

A DISCUSSION on 'A Living Wage' will be opened by Miss Jean Greive on Tuesday, May 18th, 1909, at the Chandos Hall, 21, Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, at 7.30 P.M. The Chair will be taken by Mrs. Edmund Talbot. Admission will be 6d. The meeting is held under the auspices of the Association of Shorthand Writers and Typists.

WE regret that in our number for April 1st, under the heading 'Letter from Russia' two names were misspelt, "Levestainoff," which should have been Tevastianoff, and "Cureshnevitch" which should have been Pourishkevitch. We also learn that the Russian name in an article on 'Russian Mis-statements,' in our number for April 22nd, "Schuloresdy," should have been Schulovsky (Dioneo).

Actresses' Franchise League.

ANOTHER delightful gathering of the League and friends was held at the Criterion Grand Hall on Friday, May 7th, when the speakers were Mrs. Kendal, in the chair, Miss Gertrude Kingston, Mrs. Marion Holmes, and Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett. Among the sympathizers on the platform were Lady Russell, Miss Forbes-Robertson, Miss Esther Palliser, and Miss Lilian Braithwaite. Mrs. Kendal, to whom as a great artist the homage of all is due, received quite an ovation on rising to open the meeting. She defined the position of the League with regard to method and tactics. There were members, she said, in sympathy, as individuals, with the different societies and their methods, but the Actresses' Franchise League as a League, had no tactics peculiarly their own, they aimed at being an educational force.

Miss Gertrude Kingston said that though she had not come forward very frequently as a speaker, she had nailed her colours to the mast, and was an ardent Suffragist, and that, because she was an ardent patriot. It was time for women to come forward into the battle of politics when one saw the constitution becoming merely party-party governing party, and party interests coming before greater questions. England was awakening in the birth of a new generation, which would teach a truer patriotism.

Mrs. Marion Holmes, of the Women's Freedom League, made a deep impression in a most eloquent and impassioned speech. She dwelt upon the educational value of the agitation, and showed how opposition had strengthened the cause and the women fighting in it, and that opposition was the last stage which presaged victory. The agitation in England was only part of a great national evolutionary movement, and as such could never be put back. In 1867 women had learnt to band together, and had succeeded to the point of making their demands heard in Parliament, but they had failed inasmuch as they asked for privileges and believed in pledges; in 1884 the demand collapsed, and no resentment was shown, and the whole movement put back. The agitation was now more urgent than ever, and must continue to be without danger of relaxation. They were not fighting the Government as men, but as a great political menace.

Politics nowadays regulated the home, and entered into all the details of the woman's sphere, and industrial conditions were such that the voice of woman was necessary in order that all those conditions might be regulated to the general betterment of things. The race must rise—must rise as a whole, and not in part.

Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett, also of the Women's Freedom League, whom all know as a most versatile speaker, after touching upon the grimmer aspects of a woman's and a child's life in connexion with sweated labour, said she meant that afternoon to speak of the more amusing side of the movement as evidenced in the speeches, pamphlets, and actions of the Antis; and here our reporter became so overcome with laughter and enjoyment at the clever sallies and witticisms that followed, that duty was for the moment forgotten, and she, in common with all there, felt that it was good to be a Suffragist and sad to be an Anti. Hearty votes of thanks were given to the speakers and the chairman, and announcements were made by Miss Decima Moore.

Irish Women's Franchise League.

THE first General Meeting of the above League was held on Tuesday evening last week at the Contemporary Club Rooms, Lincoln Place. There was a good attendance of members and Associates, and Miss H. Webb having been voted to the chair the hon. secretary submitted the report of the League's work since its formation five months ago. Nine meetings have been held, a large quantity of literature has been sold and distributed. The offices taken by the League at 34, Wicklow Street have been attended daily by members of the League, and have proved a valuable centre for the organization's increasing work. Irish members of Parliament have been approached by the League, and urged to support Irish women's demand for the Franchise, and many favourable replies have been received. The report and a satisfactory statement of accounts for the period having been passed, the meeting discussed certain proposed changes in the provisional constitution of the League, and the following additional condition of membership was passed by a large majority: "That no member shall support any candidate at a Parliamentary election who is opposed to Woman Suffrage."

Nominations of members of committee for the ensuing year were then received and the proceedings terminated. Amongst those present were Mrs. Richardson, B.A., Miss Sheehy, B.A., Mrs. C. Kelly, Miss Garahan, Mrs. Duncan, Miss Tatlow, Miss Shannon, B.A., Mr. T. M. Kettle, M.P., Mr. Cruise O'Brien, &c.

Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

DURING the last month, notwithstanding the Easter holidays, the Association has been very active, and continues to make good progress. Several new leaflets have been issued, for all of which there is already a large demand, especially for one on the 'Unjust Laws of England, as they affect Women'; and another entitled: 'Adult Suffrage or Woman Suffrage, which is it to be?' Both of these can be obtained at the offices of the Association, 48, Dover Street, W., at 3d. and 2d. per dozen respectively. There is also an excellent pamphlet by Mr. John Cameron Grant, on the 'Historical and Constitutional Aspect,' price 1d. each or 9d. per dozen. Mrs. Margaret L. Woods, the well-known authoress, wife of the Master of the Temple, is also writing a pamphlet for the Association. The

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virility and charm of her style should commend this publication to all who are interested in the subject. Indeed, the literature issued by the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association has been most highly praised by politicians and others.

On April 19th, the Association placed on Lord Beaconsfield's statue in Parliament Square, a wreath, in the centre of which was an inscription quoting the well-known words of the statesman, in which he thanked the women of England who had recorded their gratitude for the services he had rendered to the cause of Women's Enfranchisement, and stated that as he considered the withholding of the Suffrage to be "injurious to the best interests of the country," he hoped to see this disability removed by Parliament.

The meeting held by the Kensington Committee of the Association and reported in a recent issue has resulted in a large increase of membership, and there is a great demand for invitations to the coming Drawing-room Meetings, at Lady St. Helier's, on May 11th, when Mr. G. A. Touche, Conservative candidate for North Islington, will speak; and at Lady Strachey's, in Belsize Park Gardens, on May 19th, where Lady Castlereagh and Lady Willoughby de Eresby have promised to address the audience.

Women Writers' Suffrage League.

THE cartoon which decorates the bookstall organized by the Women Writers' Suffrage League at the N.W.S.P.U. Exhibition has been specially designed by W. H. Margetson, the distinguished artist, and presented by him to the writers who are playing so great a part in the woman's movement. His wife, Mrs. Helen H. Margetson, has contributed some charming hand-painted bookmarkers to the stall. There is a bewildering supply of books, all free gifts—also some interesting autographs are on sale—amongst others those of Lord Salisbury and Charles Kingsley.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

SWEDEN.—Now that the Men's Suffrage Bill is finally disposed of, it is possible to concentrate attention on the claims of the women. The Liberals are strongly in favour of their demand, and a Bill proposing to give the Suffrage to women on the same terms as to men was introduced into the Riksdag by Mr. Staaff, the leader of the party. In a carefully reasoned speech he showed how the changed conditions of modern times necessitated this further change, and ended by saying: "If we judge women capable of being town councillors, professors at a university, physicians in the service of the State, &c., there is no sense in pretending that they would be too 'immature' to take part in elections of members of Parliament, or even to be elected themselves."

The Socialists also introduced a Suffrage Bill, but as this was complicated by an attempt to alter the condition of the male franchise, it had no chance of passing. Finally another Women's Suffrage Bill was introduced into the Upper House.

The results are now to hand, and are full of encouragement for the future. The principle of Women's Suffrage was accepted by the Constitution Committee, whose business it is to draft all Bills, and the matter actually came up in both Houses on April 24th. It was passed unanimously in the Lower House and rejected without discussion in the Upper.

In Sweden both Houses have equal powers, and therefore both must be won over to Women's Suffrage before the final

victory can be attained. But the Upper House, like the Lower, is elective, though the elections are indirect; and as women have a voice in electing the municipal councils, which in their turn have a voice in electing the First Chamber, they will be able to devote their energies to securing a favourable majority here too. Ultimately the will of the people must prevail; and that will seems clearly to be on the side of the women.

FRANCE.—In the *Française* Madame Misme, the editress, who attended the International Congress as a delegate, begins a series of articles giving her impressions of the Congress. She is particularly struck by the beauty of the decorations, the masses of red and white flowers, the banners hung round the room. It would be well, she thinks, if some of the people who think that the Women's Movement will "unsex" women, could take a peep into that hall.

"Assuredly the feminine element does not take its departure where feminism enters. Every detail of the organization proves this. It takes the mistress of a household to arrange all this paper and pencil for every one, this whole system of interpreters, and bureaux, all working with the smoothness of perfect machinery, and above all these impressive decorations of silk and embroidery, each piece embodying some noble and touching thought.

"And how do you suppose this new 'Eternal Feminine' was occupied this morning in the midst of all these flowers and embroideries and ribbons? In drawing up a code of international parliamentary procedure? We will lend it to the men, who have none of their own." ALICE ZIMMERN.

What Shakespeare Thought of Women.

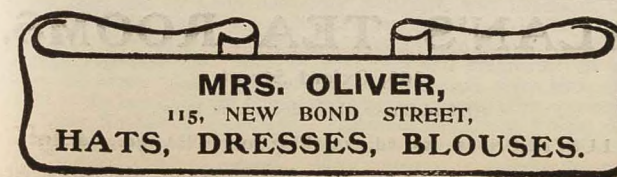
UNDER the auspices of the London Shakespeare League a discussion took place on Monday evening, May 3, in the theatre of King's College on the question, 'What Shakespeare Thought of Women.' Dr. Furnivall, President of the League, occupied the chair, and among the audience were several of the delegates to the International Congress on Woman Suffrage. Mrs. C. C. Stopes, who opened the discussion, explained that the idea of debating the question arose out of a speech made by the Poet Laureate at a Shakespeare dinner in which he dwelt on the method of finding in Shakespeare's writings the clue to his private opinions. The first thing that struck one was that Shakespeare believed women to be human beings. That was a discovery for the sixteenth century; and it was a fact that was not even generally recognized to-day. (Laughter.) Shakespeare in a very remarkable way seemed to enter into the special characteristics of women. There was, of course, a great difference between the women of his tragedies and those of his comedies. In his tragedies it appeared that the worst sin which, in Shakespeare's opinion, could be attributed to a woman was filial disobedience and unkindness, and grief and sorrow always followed this fault. The only unredeemed female villains in Shakespeare were the two elder daughters of King Lear. But filial obedience was the creed of the time of Shakespeare, though it did not seem to have been the practice so entirely in ordinary life, as in the comedies disobedience to the father for the sake of the lover was treated very lightly. Both in his tragedies and his comedies Shakespeare's women were entirely faithful to their husbands, forgiving to an extraordinary degree, and intensely devoted to their children. Another aspect of Shakespeare's women which had not been much considered was the intense loyalty and affection which existed between woman and woman, as in the case of Helen and Hermia, Rosalind and Celia, Hero and Beatrice. We found it even in the most unlikely relationship of mother-in-law and daughter-in-law. With the single exception of the wife of Cymbeline all the mothers-in-law were devoted to their daughters-in-law. She pointed this out because there was nothing that men who wrote plays in these days delighted in so much, as in representing that women were not loyal and kind to one another.

Shakespeare's women were not weak, niminy-piminy creatures;

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his heroines were brave, courageous women. The Poet Laureate had said that Shakespeare liked yielding, submissive women; but while she did not dispute that, she expressed the opinion that the 'Taming of the Shrew,' which Mr. Austin had cited in support of his view, contained much more of Fletcher's work than Shakespeare's.

Dr. Furnivall, referring to Shakespeare's insistence on filial piety, said he thought Mrs. Stopes had overlooked the young man. He thought Shakespeare recognized that when there was a young man in the case the father was not worth twopence.

Miss S. E. S. Mair of Edinburgh thought Shakespeare's private opinions about women were embodied in the women he drew; but to sum up those opinions was like making a psychological study of half the human race. His women were universal, and belonged to all ages; and we had women to-day in whose hearts throbbed the same life's blood which made his heroines do things which no doubt led men to say that they were unwomanly, and that their proper place was at home. Strength, recognition of duty, determination, efficiency, promptitude of action were the qualities which Shakespeare found in women.

Miss Spurgeon said whether if Shakespeare had lived to-day he would have been in favour of "Votes for women" was a question on which she had formed a firm opinion, for Shakespeare had endowed his female characters with all the qualities which fitted people to take their share in the life of the community and the State. Mr. J. Munro and Mr. William Poel having spoken, Prof. Gollancz said Shakespeare was certainly not a misogynist; he was constantly developing his enthusiasm for womanhood as he understood better and better the glory of womanhood; but it was a question whether he exactly portrayed woman as woman understood her, and whether he did not portray her as par excellence the helper of man. He wished, however, to point out the danger of theorizing about the view which Shakespeare would take if he were alive to-day. Mrs. Stopes, in her excellent address, had illustrated this danger. She was evidently very much troubled about the 'Taming of the Shrew,' because it did not quite fit in with her theory; but he would remind her that Shakespeare was the master of all humour as well as the master of all tragedy. Women owed a great debt to Shakespeare. He saw women as they truly were, or, at all events, as they truly seemed to be, and therefore were, to men. It was a pleasure to him to hear women speak so enthusiastically of the qualities which Shakespeare attributed to women.

Mrs. Stopes, in reply, denied that her view of the authorship of the 'Taming of the Shrew' was influenced by the difficulty of reconciling the play with her theory; and Dr. Furnivall in winding up the discussion, combated a suggestion of Mrs. Stopes that Shakespeare had a yielding, submissive wife. He thought the early plays showed that Shakespeare's wife had a temper.

Forward, Sister Women!

(Selected by the International Women's Suffrage Congress just held in London as the universal Suffrage hymn.)

Tune: "Onward, Christian Soldiers."*

Forward, sister women!
Onward evermore!
Bondage is behind you,
Freedom is before.
Raise the standard boldly
In the morning sun
'Gainst a great injustice
See the fight begun!

Refrain.

Forward, forward, sisters!
Onward evermore!
Bondage is behind you,
Freedom is before.

* The Congress decided to open a competition for a new tune, but the above is the one to which the words were originally written.

Ladies are Advised ON ALL MATTERS OF BUSINESS BY

The Auditor of the Women's Freedom League,

Mrs. E. AYRES PURDIE, Certified Accountant and Business Specialist,

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See the women's army
Press their country's sod!
Sisters, you are treading
Where the heroes trod;
Let no fear withhold you,
No oppression stay.
Out of night and darkness
Onward into day!

(Refrain: Forward.)

Women's hands have laboured,
Giving love and life;
Yours is now to follow
In the glorious strife.
Lift the burden gladly,
Strong in right and youth.
Victors' wreaths must crown you;
Nought can conquer truth.

(Refrain: Forward.)

THEODORA MILLS.
(Hon. Sec. Cheltenham, W.S.S.)

Correspondence.

[The Proprietors of 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE' do not necessarily identify themselves in any way with the opinions expressed by their Correspondents.]

Women as Chartered Accountants.

4, Derby Villas, Nether Street, N. Finchley.
May 8th, 1909.

DEAR MADAM,—I am sorry Mrs. Purdie omitted to mention that the Board of Trade definitely refused to support the Bill for the Registration of Professional Accountants unless a clause admitting women was inserted. This is a point of interest which I think should not be overlooked, and I happen to know, being employed by a firm of chartered accountants, that it played an important part in inducing the Institute to recognize the claims of women in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

EDITH BERRY.

[We were aware of the facts here stated. Mr. Winston Churchill has some knowledge of the pertinacity of Suffragettes.]

Marryat Road, Wimbledon.

SIR,—I wonder why it is that Sweden is always boycotted in the Press. Let us hope that it is only pure ignorance. Anyhow, permit me to inform you that Miss Bergman (not Bergmann), one of the elected secretaries of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, is a representative of Sweden, not of Norway (see *Women's Franchise*, p. 561); further that the name of the lady mentioned as "a Swedish representative" who spoke at the reception by the Men's League, is Mrs. Hagen.

Yours faithfully, F. A. B.

[It is very far from our intention to ignore in any way our comrades in Sweden.—ED.]

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LUNCHEON, 1s., 1s. 6d., 12 till 2.30; TEA, 4d., 6d., 1s.

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National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE (N.U.W.S.S.).—On May 18th a meeting for members and their friends will be held at the Y.M.C.A., Old Steine, when Miss Cooke (from Eastbourne) will speak on 'Women and the Empire,' accounts will also be given of the International Conference—4.45 P.M.

In connexion with "special efforts" a Market Stall for the sale of Suffrage literature will be held on the 21st and 22nd. Also speakers from this Society are going over to address meetings that are being arranged to take place at Lewes on the 12th inst., and at Uckfield on the 19th. M. F. BASDEN.

FARNHAM AND DISTRICT (N.U.W.S.S.).—This branch held at the Town Hall on May 3rd an invitation meeting for women only, presided over by Mrs. Ralph Durand, Chairman of the Committee, which was attended by over a hundred women, who listened with interest to the account given by Fru Waren Bugge, Delegate to the International Congress of the Woman Suffrage Alliance, of the development of the enfranchisement of women in Sweden, which appears to be nearing the success already gained in the sister country Norway. Miss Abadam then made a stirring appeal for the grant of the Suffrage to women, specially based on the causes—economic and otherwise—of the social evil. There were a good number of "Antis" among the audience, who evidently were not altogether agreed with the speakers' point of view, but though appealed to at the end to ask questions, none of them rose to the occasion, but much conversation arose during the tea, which was served before the dispersal of the gathering.

On the evening of May 4th a public meeting was held at the Institute, which was fairly attended, but insufficiently by men. Sir Wm. Treacher, K.C.M.G., took the chair, supported by the speakers and the officers of the Society. In a short address, but much to the point, the chairman showed that the question of the enfranchisement of women had become one of the live political questions of the day, and referred to the International Convention of the Woman Suffrage Alliance just held in London, and to the presence on the platform of Frau Bertha Engel, Delegate from Hungary. Miss Frances Sterling then rose to speak, and announced that as she must begin at the beginning she must be dull, which she at once proceeded not to be, but held her audience with the weight and dignity of her arguments.

The Hungarian delegate then sketched the state of women's affairs in "Ungaru," concluding by saying they also were now full of hope from the spirit of the new ministry about to take up office. Mr. Baillie-Weaver then, in a speech by turns humorous, pathetic, and earnest, set forth the claims of women to representation in Parliament. On questions being called for, a gentleman rose with a string of them, but as they had, as he admitted, been prepared beforehand, many of them had been already answered—and others were as to what Parliamentary parties, labour and others, would do in certain cases, and what the man in the street would feel as to petticoat government in the event of Adult Suffrage coming. These questions the speaker owned to being quite unable to answer, but assured him that the Suffrage Societies were not in favour of Adult Suffrage. The chairman had to closure some further questions as not to the point—the hour growing late—and a resolution was moved that this meeting send a petition, which he read, to Parliament for the removal of the sex disability. This was seconded by Dr Tanner, who said he had done the same some fifteen years back, but then the subject was hardly taken seriously by most people, while now the question was prominent in politics. The resolution was carried with three dissentients. Votes of thanks to the speakers and chairman were then carried.

REDHILL AND REIGATE (N.U.W.S.S.).—By the kind invitation of Lady Katherine Somerset, a deputation from our Society was privileged to meet representatives of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance at the Priory, Reigate, on April 30th. The International delegates, including representatives from France, Germany, Holland, Sweden, the Netherlands, and America were met at Reigate Station and driven down to the Priory, where after their reception by Lady Katherine Somerset, Miss Grosfield, in the name of the local society, gave them a hearty welcome to the "Ancient Borough of Reigate," and spoke of the slow but sure progress of the struggle against the "walls of ignorance and prejudice," in which they all were "fellow soldiers." The delegates were then shown part of the beautiful old house, and after expressing their appreciation of Lady Katherine Somerset's "charming hospitality" were driven on to the Duxhurst Industrial Colony, which Lady Henry Somerset had invited them to inspect. They returned to London expressing themselves "not tired, only delighted."

WINDSOR AND ETON BRANCH (L.S.W.S.).—On Thursday, April 29th, a number of delegates of several nationalities visited Windsor. They were entertained by friends of Women's Suffrage living in Windsor and the neighbourhood, and the hon. secretary of the local society for Women's Suffrage, and visited the State apartments in the Castle, St. George's Chapel, and other points of interest.

Meetings of the N.U.W.S.S.

		P.M.
May 13.	London (North Paddington), Drawing Room Meeting.	Hostess, Miss Jacob. Speaker, Miss H. D. Cockle. 4.30 8.45
	North of England Suffrage Dance, West Didsbury Public Hall, Dancing 9—1	
14.	Birmingham (Solihull), Open-air Meeting.	Speaker, Miss E. M. Gardner. 7.30
	Liverpool , Public Meeting, Hope Hall, to explain the bearing of Women's Suffrage on the other Public Interests of Women	Chairman, Mrs. Allan Bright. Speakers, Dr. Mary Murdoch, Miss E. Robinson, Miss Macadam, Miss Reddish, Miss Conway, Miss H. Johnson, Miss E. F. Rathbone. 8.0
17.	Newcastle , Afternoon	Speaker, Lady Frances Balfour
	Sunderland , Evening	Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour and Miss Chrystal Macmillan
	Birkenhead , Annual Meeting Institute Room, Park Road, South	Chair, Dr. Alice Ker 3.30 Speakers, Miss Beatrice Stewart, Miss Hooper, M.A.
18.	London , Chiswick Town Hall, Debate on Woman's Suffrage	Chair, Mr. T. Edwards 8 Forster Speakers, Mrs. Rackham, N.U.W.S.S., Mrs. Arthur Somervell
19.	Uxbridge , Meeting, Women only, Small Town Hall	Chair, Mrs. Davidson 3.15 Speaker, Miss Abadam
	Uxbridge , Meeting, Men only, Small Town Hall	Chair, Rev. J. Brady 8 Speaker, Miss Abadam
21.	Derby , Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'When we have the Vote.'	Chair, Mrs. Frank Stones 7.30 Speaker, Miss M. Norma Smith
24.	London (Highgate Branch), Spears Memorial Hall, Annual Meeting	Chairman, W. H. Dickin 8.15 son, Esq., M.P. Speakers, Miss Frances Sterling, Miss Janet Case, Miss Cicely Corbett, H. G. Chancellor, Esq.
JUNE 9.	Derby , Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'The Woman Movement.'	Chair, Mr. T. Mawbey, 3 J.P. Speaker, Mrs. W. Dowson
25.	Derby , Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'Woman's Suffrage.'	Chair, Miss Cook 7.30 Speaker, Mrs. Gerard Smith

Nottingham Special Effort Week, May 19th to 26th.

"At Home," Ball Room, Calvert's Café. Meeting, Southwell, Notts. Speaker, the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell, of Oxford.

"At Home" and Garden Sale, at Felixstowe, The Park (lent for the occasion), held May 25th, 3 to 7.30. Speaker the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell, 3.30 and 5.30. Recitations, Miss Norma Smith, of Derby. Songs, Mrs. Archie Wardle.

Speakers' Class, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 25th and 26th. The Hon. Mrs. B. Russell, 11 o'clock.

Ladies' Luncheon, May 26th, to meet Mrs. Russell, 1 o'clock.

"At Homes" and Concerts, May 20th, arranged by Mrs. Horsley, Miss R. Goldberg, assisted by Mrs. Thorndyke Casson (Actresses' Suffrage League), and Mr. Casson. Others arranged by Miss R. P. Hutchinson, Mrs. W. E. Dowson, and Mrs. Gerard Dowson.

Stall in the Market Place for sale of literature and articles made by members.

Concert, Actresses Franchise League, Mrs. Horsley.

If you can help by arranging or assisting at an entertainment, please send in your name to the Hon. Secs., Felixstowe, The Park, Nottingham.

Collecting cards will be sent to members in good time. Will every member (realizing that 10,000 other members are collecting also) send it back with something, if only coppers, collected from friends?

Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union.

The following Meeting has been arranged:—

	P.M.
14. Cupar , Drawing-Room Meeting	Chair, Dr. Flora Butcher 3.30 Speakers, Miss F. H. 8 Melville, M.A., Miss Belle Pagan

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. WOOD.NATIONAL OFFICES: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.
Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.S.C., A.R.C.S. Hon. Treasurer: MISS BENNET
Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

President: MRS. DESPARD.

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

"The Anti-diluvians!"

THE greatest piece of propaganda on the programme of the Suffragists is the work of the Antis, and of that work pride of place must be given to Mr. George Calderon's pamphlet 'Woman in her Relation to the State.' It stands 11 at Lloyds, and at all Suffrage meetings, as a means of conversion to the cause.

He cynically observes that "liquor-lords debauch, and motorists destroy us; . . . and our civilization, while it has given us highly evolved types on the one hand, like the lambs, produces on the other a set of brutes such as are nowhere to be found among the savages races."

Precisely! And that is why we want to vote, not only as a means of dealing with our liquor-lords, but as a means of raising up a type of civilization which is neither lamb or brute.

"The arguments of Mill, Condorcet, Bebel, and the Lambs, tend only to assert, what I for one joyfully admit," says Mr. Calderon, "that in mental or moral capacity woman is at least equal to man."

In his approbation of Mill one is reminded of the stump orator in Hyde Park, who was heard to ejaculate, "I says . . . and the Bible agrees with me"! It is nice to know that Calderon agrees with Mill; but one wonders if Mill would have returned the compliment. In the chapter dealing with 'Legal Inequalities' we are somewhat astounded to learn that: "The appearance of inequality of men and women in the eye of the law is deceptive; woman really holds a position of enormous advantage." What that position of enormous advantage is can be culled from the following extract of *The Eastbourne Gazette* of Nov. 11th, 1908:

"BEFORE THE BENCH.—A SERIOUS OFFENCE.

"Joseph Gardner (56), luggage porter, Amy Pettitt (22), and Hilda Gardner (25), were charged with keeping a house of ill-fame, and Joseph Gardner and Amy Pettitt, being the occupiers, were charged with permitting the premises to be used for that purpose.

"The Town Clerk (Mr. H. M. Forvague) prosecuted. All prisoners pleaded not guilty.

"The woman charged as Hilda Gardner stated that her name was Florence Farley. She was married.

"Police-Constable William Wells deposed to keeping observation on the premises. He was in company with Police-Constable Diplock between October 28th and November 3rd.

"Police-Constable Diplock corroborated Wells's evidence.

"Parade-Inspector Arthur Walls and Police-Sergeant Boswell were also called.

"Joseph Gardner, sworn, denied the charge, remarking that he was only tenant of four of the rooms, and had been there only a fortnight. He paid his rent to Pettitt.

"Mr. Mayhew said that the case had been proved against all the prisoners. Between thirty and thirty-five men had called at the house.

"The two female prisoners would be sentenced to a month's hard labour each, and the male prisoner to fourteen days."

The law which gives young women (one scarcely more than a girl) one month's imprisonment with hard labour for the same offence which is shared in by a man old enough to be her father, and who, though undoubtedly "exploiting" her, only gets fourteen days, is a position of "enormous advantage" which needs explanation.

Moreover, the inquiring mind of the awakened woman is beginning to ask by what right these women are shown up, shamed, and sentenced, while the names of the thirty-five men,

their partners in shame, are withheld from publication, and the men themselves allowed to slink away in the dark, shielded and protected by the State. We have done with the State regulation of vice, thanks to Josephine Butler; what we now demand, is the State education of virtue, equal exposure and equal punishment for equal crimes.

In the following chapter, headed 'Marriage,' he says: "We men, with few exceptions, are all Mormons at heart. We have made the great sacrifice of monogamy, and much must be forgiven us!"

Apparently polygamous instincts have not died out with the good old antediluvian polygamous creed, for he tells us that "Religion has made divorce too difficult. . . . the chief object of marriage was to make sure who the child's father was"! However, so full of good things is the bubbling Cauldron, it is impossible to digest them in one article, and I propose hereafter to snatch therefrom, for the delectation of my readers, morsels from the chapters headed 'Property,' 'Economics,' and (in view of our early enfranchisement) 'The Danger to the State.'

MAUD ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT.

Russian Misrepresentations.

"OUR readers know that Mr. Howard's Bill for Universal Suffrage, has passed the second reading. The Bill was equally opposed by the Anti-Suffrage League and by the Suffragists (constitutionalists and militants). The arguments of the Anti-Suffragists were mainly that the Bill would give the vote to all English citizens without distinction of sex, with the exception of criminals only. Thus, says the Anti-Suffrage League, instead of seven and a half million electors there would be twenty millions. As there are in England one million more women than men, the political power would fall into the hands of those who are not accustomed to use it. The Parliament and Cabinet would be in the hands of women. Considering the present political position, argues the Anti-Suffrage League, that would be fatal to the existence of the Empire. Mr. Howard's Bill means not simply a reform, but a revolution. Such a protest comes very naturally from the League; but the militants also opposed universal Suffrage. They don't want to give political rights to all women. The militants wish that political rights should be extended to those who pay taxes. The Suffragists would like to see by the side of the electoral urns independent ladies of the middle classes, not the workman's wife or their own servant and nurse. They want to add to the number of voters one and a half million only."

Mr. Schulovsky writes as above in the *Russky Vedomosty* of March 24th (April 6th). He has no more understood the events going on around him than the person who writes his "impressions" after a few days' stay in a country. Women all the world over are fighting for the removal of the disabilities under which their sex suffer, which are so contrary to the whole spirit of the age. The psychologic moment has arrived when this last relic of a bygone social order must be swept away, because it has become intolerable to the women and injurious to the State. Schulovsky should get in touch with leaders of the Women's Freedom League and he would then know that their whole effort is towards the emancipation of their sex. While this is unaccomplished, why should they support a larger and even more contentious measure, like universal Suffrage? If they did so, they would certainly find in the end that women were excluded and they had only helped to get more votes for men. A movement like ours requires

very intelligent thoughtful watching. The declared enemy is not always the most dangerous, as every one in Russia knows well enough. There are reactionaries and ambitious people in the movement, but any one holding the responsible post of a newspaper correspondent should be able to distinguish, and if he would report the doings of those who are persecuted rather than prominent, he would find that they have faith in the new order of society, and that those among them who have servants would be delighted to see them enfranchised. We do not answer such Anti-Suffragist arguments as, that "if women were enfranchised they would probably take the Government into their hands," and we regret that Schulovsky should give importance to them. Women, even if in a majority, would not be an invading horde of aliens; they will always be the wives and sisters and mothers of men. We believe that, much more than now, the best minds would govern the country, and that there is no sex in mind. S. B.

"The Hand that Rocks the Cradle Rules the World."

No maxim is more universally accepted in theory, and more universally ignored in practice, than the above. The pride of every race must perforce acknowledge its motherhood; and if the race be great, just so great is the mother.

From whom does it derive that glorious physique, that powerful arm, that fleet limb, the quickened faculty, that delightful appreciation of life and all its possibilities, that moral sense, that manly dignity, all of which go to make up the qualities of a great and noble people?

Whose is the hand wielding at once such tenderness and power? Whose is the hand directing the physical, moral, and intellectual life of the races of this our world? Knowledge or ignorance, virtue or vice, amity or strife, prosperity or poverty, happiness or misery, righteousness or corruption, are dispensed to humanity by this hand according to the conditions of its own existence.

Evolution can only fulfil its God-sent mission as its wheels are propelled or retarded by this human agency. Where shall we seek the throne of this mother of peoples—this hand swaying so powerful a sceptre? Surely among the most exalted of created beings, envired by all that is beautiful and elevating; universally honoured and protected.

Alas, no! Such is the ignorance of men's minds that they refuse to accord to woman any place in the progress of races.

Look for her, then, a long way down the scale of humanity: on the same rung of the ladder as the imbecile, and a little lower than the released criminal and the alien; the voiceless part of the human creation—voiceless, yet longing to cry out—but man decrees that she be silent. Look for her among the slaves of creation—a slave to the evil conditions to which man-made laws have brought her. Look for her dishonoured and soured by the gratification of man's evil passions. Look for her among the harassed and ill paid toilers—a very beast of burden.

What is humanity losing by thus degrading its womanhood? Do we realize what exquisite music might be produced if all the beautiful attributes with which man and woman are endowed were blended in harmonious co-operation?

Strange that the love of power should have so blinded the eyes of man to his own best interests that he is content to treat with ignominy such a vital factor in the welfare of humanity. Can he with impunity afford to trifle with so potent an influence?

Under such conditions it is impossible for a dual creation to expand to its highest and fullest measure of life, and yet to such end does thoughtful humanity strive.

The good ship Humanity is showing signals of distress, she is fast driving on the rocks. The soul of woman is awakened to her needs. She would fain man the lifeboat, and launch out on the turbulent waves of opposition to rescue her offspring from destruction. All the latent suffering, which long ages have inflicted on her, will supply the force with which she will beat down oppression and injustice, and disperse the mists of error which so long have enveloped the races of men.

By virtue of this power she will claim her place on the dual throne, and side by side with man fulfil to the utmost that part in creation for which she was destined. Thus a complete harmony of human thought and action will be established, and social progress will welcome the dawn of a new and better era. ANNIE ROBB.

Another Legal Robbery.

LAST week in Manchester appeared the first Suffrage passive resister, in the person of Mrs. Rose Hyland, philanthropist, guardian of the poor, and generous donor to many Suffrage societies. On Tuesday distraint was made on some of her goods in default of payment of taxes, and nine very beautiful old oak dining-room chairs were removed from her residence to an auctioneer's sale-room, where they will be sold next Wednesday.

There was some delay in the proceedings, owing to the refusal of two of the largest firms in Manchester to sell up Mrs. Hyland's property, for which refusal we tender them our thanks. The incident has been, and will be, a magnificent advertisement for the Suffrage cause in Manchester, for every local paper has taken the matter up and devoted considerable space to it.

Mrs. Hyland has expressed her intention of continuing her passive resistance till women have the vote. We want more like her. Who will come forward next? Q. N.

A Feminine Invasion.

DR. MARY SAFFORD will preach at the Free Christian Church, Clarence Road, Kentish Town, on Sunday morning, May 16th, at 11 A.M. A refreshing change from the usual pulpit eloquence may therefore be expected, and we advise as many of our readers to go as can manage to do so. In our remarks on "pulpit eloquence" we desire to make no reflection on our very good friend, Mr. Hankinson, who has placed his rostrum at Dr. Mary Safford's disposal. It is rather unfair that the congregation of the Clarence Road Church should have this special treat, as they are quite sufficiently well provided for in the usual way. But always "to him that hath shall be given."

Glasgow "At Homes."

ON April 28th, Miss Robertson, of the Glasgow University, gave an "At Home." Miss McNeill took the chair. Miss Husband, of Dundee, gave a most interesting address. A good musical programme was arranged, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent.

May 1st, an evening "At Home" was given by Mrs. Scrimgeour and Mrs. Sloan (Mrs. Scrimgeour is our latest ex-prisoner). The chair was taken by Mr. Scrimgeour. There was a large gathering of friends and Mrs. Sanderson gave a most instructive and interesting address. New members joined the League. Several ladies very kindly came to sing, play, and recite.

MAY 5TH.—The "At Home" was given by Mrs. Julia Wood, Mrs. Sanderson being the speaker for the afternoon. There was a good musical programme. It was a lovely afternoon, and a number of guests attended. M. HILL, Convener.

A Class for Oratory.

COUNTESS RUSSELL has kindly offered the use of her drawing-room at 57, Gordon Square for a class for the training of public speakers, so will all those who wish to improve themselves in this very necessary and useful branch of our work send their names in to the office? Debates will take place, at which every one will be expected to say something, if it be only "I don't agree with a single word the last speaker said"; so that they may get over the paralyzing effect that hearing their own voices in public for the first few times generally produces on untried speakers. Miss Edith Craig, and other members of the Actresses' Franchise League have generously offered to give lessons in voice production, gesture, deportment, &c., and well-known

speakers will give hints on the framing of an effective speech—different speeches for different audiences—how to take the chair. Lady Russell will take charge of the first class on Tuesday next at 3 o'clock.

Acknowledgment.

THE photograph of Miss Edith Craig which appeared in our recent issue was reproduced by courtesy of Mrs. Albert Broom, 38, Burnfoot Avenue, Fulham, S.W.

It is one of a series of souvenir postcards relating to the Green, White, and Gold Fair taken and published by Mrs. Broom, by arrangement with the Committee.

By-Elections and Organizers' Reports.

"OUR WORK—PAST, PRESENT, AND TO COME."

STRATFORD BY-ELECTION.—Once again has a constituency shown its opinion of a Government which refuses to carry into practice the principles it professes. Crowded and enthusiastic indoor meetings were held at Stratford and Leamington, at which Miss Muriel Matters was the chief speaker, and Miss Edith Craig took the chair, whilst we had success in other parts of the constituency. We posted 500 Freedom League post cards to Mr. Asquith, although we were only able to staff six out of the thirty-six polling stations. On all sides the expressions of sympathy with our work were most encouraging. All the Suffrage societies were well in evidence on polling-day, and "Votes for Women" is now as much a catch phrase in Shakespeare's land as it is in our own more prosaic district of the Strand.

V. TILLARD.

Attercliffe By-Election.

ANOTHER victory for "Votes for women!" Over 2,300 of our postcards were signed at the polling stations by the electors and sent up to Mr. Asquith on the night of May 4th.

On Thursday, Mrs. Whetton and I addressed a large gathering at Kiveton Park, where we were very well received, and where we shall shortly have a branch established. Previous to the meeting Miss Irene Tillard and I had been taken down a coal-mine—it is a colliery district—and there, in the bowels of the earth, we were greeted with cries of "Votes for women!" and continually we came across the familiar legend written on the path and the beams. At night, our audience was chiefly composed of the miners who had enjoyed seeing us down the mine—and even afterwards—looking as black as themselves.

The campaign in Sheffield has been strenuous; but the result has repaid the effort. New friends have been found and another lesson conveyed to the "open mind"—I almost wrote "vacant"—of Mr. Asquith.

In addition to the members of the Sheffield Branch, who worked so ardently, I must thank our Manchester workers.

As well as Miss Manning and Miss Heyes, on Tuesday, we had Mrs. Armstrong, Miss Horder and Miss Jackson, who did their share valiantly and are longing to do more.

ALICE SCHOFIELD.

Political Campaign—Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL is being awakened to the importance and urgency of "Votes for Women," by an invasion. For the past three weeks Miss Milne Farquharson, Miss Broadhurst, and others have been busy preparing the way for the invading army by holding meetings, canvassing, interviewing business men, editors, and so forth. So that when Miss Muriel Matters and others arrived to hold meetings they found the large audiences awaiting them, eager to hear about the policy and demand of the Women's Freedom League.

On May 5th Miss Broadhurst, Miss Matters, and Miss Farquharson addressed City men and their women-folk at the Exchange Hotel, and again on May 12th two meetings were held at the same place by Miss Cicely Hamilton and others. A good deal of sympathy and interest was aroused, and the political campaign is now receiving the support of many well-known and influential Liverpool men. Miss Farquharson has been successful in placing such names as Councillor R. R. Meade King, J.P.

B. S. Johnson, Esq., J. P., Herbert C. Gorst, Esq., W. Lyon Bleas Esq., LL.M., and many others on her list of supporters.

On Tuesday, May 11th 'How the Vote was Won' was produced by Miss Edith Craig at an "At Home" held in the Adelphi Hotel. Miss Beatrice Forbes-Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Nigel Playfair, and other well-known artistes taking part. And for Thursday, May 13th, a mass demonstration has been arranged at which Miss Matters, Miss Cicely Hamilton, Joseph McCabe Esq., and Miss Broadhurst, M.A., will speak.

Miss Farquharson has opened a subscription list, and several generous donations have already been received.

Scottish Council.

THE Hon. Treasurer of the Scottish Council of the Women's Freedom League desires to intimate that she has started a "£1,000 Fund," with the object of developing and extending the work of the League in Scotland.

A vigorous campaign is to be carried on during the summer months at various seaside resorts.

The success attending the efforts of the W.F.L. during the recent by-election in Glasgow (Central) has created the desire to be better prepared financially for similar contests, which may occur in Scotland in the future, and so relieve, to some extent, the burden which falls so heavily upon the central organization in London at such times.

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions already acknowledged	50	12	0
Miss Ingleton	0	2	6
Mr. and Mrs. Thomson	0	5	6
Central Branch (Glasgow)	4	0	0
Pollokshields Branch (Glasgow)	5	0	0
	£60	0	0

Further subscriptions will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged by the Hon. Treas., Mrs. Julia Wood, W.F.L., 30, Gordon Street, Glasgow.

Branch Notes.

BATTERSEA BRANCH.—A meeting was held on Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. Mrs. Duval took the chair. Mrs. Sproson came to speak for us, and the able way in which she showed woman's urgent need of enfranchisement was much appreciated.

The whist drive arranged by Mrs. Tizard was a great success. Mrs. Sproson spoke at intervals, and made a decided impression on "waverers."

Will any members of the League kindly assist at these open-air meetings by selling literature, &c. BARBARA DUVAL.

NORTHERN HEIGHTS BRANCH.—A most instructive and enjoyable evening was spent on May 7th at the Fairfax Hall, when the well-worn subject of Women's Suffrage was once more reviewed by Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett in her own inimitable and delightful manner. The proceedings were enlivened by recitations and duologues: Miss Janette Steer of the Actresses' Franchise League giving some delightful items, among them being a good example of the old order of woman depicted in the person of Miss Hardcastle in 'She Stoops to Conquer'; while Miss Sell in 'Politics' showed Mrs. Green, an enlightened "new woman" who "took Green to vote Liberal." Needless to say Mrs. Green was not a member of the Women's Freedom League or she would have seen to it that Green voted "agin the Government."

The chair was taken by Miss Mairet, Joint Secretary of the branch, and the "sineus of war," thanks to her able begging, were satisfactory. Several new members were enrolled.

E. C. DYER, Hon. Treasurer.

SWANSEA BRANCH.—A very successful and well-attended meeting of the Swansea Branch of the Women's Freedom League was held on Wednesday last at the Grosvenor Hotel. Miss Phipps, B.A., took the chair, and in a short speech introduced Miss Salmon, B.A., who read a most interesting paper on 'History for Suffragists.' She touched upon the "physical force" argument, which the "Antis" so often bring forward, and she showed how many women in history have fought in battle when necessity demanded it, and gave amongst many other examples Boadicea and Joan of Arc, as well as women of more modern times.

MURIEL V. HUTTON.

LEWISHAM BRANCH.—A crowded and enthusiastic drawing-room meeting was held at 62, Inchmery Road, Catford, on May 4th, to hear an eloquent address on 'Finland and the Present Political Situation,' by Madame Malmberg, Mrs. Chandler presiding.

Mrs. Sproson's open-air meetings will be held on Saturday, May 22nd, and Sunday, May 23rd, on Blackheath Common, Hilly Fields, and Deptford Broadway. Chalkers, literature sellers, collectors, and supporters are requested to write to Mrs. Manson, 62, Inchmery Road, Catford, S.E.

THE WESTERN BRANCH, GLASGOW, held its annual business meeting on May 5th. Satisfactory reports of the past year's work were read and approved of, and the officials, with one exception, reappointed. Mrs. Montgomery, who has filled the position of Treasurer with tact and ability since the opening of the branch in 1907, has now retired. It was with much reluctance and regret that her resignation was accepted, and she was heartily thanked for her services. Miss White was appointed, and accepted the post in her place.

GOVAN BRANCH, GLASGOW.—On May 3rd Mrs. Sanderson addressed a large gathering at the Cressey Hall, and a number of new members joined the branch. There was a mistake in the last report of Govan in the *Franchise* regarding secretary and treasurer. Mrs. M. Hill is secretary, and the members have not yet appointed a treasurer. The members meet in Cressey Hall every other Monday at 8 P.M.

SOUTH MANCHESTER BRANCH.—On May 2nd, through the hospitable courtesy of our energetic chairman, Mrs. Helen Nidd, the members of the new branch were given an opportunity of meeting Mrs. Despard, her intensely capable and fascinating personality charming them even as the earnest strenuously gifted words fired all who were privileged to hear and sent them forth with renewed vigour and sincerity of purpose to fight and win the Suffrage cause.

A drawing-room open meeting—bright and well attended—was held at Mrs. Wood's "Frankwyn," Wilbraham Road, on May 7th, Mrs. Helen Nidd occupying the chair. The speaker was Mrs. Manning (of Sale), who gave an earnest address, inviting all to become members in this woman's campaign and showing what Woman's Suffrage had done to benefit the conditions of women (and men too) in the colonies, and in Sweden and Finland. The meeting closed with quite a brisk sale of Suffrage literature, and a hearty invitation to attend a meeting on May 19th at Mrs. Rose Hyland's to hear Miss Muriel Matters speak.

S. TOWNLEY.

Cash Received April 24th to May 8th.

Amount previously acknw.	£	s.	d.	Brought forward	£	s.	d.
ledged	1,398	0	7	1,433	5	11	
Brooke, Mrs.	9	0	0	Sainty, Mrs.	0	0	9
Brooke, Miss A. H.	16	0	0	Saunders, Miss M. I.	0	2	6
Browne, Mrs. G.	0	10	0	Saunders, Miss M. H.	0	10	0
Central Telegraph Office	0	9	3	Seruya, Miss S.	1	5	0
Cope, Mrs. J.	1	1	0	(Food expenses saved while in prison)	3	15	0
Dale, Mrs. Hylton	0	1	0	Shone, Mrs. Fowler	0	2	6
Farquharson, Miss O.	0	10	0	Stansfield, Mrs. (instead of decorating staircase)	1	10	0
Garnett, Miss B.	0	2	0	Stansfield, Mrs.	0	10	0
Gontcharoff, Madame E.	0	2	0	Stansfield, Esq. (subscriptions withdrawn from societies until women get the vote)	8	0	0
Goodall, Mrs.	0	2	6	Swansea Branch	2	0	0
Hay, Mrs.	0	1	0	Sykes, Miss A. K.	0	1	0
Hutchings, Mrs. C.	0	2	6	Tillard, Miss V.	1	0	0
Hyde, Mrs.	0	2	6	Tite, Miss C. V.	10	0	0
Jacob, Miss A. E.	0	2	6	Tucker, Miss G.	0	2	6
Jones, Mrs. F. K.	0	1	7	Willman, Miss V.	0	5	0
Larkcom-Jacobs, Madame	1	5	0	Williams, Miss M.	0	1	0
Longden, Mrs.	0	2	0	Collections, &c.	30	13	0
Macdonald, Miss	0	4	0	Cash received on account of Despard Prisoners' Fund	11	0	0
Mayne, Mrs. A.	4	10	0				
Mirovitch, Madame	0	2	6	Total	1,504	4	2
Prendergast, Miss	0	1	0				
Ronalds, Miss S.	0	1	0				
Russell, Mrs. J.	0	5	0				
Carried forward	1,433	5	11				

"Despard Prisoners' Fund."

Previously acknowledged	£	s.	d.
Anonymous	74	13	1
	10	0	0
	£84	13	1

This fund offers an opportunity for a friend or friends to complete the £100. Who will make up the £15 6s. 11d. to close the fund? All cheques to 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. Members are reminded of their quarterly subscriptions, which are now overdue.

The "Fair" receipts to date are over £700, but contributions are still coming in.

S. BENETT, Hon. Treasurer W.F.L.

Who Will Help?

Volunteers are wanted to sell our literature in the streets, and outside public meetings, during the summer months. Will all who can help in this way send their names to Miss Hicks, at the Office, and offer if possible, some definite day (or evening) which they can give to the work? A.H.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

May 12th to May 28th.

May.			P.M.
Thurs. 13.	Edinburgh, Fen Gardner's Hall, Picardy Place	Mrs. Despard and Lady Steel,	8
	*Caxton Hall, Westminster	Miss Neilans, Miss Sidley	3-5
	Liverpool, Hope Hall	Chair, Mrs. Borrmann Wells	8
		Miss Cicely Hamilton	8
		Joseph McCabe, Esq.	
		Chair, Miss Broadhurst, M.A.	
		Miss Muriel Matters	
	Hyde Park	Central Branch Members	8
Fri. 14.	Opposite Kilburn Police Station	Miss Law	7
	The Library, Prince Arthur Rd. Hampstead	Dr. Marian Thernett	8
Sun. 16.	Battersea Park	Mrs. Duval	3
		Miss Underwood	
	Wandsworth Common	Mrs. Ackroyd	11 a.m.
Mon. 17.	Chester	Mr. Duval	
		Miss Muriel Matters	
		Miss Farquharson, M.A.	
		Miss Broadhurst, M.A.	
		Chair, Ald. W. H. Churton	
	Stafford, Market Place	Mrs. Sproson	7.30
		Chair, Mrs. Charrington	
Tues. 18.	Eton House, Dacre Park, Lee, Lewisham		8
	Bromley, Kent	Mrs. Holmes	8
		Mr. Joseph McCabe	
		Chair, A. Baker, Esq.	
Wed. 19.	Manchester, Drill Hall, "At Home"	Hostess Mrs. Rose Hyland	3
	Albany Galleries, Glasgow, "At Home"	Miss Matters	
	Academy Rooms, Partick Wolverhampton	Hostess, Mrs. Mactaggert	3.30
		Speaker, Miss Roberts	
		Miss Jack	8
		Mrs. Sproson	7.30
		Chair, Mrs. Holmes	
	Swansea, Grosvenor Café, College Street		8
Thurs. 20.	Open Air Meeting, over Blackfriars Bridge	Central Branch	8
	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Rev. Anna Shaw	3-5
		Mr. Baillie Weaver	
		Chair, Miss Benett	
Fri. 21.	Committee Room, Hackney Baths	Mrs. Manson	8
Sat. 22.	Blackheath Common, Lewisham	Mrs. Sproson, Miss Levy,	4.30
		Mrs. Manson	
	Bowdon, Cheshire, "At Home"	Hostess, Mrs. Hope Jones	8
		Miss Matters	
Sun. 23.	Brockwell Park, S.E.	Mrs. Despard	3
		Miss Neilans	
	Deptford Broadway	Mrs. Sproson, Mrs. Manson	12
	Hilly Fields, Lewisham	Mrs. Moon, Mrs. Manson,	3.30
		Mrs. Sproson	
	Hyde Park, Central Branch	Members	
23.	Battersea Park	Miss Taplin	3
		Mr. Albery	
	Wandsworth Common	Miss Underwood	11 a.m.
		Mrs. Duval	
Mon. 24.	Birmingham	Mrs. Despard	
	Manchester	Mrs. Billington-Greig	
Tues. 25.	Swansea, Albert Hall	Mrs. Billington-Greig	8
Wed. 26.	Albany Galleries, Glasgow, "At Home"	Hostess, Mrs. Wilson, Miss	3.30
	Town Hall, Eastbourne	White, Miss Murray	
		Mrs. Despard	8
		Mrs. Billington-Greig	
		Chair, Countess Russell	
	Wolverhampton, Market Place	Mrs. Sproson	7.30
	Swansea, Grosvenor Café, College Street		8
Thur. 27.	Manningtree	Mrs. Billington-Greig	3
Fri. 28.	The Library, Prince Arthur Road, Hampstead	Miss Marie Lawson	8

* Will visitors to Caxton Hall on Thursday afternoon kindly note that the time has been altered from 3.30 to 3?

** All communications intended for the Women's Freedom League columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and must reach her not later than first post Saturday.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 40, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

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Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.
Hon. Literature Secretary: A. I. G. JAYNE.

Notes and Comments.

We are glad to be able to announce that the suggestion for the formation of an International Suffrage Club in London is meeting with an excellent response. Members of all the societies have expressed their intention of joining, and the original promoters therefore feel justified in proceeding with the preliminary arrangements. Our readers are urgently asked to lose no time in sending in their names, as it will not be possible to take any definite steps until at least 500 persons have promised to join.

We desire to draw special attention to the letter explaining his project (form below) which appeared in *Women's Franchise* for May 6th. Copies of the letter and additional information can be obtained from the Hon. Sec., 40, Museum Street, W.C.

On the first Sunday in May, Dr. F. A. Bather, (M.L.W.S.), took the chair at a meeting organized by the Wimbledon W.S.P.U. on Wimbledon Green, which was addressed by Miss Georgina Brackenbury. Replying to allegations made at a recent meeting of the local Anti-Suffragists that Woman Suffragists held out as a bait an increase of women's wages consequent on the attainment of the vote, knowing such promise to be quite untrue, Dr. Bather drew attention to the recent statement by the Postmaster General in the House of Commons that "The Postmaster General was a very large employer of labour—the largest in the country—and the Post Office could not fail to have an influence for good or for bad on the labour market and the rate of wages." The Postmaster-General had also admitted that political pressure could be brought to bear by employees of the Post Office, but the speaker pointed out that obviously political pressure could be brought only by those who had the political power of the vote, so that while the male employees had the power of improving their position that was not at present the case with the women employees.

The Rev. F. Hankinson, a member of the League, informs us that the Rev. Mary Safford, minister of the Unitarian Church at Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.A., a delegate to the recent International Conference, has accepted his invitation to preach at the Free Christian Church (Unitarian), Clarence Road, Kentish Town, N.W., next Sunday, May 16th, at 11 A.M. The Church is situated close to the South Kentish Town Tube Station (Highgate tube).

"Miss Safford," writes Mr. Hankinson, "has been in the ministry thirty years. It is always interesting to those who support the Woman's Cause, to hear a woman who has faced the prejudice and opposition, and who has entered a profession which is thought to be reserved solely for men. Many women speak from the pulpit, but few have full charge of a church and all its duties and responsibilities. Miss Safford has proved her fitness for this new sphere of women's work."

Readers attending this service may perhaps go on to the open-air meeting in Finsbury Park at 2.30 the same afternoon. The distance is not great. A tram runs from Camden Town Tube Station direct to Finsbury Park.

We regret that pressure on our space compels us to postpone publication of articles by Mr. Laurence Housman and Mr. Alfred H. Barley, and of an account of the important decision recently taken by the Council of the London Liberal Federation.

The Men's League in South Wales.

THE first Welsh branch of the League was formed last Friday, May 7th, at a meeting for men only in the Lesser Town Hall, Pontypridd. A very fair audience listened to speeches from Miss Abadam and Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, urging immediate action, and the offices of president, secretary and treasurer were filled on the spot by Mr. William Jones, J.P., Mr. Frank Thomas (Llantisant House, Pontypridd), and Mr. Gregory. On the following morning Mr. Thomas and Mr. Mitchell had a discussion as to the steps to be taken, and there is every prospect that work will begin very soon.

For the successful inauguration of this branch we are mainly indebted to Mrs. and Mr. Gregory of Ynysyngharad, Pontypridd, who have done splendid pioneer work in the district. Great effect was also produced by the brilliant speech of Miss Abadam who, herself a native of the Principality, was able to appeal directly to the spirit of freedom which breathes now as ever among the men of Wales. Since Pontypridd is in a real sense the metropolis of its district, there is great hope that the other towns of South Wales will rapidly follow suit.

Debate at the Holborn Restaurant.

THE debate resulting from a public challenge in *The Evening Standard* between Mr. Alex. W. Norris and Mr. A. M. Langdon, K.C., took place last Thursday, May 6th, before an audience of about 110. We regret that space forbids any extended account of the arguments of the combatants. It must suffice to say that the debate was, on Mr. Norris's express stipulation, confined to the question of expediency, and that in his opinion women are too emotional to be fit for the Franchise, while the action taken by certain Women's Suffragist leaders is proof of their unsuitability to exercise direct power beneficially. Mr. Langdon on behalf of the League answered Mr. Norris very effectively, and made, as we have heard, a deep impression. A keen discussion followed.

Hyde Park Campaign.

A very successful meeting was held on Sunday, the 9th inst. The chair was taken by Mr. Wilks, who soon drew a large crowd by his opening remarks—a crowd that was augmented during an able speech by Mr. Duval. He was followed by Mrs. Nevinson, whose witty, cutting remarks delighted the audience. Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Gugenheim followed, and were well received. Other speakers were Messrs. Barley, Perrott (who made an excellent maiden speech), and Dr. Macpherson. Question-time proved as popular as ever, and a good number of intelligent questions were put and were answered to the complete satisfaction of the audience, many of whom continued to discuss points with our speakers after the chairman had closed the meeting.

Next Sunday meetings will be held in Hyde Park at 2-30, in Finsbury Park at 2.30, and in Brockwell Park at 6.30.

TH. G.

Sussex Men's League.

THE first meeting of the Sussex Men's League, held on Saturday, May 1st, at the Hove Town Hall, drew a large audience. Mr. A. O. Jennings, LL.B., was in the chair, and his supporters included Mrs. Philip Snowden, Earl Russell,

Mr. J. E. Raphael, Miss Furuholm (President of Finnish Delegates), Mlle. Dangottée (Belgian delegate), Dr. Helen Boyle, Miss Hare (of the Brighton W.S.P.U.), Mr. Milner Black, and Mr. H. R. Mackeson. The chairman, in his opening remarks, read letters of apology from Mr. Israel Zangwill, Mrs. Despard, Mr. Yorke Stanger, K.C., M.P., and one very interesting one from the Hon. H. B. T. Strangways, formerly Premier of South Australia. The chairman, in his address, said that he could not pretend to be anything but a very recent convert to the cause. All his prejudices were at first against giving votes to women, and yet he found himself on the platform, simply and solely because in attempting to read the arguments to support his former attitude of hostility, he was, to his own disgust, converted the other way.

Mrs. Snowden, who received a very hearty welcome, complimented the Men's League on its activity, and moved the resolution authorizing the chairman to sign a petition on behalf of the meeting to be sent to the two members of Parliament for the Borough, and to be presented by one of them in the House of Commons. The petition called on the Government to introduce legislation on the subject of the enfranchisement of women at the earliest possible moment. It was not the Suffragist's desire, she said, merely to obtain the vote, but through the vote to raise the general status of women, and to develop their self-respect, a thing that was usually not thought of by women Antis, who sit on public platforms and listen to the awful way in which their speakers abuse women. The speaker then pictured the revolution there would be amongst men if the position were reversed. The men would rightly say, "You can't understand the point of view of men. Our lives are different and our general environments are different." It was just the same with women now. "Has it not," asked Mrs. Snowden, "been the boast of men from time immemorial that they could not understand women?" It was said by their opponents that woman's place is the home. A woman's sphere was a home and always would be a home. But the home was not exclusively the sphere of woman; it was for men also. If woman's sphere was only the home, how was it that there were five million women in the country working in occupations outside the home? She asked all to help women to secure the vote if they wanted to be a great country and a great Empire; great in its manhood, great in the purity and gentleness of its motherhood, and great in everything that makes for real greatness. (Applause.)

Earl Russell, who seconded in an enthusiastic and impressive speech, said he regarded the movement as one above and beyond the ordinary political questions and one of the greatest possible moment. After reference to his admiration for Mrs. Snowden's speeches, and to the presence of the International delegates, he confined his speech to answering the criticisms on militant methods. Most of the methods had consisted in the vain attempt to interview a man who did not want to see them. Men did not experience difficulty in getting their deputations received, and it was not to be wondered at that the women engaged in this movement resented this treatment. It was constantly said that they had only themselves to blame, and that they went to prison because they wished to. Those women were not so devoid of self-respect as to promise to abstain from their method of agitation, simply because it did not commend itself to the magistrates or to His Majesty's Ministers. It did not make any difference whether they agreed with their methods or not; the question was whether they were based on conviction. If they were, they should not ask them to be untrue to their convictions. (Applause.)

Miss Furuholm, told how the vote was won in Finland. She told of secret meetings and very militant methods, which were in a great measure the means of obtaining the vote there.

Mr. J. E. Raphael congratulated the last speaker on the way she had spoken, and said he would give the lie direct to those people who said that Suffragettes had no political capacity. Their capacity struck him very forcibly in the Croydon by-

election. (Laughter.) He claimed the vote for women as a man, because every citizen should possess it.

Mlle. Dangottée, a Belgian delegate, gave a striking and interesting speech in French, in which she spoke of the bravery of the English Suffragettes.

The resolution was unanimously carried, and the usual votes of thanks terminated the proceedings.

Miss C. Burleigh, Mus. Bac., L.R.A.M., was at the organ and played selections before the meeting opened.

ADRIAN BRUNEL, Hon. Sec.

Mr. Forbes-Robertson at Liverpool.

OUR Liverpool branch held a most successful afternoon meeting last Thursday in the Alexandra Hall, Great Crosby, when Mr. Forbes-Robertson—a member of the League—was the principal speaker. The chairman, the Rev. T. H. Baxter, B.A., was supported by the Rev. F. Smith, Miss Viola Compton, the well-known actress, Mr. Ben. S. Johnson, J.P., Mr. J. F. Carøe (Danish consul), and Mr. A. R. Allerton, Hon. Sec. of the Liverpool branch.

Mr. Forbes-Robertson devoted the first part of a brilliant speech to the Anti-Suffragists, mingling argument with genial humour in a way which was both convincing and amusing. According to *The Liverpool Courier* (which devoted more than a column to the speech) one of his happiest points was an anecdote of a "prominent London editor," who "asserted that a woman would not promptly tackle a responsibility when it arose. He [the speaker] reminded him of a woman called Victoria. 'Oh,' was the reply, 'but she was brought up to it.' That was the whole question. The editor jumped right into the trap." Mr. Forbes-Robertson wound up with a powerful defence of the militant Suffragists, and an eloquent appeal to women who live in happy circumstances to come to the rescue of their less fortunate sisters.

Both the leading dailies of the city (*The Liverpool Courier* and *The Daily Post and Mercury*) gave long reports of the speech. Mr. Allerton is once again to be congratulated on a most successful enterprise.

Debate at Chelmsford.

MR. HERBERT F. PASH (M.L.W.S.) was the chief speaker in a debate held in the Shire Hall, Chelmsford, on Tuesday, May 4th. His opponent was Mr. R. Stewart Smylie, and the chair was taken by the Rev. T. McDougall Rundle, who confessed himself a Suffragist in his opening speech. We regret that space prevents our giving even a résumé of Mr. Pash's speech, which contained an excellent summary of women's services in the financial and educational spheres. Mr. Stewart Smylie, curiously enough, clung to the belief that women are excessively emotional, and yet gave as instances of their defects that there are no great women poets and painters. True, he said also, that all the best cooks are men, but the report in *The Essex County Chronicle* gave him comparatively little space and it may be that the odd chain of argument is due to the sub-editor. Among other speakers were Mr. Aylmer Maude (M.L.W.S.), Mrs. Maude, and Alderman Thompson.

International Suffrage Club.

If the proposed Women's Suffrage Club, as described in the issue of *Women's Franchise* of May 6th, is established I shall be happy to become a member at an annual subscription of one guinea.

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