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Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

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

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

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

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Notes.

A GREAT public meeting in support of Women's Suffrage will be held in the Corn Exchange, Cambridge, by the Cambridge Association for Women's Suffrage, on Wednesday, May 5th, at 8 P.M. The chair will be taken by the Rev. R. St. John Parry, Fellow and Senior Dean of Trinity College, Cambridge; and speeches will be delivered by Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.S., F.R.C.S., Miss Abadam, Miss Frances Sterling, and Mr. Israel Zangwill. Hon. Sec., Mrs. James Ward, 6, Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge.

ON Tuesday, March 23rd, a large and enthusiastic special rally meeting was called by the N.W.S.P.U to declare the result of the special effort week. Miss Christabel Pankhurst was in the chair, and called attention to the attitude of the papers expressed in leaders on Friday's debate in the House. Miss Mary Gawthorpe came from Lancashire specially to address the meeting, and also to explain the attitude of the Lancashire people towards the Government and the objects of the deputation on March 30th, in which Lancashire played a part. Mr. Pethick Lawrence announced the splendid results in the various departments of the self-denial weeks, which was a large increase on the efforts of past years.

LADY CONSTANCE LYTTON and 25 other advocates of Women's Suffrage, members of the N.W.S.P.U., were released from Holloway gaol last Wednesday. They were accorded an enthusiastic reception by members of the Union and, headed by a band and followed by a number of sympathizers, proceeded in carriages to the Inns of Court Hotel, Holborn, where a special breakfast welcome had been arranged. The released prisoners, in addition to Lady Constance Lytton, include Miss Daisy B. Solomon, a daughter of the late Mr. Saul Solomon, Crown Minister of the Cape; Mrs. Frank Corbett, Miss Una S. Dugdale, Miss Leslie Lawless, Mrs. Madelaine Petre, Miss E. H. Chesshire, and Mrs. Caprina Fahey.

A DEPUTATION of members of the National Women's Social and Political Union, twenty-nine in number, attempted on Tuesday, under the leadership of Mrs. Saul Solomon, to obtain access to the House of Commons in order to present to the Prime Minister a resolution which had been adopted at a meeting held in Caxton Hall, but as they approached the House they were stopped by the police. They persisted in their efforts, and a number of them were ultimately taken into custody.

DR. ELIZABETH BLACKWELL is England's oldest lady doctor and the first woman to take a medical degree and to be placed on the English medical register. She was a great personal friend of Miss Florence Nightingale. Dr. Blackwell takes the keenest interest in the progress of women's work.

AT the preliminary meeting to initiate the proceedings with regard to marking the occasion of Mrs. Haslam eightieth birthday, convened by a joint circular letter, signed by representatives of many different organizations with which Mrs. Haslam has been connected, Mr. Charles Eason, M.A., J.P., presided.

On the motion of Mr. C. H. Oldham, M.A., B.L., seconded by Mrs. J. Wise Power, P.L.G., it was resolved: "That all those present, and those whose letters have been read, do now constitute themselves as a General Committee with the object of paying a public compliment to Mrs. Anna M. Haslam, by inviting her to an "At Home," to be held in the Leinster Lecture Hall, 35, Molesworth Street, on the evening of Monday, April 5th, 1909."

Mr. Oldham said it should be clearly understood that no subscriptions were invited for the purpose of making any public presentation to Mrs. Haslam. Of course, some voluntary subscriptions would be needed in order to cover the modest expenses of the entertainment. But invitations to the function on April 5th would be extended freely to all Mrs. Haslam's friends, provided that they should make known beforehand to the Working Committee their desire to join in paying to her a public compliment, which has been long deserved.

WORKING Ruri-decanal Conference have passed a resolution in favour of women having votes for and being eligible to serve on Church Councils and Conferences.

IT is pleasing to learn that Francis Macmillan, the young American violinist, is an advocate for Women's Franchise, and we can promise all Women Suffragists a treat who support him by going to his concerts. The first (of a series of concerts) will take place on April 14th at Queen's Hall, assisted by the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Frederick Cowen.

WE wish to call the attention of our readers to an authors' column which is introduced this week, advertising the writings of men and women who are supporters of the cause for Women's Suffrage. The works advertised may or may not bear upon the subject, but they cannot fail to be of interest to our readers. Will authors please make use of this opportunity and let the advertisement-manager have their names, and that of their works. A small sum to cover expenses is all that we want.

WE have received from Mrs. M. M. Hermon 13s. 6d. towards the publishing expenses of this paper.

Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union.

UNDER the auspices of the Union, a successful meeting was held in St. George's Hall, Dumfries, on Wednesday, March 24th. The hall, which accommodates 500 or 600, was crowded, and the audience listened attentively to the speeches. A resolution was passed, calling on the House of Commons to grant the Franchise to duly qualified women. The speakers, Dr. Elsie Inglis, Miss Eunice Murray, and Miss Chrystal Macmillan, were subjected to a spirited heckling, questions being asked as to the policy of the different societies. The ladies joined the Union as Associates. They have arranged to call together the ladies interested in order to form a local Society. The thanks of the Union are due to Provost Lennox for presiding at the meeting, and to Mr. William Irving, who defrayed the expenses of the meeting and undertook all the advertising. As this is only the second public meeting that has been held on the subject in Dumfries—the former having taken place about a year ago—the interest of the ladies of the town in taking upon themselves to form a Suffrage Society is evidence of the growing strength of the movement in the country.

Actresses' Franchise League.

ONE may always look forward with pleasure to the meetings held by this League, and the afternoon of March 23rd was an occasion of special interest, owing to the visit of Mrs. Despard.

Mrs. Winifred Mayo presided, owing to the unavoidable absence of Madame Marie Brœma, who had written expressing her extreme disappointment at not being able to be present. Miss Mayo read Madame Brœma's notes to the meeting, in which she gave her views on the woman question and the position of actresses in relation to the movement. Madame Brœma pointed out that the financial position of actresses was better than that of most professional woman, but this being the case their moral obligation was the greater—as they should work for the benefit of their sisters less well situated than themselves.

Mrs. Despard, who was received with great enthusiasm, said it gave her great pleasure to be there to speak to the League. She felt strongly that the stage was to be a great factor in the education of the future. The various leagues that had come into being voiced, the woman's demand for political freedom, and proved the representative character of this demand. This was woman's opportunity and woman's responsibility. This great agitation was a part of the battle of the ages, which must always go on that righteousness might overcome unrighteousness. In order to take her share in this battle woman must have self-expression, and this was only possible in political and social affairs by the power of the vote. Woman's direct influence was needed firstly in things industrial and educational, and secondly in all legislation bearing on the regulation of the home.

Mrs. Lewis Lewis, who spoke after Mrs. Despard, said that she wished to emphasize the fact that this movement was not creating a sex war—an accusation brought against the Suffrage Movement by the Antis—but that it was to bring about that harmony and peace in the future that was only possible where there was equality under the law.

Irish Women's Franchise League.

ON March 2nd the Irish Women's Franchise League held a meeting in the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, at which Mrs. Billington-Greig gave an eloquent and stirring address. The theatre, in spite of the severity of the weather, was crowded with a most enthusiastic audience. Mrs. Cousins, Mus.Bac., who presided, introduced Mrs. Billington-Greig in an appropriate speech. The lecturer, who spoke on the Suffrage question in general and on the militant methods of the English Suffragists, whom she cleared of much of the odium which press

misrepresentation had thrown on them, was listened to with rapt attention, the audience warmly applauding at the finish. She was followed by Miss Harrison, the well-known portrait painter, who proposed a resolution declaring that the extension of the Franchise to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men is just and necessary. This was seconded by Miss Mary Hayden, M.A., in a neat and telling speech in Irish and in English. Other speakers followed, and the resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority. During question time the subject was discussed by many speakers from the audience, among whom was the Countess Markievicz, from various Irish points of view, some speaking in Irish and some in English. Mrs. Billington-Greig answered the questions put in a masterly manner, and a vote of thanks to her concluded the meeting.

Mrs. Grieg again addressed the members and friends of the League at an afternoon gathering the next day, before her return to Scotland.

On Saturday, March 13th, another meeting was held under the League's auspices at the Hall, 9, Merrion Row. An interesting discussion on Adult Suffrage took place between some members of the Socialist party, who had come to the meeting, and the members of the League. The first general meeting was announced for April 21st.

Women's Local Government Society.

MR. WALTER S. B. MCLAREN, who presided over a meeting at Caxton Hall last week, said the Women's Local Government Society had accomplished the work it set out to perform—the removal of the sex disability on the governing bodies of municipalities and other local organizations. The work they had immediately on hand was the extension of the qualification for election on county and borough councils.

Mrs. Allan Bright, in moving a resolution urging the Government to adopt Dr. Shipman's Local Government Qualification Bill, said in 1893 there were only 169 women Guardians in the United Kingdom, but now there were over 1,100. This was a strong argument in favour of throwing open the door for the admittance of women to county and borough councils.

Mrs. Pinsent, of Birmingham, paid a tribute to the work of women on the late Birmingham School Board and the present Board of Guardians, and said the excellent work of these women had created a feeling among the city councillors that their ranks would be strengthened and their power of administration increased by the election of women councillors. The only way for a married woman into a city council was over her husband's grave, but she was not prepared to take that route. She made a strong plea for the inclusion of women on Asylums Committees. At present all the details of asylum life, even to the matter of women's clothing, are attended to by men. She contended that as women are good economists, local administration would be more economically worked if women were allowed seats on the local councils.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

At a business meeting which preceded the public gathering, a resolution was passed calling for the appointment of more women inspectors and women relieving officers.

Women's Reform Union, Bristol.

A SERIES of "parlour" meetings are being held by this Union in different parts of Bristol. Thursday evening a most successful one was held by kind invitation of Mrs. Willis at 6, Heber Street, Lawrence Hill. Two rooms were filled to overflowing by interested women, come to learn "Why Women Want and Need Votes." Mrs. W. C. H. Cross and Mrs. A. Daniell addressed them, and while the babies slumbered peacefully the mothers listened eagerly. Every one present, with only one exception, joined the Union, either as members or associates, and signed a paper in favour of Suffrage. So much earnest enthusiasm was shown, that by request a meeting is being held at the Mission Hall this week.

Letter from Russia.

THE history of the woman's movement in Russia clearly shows how inseparable it is from the movement of the whole people towards liberty. In the progressive period of 1905-6 the question of the political and economic quality of women with men was always being discussed and taken into consideration. Now one after another the representatives of the old regime are trying to increase the inequality, and to put women in a still more unfavourable position than before. M. Levestainoff, Postmaster-General in Russia, has, I believe, beaten the record in that respect. He has recently issued a circular, which settles the special conditions under which women may be admitted to the post office:—

1. Only girls and widows between eighteen and thirty are eligible.

2. Women serving in the Post Office are only entitled to marry officials serving in the same institution. If the husband changes his post, and is transferred to another post office, the wife loses her situation, unless she is also transferred to the same office as her husband.

Is it possible to imagine a more absurd and revolting violation of individual liberty? This new circular reminds us of the times of slavery, when girls had no right to dispose of themselves, but were married perforce to men chosen by their masters. Of course the main effect of this circular will be to encourage free love and destroy family life.

The reaction which now prevails in Russia is also manifest in the proceedings of individuals, who belong to the retrograde parties. An incident, which took place at St. Petersburg last month, has caused general indignation among all right-thinking people. An insolent letter was sent by a member of the Douma, who leads the reactionary party in Russia and defends the proceedings of the "Black Hundred," to the venerable Madame Filosofoff, the pioneer of the woman's movement in Russia, and organizer of the Congress held last December. In this letter he casts the most abominable insults on the women who attended the Congress, implying that the purpose of the meetings was the discussion of immoral matters. Accustomed as is society in Russia to all kind of abominable behaviour from the reactionaries, this letter called forth boundless indignation from all quarters. Even the Octobrists, who as a rule are on good terms with this Deputy and his party, addressed to Madame Filosofoff a letter of sympathy, protesting against the insult that had been inflicted on an aged social worker, beloved and esteemed by all who have the privilege of knowing her.

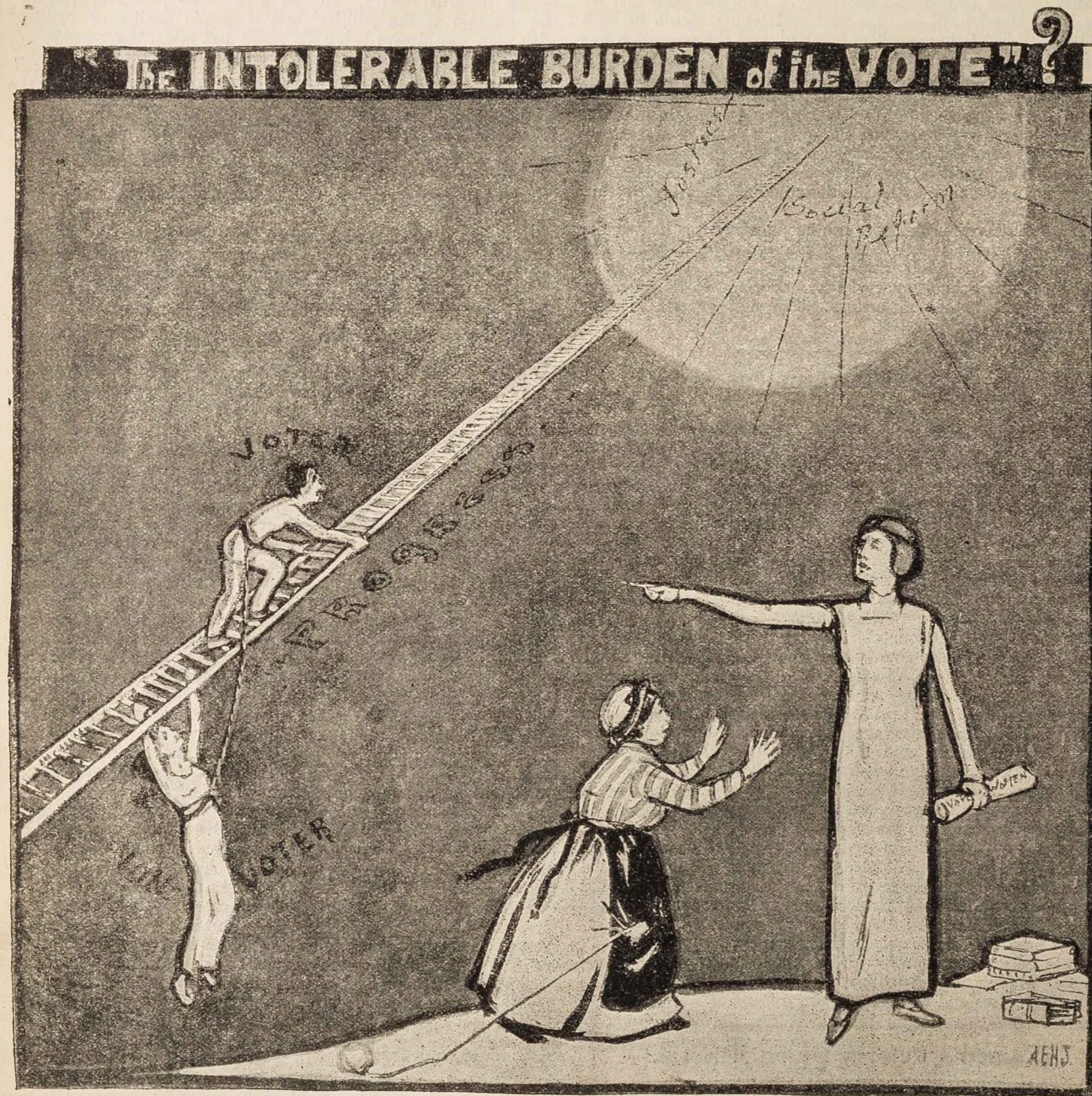
It was the fact that the letter was signed by a Deputy that made it impossible to ignore it, and the matter was referred to a justice of the Peace. Then came a second, even more insulting letter, to the effect that the charge was not directed against Madame Filosofoff, but against the Russian Women's Congress, which alone was entitled to protest against it.

On February 25th the case was examined before a crowded court. The extraordinary feature of the trial was the protest lodged by M. Cureshnevitch's counsel against the reading aloud of the letters complained of, lest they should offend the moral feelings of the audience. Mr. Grousenberg, Madame Filosofoff's counsel, laid stress on the fact that this insult to the best woman in Russia came from a member of the Douma who had always distinguished himself for his total disregard of any law, written or unwritten, except his own whim and fancy. The title of Deputy, new in Russia, ought to be specially preserved from any moral stain.

The sentence of the judge condemning M. Poureshnevitch to one month's imprisonment, the highest penalty that can be afflicted for such an offence, was enthusiastically greeted by all present in court. However, the accused has appealed, and it is possible the verdict may be reversed. He has also threatened to take revenge on the opposing counsel. Thus this episode, which I have here briefly sketched, is not ended.

Meantime Madame Filosofoff is overwhelmed with letters and other tokens of sympathy from all quarters.

ZÉNÉIDE MIROVITCH.



[Published by the S. A., 53, Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.]

Benevolent Anti :—"Would you add to her responsibilities?"

Suffragist :—"It is the lack of the Vote that is dragging them both down."

Women's Wages and the Suffrage.

THE assertion that trades unions would help the industrial position of women more than votes is heard so often that I think it calls for special consideration.

The vote is a great educator, and it makes a class or a sex articulate. To educate women voters will be the work of every member of Parliament, every candidate, and every good Liberal, Tory, or Labour enthusiast throughout the country, while to educate and organize women into trades unions is the work of comparatively a few. When women have the vote, and then only, will the bulk of them have a fair chance of getting that knowledge and grip of affairs which leads speedily to trade organization. The vote will educate women even more than it educated men, partly because a certain class of women come less into contact with the outside world than many men, and so need this kind of education more, and partly because women, I venture to think, feel responsibility more than men. Who ever heard of a voteless man complaining of the "great responsibility of a vote" being thrust upon him, as the Anti-Suffrage League are complaining now? And yet—as the "Anti" organizer is said to have gasped through her tears at the end of a Women's Suffrage debate: "When you get it, we shall try to use it wisely." Even they will try to learn to be wise when they get the vote, and surely it would be difficult to find more hopeless material than the political nonentity who wishes to remain one.

All Women Suffragists know that wages depend mainly on "supply and demand, cost of living, and efficiency." The two latter are vague terms, but all three are undoubtedly affected by the political nonentity of women, both directly through legislation, and indirectly by the lower status of women, which we claim the vote would improve. To take the last first—efficiency, as a general rule, does not apparently tend to raise women's wages above a certain customary level; in many trades it only seems to ensure women being taken on instead of men, at about one-third to one-half, to two-thirds, of his wages. Again, the cost of living depends on custom, and the "standard of living"; and "the standard of living" is deplorably low amongst women. I contend that inefficiency is not the cause of women's low wages. As teachers, clerks, and in many trades women are largely acknowledged as superior to men; but it does not appear to effect to any great extent the proportion of their remuneration as compared with that of men; the custom of the trade (aided by a low standard of living) is able, by the over-supply of women, to keep down women's wages; and this over-supply is effected sometimes by legislation, and more often by customs and trades unions that keep women out of the more skilled departments of many trades, and entirely out of other trades and professions which they desire to enter. Legislation busies itself more and more with industry, and philanthropy busies itself more and more with politics. The short cuts that both (with excellent motives) are trying to take to the millennium, are apt to be over the bodies—or at least the interests—of those who have no votes—the women. Take the pronouncement of two Cabinet Ministers—Mr. Burns and Mr. Macnamara—that "the labour of married women must be curtailed." Go to any one of the 74,000 married women working in the cotton mills of Lancashire, and ask them if they wish their labour to be curtailed. Mr. Burns knows perfectly well that every one of them will say, "Certainly not!" The loss of their work is their greatest misfortune. But he replies he would do it for the good of the children and succeeding generations. This reply is typical of much legislation for women, and it is well to see clearly just which side we are on. Are we prepared to say that we will keep from women the power of the vote—not even because we think we know best what is good for them, but because we wish to coerce them into sacrifices they are not prepared to make. And why is it only now that women (who seem ever ready for sacrifice) are not prepared for it? Because they know by a surer instinct and the bitter test of experience, that to take away from married women the power of earning an independent livelihood is not for the good of any woman or any future generation. Our

sympathies, our powers of imagination, and foresight are not as yet developed enough for us to legislate fairly or wisely for subordinate classes.

Again, Do people who strive to minimize the value of the vote forget that Parliament is entirely responsible for the rate of wages paid to Government employees. Listen to a Government department dealing with the labour of the women they employ. "As regards the pay (14s. a week, rising after twelve years' service to a maximum of 30s. a week), women sorters are expected, or even bound, to live with their parents or guardians, and the present pay is therefore sufficient." While in some families the parent may be willing to be taxed to the extent of partially supporting a daughter who does the same work for the State that makes a son self-supporting—in others, the parents or guardians are unable or unwilling to do it, or there are no parents or guardians. And this miserable view that women need not be paid a living wage for a fair day's work filters down into all classes, and would never for a moment get the sanction and ægis of Governmental example, if women had votes. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said on December 5th last "that the inequality (of pay) in Government departments (between men and women) would be impossible if women had the same right to vote and, therefore, the same right to call the Government to account as men have." In the teaching profession under Government, pupil teachers, boys begin with 7s. 6d., girls with 4s. a week. But it does not cost a boy more to live healthily than a girl, or at least it should not do, and it is just as important for girls as for boys to have bicycles, boating, theatres, games, and all the things they can only learn to enjoy as they get higher wages, and can afford them. A boy is encouraged by Government to put a higher value on himself, and thus gets more wages. It is time woman had the vote which will give her the little bit of enhanced value in the eyes of the world that will enable her also to extract from burdened exchequers her rightful remuneration. The Post Office is the largest employer of labour in the country and when we add to this all the other Government and Municipal departments, we may get by the vote an improvement in the wages of women over an area quite large enough to appreciably affect the standard of comfort amongst the wage-earning women—to say nothing of its gradual effect permeating first to the trades nearly connected and then lower down still. This has been the result, I believe, in every country that has Women's Suffrage. I can only touch on other points, but the prevailing tendency is to keep cheap labour out of the trades unions, and as long as women's labour is cheap only because it is women's, so long trades unions, for their own preservation, must keep women out. But women must live, and they are being forced, more and more, as machinery becomes more perfect, into the position of helpless "blacklegs," undercutting men and bringing wages down in spite of trades unions. This breeds the spirit of enmity to women's labour, which is one of the most painful features of this struggle, and we find unions putting pressure on their members of Parliament to legislate against the women working in their particular trade. Thus the brass workers have petitioned Parliament to stop women working in their trade, ostensibly because "it is too heavy for them." The pit brow men because they say the women's morals suffer from the men's bad language! Are the "men who want the job" the right people to legislate on women's labour? for it is not only the "trades" that strive to keep women out.

Perhaps one of the most important points to have cleared up is whether we should pay for work done, or whether other considerations should come in. One thing I think is clear, that though it is easy and convenient (while women are disfranchised and unorganized) to make sex an excuse for underpayment, there is no legitimate reason why sex instead of efficiency should be the test. If we consider it just to pay wages according to the number of dependents, then we must acknowledge the principle that the married man must be paid more than the unmarried (and the wife should receive the difference direct), and the widow (with children) more than the bachelor. This is a difficult position to defend, but is of course arguable; but to pay the widow with children half what the bachelor gets, because she is a woman, as we do at present, seems an altogether unfair proceeding, that cannot be supported by any view of economics

or sociology except those of muddle-headedness and sex dominance. The State, at least, should not set the example.

Let us recognize, if we continue to withhold the vote from women, that we are deliberately using our masculine prerogative to make things more difficult than need be for the five million women who, handicapped as they are, are earning their own living.

I have heard men talk as if the advent of women into the labour market meant that women were filching from men something that by right belonged to them. Many forget that the properly paid labour of women would create an enormous increase of the demand for commodities, and that while hundreds of thousands of people are "wanting" what some of the remainder look upon as the commonest necessities of life, distribution is more at fault than over-production.

The question of whether women ought to be in the labour market or not is scarcely relevant. *They are there*, and coercive legislation against an awakened womanhood gets more and more impossible to all fair-minded men. We cannot stem the tide, because it is based on the stubborn facts of our economic system. We know, however, that low wages paid to women create an artificial demand for women's labour at the expense of men's by a miserable undercutting, which does not mean more wealth to the country, but only more profits (for the moment) to the capitalist, and the substitution of women's work for men's.

H. B. DOWSON.

The Park, Nottingham.

Anti-Suffrage Meeting at the Queen's Hall.

THE meeting at the Queen's Hall held by the National Women's Anti-Suffrage League served to demonstrate clearly the complete lack of argument in favour of the movement. We thought, on seeing the names of the eminent men who were to speak, that even at this eleventh hour some serious argument might be raised against Women's Suffrage which would have to be met and seriously considered; instead of which the usual platitudinous remarks were reiterated with painful monotony: "Men are men and women are women"; "Woman's sphere is the home"; "Women are the mothers of the race"; "Men and women are different." Moreover, the speakers all agreed that the oldest and best reason for refusing women a vote is because they are not men. Women, who demand the enfranchisement of women, believing it to be for the good of mankind, ask why human beings who are not men should be denied the vote, the answer "Because you are not men" is *petitio principii*. We do not expect to find logic a strong point in an Anti-Suffrage argument; but such an answer as that would not satisfy a child who had asked a riddle in fun.

Lord Cromer said that one of the main arguments advanced in favour of Women's Suffrage was that every human being had an innate right to vote. If Lord Cromer believes this to be one of the main arguments, his study of the subject must have been indeed superficial. Once let the principle be conceded, said Lord Cromer, and of a surety before long the *privilege* of voting would be extended beyond the category of those women who now asked for a vote. To hear a vote called a privilege was most refreshing, coming from such a source; but Lord Cromer soon relapsed into the pessimistic state usual at Anti-Suffrage meetings, and a vote was once more a burden too heavy to be imposed upon women. As to disenthroning women, Lord Cromer must know, if he thinks seriously of the matter at all, that the women in this country placed on a pedestal, sheltered and bowed down to, are few and far between. To talk of disenthroning the sweated

women workers of our great cities, or even mill hands in the great northern towns, is mere irony and unworthy of a great statesman.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain said that women should not be sullied by being dragged into the hurly-burly of political life. Is this the way in which Mr. Austen Chamberlain would address a meeting of Primrose dames? If English politics have been so degraded by men as to sully any woman who comes into contact with them, it is high time, for the sake of the nation, that women took their proper part in politics. For a number of years politicians have used the political organizations of women for canvassing and speaking at elections—and no one suggested degradation. Now there is a chance of women going quietly to the polling stations to record their vote in a constitutional manner at election times—say once in five or six years—this chivalrous outcry is raised! It would be interesting to know why. Is it feared that women will use their power—for a vote is power—to break down the barriers set up by men which keep them from competing in the more highly skilled professions and trades?—barriers which now force women down into trades in which there is no monopoly created by specialized skill, and in which, being thus artificially overstocked, the surplus of supply over demand leads inevitably to sweated labour. Sir Edward Clarke, safely esconced behind the great "trade union" of his profession, used the taunt that men's work would always fetch more than women's because it was worth more. Sir Edward Clarke has never had to compete against women, his "trade union" has taken care of that, under which circumstances his case can by no means be considered "proven."

No Anti-Suffrage speaker seems happy until he has dragged the name of Queen Victoria into the question. She held, they all agree, the highest position in the State, and acquitted herself with a rare dignity—she was a wise ruler, a noble woman, and an example to her sex. Having got thus far it is difficult to understand how any reasoning person can shirk the inevitable conclusion that women are fitted at least to be enfranchised. Instead of which the Anti-Suffragists wander off into a by-path and use the modesty of Queen Victoria, the very quality which they most admire in women, as a weapon against the Suffrage. In this connexion an amusing incident occurred on Friday night. Quoting Queen Victoria, Lord Weardale said, with passionate earnestness and fervour, "We men were not made for governing." The applause was loud and prolonged.

To Mrs. Katharine Richmond and Her Fellow Prisoners.

"Who through faith subdued kingdoms."

O roomy-hearted! whom all cries assail,
Even the unvoiced cries that silent wail
Their yearning for the life that ought to be:
Provisioning the New Humanity
Thou seest, reverent, the Woman and
The Man advancing, steadfast, hand in hand.
Rising, inspired, thyself would speed their day,
Headless of suffering or what men say:
What Law, dull-eyed, accounts thine innocence,
And all the world holds dear thou dost renounce.
Yet e'er thy dayless weeks of Sacrifice
Be run, a thing shall be, undreamed of sense—
Earth's forces tamed to thine obedience,
A world reborn—Thy travail shall suffice.

A. AGNES WILSON
(Constitutional Suffragist).

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Correspondence.

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

Misquotation.

DEAR SIR,—Mrs. Humphry Ward, July 21st, 1908, in Pamphlet No. 3, by Women's National Anti-Suffrage League, is thus reported:—"As one reads the Suffragist literature, Macaulay's lines come ringing in one's head—

When all were for a party,
And none were for the State."

In my copy of 'Lays of Ancient Rome,' by Macaulay—Horatius, verse xxxii., runs thus—

Then none was for a party;
Then all were for the State."

Mrs. H. Ward follows her version by the following: "The party of sex may be the worst of all parties. And there is too much of it in the Suffrage agitation."

Yours sincerely,

C. M. GONNE.

"Detained by Marital Authority."

DEAR SIR,—A year or more ago a cabman, his wife, and six children entered the Hampstead Workhouse, the man having had his licence withdrawn for two years for being drunk on duty. The family have since been living at the expense of the rates. The woman, after recovering from the birth of her eleventh child, born last summer in the workhouse, grew weary of the bitter bread of pauperdom and applied to leave. She proposed to get work as a dressmaker and make a home with her sister. The master, however, said that she could not be allowed to take her discharge, as the husband objected. The clerk last Board day reported that the law of England (1842)

upheld the control of the husband. "It seems doubtful whether the guardians have the power to prevent the wife from leaving the workhouse without her husband, but the husband can, if he thinks fit, detain her in the workhouse by his marital authority, and the guardians would be justified in refusing her permission to quit the workhouse under such circumstances."

Many expressions of disgust were heard at such a law, and doubtless the Visiting Committee, to whom the matter was referred, will take the clerk's advice—"put up the telescope to their blind eye"—and let the woman depart in peace, free from such ignoble tyranny of a drunken pauper husband.

MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON.

Women and the Chemical Society.

MADAM,—I should like to call the attention of your readers to a recent article which appeared in *Nature* on 'Women and the Fellowship of the Chemical Society.' While this has no direct connexion with the Women's Suffrage question, it is a question of women's rights, and the attitude of the Council of the Chemical Society is similar to that of the leaders of the Anti-Suffrage League in its irrationality.

Briefly stated, the case stands thus: an appeal from women chemists for admission to the Society was followed by the sending of a proposal based on it, with reasons for and against, to each Fellow. By a large majority (1,094 for, and 642 against) the Fellows expressed their opinion that duly qualified women should be admitted to full privileges of Fellowship.

"After having put the Society to the expense and trouble of a referendum on an issue which was definitely stated, with all the reasons for and against which could be urged, it might have been assumed that the Council, as a representative body and in its fiduciary capacity, would have given heed to the expression of opinion which it had deliberately invited. Certain members of the Council were, however, determined that nothing of the kind should be done. No matter what the size of the majority in favour

EVERY WORKER FOR THE VOTE SHOULD READ THE

"Christian Commonwealth,"

which boldly advocates the cause of Women's Suffrage. No one who wishes to keep abreast with the modern Women's Movement can afford to miss the frank and fearless contributions on the question which appear regularly in the "Christian Commonwealth."

The Contributors include such well-known supporters of the movement as—

Rev. R. J. CAMPBELL, M.A.
Mr. PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P.
Miss MARGARET McMILLAN.
Mr. ALBERT DAWSON (Editor).

The issue of Wednesday, March 31, contains a special article by MR. PHILIP SNOWDEN on

"THE PROSPECTS AND POLICY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE."

If you are interested in "Votes for Women" you are certain to enjoy the "Christian Commonwealth." Its vigorous campaign for social reconstruction is well known, and on no subject is the advocacy more determined than in the struggle for the political and economic independence of women.

Rev. R. J. CAMPBELL'S Sermons, Answers to Correspondents, &c., appear weekly in the "Christian Commonwealth."

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VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League.

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The End of the Fight at Croydon.

To judge from the readiness with which a crowd gathers round an intending open-air speaker, the people of Croydon must be keen politicians, and anxious to hear all sides of the question. There can be no doubt whatever that they are anxious to hear what the Suffragettes have to say. We get the most attentive hearing, with very few exceptions, and I had it from a policeman that our interrupters were always people who had no vote and no status in the election. In one case it was a group of mischievous little boys, who opened their mouths and screeched whenever we attempted to speak. During half an hour of this the men stood patiently waiting to hear us, and it was I, not they, who fled at last. One day we left Mrs. Manson to start a meeting near one being held by the Liberals, and when we returned (having held a meeting ourselves) we found her with the audience of the Liberal gathered round her. He was still speaking, but to empty air. I think our cause has now reached that stage at which every thoughtful voter wants to hear and form an opinion about it. The serious politeness with which Mrs. Holmes and Miss Matters were received by the Mayor is, to my mind, proof of this. They attended the nominations, and Mrs. Holmes asked the Mayor if it would be legal for the women of the constituency to nominate a candidate. "They had better do it and find out." Then he was asked, "Was he prepared to hold over the nominations till women could do this?" The answer was: "It would be illogical to suppose that women could nominate a candidate for whom they could not vote." Then it was asked, "Whom will the elected candidate represent?" and the Mayor said, "The borough of Croydon"; but it was pointed out that as women had not a vote the candidate could not possibly represent them, and Miss Matters asked, "Would the Mayor hold over the election till women could vote?" "No; this was not in the power of the returning officer." At the same time the Mayor expressed himself as being in great sympathy with the cause. The announcement that Mrs. Billington-Greig and Miss Matters were going to speak drew together a crowded audience on Saturday evening in the Thornton Heath Public Baths; and Mrs. Billington-Greig's closely-reasoned address claimed their attention. Next week we shall be able to tell you about polling-day, and how many (approximately) have sent our post cards to Mr. Asquith to tell him they have voted against the Liberal, for the sake of justice to women. The Croydon branch members have done most valuable work, especially Mrs. Klinge, who has catered for the workers; the two Miss Rollason's, who have carried sandwich-boards; and others who have given hospitality to workers from a distance. S. B.

Our Protesters.

THIS last six weeks we have been welcoming our valiant prisoners from Holloway. They did not come out in a great body, but no fewer than five different times did the members of the Women's Freedom League assemble outside the gates of H.M. Prison Holloway to welcome those who had gone there to demonstrate their earnestness in desiring the vote. On February 23rd Miss M. M. Farquharson, M.A., was released after 5 days; on March 4th Mrs. Scrimgeour, Mrs. Crummey, and Miss Turner after 14 days. Mrs. Collins, Miss Savage, and Madame Borovkowsky had their fines paid after a few days by friends.

On the 18th Miss Schofield, Miss Vernon, Miss Johnson, Miss Povey, Mrs. Manson, and Mrs. Macdonald were released after 1 month. The latter, unfortunately, had slipped in the exercise yard and hurt herself severely, fracturing her thigh. We trust that the danger of permanent lameness will be averted by the treatment that Mrs. Macdonald is undergoing, and she is as brave and hopeful in this matter as when she volunteered to take the resolution to Mr. Asquith.

On the 25th Miss FitzHerbert and Miss Sidley were released. Mrs. Despard, who was sentenced to 1 month at the same time, had been turned out of prison after 5 days on the plea of ill-health, although she herself says she never felt better in her life. Later on she contracted influenza, and is now away at the sea recruiting. She, however, came up specially to welcome her two fellow-prisoners, and presided at the breakfast. It was a large company of earnest men and women who assembled at the Eustace Miles Restaurant, and Mrs. Despard struck a very high and moving note when she said: "If our death—an obscure death—would help on the cause—would make some movement in the work that we have at heart, how gladly would we suffer it."

It was a very charming and pleasant company which met at Miss Craig's flat the next day. Miss Cicely Hamilton presided, and welcomed our valiant "six weeks," Miss Seruya, Mrs. Duval, and Mrs. Ibbotson. The tables were decorated with the colours in flowers, and Miss Seruya was presented by the Actresses' Franchise League with a beautiful bouquet. We are thankful to get back our prisoners. They are some of the most energetic workers we have, and we have missed them very much in the preparation for the Green, White, and Gold Fair, which is to be held in Easter week.

Green, White, and Gold Fair.

The full list of stall-holders is as follows:—

ROOM No. 10.—Refreshments, general catering, farm produce, and food stuffs of all kinds, under the management of Mrs. Hicks, Mrs. Bell, and Dr. O. Lewin.

ROOM No. 12.—Blouses, Mrs. Snow and Mrs. Fisher; Ladies' Outfitting, Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Holmes; Fancy Goods and Laces, Miss Pocock; Children's Clothing, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett and Mrs. Meyer; Household and Table Linen, Mrs. Nevinson; Pottery and China, Mrs. Earengy, B.A.; Toys, Mrs. Toyne; Bookshop, Miss Fitzherbert; Suffrage Literature, Miss Clare Pocock.

SIDE SHOWS.—The Entertainment Booth (Rooms 13 and 14) is under the management of the Actresses' Franchise League (Miss Adeline Bourne, Hon. Secretary).

Amongst the artistes who have kindly consented to appear at the Booth are: Miss Esther Palliser, Miss Lillah McCarthy, Miss Marie Lloyd, Master Max Darewski, Mr. Dawson Milward, Mr. Robert Cunningham, Miss Hilda Trevelyan, and many others.

HANDICRAFTS.—There will be many attractive working exhibits in this section, including Enamels, Leather Work, Metal Work, Artistic Jewellery, Weaving, and others.

ADVERTISING.—This is a matter which demands the immediate attention of our members. A great deal now depends upon the help we get in this direction. Every member will have some time to spare between now and April 15th, and it is earnestly hoped that such time will be devoted to "biling" in Central London and elsewhere. Miss Tillard will be pleased to see volunteers at the office.

MARIE LAWSON, Hon. Sec. to the Fair.

Pottery.—Having agreed on behalf of the Cheltenham Branch to be responsible for the China and Pottery Stall at the "Green, White, and Gold Fair," I shall be glad to hear from intending contributors what they are sending. I appeal for money contributions to be sent direct to me so that I can buy Doulton and Worcester china at special prices. China and pottery of any description will be welcome. F. How Earengy, 3, Wellington Square, Cheltenham.

Help Needed.—Every ONE who can give some time to working for the advertising of the Fair from now to April 15th, is asked to write or call at the office. We need people—

1. Every evening to distribute handbills at the theatres.
2. To sandwich on Saturdays and Easter Monday.
3. To go round with the caravan each day from Saturday, April 10th, to Wednesday, April 14th, inclusive.
4. To bicycle to outlying districts and distribute bills.

In order to carry out the idea of an old-fashioned Fair, we are also going to send round a country cart on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. In the cart will be children dressed in smocks, who will throw out bills. We shall be glad of the names of any girls or boys who can assist in this way on any of the three days (12th, 13th, 14th) from 11 to 6 p.m.

The Queen's Hall Meeting against Votes for Women.

THE Queen's Hall has been taken and packed as far as possible with Anti-Suffragists, and Lord Cromer and Mr. Austin Chamberlain, supported by many lords and ladies, have met with Mrs. Humphry Ward on a common platform against "Votes for Women." The great guns have been let off with immense éclat, and now that the vast amount of smoke and sulphur which accompanied the discharge has subsided, we look round for the killed and wounded. We seek for these among the enormous number of reasons and arguments for Women's Suffrage, the mass of weighty evidence which is daily being brought to light supporting the same, and the numerous facts regarding women's work, life, and conditions, which absolutely demand the vote.

At the breakfast-table on Saturday morning (for very few Suffragists were allowed to get into the hall on this momentous occasion, ourselves among the number) we eagerly read and reread the discharge of the greatest gun, Lord Cromer, and the result was what we had expected—their big gun was not charged with ball. As with Mrs. Humphry Ward's famous debate with Mrs. Fawcett, the priming consisted of alarmist statements unsupported by a single argument (worthy the name) or fact, of old-fashioned prejudice and fancies, and of a magnificent confession of the true reason for withholding the vote, viz., the stubborn desire of men to have the whip hand over the women. This latter we see running as a red thread through the whole web of the speech. Let every woman read this speech and ponder on it well, and she will more surely be convinced of the need for the vote than by any pro-Suffrage literature that can possibly be written. Take the beginning of the speech:—

"It would, I think, be difficult to exaggerate the importance of the question which we have met together to consider this evening. Attempts are at times made to minimize its importance.... The change which is proposed involves a revolution both political and social. It will not only affect the well-being and happiness of every family in this country, it will in its ultimate results influence the destinies of the settler in Australia, the backwoods man in Canada, the ryot in India, and the negro in the Sudan. We are an imperial race, and we have been invited by a great statesman, whose present absence from political life we all regret, to think imperially."

We agree with all this, but Lord Cromer means that only men are to "think imperially." The women must not do so—they are merely to be the echoes of the men. When defence for this country is required, and the men will neither prepare themselves nor help others to do so, women are asked to go out in recruiting

sergeants' jaunty ribbons, with cunning riding whip and spurs, in order to stir up the men and make them enlist. Do men not see that unless the women do think imperially, the best kind of women will not do this work? It will be taken up by thoughtless, irresponsible girls, whose only desire is to attract attention, and who have no real desire to benefit their country. How much better that the men and boys should be taught by the mothers of the nation their duty in this matter! Politicians also use the women to canvass for them. Does any man think he can get women to do this unless they do think, and think just as imperially as their brothers? And if women are not to use their brains in this way, how dare men ask them to canvass other men, and help to form their opinions?

Lord Cromer continues:—

"Is it, I would ask, a very imperial thought to de-throne woman from the gentle yet commanding influence which she now occupies, and which we all hope she will always continue to occupy, and substitute, in her place, the unsexed woman voting at the polling-booth, declaiming on the platform and in Parliament, and possibly sitting at the desk of the Cabinet Minister to decide some important question affecting the destinies and interests of her fellow-countrymen and women at the Antipodes? There should be no mistake in this matter."

Does Lord Cromer really mean this? Can he possibly contend that any of these duties (of which women only want the very simple one of voting for a representative) would "unsex" a woman?

Does he not know that women are now doing far more "unsexed" things than recording a vote once in five years? Is he not aware of women working at the pit's mouth, in factories, in homes where the sweated labour takes the poor woman from every "womanly" duty, and grinds her down to abject misery, forcing her to do nothing else in order to keep body and soul together? Does he consider that the 80,000 "painted ladies" in the streets of London, often driven thereto by the terrible conditions of the labour market, are living lives which are characterized as not "unsexed"? And what does he mean by "unsexed"? A woman used to be called "unsexed" if she walked quickly, had any athletic exercise, bicycled, or wore thick boots. Florence Nightingale was called an "abandoned" and an "unsexed" woman, and when women first studied medicine they were described as "unsexed." Lord Cromer has lived so long in the East that he cannot see things as they really are. He is a sort of Rip Van Winkle, but is, as yet, fast asleep. He judges women by those whom he knew as a boy, and cannot recognize the wonderful spirit of the age which makes the woman of this generation differ more from her mother than did her mother from a woman of the eighteenth century.

And yet Lord Cromer is very inconsistent, for in giving his views on Egyptian affairs, he advised the education of the women, and greater interest in social affairs. Cannot his logical mind see that it is with women as with men? They must attain to all or nothing. If women are to be always governed, and never to have a voice in the State, they should never be educated at all, but should be kept in harems all the days of their lives, and never go out into the "hurly-burly" of the struggle for a livelihood.

And how are women to use this "gentle yet commanding influence"? Do we not see how very, very "gentle" it is, and how very little "commanding" when women, if poor and unprotected, are treated in the degrading way which marks the methods not only of this century, but even more of those that are passed?

Lord Cromer says that "the sphere of woman's action is moral, whereas that of man is material." But why should not the moral force be given full play? Why should women be debarred from recording a vote for the representation of this moral force? Why is it necessary that only men should have representation for their "material sphere"? Why should women be condemned to use the "sole arm of persuasion" while the physical force of man is backed up by this great power, the Franchise? And under what "law of Nature" is it decreed that men should have representative Government, but that women should not? *It is not a law of Nature.* It is a law

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

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Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.
Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

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

Notes and Comments.

READERS are reminded of the Reception to be given by the League to the delegates to the forthcoming International Conference. It will be held in the Galleries of the Royal Society of British Artists, Suffolk Street, on Saturday, May 1st. Members of the League are entitled to one free ticket each, and may obtain others at the price of 1s. each for guests. There will be music, refreshments, and two or three short speeches. Applications for tickets should be made early, in order that the officers may have some idea of how many tickets will be required by the members.

For the debate in the Council Chamber of the Holborn Restaurant on May 6th, we have been fortunate in securing as our representative A. M. Langdon, Esq., K.C., the newly appointed Recorder of Burnley. The chair will be taken by Lyons Walcott, Esq., J.P., at 8 o'clock. This is to be a men's debate (smoking allowed), and members are strongly urged to bring their friends in order that we may have a thoroughly interesting discussion. Tickets 1s. and 6d., to defray expenses. Please apply early. The room holds about 200.

The Declaration by men in favour of Women's Suffrage, the first results of which appeared in our columns of last week, has excited great interest. A number of Anti-Suffragists have expressed their unbounded surprise that there "are so many fools in the world," a remark which may well be excused to persons who find among their opponents a large number of the foremost men in all classes of society. The name of Gilbert Jessop, "The Croucher," the beloved of the cricket enthusiasts, has given pause to several muscular scoffers.

It is interesting to notice that *The Times* and *The Morning Post* printed the whole list *in extenso* the day after receiving it. *The Morning Leader* and *The Westminster Gazette* printed good *résumés* on the same day, while three days later *The Daily News* gave a nearly complete list. We are especially grateful to *The Times*, which, though a strong opponent of our cause, gave a column and a half of its valuable space.

We notice, with some interest, the declaration made by Sir Edward Clarke at the Anti-Suffrage meeting held on Friday last, that woman's work is always, for physiological reasons, less valuable than man's. It is a point not infrequently raised at meetings and in conversation, whenever the economic side of the Women's movement is brought into prominence. The same argument was also used by Mr. Frederic Harrison, who claimed the support of all medical opinion, in his recent volume of essays. Those of our readers who may wish to quote an authoritative refutation of this exceedingly common fallacy would do well to obtain copies of Sir Victor Horsley's speech delivered at the Queen's Hall, on January 26th. There, and in the fact that such representative leaders of the medical profession as Sir Frederick Treves and Prof. Sims Woodhead have signed the "Declaration by Men in Support of Women's Suffrage," will be found a complete reply to the contention of Sir Edward Clarke and Mr. Frederic Harrison.

Branch News.

THE Edinburgh Branch recently passed a resolution adopting the anti-Government policy at by-elections. Since this policy was definitely refused by the League as a whole at the Special General Meeting on January 6th of this year, it was obviously impossible for the Edinburgh Branch to remain a part of this Society. The Committee, however, unanimously resolved to ask the Edinburgh members to re-form themselves as a separate society affiliated to the central Society, and wherever possible to co-operate with the League. This suggestion was considered and willingly adopted by the Edinburgh Committee, and much pleasure was expressed that this course had been suggested.

Mr. Herbert Jacobs met the officers of the new Birmingham Society before the big meeting last Monday week, and explained the work of the League and the position of branches and affiliated societies. It is hoped that the Birmingham Society will shortly be adopted as a branch. The subsequent meeting, which was addressed by Mrs. Snowden, Sir John Cockburn, and Mr. Jacobs, was a great success.

In Hyde Park.

IN spite of the unfavourable weather our meeting in Hyde Park on Sunday last may fairly be described as a great success. The crowd which faced our chairman, Mr. Overy, when he opened the proceedings just after 3 p.m., was quickly augmented, and during the greater part of the time there were fully 400 people around our platform.

In his interesting speech Mr. Overy dealt with some of the points raised by Lord Cromer and others at the Anti-Suffrage meeting in Queen's Hall last Friday, and expressed the general sentiments of the supporters of Women's Suffrage when he said that we welcomed the fullest discussion of the great question. He then gave way to Mr. John Manson, who, from the same text, made a fresh and valuable contribution to the success of the meeting. Miss Isabella Ford was the next speaker, and after she had dealt with the subject from the point of view of the woman worker, she was succeeded by Miss Cicely Corbett, who, in spite of a slight cold, made a very lively and effective speech. Questions were then invited, and Miss Corbett dealt with several of these to the satisfaction of the entire audience, with the possible exception of the interlocutor. Mr. Overy then replied to various other questions, explained the objects of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, and gave a hearty invitation to the men around to join us.

The Committee are very much obliged to the speakers who made such a brave show under such unfavourable climatic conditions, and also to the audience for giving them a respectful and sympathetic hearing. A. W. H.

Forthcoming Events.

April 4th, Sunday, 3 o'clock, Hyde Park (Dr. Drysdale, J. M. Mitchell, Th. Gugenheim, &c.).

April 29th, 8 o'clock, Annual General Meeting of the Members, Anderton's Hotel.

May 1st, 8 o'clock, Reception to the International Delegates, Galleries of Royal Society of British Artists, Cockspur Street.

May 6th, 8 o'clock, Debate, Holborn Restaurant Council Chamber (see under "Notes and Comments").

Anti-Suffrage Demonstration.

WHETHER or no the Antis were pleased with the meeting at Queen's Hall on Friday last, there was certainly no cause for alarm on the part of Suffragists. The hall was nearly full, but apparently at least 20 per cent of those present were supporters of the Suffrage Movement. Interruptions were frequent from this portion of the audience, but not more than is usual at political meetings, and one must add, in justice to the interrupters, that the speakers laid themselves open to considerable correction. The elderly appearance of most of those on the platform was very striking, and those who expected to hear new or weighty arguments advanced were grievously disappointed. We had a rehash of all the old fallacies—woman's sphere is the home; the vote will cause dissension in the home, men can legislate for women much better than they can for themselves, &c.

Mrs. Humphry Ward, who presided, mentioned among prominent supporters, Lord Cromer, Lord Curzon, and Mr. Rudyard Kipling. This was instructive when one remembered that all these had spent considerable time in Mohammedan countries. Lord Cromer told us his principal objection to Women's Suffrage was "that women were not men." He went on to urge women to "think imperially"; but although vigorously prompted to refer to New Zealand and Australia, confined himself to reflections on the Suffrage in the United States. Mr. Austin Chamberlain's chief objection was "That women were women and men were men." He protested against "this monstrous innovation," which would "impose" [?] upon women an intolerable burden. The first two speakers had expressed the fear that the demand for the limited Bill was only a prelude to Adult Suffrage, but Lord Weardale rather took the wind out of their sails by favouring an extension of the Franchise, but to men only; he also mentioned that in Burnley (his former constituency) 90 per cent of the women worked in factories. Sir E. Clarke brought a storm about his head by declaring that men's work was always worth more than women's. This was rather cruel when Lord Cromer and Mr. Chamberlain had been declaring that they did not wish to belittle women or the value of their work. At the end of the speeches there was a demand for questions, &c.; but this was ignored by the chairman, who put a resolution to the meeting protesting against the thrusting of the Suffrage upon women. This was declared carried, there being, however, a strong minority. The meeting terminated with vigorous cheers for leading Suffragettes. A large quantity of literature was distributed outside the hall both before and after the meeting by representatives of the Women's Suffrage Societies and the Men's League. F. M. O.

Mr. H. G. Chancellor in North London.

OUR Treasurer, Mr. H. G. Chancellor, manages to cultivate the friendliest relations with the divergent local sections of the Women's Movement. A little while ago he was entertaining at his house the Hornsey branch of the N.W.S.P.U., and being himself a constitutionalist, in response to a request for a speech he gently suggested that a modification of their tactics would now more effectively crown the work of militancy than their continuance on the old lines.

The heckling that followed was a thing to remember, but they parted with mutual goodwill.

On Friday, March 12th, it was the constitutionalists' turn, and they filled the Treasurer's drawing-room to listen to addresses from the Hon. Mrs. Graves and Mrs. Corbett, afterwards forming an Islington branch of the London Society. The expressions of gratitude to the Men's League at these meetings are warm and genuine, and should stir our members to greater efforts.

Mr. Chancellor has been very busy lately fighting for the cause within the London Liberal Federation, to the committee of which he has just been re-elected, and in the North Islington Liberal Association, of which he is President. He believes in members of all political parties pushing the movement from within as the most effective way of ensuring its certain triumph at an early date, whichever party may be in power.

On the 16th a meeting to discuss the enfranchisement of women was held by the North Islington Branch of the League of Young Liberals, with Alderman Walkley in the chair.

Mr. W. L. George opened the debate, and, after dealing with some criticisms upon the women's movement, declared that the relations between the Liberal party and its women supporters were exceedingly strained. There was at that moment a Liberal candidate standing for election in Croydon, who was an active and ardent supporter of Women's Suffrage, and a Member of the Men's League. Yet, because he was a Liberal, he would be opposed by the militant societies. That was bad and stupid tactics. They should have adopted him as their champion.

Mr. H. G. Chancellor expressed the same opinion. On the previous evening he had himself fought for Women's Suffrage at the Liberal Federation. It was a question which could no longer be shelved. Apart from the militant section, there was a quiet, educational movement which had been in process for many years, and must prove irresistible. The Liberals were losing support through their reluctance to meet the just claims of women. Was there anything in sex which should disqualify a woman equal in all other respects to men. Were any of the men on their own Board of Guardians at Islington more capable than the women, or more devoted to their work? Wherever women were given the full political rights of citizenship, they had proved themselves the equals of men. They brought into public life ideals which raised the standard of representation. Women would not allow a notoriously immoral man to represent them. The extension of the Franchise meant the progress of society. Women voters would also make for the peace of the world.

Votes for Women (Continued).

Australian experience gives no support to any forebodings as to the result of enfranchising the nation. Australians are thoroughly satisfied as a body. On the whole, the positions of the parties have not been affected. True, "feminine emotionalism" has appeared in the exclusion of a few notoriously bad characters from the national councils; but is that a change for the worse? Even in the sane and masculine politics of Britain there are men whose careers have been stopped by the nature of their private lives.

The foundation of the Empire was not prevented by the fact that Elizabeth was a woman, nor did it fall to pieces in Victoria's reign. And since India did not suffer agonies of shame under the Good Queen's rule, I imagine that it will be able to tolerate good government even under a rule ultimately based on justice and a more real democracy than the present. Further, men have not made such a success of politics that they need disdain assistance. They have made England great; they have emphatically not made England happy. If the votes of women can remove some of the selfishness and cynicism which now permeates politics, and strengthen the forces which are seeking right and justice, they will renew the strength of Britain as nothing else could.

But how women will vote is their own business. Whether they will vote is their own business. The root of the whole matter is they have as much right to vote as men.

The fact that no women are soldiers is surely quite irrelevant. Only a fractional percentage of the men who vote have ever handled a rifle. They all might have joined the army or the volunteer force if they had liked; but since most of them did not, that seems to have no bearing on the question. Our Franchise is not based on military service. Unless we wish to let the army appoint the Government (a method not altogether successful in the Roman Empire) it need not be mentioned in this connexion.

Finally, I should like to protest against any one saying that women "in domestic legislation and administration, through poor law and municipal bodies, have as full opportunity of public service." By what right dare we limit half the nation to the petty work of government? In a free nation each individual must be free to do the highest work he or she can; and to refuse the services of the best men and women available is criminal and disastrous waste.

Perak, F.M.S.

J. O'MAY.

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