

THE VOTE.
April 25, 1913.
ONE PENNY

FREE SPEECH.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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Edited by C. DESPARD.

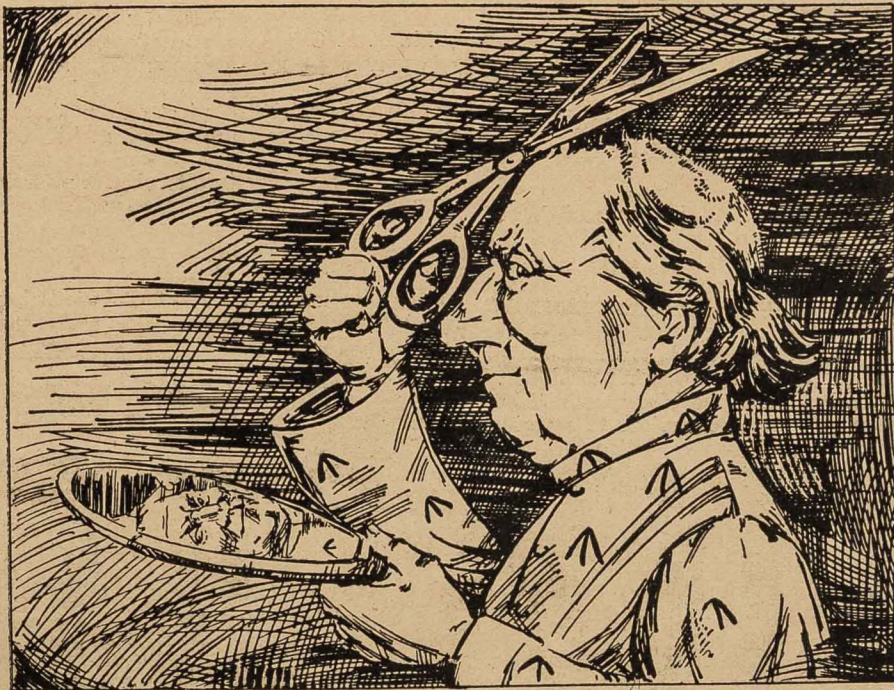
OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men ;
to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between
the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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HOW TO ESCAPE THE WOMEN.—I. THE PRIME MINISTER.



"With my hair cut close and in this coat, which fits me
like my own, they'll never know me!"

[Mr. Asquith's appearance has been completely changed by a short crop.—Daily Press.]

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

"A Mad World, My Masters,"

It is rather a piteous spectacle that is presented by the veteran soldier and anti-suffragist, Lord Roberts, in his crusade on behalf of National service. "I appeal to the mothers," he said, in the great speech that moved all the Garvins of the Press to more than their customary measure of gush. The mothers! Those whose vote would be "disastrous" to the nation are to be dragged in to save it by their voice. Unfit to record the decision recklessly thrust into the hands of their immature sons, they are, nevertheless, to intervene to entreat these sons to make the nation safe! Why, then, we ask, is not the vote entrusted to the mothers and not the sons, seeing how insecurely the latter hold their trust and how the former have to instruct them in their duties? A mad world, my masters; and a roundabout way of ordering it. It is a pity that these worse than early Victorian survivals have not the courage of their convictions. If women's votes would be "disastrous," then their interference in any affairs of the nation's must be a wrong thing to encourage; yet Lord Roberts and his kind can never refrain from dragging them in—whenever there is anything to be gained for themselves!

A Women's Parliament.

Much correspondence has reached us concerning a women's Parliament—a foolish suggestion that many kind people appear to be taking seriously. We can only say that in our opinion so freakish an exercise on our constitutional procedure is condemned beforehand as a waste of time, money, and energy. With neither authority, reverence, nor the means or power to carry its decisions into effect; with no qualifications laid down for those who "represent" or those who are "represented"; with no established national machinery to carry it through the preliminary stages of election, &c.; this notion seems to us to be, of all things, the most fantastic and illusory that it has yet occurred to our friends to offer us. We cannot conceive of such a suggestion being put forward to pacify the discontent of a body of unenfranchised men; but it is the kind of thing thought good enough for women. And we cannot think where any one imagines we are going to find the money, and the time, and the women, to run such an unwieldy and unremunerative concern. Parliament without power; measures without money; legislators without legal standing is not a speculation—let alone an investment—likely to tempt us after all these years of wandering in the wilderness of disenfranchisement.

Death by forcible Feeding.

At Coton Hill Hospital for Mental Diseases, Edmund John Taunton, forcibly fed to "prevent his dying of starvation," died instead of the forcible feeding, his heart being diseased. The intelligent jury at the inquest found that death had been "accelerated by the forcible but necessary feeding." This story recalls that of the Irishman condemned to be hanged, but whose mother boasted that "he saved his life by dying in prison first." The doctors at Coton Hill, in patriotic emulation of our humane Home Secretary, were so anxious to save Mr. Taunton from starvation that they killed him first by feeding. The feeding was "necessary" to keep him from starvation; but it killed him quicker! We hope the episode will cheer up Mr. McKenna and give him courage to go on. Such a verdict as that of the twelve good men and true who sat on the inquest of Edmund Taunton fills us with admiration for the superior intelligence of the noble male. His adroitness in not seeing what lies under his nose is sublime. No wonder they do not want women on the register, or on the jury lists. Things will be so much more complicated.

The Government's "Gross Political Hypocrisy."

Australia, in messages from its highest authorities, has done its best to drive common-sense as to Woman Suffrage into the British Government, and Australian women have expressed in plainest terms their indignation at the

disparaging way in which the matter is spoken of by Mr. Lewis Harcourt—he of the perfect wife—the Minister who guards their interests. Now we rejoice to find *The Age* of Melbourne, Australia's leading paper, hitherto strongly anti-militant, declaring that the gross political hypocrisy of the Government has endowed the Suffragettes "with an excuse for violence which must go a long way towards condoning their offences in the estimation of a people whose women are not considered the political inferiors of criminal white men and naturalised negroes." *The Age* also sees that a Private Members' Bill for Woman Suffrage is "a pure illusion and a cynical piece of make-believe," and exposes the worthlessness of the vaunted promise in a picturesque sentence—declaring that "an unfettered discussion is as hopeless as a pledge to build a railway to the moon." *The Age* chastises the Government with scorpions; "a succession of unworthy tricks" instead of "tranquillising the women by fooling them" has driven them to desperation. We heard at the Caxton Hall from Mrs. Nott Bower lately strong approval of the characteristics of Shakespeare's heroines—except Ophelia—of plain speaking and going direct to the point as most beneficial to all concerned. We are glad to note that Australia is sufficiently Shakespearean to send a daughter's message to the Anti-Suffrage mother, in the words of *The Age*, thus:

The women have justice on their side, and for years past they have argued their cause ably, and on the whole with admirable patience. Their adversaries have never been able to reply effectively to one of their contentions. The sole weapon of the Anti-suffragettes, indeed, is a discourteous deaf ear. They despise arguments and will not listen to them.

We need only add that the allotting of two days for discussion of the "Dickinson" Bill just before the Whitsuntide holidays is affording an unexpected and easy excuse for triflers and wobblers to plead exhaustion and the need of recuperation by anticipating the holiday. *The Morning Post* puts the situation clearly thus: "It will be easier to have a plausible reason for keeping away on the eve of an adjournment for nearly three weeks than if the debate were sandwiched between Government business when the Session is in full swing." Evading a division is not evading the question, and Woman Suffrage cannot be consigned to oblivion by the voting on May 6.

"A Monstrous Disadvantage."

Mr. T. P. O'Connor is an adept at utilising personal experiences as journalistic information; and though we strongly resent his utterly selfish attitude towards women demanding their just enfranchisement, we will not grumble when he sets forth at length in *Reynolds'* this week his conviction, arising out of revisiting the British Courts of Justice, that better means of defending poor prisoners are urgently needed. He draws a pathetic picture of a woman, ignorant, foolish, cowering, compelled to defend herself, without having the least idea how to do it, before men keen and practised in the dictates of the law. His words burn:—

It is to my thinking monstrous (he writes) that any person charged should be placed under such a disadvantage. It is monstrous that in this wealthy and generous country—for there is no country more generous in instincts than England, especially in hatred of oppression and injustice—that funds should not be forthcoming to give every penniless prisoner the benefit of legal advice. The ablest men in business do not do a stroke of difficult negotiation without having a solicitor at their elbows, and yet here you have an ignorant and frightened woman fighting her case against able counsel, against all the prejudice and all the machinery which are arrayed against her; fighting, in short, the whole world, with her back to the wall, and nobody to assist, to counsel, or to cheer her! It is not, it cannot be, right.

We trust that Mr. O'Connor's urgent words to the Home Secretary—whom he hails as "one of the ablest exponents of the office"—to remedy this crying injustice will take effect and add weight to the same demand already made by the Women's Freedom League.

Free Speech Demonstration.

At a meeting of the Free Speech Defence Committee at the House of Commons, Mr. Wedgwood, M.P., presiding, it was decided to organise a demonstration in Trafalgar-square on the first Sunday in May to protest against the police prohibition of Suffragist outdoor propaganda.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

London Meetings.—During the next fortnight we have a number of specially interesting meetings which we hope our readers will make as widely known as possible among their friends.

Friday, April 25, at 1, Robert-street, Professor S. N. Baral, M.A. (of Bengal) will lecture on "The Women of India." The chair will be taken at 8 p.m. by Mrs. Despard. Admission by ticket only, price 6d. each from this office. A discussion will follow this lecture.

Wednesday, April 30, at Caxton Hall, Westminster. The speakers will be Dr. G. B. Clark on "The Industrial Aspect of the Woman's Question," and Miss Anna Munro on "The Woman of To-Day." The chair will be taken at 3.30 p.m.

Monday, May 5. The Women's Freedom League will hold a reception in honour of Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance at 3.30 p.m. at Caxton Hall. Speeches by Mrs. Chapman Catt, Mrs. Despard, and Miss Nina Boyle at 4 p.m. There will be music and refreshments and admission will be by ticket only, price 1s. As this is the first occasion on which we have had the good fortune to secure Mrs. Catt, we urge our members and friends to attend in large numbers so that we can give a very cordial welcome to this world-renowned suffrage speaker. Tickets are on sale at this office.

Wednesday, May 7, at 3.30 p.m., a public meeting will be held at Caxton Hall, the speakers being Mr. Laurence Housman on "The Relation of Physical Force to Self Government," and Miss Nina Boyle. This will be our last meeting at Caxton Hall before the Whitsun recess, and we look forward to seeing a crowded audience.

Wednesday, May 7, at 7.30 p.m., Captain Carey, R.N., has kindly promised to give an address at this office on "Health Foods." Attractive specimens of health food dishes will be shown by Mrs. Walter Carey, which can be purchased at moderate prices after the address. Admission is free, but there will be a collection.

Middlesbrough.—Once again we gratefully acknowledge the service Mrs. Tanner is rendering to the League. She has arranged with our Middlesbrough Branch to take a series of meetings there from Friday, May 2, to Thursday, May 8, further particulars of which will be found in Forthcoming Events. We wish every success to this campaign.

Liverpool.—Following Mrs. Harvey's suggestion which appeared in THE VOTE a fortnight ago, Mrs. Evans has arranged a series of suffrage discussions with working men's wives in Liverpool, a further account of which will appear in next week's VOTE.

Encouraging reports of new members and increased activities have been received from other Branches, a sure sign that The Women's Freedom League is gaining in strength and popularity in the country.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

TOWER HAMLETS BY-ELECTION.

Candidates: SIR STUART SAMUEL (L.);
 CAPTAIN MONTEAGLE BROWNE (C.)

Figures at last election:—
 1910 (December).
 S. M. Samuel (L.) 1,731
 Captain Browne (C.) 1,191
 L. majority 540
 Polling Day, Wednesday, April 30.

The election in the Tower Hamlets division is likely to prove an exciting one, as the Government candidate

is making a strong appeal for sympathy in his rather difficult position. There will probably be a good deal of "mud-slinging," recent events having supplied opponents and supporters of the Government alike with much ammunition of this description for election use.

The Women's Freedom League has opened Committee Rooms at 36, Commercial-road East (three minutes' walk from Aldgate East Station), and will hold meetings throughout the constituency. Miss Marguerite Sidley is in charge, and Mrs. Tritton, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Thomas, Miss Wallis, Miss Berkeley Smith, and others are giving their services. Helpers will be warmly welcomed for the meetings to be held daily in Commercial-street and in Whitechapel-road, and in the varied work entailed in an election campaign. Miss Alison Neilans, who, as all our members will be glad to hear, is able to take up work again, has been asked to accept an engagement to speak for the W.F.L. throughout the campaign; and every effort will be made to "keep the Liberal out."

Candidates have been asked, by letter, whether they are in favour of Women's Suffrage; and if so, what steps they propose to take if elected to Parliament to secure the enfranchisement of women.

The Anti-Suffragists are hard at work, issuing an appeal in a foreign language, so as to enlist the sympathies of aliens against the enfranchisement of English-women. We do not believe these aliens, who have gratefully sought the shelter of our shores, will take any part in refusing to others the freedom so ardently sought for by themselves. If they do it will be another and a deeper injustice, and another and a deeper incentive to action, that foreign men may come to Britain and gain that which is denied, in their own country, to women of British birth and blood, and use it to keep British women in subjection. C. NINA BOYLE.

Literature Department.—Envelopes, with W.F.L. stamp in green, in corner, may be had 3d. per packet of 25; also green and white seals, gummed at the back, for fastening envelopes, &c., 10d. per 100 (10 a penny).

Cigarettes (with Votes for Women on the papers) can be had: Turkish, 6s., Egyptian, 5s. 4d., Virginia, 4s. per 100, in boxes of 25, 50, 100, postage 1d. or 2d. per box.

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FREE SPEECH.

"We may even hope that the Liberal Government will proceed a step or two further in its wise restrictions of the liberty of the subject."—*Morning Post*.

Never was anything more fatuously devised or imagined by any Government than the resolution to "proclaim" Suffrage meetings. Past history is full of warnings, which have passed Mr. McKenna by, making no impression, apparently, upon his mind, which does not seem capable of entertaining more than one idea at a time. Not the disastrous result of proclaiming meetings in Ireland; not the humiliating consequences of closing Trafalgar-square in the days when pompous John Burns cut a more gallant figure than now; not the uproar in the Transvaal; nothing will teach these peddling politicians the truth. Like the Bourbons of France and the Boers of the back veld, "they learn nothing and forget nothing." All the old tags of Parliamentary lore cling to their lips; all the vain, foolish precedents, reeled off by heart, are used to guide their steps. But of the real meaning enshrined in the facts of the past they glean no knowledge, and there is no understanding in their hearts.

The Government is singularly unfortunate, in this crisis, in its journalistic advisers. The office of the Press is, as usual, to obscure the issues; and *The Daily News* alone lifts a feeble warning voice, soon stifled in the general clamour of vicious pleasure at the "muzzling" of "dangerous" women. In a short paragraph, every word of which bristles with truth—contrasting sadly with more recent utterances—the organ of Liberalism says:—

The decision of the Home Secretary to prohibit open-air meetings of the militant Suffragists in Hyde Park and other open spaces marks a new phase of the conflict between the Suffragettes and society. The decision is based on the notorious disorder that attends the meetings and their use for the advocacy of a criminal policy. Any interference with the right of public meeting is a step which will create great disquiet in the minds of those who thought that the battle for that right had been fought and won finally. The reasons for the action are real enough. The disorder has become persistent and serious, and the advocacy of violence has become habitual and unrestrained. The consequences of that advocacy are not problematical; they are the daily material of the newspaper. We report to-day another outrage on the south coast. The alternative before the Home Secretary is as disagreeable as any that ever faced a Liberal Minister. He has either to sit idle while a senseless policy of destruction is preached or he has to break those tables of the law of free speech for which Liberals in the past have fought and suffered. He has come down on the latter horn of the dilemma. If it were likely to be effective the decision would have some justification. But it will only add fuel to the flames, and incidentally it brings us back to the time when a member of the present Cabinet was being tried for fighting the battle of free speech in Trafalgar-square with the present Prime Minister as his counsel.

But the editor falls short of the whole truth by one pregnant fact. The dilemma has another "horn." There are not only two alternatives, both bad. There is a policy consistent with justice, wisdom and order; and that is the one the Government will not take!

The Morning Post congratulates the Government and in all good faith quotes Russian precedent, which "had the support of the great mass of the Russian public, and the only people who made any serious objection were the Radicals and Anarchists themselves

and their Liberal allies in this country." (That was a nasty little hit, well earned by this unliberal Liberal Administration!) But the leader-writer of *The Morning Post* goes on to show us why he approves of the Government's action. His fervour is not unreservedly anti-Suffrage. There are other reasons for exultation, and he states them quite simply:

We may even hope that the Liberal Government will proceed a step or two further in its wise restrictions of the liberty of the subject. For example, it might proscribe meetings held to support strikes which are directed against the safety and well-being of the nation. The ringleaders might be arrested, and although we are certain that forcible feeding would not be necessary in their case, they might be kept under control and supervision without legal process upon some system akin to the so-called "Cat and Mouse" Bill, which has been so ingeniously elaborated by our Liberal Home Secretary. We welcome the measures now being taken against these misguided women as useful precedents which will be available against more dangerous and more serious forms of political crime.

No oratory of ours could be more effective than the above-quoted precious fragment to show that the cause of the women is indeed first and last the cause of "the people" themselves. No matter how displeasing the views of one set of "the people" may be to another; no matter how injudicious, how extreme, may be the panaceas of reformers, whether social, political, or industrial, no good purpose can ever be served by suppressing freedom of expression. There can be no possible objection from any side to the prompt arrest of any person who in so expressing views, breaks the law by "incitement" to one of the many forms of crime now being advocated broadcast throughout the land. What we must raise our voice in increasing condemnation against is the partiality, the wickedness of seizing on the weaker and less dangerous offender, the voteless woman, and marking her down for an example, while leaving the enfranchised and doubly-armed man to pursue a course fraught with far greater and weightier evil and danger. In all its lofty denunciation of those who "advocate crime," and thus make it "impossible to prevent disorder at the meetings"—reasons which "appeal to the Tory mind as good, sound reasons for limiting freedom of speech"—we find no word of Sir Edward Carson and Captain Craig. When it comes to hitting, Mr. McKenna, apparently, is not on the look-out for "a man his own size." He prefers to hit at something he believes to be helpless; the result will probably make him "see stars"!

"If a political organisation urges lawlessness on the public," says *The Morning Post* with unbending righteousness, "and if its meetings provoke disorder, we think its meetings ought to be stopped." We hope Mr. McKenna will act without delay on that gracious admission and send his ukase to Belfast. In all the shocked virtue of Liberal and Radical journalistic effort there is not a word about Mr. Devlin and Mr. Ginnell, not a word about Co. Clare, not a word about the debate on Irish administration. Journalistic effrontery and corruption has reached its extreme limit; in its very audacity and its unreasoning terror and fury at the bare prospect of a triumph for women, it lays itself open to the very worst suspicions, hitherto only whispered but now openly hinted, of being so deeply involved in evil things that nothing could compensate for the loss Women's Suffrage and its consequences would inflict. (*italics mine*)

Egged on by this furiously and dishonestly partisan Press, Mr. McKenna—who doubtless felt it was up to him to "do zummat"—and Sir Edward Henry, who has been tingling for months with the desire to do that zummat rather drastically, put their misguided heads together. And, as in the days I have already alluded to, Home Secretary and Commissioner of Police hit upon the palpably wrong thing to do. The shades of Lord Llandaff and Sir Charles Warren must be watching

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the encounter with grim diversion, while the same Nemesis that overtook them creeps nearer and nearer to their equally ill-advised successors. The police in Hyde Park on Sunday last must have wished them both at the bottom of the sea. Harassed by the jeering crowds, stung with jibes and sneers, rushed from pillar to post with false alarms, only to be met by ribald laughter, their life was anything but a happy one for those few strenuous hours. And when stout and perspiring Superintendent Wells, unable to control himself any longer, called to his mounted men, "Come away from here; we needn't stay here to be insulted!" one felt the pity of the whole thing strike one's soul. The men plainly hate the whole business, and are worthy of a more worthy job. If votes for women hung on the vote of the police there would be no long waiting.

The folly of the Government has been well matched by the falsity of the Press. The dense mass in Hyde Park is described unanimously as one entirely hostile to the suffragists. Highly coloured accounts depict the anger of "the public," the ill-treatment of women, the efforts of the police to "protect" them from those who would have rent them mercilessly had they got them out of the hands of the guardians of the law. Not a word is said of the huge crowd that came to hear suffrage speeches, to support the women, and to demonstrate in favour of freedom of speech. Not a word about the persistent baiting of the police, who came in for much more unpleasant treatment than the women. Not a word about the attempted rescue of the arrested. Not a word about John Scurr and the stalwart men—the "public" that we know and love, not the degenerate, the hooligan, and the undesirable alien beloved of the Press—from George Lansbury's district, who came to see fair play; the men of the men's societies who rallied in force; the men who are sickened of brutal exhibitions at the expense of women; the honest British public that does love fair play and decency, and that turned out in its thousands, holding the heedless, naughty-boy element in wholesome check. On all sides one heard the cries of "Free Speech." And on all sides one saw a surprising amount of good humour, both among "pros" and "antis." One episode that has been made a great deal of was the "mobbing" of two ladies who had expressed "militant" sentiments on seeing the action of the police. But although they were "mobb'd" they were not touched, until the police came and marched them (not their pursuers) away. The crowd followed close, half of them not knowing what it was all about, but running after each other like sheep. When the ladies were passed through a gate, and the gate was closed, it was the "joke" of worrying the police, and not any idea of catching the ladies that made the crowd jam itself at the gate and try to get through. Several ladies were passed through the struggling mob in the kindest way; jokes were exchanged with some "suffragettes" who were in the crush—the writer, with two badges openly worn, being one of them; and it was impossible to avoid two conclusions, one being that the majority were there "for fun," without any angry or evil intent whatsoever, and the other that whatever of real feeling was present was in the hearts of the men who were roused to defend justice and clean dealing towards the weak as well as the strong.

Several meetings were held, despite the police. The W.S.P.U. women, with splendid pluck, got in quite a lot of work in various places before being dislodged. Several men held informal crowds—pretty big ones—on the subject of Free Speech; and one large gathering was addressed by Mr. Nevinson, John Scurr, and the writer. A resolution was carried with only seven dissentients, the Government was condemned, Mr. McKenna hissed and boomed, and ringing cheers given for Mr. Lansbury, Mr. Scurr, Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Despard, and Free Speech.

One came away with a feeling of real triumph, which even the gross untruthfulness of the Press cannot damp. Nevertheless, it is becoming apparent that said untruthfulness is assuming the dimensions of a national danger.



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The wholesale suppression of the truth is bad enough; but the wholesale dissemination of lies is so grave a matter as to call for some heavier castigation than mere rebuke. If one day the offices of the papers responsible find themselves subjected to the treatment that has been advocated for suffragists, at the hands of an indignant public, they will only have their own iniquities to blame. They will find out the bitter truth that "you can fool all the people some of the time, and you can fool some of the people all the time; but you can't fool all the people all the time"; and they will pay through the nose for the attempt. C. NINA BOYLE.

TO BOYCOTT ENGLAND.

Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, mother of the Duchess of Marlborough, whose recent declaration that she would "boycott" this country so long as the Government maintained its present attitude towards women created so favourable a sensation in Suffragist circles, is of Scottish descent. With the shrewdness characteristic of her blood and breeding, she has put her finger on the spot likely to prove most vulnerable. Were a large number of sympathisers in the United States to follow her example, there would be a seasonal "slump" of no mean dimensions. Mrs. Belmont has a genius for organisation, and has built and endowed hospitals, a Home for Children, a church, besides designing several beautiful residences for herself. What we most like to think of in the present crisis, however, is that to all her public and philanthropic activities she now adds a splendid energy in the Suffrage cause. She founded the Political Equality Association, of which she is the first president, and has purchased for its work a mansion in East Forty-First-street, New York, where every imaginable kind of Suffrage activity and convenience is housed.

COUNTRY EGGS.—If you wish to buy eggs direct from the country call at the Women's Freedom League Office, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, any day between 10 and 6 o'clock and your wish can be gratified. You will also be able to see how the Merchandise Department has been extended to supply many of your needs.

POLITICAL NEWS.

For Women Lawyers—in England.

Viscount Wolmer's Bill presented to the House of Commons on April 16, with the object of enabling women to become lawyers, is "backed" by Sir David Brynmor Jones, Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Charles Roberts, Mr. Hills and Mr. Murray Macdonald; it proposes that a woman shall not on the ground of her sex alone be disqualified (a) for being called to the Bar and practising as a barrister; or (b) for being admitted to the roll of solicitors of the Supreme Court and acting as a solicitor; or (c) for being registered as a parliamentary agent and acting as such; or (d) for being admitted as a student at any Inn of Court or entering as a candidate in any examination, or taking, in the like manner and on the like terms as a man, any other preliminary steps necessary for any of such purposes.

It is also provided that a woman shall, on becoming a barrister, solicitor, or parliamentary agent, be entitled to the rights of audience, and to all other ancillary rights or privileges to which a man is in the like case entitled, and any enactment or provision of law, and any order of either House of Parliament, relating to, or to persons seeking to become barristers, solicitors, or parliamentary agents, shall have effect accordingly.

The measure is not to apply to Scotland or Ireland.

The Private Members' Suffrage Bill.

The Prime Minister announced on April 18 that the Women's Enfranchisement Bill will be taken on Monday and Tuesday, May 5 and 6. From the 8th till the 27th the House will stand adjourned. This means that contentious Bills like Home Rule, Disestablishment, and Scottish Temperance will occupy the Commons during June, and the struggle with the peers will develop in July.

Anti-suffrage Liberals held a meeting on April 16, with Mr. Lewis Harcourt in the chair. There was no formal resolution, but arrangements were completed for offering the most strenuous opposition to the Bill. Mr. McCallum Scott and Sir M. Levy will act as tellers against the motion for the second reading.

To Appear at the Bar of the House.

Petitions were presented to the House of Commons by Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Keir Hardie asking permission for women to lay before members of Parliament their claims to enfranchisement. The petitions are signed by heads of various Suffrage Leagues and Societies, and represent about 100,000 women. The petition of the Suffrage Societies is as follows:—

Mr. Speaker having informed us that it is in the power of your honourable House to pass a resolution whereby women shall be granted permission to appear at the Bar of the House, we pray your honourable House to pass such a resolution to enable us to lay before the House special claims of women to enfranchisement:—

1. Because women being bound to obey the laws and pay the taxes in like manner as men ought to have a direct voice in the election of those who make the laws and impose the taxes.
2. Because women have always shown themselves capable of discharging competently any public duty entrusted to them.
3. Because women already take a large part in the political life of the country, often at the request of honourable members of your House, but are debarred from any constitutional and responsible exercise of political power.
4. Because women's point of view in regard to many subjects is different from that of men, and therefore no Legislature can satisfactorily enact laws for both sexes unless it represents both.
5. Because in all matters of social reform, and particularly in questions relating to the education of children or to domestic economy, the point of view of the woman deserves at least as much consideration as that of the man.
6. Because in many cases working women are mercilessly sweated and exploited, and suffer from other grave injustice arising out of laws and conditions imposed on them by a Legislature elected by an exclusively male electorate.
7. Because hopes of their enfranchisement have repeatedly been held out to women, of which they have been as often disappointed under circumstances which have not redounded to the credit of Parliament.
8. Because the inequity of the present state of affairs is causing growing discontent among the women of this country, who, as a sex, have shown themselves far more patient and law-abiding than their male fellow-citizens.

For these and other reasons we therefore ask that we may be heard at the Bar by such number of representatives as your honourable House shall be pleased to direct.

That presented by Mr. Keir Hardie represents 34,500 working

Women's Tax Resistance League.

A PUBLIC MEETING

WILL BE HELD IN
CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER,
On **MONDAY, APRIL 28th, at 8 p.m.**

To expose the Official Robbery of Married Women, and to demand a Just Amendment of the Income Tax Acts in the new Finance Bill.

Chair—**Mrs. CECIL CHAPMAN.**
Speakers—**FARL RUSSELL, ISRAEL ZANCWILL, & others.**

Tickets (2s. 6d. reserved, 1s. and 6d. unreserved) may be obtained from the OFFICES OF THE LEAGUE, 10, Talbot House, 98, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.

women, and asks for the same permission to appear at the Bar of the House to state their special claims, feeling that the exclusion of working women from the rights of citizenship is detrimental to the nation. Among the reasons given are:—Because women as wage-earners occupy a weaker position in the industrial world than men and therefore specially require the protection of the vote in dealing with industrial legislation affecting women workers. Because the majority of married working women who are not wage-earners are deeply concerned as wage-spenders in all industrial legislation and in such social questions as taxation, education, housing, and land reform. Because justice demands political freedom for men and women alike, and the refusal of it to working women hinders them in the struggle they are daily waging to raise the burdens of poverty from their homes and gain a happier future for their children.

The petition signed by Miss Llewelyn Davies, Hon. Gen. Secretary Women's Co-operative Guild; Dr. Marion Phillips, Gen. Secretary Women's Labour League; Mrs. M. Wilson, Hon. Secretary Fabian Women's Group; Mrs. Gilroy, Secretary National Association of Midwives.

Edward III. to the Rescue.

The arrest of Mrs. Drummond and Mr. George Lansbury—for "inciting" speeches at the Albert Hall—under a statute of Edward III., provided a happy interlude in the comatose condition of the House of Commons by subjecting its members to the ordeal of hearing the statute read in Old French, while Mr. McKenna declared that he could take no responsibility as to translation. When both prisoners appeared at Bow-street Police-court on April 18, Mr. Adrian Clark, who defended, said: "In connection with this statute a point of law has been raised in the case of Miss Kenney, who was brought here under the same statute a few days ago. In that case Mr. Muir, who is appearing for Miss Kenney, applied for an adjournment in order that he might go into the point of law, because the point taken is that you have no jurisdiction to hear this case at all. An adjournment in that case was allowed so that Mr. Muir might look into the point of law. That being the case, my application is that this summons also should be adjourned for a fortnight." Mr. Dickinson, the presiding magistrate, fixed the adjourned hearing for April 26. Both Mr. Lansbury and Mrs. Drummond gave the usual undertaking, and were each bound over in the sum of £200 and two sureties of £100 each. Mr. Joseph Fels and Mr. Josiah Wedgwood, M.P., stood as surety for Mr. Lansbury, and Mrs. Merryweather and Baron von Horst for Mrs. Drummond. The Act in question was passed to deal with disturbances after the French wars of Edward III., when soldiers who fought for England returned. It gave the magistrates power over "robbers and pillors" from beyond seas. Those of bad faith might be sent to prison; those of good faith might be bound over to keep the peace. So ran the Act in the original French. It is stated, on the authority of Mr. Crump, who has an article on the subject in *The English Historical Review*, that the original French has been so mistranslated as to allow magistrates to bind over those of "bad faith."

"Cat and Mouse" Bill.

In the House of Commons on April 21, the Prisoners' (Temporary Ill-Health Discharge) Bill was reported without amendment after a long and "hot" discussion; it has now only to be read a third time. Mr. McKenna piously hoped he would not be obliged to resort to forcible feeding, but retained the right to do so. "A perfectly proper attitude to take up," observes *The Westminster Gazette*. The Bill was very severely criticised as "utterly futile" and giving dangerous powers into the hands of the Home Secretary. Amendments were not accepted, a week's delay being regarded as impossible.

Mr. Keir Hardie, in a moving speech, said that if the courage shown by women suffragists tortured by forcible feeding had been displayed by men on the battle-field, world-wide eulogy would have been heard. But, said Mr. Hardie, addressing the Home Secretary, "You reward them with torture, with the brutal, lingering, callous torture of forcible feeding, as cold-blooded and as unfeeling a punishment as anything devised in the Middle Ages. And by this Bill you intensify that torture ten-fold. You feed them up like half-worried rats for another appearance in the cockpit of your brutality."

Protest Against Forcible Feeding.

At a private conference of the National Political League, London, on April 17, steps were considered by which pressure could be brought to bear on the Government to secure the immediate abolition of forcible feeding. Support was given by speech or letter by many distinguished men and women, including the Rev. R. J. Campbell, Sir Edward Busk, Lady Emily Lutyens, the Bishop of Lincoln, Mr. H. G. Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb, Mr. Forbes-Robertson, Mrs. Fawcett. It was resolved to send as soon as possible a representative deputation to wait upon Mr. Asquith and other members of the Cabinet to demand the abolition of forcible feeding. If ineffectual other steps will be taken.

A SHADOW OF HIS FORMER SELF.—A great demonstration to demand the immediate release of Mr. Hugh Franklin (nephew of the Postmaster-General), after seven weeks of torture by forcible feeding, should bring all Suffragists to the Kingsway Hall on April 29 at 8 p.m. Come and make the demand irresistible. (See p. 433.)



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THE CURATE SNORTS.

It was too absurd. The Curate snorted. "My dear fellow," he said, "you really must allow me to suppose that I know your sister better than you appear to do."

"Oh! all right; I'm only warning you. You must fight it out between you." And the prospective brother-in-law took his departure.

The Curate was left fuming scornfully. Fight it out indeed! As if there would or could be a possibility of anything in the nature of a fight! It showed how little Tom understood his sister—or his sister's fiancé. Had they not been engaged for eighteen months, and did he not know every turn of her feminine mind, every illogical twist in her reasoning, every impulse of her devoted heart—devoted to him, the Curate. Tom did not know even the A.B.C. of women, namely, that they are guided entirely by the promptings of the heart, in contradistinction to men who follow the dictates of the head. The Curate, snorting in solitude, thanked heaven for his manly brain and his indomitable will. What though she had gone to Suffrage meetings with those ridiculous cousins of hers? What though she had walked in a procession? Mere girlish curiosity, an instance of feminine instability; quite pardonable by a man who prided himself on his tolerance. As for the tale of her having taken part in that idiotic bill-posting outrage, he didn't believe it; and even if it were true, half an hour's talk with him on her return from town would put matters right. For whatever she had been led into, and whatever foolish ideas had been suggested to her, he held in his hand a trump card adequate to deal with any emergency. He had but to hint at a break in their engagement, and he would have her at his feet, metaphorically speaking, for, priding himself on his chivalry, he did not intend that she should lie there except in spirit. He pictured the scene; she, tearful, imploring, charming in repentance; he, tenderly generous, benignly tolerant, combining in caressing forgiveness the functions of the priest and the lover.

With this consummation rosy in his mind, he awaited her return a week hence from a two months' visit to London. He went to meet her at the station. There was just a shade in his manner of aloofness, of disapproval, for she had barely mentioned those Suffrage meetings in her letters, and if all Tom said was true, she had been guilty of a lack of candour. But she did not notice the shade, perhaps because in her mind there was a shadow which outdid it in depth and density.

They parted at her father's door. Might he come round in the afternoon, after tea? He wanted to speak to her. Certainly he might come. She, too, had something to say.

He came some hours later and voiced his disapproval. He had been told this, that and the other. Of course he didn't mind; it was better she should have the experience—except, of course, the bill-posting episode, which, he need hardly tell her, he didn't believe. But he did think she might have been more candid; he thought he had a right to know how she spent her time. He was not angry, of course not, hardly annoyed, but a little—he confessed it—a little hurt.

She listened, looking at him with the eyes which had always appealed to him as pathetic, the eyes indicative of the fact that it was her heart which would inevitably sway her in ideas and in action. She allowed that she had been reticent; that was because she wanted to be quite sure before she said anything. Now she was

Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

(Author of "Women and Economics," "Concerning Children," "Man-made World," &c.)

WILL BE IN ENGLAND

and has a few free dates for Lectures between May 12—June 11 on

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quite sure, and she was a Suffragette. It was quite true about the bill-posting, she added.

"True! that unwomanly—and a Suffra—a—a—" Words were inadequate, words failed; the Curate, inarticulate, could only snort.

"I thought," she said, "that it might upset you."

Then he played his trump card triumphantly. And then an extraordinary thing happened. She didn't fall at his feet, literally or metaphorically; her eyes didn't fill with tears; as for being swayed by her heart, she might as well have been born without one. There was nothing but head, horrible unfeminine head, in her eyes or her voice or her words as she told him that she thanked him for making things easier for her, that she realised since she had met men who stood up for her sex that she could not marry a man whose conception of the way to treat women was to sit upon them, and that she too felt that the engagement must come to an end. She had been very sorry about it, "For I was fond of you."

Was! Oh, those cousins! Oh, those posters! What hideous spell had they worked upon her? She did not even want his forgiveness; neither as priest nor lover had he any hold upon her.

"I'd better go," he said.

"Perhaps it would be best," she said gently. "And I hope—by and by—we may be friends."

Friends? Friends, indeed! He tried to snort, but it wasn't a success; it was almost—alas! for the manly brain which governed the masculine heart—almost like a sob.

G. COLMORE.

ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Way Stations. By Miss ELIZABETH ROBINS. (Price 6s. net. Hodder and Stoughton.)

Women have asked for bread and have been given a stone. A difference of opinion as to the nature of the stone, and as to the best method of dealing with it, has resulted in schism.

The Anti-Suffragist says that it is a precious stone, meet for the "crown" she is to her husband.

Certain sections of the Suffrage party see in it the woman's share of "rare and refreshing fruit," and ostrich-like they swallow it.

The Suffragette throws it back. "Way Stations" tells us why.

We have in "Way Stations" a collection of speeches, lectures, and articles linked together by a "time table." The whole gives a vivid and connected narrative of the main line of the Militant Suffrage movement from October, 1905, to June, 1912. It shows, too, how the author herself "travelled the road of enlightenment."

The Suffrage movement has no stronger advocate than Miss Robins. It is unusual to find the fervour of the partisan combined with the discernment and scrupulous accuracy that one associates with the Recording Angel; but it would be hard to beat Miss Robins as a partisan, or to catch her tripping in her facts.

Perhaps one of the most striking features in this powerful book is the magnanimity it displays. In spite of, as one feels, disillusionment upon disillusionment caused by the character of the opposition to woman's enfranchisement, no trace of bitterness is discernible in the writing.

"To be able to believe in the value of the Suffrage, you must be able to believe in other people. You must neither think too much of yourself, nor too meanly of the rest of the world."

Miss Robins is not one of the small number recruited into the Suffrage camp by their own troubles. The conversion of the author of "Way Stations" seems to have been brought about by:

"The ambition that is obliged to concern itself with the advantage of other people."

and by a determination to get at the truth—the truth at the bottom of a particularly deep and inky well. Of militancy we are told:

"The root-idea is: the application to women of the duty to rise up against evil; the baseness of lying down under evil. . . ."

"Many of us believe self-control to be the highest expression of civilisation."

We have placed these two quotations together, to show that to uphold militancy is not to deny the necessity for self-control. May not the highest expression of militancy require the highest form of self-control?

We hope this volume will reach the "Pastor manders" of society; he who says, when charged by "Mrs. Alving" with knowing nothing of what he is condemning, "I have read enough about these writings to disapprove of them."

Every Suffragist should possess "Way Stations." Eve

n

those who express their condition as "fed up" with Suffrage will enjoy this book, because Miss Robins has the power, given only to the born artist, of cutting facets in a commonplace.

A. W. L.

Frances Willard: Her Life and Work. By RAY STRACHEY. (Published by T. Fisher Unwin. Price 5s.)

It is a matter of history that when Frances Willard died flags hung at half-mast from the Atlantic to the Pacific; when her body was taken to Chicago every railwayman along the road came out to do her honour. Women in such widely-separated countries as Iceland, Africa, Japan mourned for her as for a sister. Her statue stands in the Capitol at Washington as the most distinguished citizen of Illinois.

Miss Strachey's biography of this indefatigable worker in the cause of temperance and woman's emancipation is full of interest. The story of the child, rebellious, high-spirited, surrounded with the restricting and cramping influences of the orthodox Methodism of the 'forties and 'fifties, fighting her way to independence, both economic and mental, is graphically told; while the latter half of the book, which deals with Frances Willard's national and international work, her rise to fame, her extraordinary influence over women, her eloquence and powers of organisation, is even more full of power and interest.

Miss Willard, like 90 per cent. of those who rise to eminence in any great cause, served a hard apprenticeship to disappointment and drudgery. It is difficult to picture the brilliant lecturer, the woman of conscious and confident magnetism, the organiser who presided over great conferences with unfailing tact and diplomacy, as the "schoolmarm" of a little backwoods village school.

"The directors [of this school] were rather a trial to her. They would come to see how she was getting on, picturesque old farmers with their red shirts, blue overalls, and slouch hats, and stand about and tell her what to do. But she defied them more than once. 'The obeying days are past with me,' she said, and she would teach in her own way."

One can imagine the head-shakings that would take place amongst them when her back was turned, and the regretful reminiscences of the "good old times" when womenfolk knew their place and kept it!

The great temperance crusade that swept through America in the 'seventies brought Miss Willard very prominently before her countryfolk. It began as a religious revival in the little town of Hillsborough, Ohio, where the women went out in a body in response to an appeal made by a lecturer, singing hymns, and knelt on the pavements in the snow before the drinking saloons, and prayed "for the soul of the proprietor that he might see the error of his ways." Many of the proprietors surrendered and rolled out their barrels of liquor into the streets and poured them down the gutters. This method spread like a flame until "saloon-keepers had been prayed out of town after town," and the whisky power began to be frightened.

"From this strange beginning has grown most of the organised philanthropic work of women in the United States," says Miss Strachey. It was not that they made lasting conversions, or that they drove out drink, for in a few months the drinking saloons were flourishing again; but the effect on the women themselves was magical. For the first time they learnt something of the depravity and wickedness of the cities in which they lived, and the more earnest and capable spirits amongst them organised themselves into bodies to fight it.

Frances Willard was soon the recognised head of this movement, and until the end of her life devoted her great powers to it. Suffragists will read with pleasure of her keen conviction that women must have the "ballot" to enable them to influence legislation effectively. Indeed, her devotion to Women Suffrage brought a good deal of opposition from her own followers in the Women's Christian Temperance Union, but she fought the good fight fearlessly, and triumphed. Lady Henry Somerset has written an appreciative preface to Miss Strachey's book which adds to its value.

Practical Household Management. By M. A. FAIRCLOUGH, L.C.A. (The Stanley Publishing Co. Price 2s.)

Housecraft. By M. FEDDEN. (George Gill and Sons, Ltd. Price 10d.)

If the average woman does not know how to run her "proper sphere" it certainly is not from want of instruction. Of the making of many books on this question there is no end—most of them suffer, it must be admitted, from a too cut-and-dried point of view of woman's sphere. Even the "woman in the home" need not give the whole of her mind and soul and body to the tasks of spring-cleaning or the parcelling out of the house-keeping money into little heaps labelled "grocer," "milkman," "greengrocer," &c. Unfortunately, most of those who set out to instruct the housewives of the country seem to think that she should; and so, from their practical, but limited, books of instruction and guidance all references to other sources of interest and knowledge are excluded. The two books mentioned above are as good as the rest of their kind. The style is clear and concise, and information on the subjects of which they treat useful and up-to-date.

M. H.

HOW SOME MEN PROTECT WOMEN.

Violent Assaults on Women—

Two serious cases of assault were disposed of by Bailie Lyon, at the Edinburgh City Police Court, a few days ago. In the first case, a labourer, named Alexander Wright, pleaded guilty to having created a disturbance in the house at 11, Brandfield-street, and assaulted his wife by striking her on the head behind the ear with a quart bottle and with a tumbler, which he threw at her, with the result that she was cut to the effusion of blood. It was stated that the assault was the sequel to a drinking bout, the accused having been drinking heavily for the past two days. His wife advised him to stop drinking, and he lost his temper and threw first the quart bottle and then the tumbler at her with great force, striking her behind the right ear. Professor Harvey Littlejohn said that the assault might have been attended with very serious results. Accused was placed under £2 caution for his future good behaviour for six months, or to suffer ten days' imprisonment.

In the second case, James Brady, forty-nine, a mason, residing at 23, Clyde-street, pleaded guilty to having assaulted his wife by striking her on the breast and kicking her on the right leg, with the result that her breast and leg were bruised and discoloured. Accused said his wife had pawned his boots, and he had lost his temper in consequence. He was sent to prison for ten days.

—And on Policemen.

Note the sentence for making a policeman's hand bleed:— At Dunfermline Sheriff Court, John Rankin, miner, Torrie Workmen's Home, Newmills, was sent to prison for twenty-one days for having created a disorderly scene in Main-street, Torryburn, and savagely assaulted a couple of police officers, who were kicked and buffed. One of the officers had his right hand bit to the effusion of blood.

"THE SPOILT CHILD OF THE LAW." Mrs. Nevinson's excellent stories showing how the law deals with men and women have now been issued in pamphlet form under the above title. They are sure of a warm welcome. (W.F.L. Literature Department. Id.)

MEN'S POLITICAL UNION FOR WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT, 15, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C.

A GREAT Demonstration

WILL BE HELD IN THE

KINGSWAY HALL, APRIL 29th, 8 p.m.

(Doors open 7.30),

To Protest Against the Forcible Feeding of Mr. HUGH FRANKLIN, and to Demand his :: Instant Release. ::

Chair: Mr. H. W. NEVINSON.

Speakers:

Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE, Mr. ISRAEL ZANGWILL, Mr. H. D. HARBEN, and others.

TICKETS (Numbered and Reserved 2s., Reserved 1s. and 6d., Unreserved 3d.) can be obtained at the above address; THE INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 15, Adam-street; THE W.S.P.U. SHOP, 143, Church-street, Kensington; Mr. TEAGUE, at the Bookstall, Kingsway Hall; THE VOTES FOR WOMEN SHOP, 52, Faced-street; other Suffrage Offices and Shops and at the door.

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FRIDAY, April 25, 1913.

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: 2, ROBERT STREET ADELPHI, W.C.

EDITORIAL

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

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"FOR WANT OF TIME."

We are often told that we live in a world of make-believe and illusion. If it is so, the sooner we gain clearer vision and awake to realities, the better it will be for the world.

But is it so? In order to be clear upon this point let us look round. Consider what politicians call our glorious Constitution. We are—we have been until lately—a law-abiding people, because we are self-governed. This, at least, is what we are repeatedly told. The business of the country, say our male teachers, is controlled by persons whom an intelligent electorate, knowing its own needs, has chosen on account of their wisdom and experience.

Is this fact or fiction? The papers, most of which owe their existence to patrons who belong to one or other of the two great political parties, cannot be expected to give us the real truth. They allow us to know as much as their patrons think expedient, and what they present as facts they colour with their own, or rather with their party's, interpretation of facts. But facts are stubborn things. Piecing them together intelligent people—even women—may be able occasionally to see things as they are. And then those whom the great male electorate (falsely called the People) have chosen to govern them may appear before us as weavers of illusion.

The particular illusion which at present stands between the nation and the measures the nation needs is the Time-Illusion. The Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the harassed Home Secretary, and the profoundly self-satisfied President of the Local Government Board are too busy and over-worked to be able to deal with the grievances of the people or to remove the abuses which, having grown up like noxious weeds, are draining away their life-blood. While women, unreasonably impatient, pour out their complaints these persons and others of their ilk remain blind and deaf. Some of them may be ready to admit that there is cause for dissatisfaction. "We are always at work," said Mr. McKenna to our deputations, pathetically. "What more can we do?" The trouble is, it appears, that there is no time. It is our business to show that these persons are perhaps deceiving themselves, and certainly mocking us with an illusion. We assert that there is time. For some things, of but small importance to the public generally, abundant time is found. The white-washing of Cabinet Ministers! How many hours have been spent upon that! Time also has been given to the elaborate planning of a Bill which, while leaving the power to inflict torture in the hands of autocratic Home Secretaries, will enable them, when they think it prudent, to keep political offenders who may not have worked out their full sentences under the constant supervision and control of the police.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, to make things easier for himself, desires to ante-date his income. This, we presume, is the meaning of the "Collection of Taxes Bill," for the passing of which time is immediately to be found. Where, generally, it is a question of personalities, or of the interests of the Party that happens to be in power, we hear no complaints of the lack of time. That, no doubt, is one reason why it falls so woefully short in other directions. Take the case of our children! An education act, fathered by men of high repute, is, we are told, being framed. If mothers had anything to say to the making of laws for the children, it would be understood that the building up of their little bodies should precede the culture of their brains. To children of tender years milk-food is all essential. A Pure Milk Bill, which even Honest John approved, has been for some time before the House. There is no time to deal with it.

Again! An important Bill which imposes restrictions on the sending of child-actors abroad came before the House of Lords for a second reading two or three days ago. It was dropped last session for want of time. Had care and attention been given to it commensurate with its importance, license to send the children abroad would certainly have been placed in hands much more capable and powerful than those of the ordinary police-magistrate. Decisions of such intense moment should only be made by persons who have command of trustworthy sources of information.

As regards women, it is well-known that not only the Criminal Law Amendment Act but many others deeply affecting their interests have been delayed or deliberately set aside on the plea of lack of time to deal with them.

Though—through politeness we presume—a certain time was given to discussion on the Labour Amendment to the King's Speech, it was a foregone conclusion that it would fail. The House has no time to deal with the momentous matters it foreshadowed. Meanwhile, for apparently the same reason, other questions of the deepest significance to the nation are being shelved. When is the degrading Poor Law, with its elaboration, its extravagance, and its miserable inadequacy, to be tackled? A Royal Commission, composed of some of the most experienced social workers in the country, sitting at great cost to the nation, and at enormous expenditure of their own time and energy, condemned it. Nothing has been done. Nothing is even foreshadowed. This, too, is for want of time.

So, slowly and tortuously—little things done and large things left undone—party politics run their course. Liberals to-day; Conservatives to-morrow; Liberals the next day; ever the same bitter party-strife; ever the same neglect of the poor and oppressed and those who cannot help themselves; and—alas!—always the same boastfulness. "We are the People and wisdom shall die with us."

Who shall dare to wonder that women have become impatient? Nay! Who shall unduly blame them if they show their indignation in what may seem to some new and sinister ways?

It is the old story. "We have piped unto you and you have not danced; we have cried unto you and you have not lamented." "And now," say the women who are awake, "we will pipe to you no longer. We demand that this mockery shall end. Time shall be found in your House (to-day of pretence, to-morrow of action) for us, for our children, for the homes which are yours as well as ours. Laws shall be made not of restriction but of release; and the grand world-music which the folly and blundering of party politicians had well-nigh silenced shall be heard again. C. DESPARD.

COME AND PROTEST against the official robbery of married women carried on by the Government for their own benefit. Earl Russell and Mr. Zangwill will speak on the subject at the Caxton Hall on April 28 at 8 p.m. The meeting is organised by the Women's Tax Resistance League. (See p. 430.)

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

"Open-air Women."

The first dinner of the Agricultural and Horticultural Section—the latest to be formed—of the Lyceum Club was held at the Club on April 21, the enthusiasm auguring well for future development. Miss J. S. Turner, of Arley College, presided, and proposed the toast of the "Open Air Woman." She declared that women gardeners and farmers had come to stay, and their increasing numbers every year put to rout the dismal prophecy that women as land workers would soon be as extinct as the dodo. It was true, she said, that their mere physical strength was not equal to that of man, but their skill in all walks of agriculture where scientific and particular knowledge were required was unrivalled. "There is any amount of work for women to do on the land," she concluded, "and the return of women to the land is good for them in every way."

Miss Helen Colt, well known as gardener and journalist, who has helped so actively in the formation of the youngest section of the Club, replying to the toast, said that agriculture was now recognised as an art by means of which expression could be given to any branch of intellectual activity. Gardeners were apt to be considered people possessed of but a single idea, but as a matter of fact the business was one depending upon breadth both of education and interests for its success.

Madame Lilian Nordica a Suffragist from Girlhood.

Madame Nordica, the eminent singer, told a group of newspaper representatives recently that she has been a Suffragist from girlhood. Suffrage is not a question of sex, she said, but of thought; physical force has hitherto ruled the world, and man, being superior in physical strength, has dominated woman; but things are changing; in thought woman is as powerful as man. Anti-women, protected in their homes by men, have never come into contact with real issues. Man has been busy taking care of his family; his work has outgrown him; he needs the woman's help.

"The first work of woman upon receiving the ballot," she continued, "would be to attend to the needs of women and children. Woman needs the right to make the laws that shall govern her children. Will it change her if, when she knows a certain sum of money has been appropriated for paving the street upon which her children play, she demands to know why the paving is not done? There are other conditions which need the help of the women. You will never have peace among nations without women. You meet at The Hague, you have conferences and public addresses, and not a woman among them. Peace will never be attained in that way. The women have got to come into it. Their ideas and their work are needed."

Uniting Swiss Suffragists.

In order to bring together all the French-speaking Swiss feminist societies affiliated to the Union of Swiss Women a large social gathering is planned to take place on May 1 at Yverdon, in the Canton de Vaud, over which Mme. Chaponniere, a prominent Geneva feminist, will preside. The object of the gathering, according to *The Standard* (Woman's Platform), is to secure a closer-knit co-operation between the rank and file of the various societies, free discussion of woman's position, and the future policy of the Suffrage movement in Switzerland. An appeal will also be made by the leaders for their own abolition, each individual member of the union sharing equal responsibility for the progress of the women's cause.

The Same for Men.

In the Colorado House of Representatives, the "Segregation Bill" was laughed to defeat the other day, according to the Press despatches. One of the two women Representatives, Mrs. Agnes Riddle, attacked it on the ground that, if it were passed, "fallen men should be segregated the same as fallen women." The author of the Bill expressed his willingness to add an amendment to that effect. Another member suggested that there would be no men left.

The House burst into laughter, which is said to have lasted ten minutes. Just before the roll call on the Bill, Mrs. Riddle arose and said: "Let him who is without sin among you cast the first vote." No one voted.

Mrs. Riddle is a farmer's wife, who has adopted and reared six children. All the farmers of her district are said to swear by her. Last autumn they elected her to the Legislature for a second term. It shows the coming in of a new day, when women of high character set their faces against the imposition upon their fallen sisters of pains and penalties not meted out to the men who are their partners in wrong-doing.—*Woman's Journal*.

Suffragists and Pure Food.

The Suffrage Pure Food Stores Company was incorporated and began business in February last at 2540, Broadway, New York. It sells all kinds of groceries, but specialises on fresh eggs and butter. Every egg is stamped "Votes for Women," and a Suffrage leaflet is done up with every package. Mrs. Sofia Kramer is president of the company, and the treasurer is Miss Aimée Hutchinson, who lost her position as teacher in a parochial school for marching in the Suffrage procession. They hope to extend the business till they have pure food shops in every district. The profits go to the Suffrage Cause.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

Boot Factory Girls' Wages.

The girl workers at the big Wheatshaf Works, Leicester, of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and at the society's smaller factory at the adjacent village of Enderby tendered notices to expire on March 13. Trouble has been threatening for some time past. The Boot and Shoe Union officials state that the wages paid to the girls by the society do not compare favourably with those paid at the best shops in the town, and they are organising the girls to demand a better rate.

The situation has since become more critical. The big Wheatshaf Works have been closed. From March 20 the Enderby Works were idle, and the same night the Dun's-lane operatives withdrew their labour. The management themselves closed the Wheatshaf Works, though the main body of operatives would have served out notices which were tendered on March 14.

The situation at the two smaller factories arises out of the refusal of the directors to reinstate Olive Coulson, one of two girl employees who had been discharged for what her fellow-workers consider a trivial fault. A sub-committee of three directors met the representatives of the Union at Leicester and agreed to reinstate Esther Faulkner, who was discharged at the same time as Miss Coulson, in whose case, however, they remained obdurate. They were informed at the time by Mr. Richards (the Union president) and his colleagues that the feeling of the operatives was such that, unless Miss Coulson went back, the whole of the staffs at Enderby and Dun's-lane would cease work.

The situation was subsequently very carefully considered by the council of the Union, who directed that a telegram be sent to the board of directors at Manchester emphasizing the gravity of the situation. The directors, in full board at Manchester, confirmed the action of the sub-committee of three and declined to take Miss Coulson back. A further message was sent after a meeting of the sub-council of the Union, to the effect that unless the directors were prepared to reconsider the decision, the operatives at Enderby would be called out and also those at Dun's-lane. The reply received on March 19 from Mr. Brodric, secretary to the Co-operative Wholesale Society, was to the effect that this communication would be put before the directors at their meeting on March 26. Meantime the strike notices will have taken effect. Enthusiastic meetings of the operatives have been held and the attitude of the Union is receiving complete support.

SWEATED INDUSTRIES: SOME FACTS.

Government Clothing.

Policeman's coats.—Make, finish, hot press, put on buttons, find their own thread, paid 2s. 10d.
Policeman's Trousers.—Basting and finishing (four hours' needlework), 3½d.
Cavalry Overall footstraps (half-hour's work, awl used) ½d. per pair.
Territorial Riding Breeches (not possible to make two pairs per day), 8d.

Sweated Workers.

Textile trades .. Men .. 99,800 .. Women .. 177,700
Clothing trades .. Men .. 44,500 .. Women .. 183,000

WOMEN.		TEXTILE.		Average full time wages.	
	Per week.			Men.	Women.
Liquorice workers	6/6 to 7/9				
Pottery ..	6/6 to 7/9				
Bottle works	6/9 to 9/6				
Mineral waters	8/- to 9/-				
		Bleaching, dyeing, &c. ..	27/8	12/4	
		Elastic ..	30/3	11/8	
		Carpet ..	26/7	13/8	
		Hosiery ..	31/5	14/3	
		Silk ..	25/8	11/2	

CLOTHING.		Average full time wages.		Average full time wages.	
		Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Dress, Millinery, &c. (workshop)	50/11	13/10			
Dress, Millinery, &c. (factory)	31/8	15/5			
Shirt, blouse, underclothing ..	29/10	13/4			
Tailoring (bes.)	33/6	14/2			
Tailoring (ready-made) ..	28/8	13/1			
Corset (factory)	28/11	12/2			
Laundry (workshop) ..	22/6	12/9			

Public Utility Services—

Borough and Urban District Councils	26/3	14/6
Electrical telegraph, &c., apparatus ..	34/7	14/1
Jewellery ..	38/-	13/6
Nails, screws, &c.	31/-	11/2
Chains, anchors, &c. ..	35/4	9/6
Locks, latches, keys, &c. ..	28/-	9/6
Typefoundry ..	33/3	10/11

Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Paisley, Greenock, and Edinburgh employ thousands of women at 8s. to 14s. per week.

Women's Part in State.

In his presidential address on "The Widening World of Women," before the members of the Social and Political Education League, Professor Patrick Geddes predicted that in statesmanship women would play a large part, particularly in relation to the solution of social problems. Social education lagged behind political education in this country, and he appealed to the politician to help on with the details.

THE VITAL POINT.

What a large section of the public will not, or can not, but certainly do not see is that woman's claim for the Suffrage is essentially a spiritual claim. The question at issue is not that of good or bad government, merely; it is the deeper question of self-government, of the right to govern oneself, to have a voice in government. If every Member of the House of Commons were a perfect embodiment of the loftiest ideal of chivalry; if every M.P. were a true democrat—which, of course, he obviously cannot be so long as women are refused the vote; and if every Act of Parliament were a single-minded attempt to apply to Society the simple but basic principles of Christianity, woman's need of the vote would still be real and vital. Women want the vote because they are—women, intelligent human beings; because, that is, they have minds which see and understand. And it is oppression to make people submit to have done for them what they desire to do, and are capable of doing, for themselves. To wait hand and foot upon a person because he is sick is reasonable, but to insist upon doing that for a healthy person is madness, a veritable oppression. The slave is not usually starved, he is only forbidden to look after himself, to help himself to the fruit of the tree that stands in the centre of life's garden—that one tree whose fruit he instinctively feels has vitality in it.

Rightly understood, therefore, the Woman Suffrage movement is a spiritual movement, having for its object the spiritual emancipation of women. But not only do many prominent politicians fail to realise this, but many noted writers and publicists as well, including so professed and in many respects so thorough a democrat as Mr. Chesterton.

So far as this latter class is concerned, the prevailing idea seems to be that because (as they say) "woman's mind is essentially different from man's," women ought, therefore, not to have the vote; but where the point in this argument lies I have never yet been able to see. It were just as reasonable to say that because Mr. Churchill's mind is essentially different from Mr. Asquith's, Mr. Churchill ought, therefore, not to have the vote. "But women are the victims of impulse!" they say. So is Mr. Churchill. "Then they tend to be carried away by their feelings!" So does Mr. Bonar Law, and so does Sir E. Carson.

A better argument for Woman Suffrage could scarcely be found than to contend that woman is unfit for the vote by reason of her one-sided nature, for if woman's nature is lop-sided, lacking in the power to reason about things, then the obvious duty of the nation is to take immediate steps to try and restore the balance, and one of the best means of doing this is to give her the vote. The vote can and must be allowed to do for women what it has done for men, the English peasantry; for instance, awaken their minds, help to raise them to a higher altitude of life, to a more intelligent way of living. Mind cannot develop unless the area of its control be enlarged, unless, that is, it be given new rights and new duties whereby its latent powers may become manifest. Rather than have to fight for the Vote, women ought to be encouraged to take it, as a means of improving their minds and developing their personalities. There can be no development apart from increased power of self-control; hence, the vote is a fundamental need of woman at the present time.

In the byways of our national life thousands of women are living lives of drudgery in the oppressive atmosphere of an appalling ignorance; they are trying but failing to bring up children, while they are spending themselves from morning till evening trying to minister to the wants of their husbands, who, by reason of their greater physical strength, have come to regard themselves as the lords of creation, whom it is the duty of woman to serve. Such women must be saved—saved physically and spiritually; the vote must be literally thrust upon them; they must be compelled, as the lone and lost

ones ever must, to come into the fold of enlightened humanity.

Now, I quite agree with Mr. Chesterton's contention that the vote in England is becoming more and more useless; that politics are becoming futile; but that fact does not constitute an argument against extending the franchise to women. So long as we believe in politics, and believe that the vote can be made effective, so long will the claim of woman for the vote be a reasonable and necessary claim. If the vote is at present largely an illusion, and I am convinced that to an alarming degree it is, that is a fact for us all to face, but in no sense a reason why women should not possess the vote. Even if the vote were an utter illusion, if it were the means of awakening the intelligence of women, of causing thousands who now live harmlessly as children and dumbly as dogs, to realise that they are human beings who possess the right to live freely and intelligently, as men live, it were worth having and worth fighting for.

But it is not unlikely that the extension of the Suffrage to women will be the means of revitalising politics, and of again making the vote effective. The House of Commons is decaying for the lack of those very essences of soul, those qualities of mind which women are admitted, even by their opponents, to possess to such an abnormal degree. As a matter of fact, for want of passion, of enthusiasm for humanity, that once august assembly is degenerating into a bureaucratic stew-pot, where the cooking is done by a batch of professional chefs. The decline of Parliament dates from the time when brains and commercial cleverness began to be of more consequence than sentiment and passion; when it became improper to speak of the woeful conditions of the poor and the oppressed with feeling. Since the House of Commons has been over-run with professionals—lawyers, bankers, stock-jobbers, and successful and clever business men—it has declined, really and spiritually, lost its freedom and its glory. If ever a public institution needed anything the British House of Commons of to-day needs vitalising by the swift pulse of strong, wholesome emotion; by a keener sympathy for suffering and oppressed humanity, a deeper reverence and regard for man and all things human; indeed, by those very attributes of soul which women are everywhere admitted to possess.

Both as regards the spiritual development of woman and the elevation of English public, and especially Parliamentary, life, on to a higher plane, therefore, the granting of the vote to women would be one of the best things that England could do at the present moment.

WILFRED WELLOCK.

PENALISING MARRIAGE.

The Chairman of the London County Council, approached by the Women's Freedom League on the subject of the appointment of women doctors on condition they resign on marriage, has not yet made up his mind to receive a deputation from the League. We trust he will not refuse to consider this important matter with those whose interests in this and other professions are so deeply concerned. The question of the administration of the maternity benefit over the heads of those most intimately involved—namely, the mothers, by meddling persons incapable of visualising a woman as a person capable of managing her own affairs—is also not going to be allowed to drop; and both these matters will continue to engage the attention of the League.

"AND you got out of that immense crowd looking—well, as fresh as a daisy. How did you do it?"

"It's no secret: I recommend you to do what I did."

"What's that?"

"Just write to Messrs. G. R. Hutton, Larne, Ireland, for patterns of their 'Kant Krumpfl Flaxzella.' Don't be frightened of the spelling! It only means their new process uncrushable dress material. I find it excellent for all emergencies and warranted to keep you in a good temper!"

CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAYS."

The New Woman is Elizabethan.

The early Victorian woman, as compared with the Elizabethan, came off very badly in Mrs. Nott Bower's most interesting address given at our usual Caxton Hall gathering on April 16. She showed that the "new" woman is none other than the woman of Shakespeare's dramas, and declared that the passing of the early Victorian idea of worshipping weakness—not strength—in women is a most welcome change, for it developed in man an overwhelming sense of egotism. She drew a parallel between the independence of thought and action, the outspoken frankness of speech, the unwillingness to submit to authority simply because it is authority, and the growth of a real camaraderie between men and women which are some of the characteristics of the modern girl, and the qualities which distinguished some of Shakespeare's heroines. Portia and Nerissa, Catherine, Hermione, Beatrice, Imogen and Helena in *All's Well That Ends Well*, Rosalind and Celia, were cited as examples of women independent, fearless, firm where firmness was required, yielding and obedient to the limit of righteousness, but not beyond it, direct of speech and possessed of the gift of going direct to the salient point of any subject under discussion. Shakespeare, she maintained, had not portrayed them as exceptional women; the fact that they possessed such qualities had not been regarded as anything out of the common, and unreasonable abnegation of self was not demanded of the Shakespearean wife. In dealing with the hard lot of the unmarried mother, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson gave many appealing and appalling facts, and showed that Hungary and Germany accorded better treatment to them than England. She criticised severely Mr. King's Bill now before Parliament, and a keen discussion followed.

IN THE PARKS.

Regent's Park.

The Mid-London Branch organised a meeting in Regent's Park on behalf of the Women's Freedom League on Sunday, April 20. Miss Boyle took the chair, and the speakers were Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Mrs. Malcolm Mitchell, who made excellent speeches which were evidently much appreciated by an attentive audience numbering fully 1,500. Miss Boyle answered questions. The park keepers and others who were at the meeting said it was the best they had ever had there.

Brockwell Park.

The summer campaign in Brockwell Park opened with an excellent meeting on Sunday afternoon, April 20, organised by the Herne Hill and Norwood Branch of the Women's Freedom League. There was a very large audience, most of whom listened with great attention to the speeches, only a few noisy youths endeavouring unsuccessfully to disturb the meeting. Miss Rogers made an excellent *début* as an open-air speaker, and Mrs. Tanner followed with a very able speech, explaining the policy of the Women's Freedom League and dealing with the present situation and the question of militancy. Many questions were asked, which Mrs. Tanner answered with her usual readiness.

ACTIVITY IN AND NEAR GLASGOW.

The weather has been a great handicap to the outdoor meetings round about Glasgow, and some have had to be abandoned on this account. On Monday, April 14, Miss Andrews addressed a meeting at Wellington-street. A very large crowd soon gathered, and listened attentively until a constable came and said since the crowd was so large the meeting must cease. However, Mrs. MacLeod and Miss Perritt managed to sell the copies of *THE VOTE*, which they had brought. Twenty dozen copies of *THE VOTE* have been sold this week, chiefly owing to the enthusiasm of Miss Eunice Murray. Other members of *THE VOTE* Brigade who are giving valuable help are Miss Semple, Miss Shennan, Miss Morrison, Miss Macintyre, Miss Stevens, Miss Perritt, Mrs. MacLeod. Helensburgh has been visited, and a meeting will be held there shortly; also a cake and candy sale. On Friday, April 18, a meeting was held at Dennistown, by kind invitation of Mrs. and Miss Herriot, when Miss Andrews gave a short address, and arrangements were made for the Jumble Sale, which is to take place on Saturday, May 3. On Saturday afternoon an outdoor meeting was held at Paisley, when Miss Andrews spoke, and was supported by Miss White, Miss Baird, and Miss Dracup. The Point Tea has been definitely arranged for Saturday afternoon, April 26, beginning at three o'clock, and a pleasant time is anticipated. Teas are to be held at the shop every Thursday afternoon, beginning on May 1, when Mrs. Stevens has promised to be the hostess.

MANCHESTER'S SPECIAL EFFORTS.

The sale which the Manchester Branch of the Women's Freedom League has organised, will be opened by Mrs. Despard on May 7 in the afternoon, when she will give a short address, and again in the evening, for the benefit of those who cannot be present early. It is hoped, too, that our President will give a special address on Theosophy on the next evening, Thursday, (Continued on page 438.)

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

The Women's Freedom League stands for—

- 1.—Votes for Women as they are or may be granted to men.
- 2.—Equality of rights and opportunities for women and men.
- 3.—So that women may work side by side with men in social and industrial reform.

Write to your nearest Branch Secretary for particulars (see list below), and buy *THE VOTE* (the organ of the League), One Penny weekly, every Thursday.

Women's Freedom League. BRANCH and GROUP SECRETARIES.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

ANERLEY.—Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road, Anerley.
CLAPHAM.—Mrs. EDITH SMITH, 37, Honeybrook-road, Clapham Park.
CROYDON.—Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue, Croydon.
FINCHLEY.—Mrs. TINKLER, 3, Stanley-road, E. Finchley, N.
HACKNEY.—Mrs. PIEROTTI, 31, Walsingham-road, Clapton.
HAMPSTEAD.—Mrs. SPILLER, 63, South-hill-park, Hampstead.
HAMPSTEAD (WEST).—Mrs. VAN RAALTE, 23, Pandora-road, W. Hampstead.
HARROW.—Mrs. HUNTSMAN, Rions, Northwick-park-road, Harrow.
HAYES & SOUTHWALL.—Mrs. CUNNINGHAM, Oakdene, Hayes, Middx.
HERNE HILL.—Miss W. M. SPRIGGS, 69, Dancroft-road, Herne Hill.
HIGBURY.—Miss JOHN, 85, Marquess-road, Canonbury.
KENSINGTON.—Miss REEVES, 16, Bracewell-road, N. Kensington.
MID-LONDON.—Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing.
NINE ELMS.—Mrs. DESPARD, 2, Currie Street, Nine Elms, S.W.
NORTHERN HEIGHTS.—Miss A. MITCHELL, Merok, Gt. North-road, Highgate.
PECKHAM (Group).—Mrs. PICKERING, 23, Albert-road, Peckham.
RICHMOND AND DISTRICT.—Mrs. D'AUVERGNE SHELTON, 30, Gramesdyke-avenue, East Sheen.
TOTTENHAM.—Miss F. EGGERT, 30, Lausanne-road, Hornsey.

PROVINCES.

AINTREE.—Mrs. SHAW, 15, Chatsworth-avenue, Aintree.
BOURNEMOUTH.—Miss S. G. FORD, Heather Cottage, Bengal-road, Winton, Bournemouth.
BRIGHTON and HOWE.—Miss HARE, 8, San Remo, Howe.
BURNAGE.—Mrs. BRICKHILL, 33, South-avenue, Garden Village, Levenshulme, Manchester.
CHELTENHAM.—Miss BOULT (Pro. tem.), Fintay College-road, Cheltenham.
CHESTER.—Miss WOODALL, 13, Abbey-squares, Chester.
ECCLES.—Miss J. HEYES, Newholme, Hazlehurst, Worsley.
GRAVESEND.—Miss J. BOORMAN, 4, The Grove, Gravesend.
GRAYS.—Mrs. TUNSTALL, 3, Heath-road, Chadwell-St. Mary, near Grays.
HADFIELD.—Miss MATTHEWS, 21, Fir-tree-terrace, Hadleigh.
HARTLEPOOL (WEST).—Mrs. ENGLISH, 23, Carlton-street, West Hartlepool.
IPSWICH.—Mrs. PRATT, 160, Norwich-road, Ipswich.
LEITCHWORTH.—Miss LEE, "Thistle-down," 2, Norton Way North, Leitchworth.
LIVERPOOL.—Mrs. EVANS, 49, Kimberley-drive, Gt. Crosby, Liverpool.
MANCHESTER (CENTRAL).—Miss A. E. HORDERN, 478, Stockport-road, Longsight, Manchester.
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SHEFFIELD.—Miss J. MACDONALD, 21, Harcourt-road, Sheffield.
SOUTH SHIELDS.—Mrs. REVEL, 13, Hepscott-terrace, South Shields.
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WALKDEN.—Mrs. ROGERSON, 33, Westminster-road, Walkden, near Manchester.
WAVERTON (CHESHIRE) (Group).—Miss K. TROTT, Saighton Manor, Chester.
WELLINGBOROUGH.—Miss V. SHARMAN, Ivy Lodge, Wellingborough, and Mrs. ENGLAND SMITH, Newstead, Hatton Park, Wellingborough.
WOLVERHAMPTON (Group).—Mrs. CRESSWELL, 25, Rugby-street, Wolverhampton.
WOOLPIT (Group).—Mrs. POSTER, Lawn Farm, Woolpit, Bury St. Edmunds.
YORK.—Mrs. ROBINSON, 30, Ratcliffe-street, York.

SCOTLAND.

DUNDEE.—Miss H. WILKIE, M.A., 280, Perth-road, Dundee.
DUNFERMLINE.—Miss McCALLUM, 72, Brucefield-avenue, Dunfermline.
EDINBURGH.—Miss A. B. JACK, 33, Forrest-road, Edinburgh.
GLASGOW.—SUFFRAGE SHOP, 70, St. George's-road, Glasgow.
KILMARNOCK.—Miss J. L. WADDELL, 8, Douglas-street, Kilmarnock.
KIRKINTILLOCH.—Miss MCINTYRE, Woodhead-avenue, Kirkintilloch.
PAISLEY.—Secretary, pro. tem., Miss DRACUP, 10, Towhead-terrace, Paisley.
PERTH.—Mrs. MACPHERSON, 3, Charlotte-street, Perth.
ROTHESAY.—Miss M. PARK, 75, Montague-street, Rothsay.
SCOTTISH SCATTERED.—Miss EUNICE MURRAY, Moore Park, Cardross, Dumbarton.

WALES.

ABERDARE.—Miss B. ELLIS, 11, Gaen-street, Barry.
CARDIFF.—Mrs. WEALE, 33, Stacey-road, Cardiff.
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SWANSEA.—Miss HUTTON, 9, Sketty-road, Uplands, Swansea.

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MENTION "THE VOTE" WHEN ORDERING GOODS.

HOSTELS FOR WORKING WOMEN.

Opening Albion House, South-row, Kensal-road, North Kensington, as a residential club and restaurant for girls and women working in the neighbourhood, the Duchess of Marlborough said the question had been very prominent of late, and only a few days before she had been present at the opening of the Ada Lewis Home. Those who did not recognise the great need for such homes might think much was being done in this direction, but others, better informed, knew that the problem was only beginning to be dealt with. Many were earnestly studying the needs of the homeless woman, and they were making their experience the foundation for reform. It was more difficult for women to climb the social gradient than for men. They wanted sympathy and encouragement, which were not often found in the only houses open to them. Competition compelled increasing numbers of women to become wage earners. Was it not time to frame legislation which would give woman her proper economic status? In all England there were only three municipal lodging-houses for women, while she supposed there was hardly any large town without at least one for men. Such hostels as Albion House were an object-lesson to show the rich how the poor ought to be housed and the poor how they could be housed.

Dr. Ethel Bentham, on the same occasion observed that when she heard the Mayor of Kensington say that in the royal borough 10,000 people were housed within a quarter of a square mile, she felt they were herded, not housed. Women when homeless were exposed to many more dangers than men, and there was special need for houses where they could lodge cheaply yet respectably. The National Association of Women's Lodging Homes had begun the work, but the practical outcome was not enough. Private enterprise must come in at first to start such homes until municipal aid could be counted on. But, once started, they believed a home would pay its way.

BRANCH NOTES.

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

LONDON.—Croydon.—Office: 32A, The Arcade, High-street. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue.

There was a good attendance at the drawing-room meeting, held at Mrs. Ridley's, on the 15th inst., when Mrs. Despard spoke to the members on the work and policy of the League. All felt inspired to do more work than hitherto, and plans were talked over for an early meeting at Wallington. Our thanks are due to the hostess for the use of her rooms and for providing tea. At the "At Home," on the 17th inst., a very interesting reading on George Eliot was given by Mrs. Price.

Highbury.—Hon. Sec.: Miss B. M. JOHN, 65, Marquess-road, Canonbury, N.

Without exaggeration, the crowd which witnessed the arrival and departure of the speakers on Thursday, was unparalleled in the history of the Highbury Branch. This was probably the result of the magnified reports given by the daily Press of the hustling received by our poster paraders the night before. Instead of "decent-minded women," the crowd on that occasion consisted of girls about sixteen years of age, who were indulging in the usual reaction of animal spirits after being cooped up in an ill-ventilated and strictly-disciplined factory all day. They were, in themselves, a tremendously powerful argument of how badly women are required in the management of affairs in a State which is capable of producing such hooliganism.

In spite of the dense crowd outside Barnsbury Hall, we had a most orderly and successful meeting. Our thanks are due to Miss Underwood for so ably performing the duties of chair; to Miss Boyle, for her brilliant exposition of the need of the woman's vote, and to Mrs. Despard for her own inimitable and inspiring appeal which resulted in several new members. We have also to thank Mrs. Huntsman and her helpers for distributing Votes and bills. It is hoped to hold regular open-air meetings in the course of a week or two, when members are asked to come and sell THE VOTE and help in other ways.

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

At our annual members' meeting, on April 14, the officers and committee for the year were elected as follows:—President, Miss Cicely Hamilton; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Tritton; Hon. Treasurer and Assistant Secretary, Miss Hunt; Committee, Miss F. Arnold, Miss Holmes, Mrs. Hyde, Mrs. Jason Kerr and Mrs. Nourse. A larger attendance at this meeting would have been more satisfactory. We congratulate our fellow member, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, on her re-election on the Board of Guardians for Hammernsmith.

Tottenham.—Hon. Sec.: Miss F. L. EGGETT, 30, Lausanne-road, Hornsey.

Will all members please make a very special effort to be present at our next Branch meeting, to be held at 91, Mount Pleasant-road, Tottenham, on Thursday, May 1, at 7.30 p.m.? We hope to discuss plans for the summer campaign, also for VOTE selling. We shall be glad if all members and friends who have not already done so, will bring or send their contributions for our Jumble Sale to Mrs. Harbord, 91, Mount Pleasant-road, Tottenham, on or before May 1. Please beg of all your friends; every contribution will be gratefully received, and we hope to be able to send a substantial sum to THE VOTE as the result of our efforts. The date of the sale will be fixed at the meeting, and should take place very early in May.

PROVINCES.—Ipswich.—Suffrage Shop: 22, Queen-street. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. PRATT, 160, Norwich-road.

We have to report the enrolment of one new member this week, Mrs. Long, of Shotley, to whom we tender thanks for a gift of books for the library; also to several members for jam and marmalade for the shop. The Poster Parade arranged for last Saturday was postponed until the 26th, when it is hoped there will be still more volunteers for the march.—M. K. TROTTER.

Burnage.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. BRICKHILL, 33, South-avenue, Garden Village, Levenshulme, Manchester.

The weekly meetings since Easter have been well attended, and the

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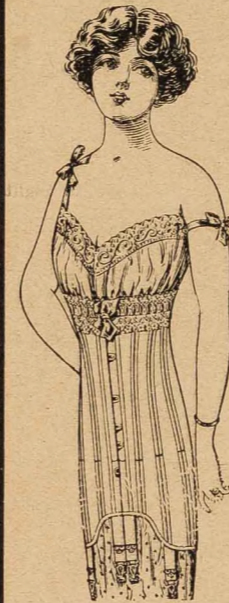
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usual interest in the work of the League manifested. Miss Hordern, the Manchester secretary, visited the Branch a fortnight ago, and gave us a very interesting report of the Conference, which was appreciated by all present. Last Monday, after business was over, a member read "The Three Dreams in a Desert," by Olive Schreiner. The next meeting will be held on April 28.

Manchester Central.—Office: 46A, Market-street; Hon. Sec.: Miss A. E. HORDERN, 478, Stockport-road.

The Branch meeting on Wednesday was preceded by a District Council Meeting, at which much important business was done. The sale of work was fixed for Wednesday, May 7, and Mrs. Despard will open it for us in the office. We must raise £50 by this effort. Will members please do their very best, and let the Secretary have their work or goods early. There will be a cake stall, for which cakes, sweets, and jams will be much appreciated.

Potteries.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. PEDLEY, 18, Bower-street, Hanley.

Work in this district has been rather disturbed by the prospect of the King's visit and by industrial troubles. The flag, however, has been kept flying for the League by the admirable efforts of Mrs. Pedley, the Hon. Sec., who adopts a continuous and successful method of selling THE VOTE by asking for purchasers in all shops and houses she visits. Open-air and indoor meetings have been held during the last week, and a further series is arranged for the first week of May.

SCOTLAND.—Scottish Scattered Members.—Hon. Sec.: Miss EUNICE MURRAY, Moor Park, Cardross, Dumbarton.

I spoke last week at a drawing-room meeting where much interest was shown in the question of Votes for Women, and, impossible as it seems, both a Suffragette and her arguments seemed new to most of those present. I quickly sold out all the tickets I had with me for our Glasgow meeting at the Athenaeum. On April 14 Miss Semple and I were to have spoken at an outdoor meeting at Motherwell, but as heavy rain came on we had to abandon the project and, instead, sold THE VOTE under shelter of the railway station. We did a flourishing business, not one of the four dozen was left. We met with many expressions of goodwill, and felt we had done some useful propaganda work.—EUNICE J. MURRAY.

Dundee.—Hon. Sec.: Miss H. WILKIE, M.A., 280, Perth-road.

There was a very full attendance of members and friends at our last Branch meeting to hear Mr. Esterman, of the I.L.P., speak on "The Economic Significance of the Woman's Movement." Miss Husband presided. Mr. Esterman spoke for his own particular brand of Socialism—a brand which has not grasped the peculiar significance of the woman's movement. He advocated the strengthening of the present trade unions, contending that these and strikes would do far more for the worker than all the votes in existence, quite overlooking the fact that women are not admitted into these trade unions, and that even where they are the first desideratum, equal pay for equal work, is a minus quantity and would be strongly outvoted by men. The speaker also denied that our Cause was a working-class movement, but designated it middle-class. When challenged to define working classes, he mentioned those who sold their labour for

wages. As this is done in all classes of society, from scavengers to Cabinet Ministers, or from charwomen to inspectresses, his definition did not meet with the approval of the women present. The inconsistency of the I.L.P. in contemning the Vote, and yet urging their men members to use their privilege at election times, was also pointed out. The fact that women might use the Vote in exactly the same way does not occur to the I.L.P. As Miss Husband pointed out, they evidently want to form a new earth on entirely socialistic principles, and then invite women to come in and enjoy it, whereas women want to help in this regeneration of humanity now. The debate, which was very hot at times, was taken part in by the Misses Husband, Mrs. Allan, Mrs. Halley, and Misses Anderson, Clunas, Davey, Wilkie, and Smart. Mr. Esterman was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.—J. A. SMART.

KINDRED SOCIETIES.

Women's Tax Resistance League, 98, St. Martin's-lane.

A quantity of silver, the property of Miss Rhoda Anstey, Principal of the Anstey Physical Training College, Erdington, Warwickshire, was sold on April 14, by public auction, under distraint for King's taxes. The sale and protest meeting took place in the gymnasium of the college, and the speakers at the meeting were Mrs. Kineton Parkes and Miss Dorothy Evans; Miss Leonora Tyson presided.

On the same day goods, the property of Dr. Ede and Dr. Sheppard, of Upper Berkeley-street, Portman-square, W., were sold by public auction at 26, Lisson-grove, W.; Dr. Ede made a protest against the sale in the auction rooms. The speakers at the protest meeting which was held after the sale were Miss Amy Hicks, M.A., Dr. Ede, and Mrs. Cobden Sanderson.

On April 15, Miss Rose, of Frinton-on-Sea, had goods sold under distraint for King's taxes, and Miss Amy Hicks, M.A., was the speaker at the protest meeting held in the small Town Hall, Miss Rose being in the chair.

The first tax resistance sale in the Lake District took place on April 16, when Mrs. Henry Holiday had goods sold by public auction at Hawkshead, Ambleside. A most enthusiastic protest meeting was held after the sale, the speakers being Mrs. Kineton Parkes and Miss Holiday.

On April 18, goods, the property of Miss Corcoran, were sold at Loughborough by public auction, followed by a successful protest meeting.

Miss Beatrice Harraden's goods were sold on April 22, at 6 p.m., at Gill's Auction Rooms, Cambridge-road, Kilburn. Miss Harraden explained, in the auction room, the reasons for her refusal to pay.

At the same time goods belonging to Dr. Mabel Hardie and Miss Gibbs were sold. There was a procession after the sale to public meeting at corner of Harrow-road and Elgin-avenue.

Dr. Jessie Murray's goods were sold on April 23, at 1.15 p.m., at Davies' Auction Rooms, 15, Upper-street, Islington, and a protest meeting held after sale at Highbury Fields.

On April 25 goods of Mrs. Beaumont Thomas and Mrs. Mary Sutcliffe will be sold at Warren's Auction Room, 73, Battersea Rise (five minutes from Clapham Junction) at 7 p.m. Protest meeting after sale. Supporters urgently needed.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Thurs., April 24 - Wad., April 30 - WHITECHAPEL BY-ELECTION CAMPAIGN. Open-air meetings and poster parades in district daily.

Thurs. April 24 - CROYDON WEEKLY "AT HOME," at W.F.L. Office, The Arcade, High-street, 3.15 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Ackroyd on "School Clinics." WOMEN'S POLITICAL DEBATING SOCIETY, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., 7.45 p.m. Subject: "Does Democracy Lead to Anarchy?" BROMLEY, Market-square, 7 p.m. OPEN-AIR MEETING. Speakers: Miss Boyle, Miss Munro, and others.

Fri., April 25 - LECTURE in W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., by Prof. S. N. Baral, M.A. (of Bengal), on "Indian Women," 8 p.m. WHITECHAPEL-ROAD OPEN-AIR MEETINGS. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner.

Sun., April 27 - HYDE PARK, noon. Speakers: Mrs. Martel and Mr. J. Y. Kennedy. Chair: Mrs. Jason Kerr. BROCKWELL PARK, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro.

Wed., April 30 - CANTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Dr. G. B. Clark on "The Industrial Aspect of the Woman's Question," and Miss Anna Munro on "The Woman of To-day."

Sun., May 4 - REGENT'S PARK. Open-air meeting at noon. BROCKWELL PARK, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Read.

Mon., May 5 - RECEPTION to Mrs. CHAPMAN CATT, CANTON HALL, 3.30 p.m. Speeches by Mrs. Chapman Catt, Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle. Musical refreshments. Tickets, 1s., from Office. CROYDON BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETING, 3.30 p.m.

Wed., May 7 - CANTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING. Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman on "The Relation of Physical Force to Self-Government," and Miss C. Nina Boyle, 3.30 p.m. LECTURE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., on "Health Foods," by Captain Walter Carey, R.N., 7.30 p.m. Admission free, collection.

Sun., May 11 - BROCKWELL PARK, 3 p.m. Mrs. Watson.

Tues., May 13 - SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York-street, St. James'. Meeting under auspices of Kensington Branch, W.F.L. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. Subject: "The Connection Between Sweated Labour and Immorality." Chair: Miss C. Nina Boyle.

Fri., May 16 - "At Home," at 9, Titchfield-terrace, Northgate, Regent's Park, N.W., by kind invitation of Mrs. Carey. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. Afternoon.

Wed., May 21 - CANTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Mr. G. E. O'Dell on "The Character of Ann Whitefield in 'Man and Superman.'"

PROVINCES.

Thurs., April 24 - Ipswich, 22, Queen-street, 8 p.m. Branch Meeting. Friends welcomed.

Sat., April 26 - Middlesbrough, Jumble Sale. Ipswich, POSTER PARADE, leave 22, Queen-street at 3 p.m.

Mon., April 28 - Liverpool, "Belmont" De Villier's Crosby. "At Home" to Working Women. Hostess: Mrs. Williams. Hove, Banqueting Hall, Town Hall, 8 p.m. Lecture by Mrs. Despard on "Prometheus Unbound." Burnage Branch Meeting.

Tues., April 29 - Grays, Bridge-road Schools. Public Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Mrs. Tunstall. Liverpool, Aintree Institute. Speaker: Miss Guinan. Chair: Miss Appleton.

Wed., April 30 - Manchester, 46A, Market-street, 7.30 p.m., Sewing Meeting.

Thurs., May 1 - Chester, 13, Abbey-square. Speakers' Class, 5.45 p.m. Subject: "The Need of Militancy." H. F. Brown, Esq., J.P., LL.B. - Ipswich, Small Co-operative Hall, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. Speakers: Miss Andrews and Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Tippett. Admission by ticket, to be obtained at the Suffrage Shop. Reserved seats, 1s.

Fri., May 2 - Middlesbrough, "The Crescent, Newport-road, Open-air Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner.

Sat., May 3 - Middlesbrough, Gresham-road, Open-air Meeting, 3 p.m. Tower House, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.

Sun., May 4 - Stockton, Market-place, 3 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.

Mon., May 5 - Liverpool, 9, Rossett-road, Blundellsands. "At Home" to Working Women. Hostess: Mrs. Matthews. Hanley, Miss Anna Munro, 8 p.m. Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner. Burnage Branch Meeting.

Tues., May 6 - Stoke-on-Trent, Miss Anna Munro, 8 p.m. Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, "At Home," 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.

Wed., May 7 - Manchester, 46A, Market-street. Sale of Work. Opener: Mrs. Despard. Newcastle, Miss Anna Munro, 8 p.m. Middlesbrough, Market-place, Open-air Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner.

Thurs., May 8 - Manchester, Lecture on Theosophy by Mrs. Despard. Fenton, Miss Anna Munro, 8 p.m.

Fri., May 9 - Hanley, Miss Anna Munro, 8 p.m.

Wed., May 28 - Chester, Public Meeting. Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman and Miss Anna Munro.

SCOTLAND.

Sat., April 26 - Glasgow, 70, St. George's-road. Pound Tea.

Sat., May 3 - Glasgow, DENNSTOWN, Jumble Sale.

Sat., May 10 - Edinburgh, Jumble Sale.

Sat., May 24 - Paisley, Public Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

Sun., May 25 - Dundee, Public Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, - Sat., May 3 - Reception by Mrs. R. P. Whately, 75, Harcourt-terrace, Redcliffe-square, 4-6 p.m. For invitations apply at once to Sec., 55, Berners-street. May 4, Feast of Blessed Joan of Arc. Novena for the Suffrage Cause, commencing on Saturday, April 26, and ending on the Feast, earnestly recommended to be made.

Sun., May 4 - Mrs. Chapman Catt, at the Ethical Church, Queen's-road, Bayswater, on "Heathen East and Christian West."

Reserved seats for Suffragists on application to the Hon. Sec., 46, Queen's-road, Bayswater. Free Church League, - Tues., May 6 - Annual Business Meeting, Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, 7 p.m. May 18 - Meeting, Greenwich-road Church. Chair: Rev. C. Hall. Speaker: Rev. Fleming Williams.



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