

# The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of  
**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE**  
Societies.

Registered as a Newspaper.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1913.

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## Notes and Comments.

### Two By-Elections.

Sir Stuart Samuel was declared on April 11th to have vacated his seat owing to his being a partner in the firm of Samuel, Montagu and Co., and so shared in the silver contract with the Government of India. A by-election is therefore already in progress, Sir Stuart Samuel standing again as the Liberal candidate. The London Society of the National Union has taken a Committee-room at 170, Whitechapel Road, and as neither of the candidates are satisfactory, the policy will—in the absence of a Labour candidate—be one of propaganda only. But this does not mean inactivity. On the contrary, by-elections are always found to give Suffrage speakers and workers an opening that they cannot get at any other time. Workers are urgently needed to speak, canvass, and help in every kind of way. They will be welcomed with enthusiasm at the N.U. Committee-rooms.

Shrewsbury is also to have a by-election, and the organisation of the N.U. work there is already going forward, but up to the time of going to press no news of the candidates had been received, and it is uncertain whether a Labour man will be put forward or not.

### Invisible Women.

The papers this week leave one in considerable doubt whether women really exist at all, or exist but are invisible. Prolonged and heated debate on the position in Belgium (for instance), with its demand for “Universal Suffrage” on the one side, and its assurances on the other that “everybody” has the Suffrage already, suggest that Belgian women do not exist. “Universal” Suffrage can be granted, it seems, and “everybody” have a vote, without any women having it. In our own House of Commons, Mr. Will Crooks discourses at length and with impassioned eloquence on a minimum wage for every adult worker; and at the end no one knows whether he means to include women and, apparently, no one is concerned to find out, though one gentleman vaguely “supposes” that he does. He would hardly stop at “supposing” if women were among his constituents. But few women, probably, could read the debates in the House day by day without becoming Suffragists, and that with great conviction, though without rancour. They reveal such an astonishing power of oblivion where women are concerned; such a magnificent absence of mind. Though most Members of Parliament would probably admit that women do exist—even if they had better not.

### The Education Debate.

There is a point, for example, in connection with the difficulty of finding teachers for our schools, which would probably have been made if women could make their point of view known in the House. It is an important one, but it was never made at all, though one speaker after another bewailed the difficulty and sought for a solution. It is the way in which certain Education Authorities have been allowed to treat their married women teachers. If women who have gone through the necessary training and are experienced teachers, know that they may be arbitrarily dismissed from work which they wish to go on doing, and are capable of doing, because they have married, the teaching profession will naturally attract fewer women than before, and especially will not attract those who, from a natural love of teaching, wish to take their profession seriously as a life-work, and not merely the occupation of a few years. Probably the presence of some married among many unmarried women on the teaching staffs of our schools would be all for the good. We want variety and freedom, as well as experience and devotion; and all these will be lessened by a cast-iron rule forbidding the presence of the married teacher. Of course, if for any cause a teacher is not up to her work, she must go, whether she is married or single. But it will not make for efficiency to dismiss her, without any regard for her work, for a reason with which her employers have nothing to do.

### The Case of Mrs. Edgell.

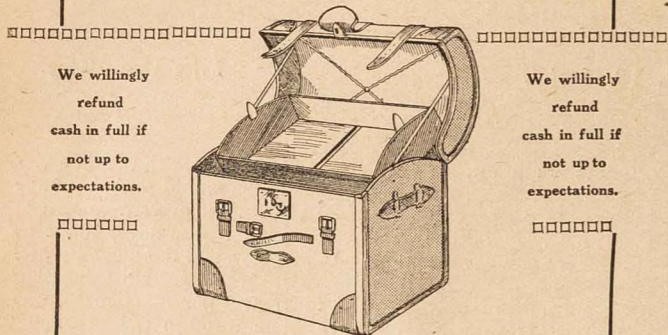
A great deal of interest has been aroused in America over the case of Mrs. Edgell, who applied for a year's holiday that she might bear and rear her child. The regulations admit of a year's leave for “reasons of health,” and her application was granted by the Committee on High Schools and Training Schools. The Board of Education, however, refused by 32 votes to 5 to endorse the decision. Mrs. Edgell's case is, of course, not simply one of the right of a married woman to continue to teach, but implied a further right which, if generally admitted, might end in an impossible amount of interruption to the routine of school life. Public opinion has been keenly divided on the question, which ought, obviously, to be settled by the authorities purely from the point of view of Mrs. Edgell's value as a teacher. It ought not to be assumed that women who are mothers can be nothing else. This is a foolish assumption very generally made and wholly contrary to fact. It is a fact that in France our exceedingly “feminine” sisters, so often held up for admiration to the English woman for their womanly charm, have entered the professions and continued in them after marriage very much more commonly than with us, and with very considerable success.

### A Plea for Variety.

One complaint which will interest women was made against our educational system—that it was too much a system! Probably there is no part of the State's work that women will not help to humanise when they have the power; but to humanise education is the most important duty of all. The cast-iron system, making small provision for different types of school, and less for individual natures of boys and girls, has oppressed us too long. Professor Sadler has made a noble protest against it, and Mr. Balfour urges elasticity on the Education Authorities, with the regretful admission that “a department,” however admirable, “must always be a department.” We believe that women are especially fitted by their knowledge of children, not

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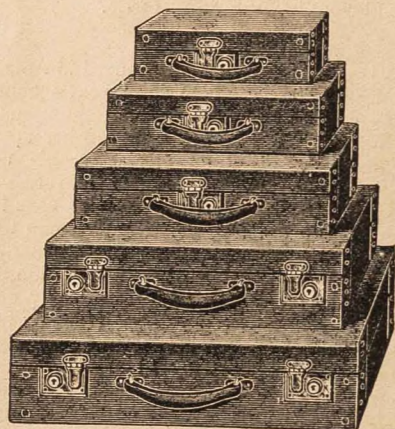
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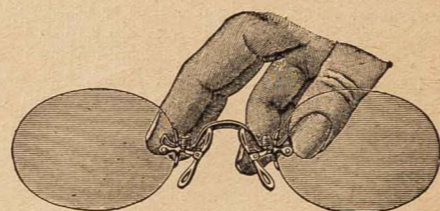
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ADVERTISEMENTS (Societies, Miscellaneous, etc.) must reach the Office (2 Robert Street) not later than first post on Tuesday.

NOTICE.—This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, communication should be made to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

## The Real Revolution.

"Wake! for the Sun, that scatters into flight,  
The stars before him, from the field of Night,  
Drives Night along with them from heaven, and strikes  
The Sultan's turret with a shaft of light."

Everywhere around us are the signs of coming day. This may seem a paradox to those who, working now for the first time for several years, with no prospect of immediate success for any actual Suffrage Bill in being, are inclined to despond. The political situation, so long tense, has for the moment relaxed, and to some this looks like defeat. So in a sense it is; but if we lift our eyes beyond the circle of our own immediate and pressing toil, no field looked ever less disastrous. The vote is won already in many lands, and everywhere the use that is made of it helps the voteless in more slowly moving countries. Women have steadily used their new-won powers to do all we have claimed that they would do, for their children, for their homes, for themselves and for the race. The old idea that to be a good voter a woman must be a bad mother is dying out before the new belief that when a mother casts her vote "she wields a power that is doing more to protect her home and all other homes than any other possible influence." \*

It is not only that women are asking for freedom: it is that they are accepting duties. And this new spirit of courage and of service is not a question only of the vote. It shows itself everywhere and in everything that women touch. Here, in Great Britain, the advance has been most striking in affairs of local government, and not only in the more brilliant victories of those women who sit on City and County Councils or Boards of Guardians and District Councils, but in the work of Education Committees, School Managers, Care Committees, and the rest, a very noble kind of public service is being given. To carry out the Factory Acts, Health legislation and Insurance Acts many women are employed, and in some cases the work they do has been so new that they may be said to have made it what they chose and what they could. Some day, perhaps, Miss Adelaide Anderson will tell us how she "made" the work of the Women Factory Inspectors. It will be a noble chapter in the history of the Women's Movement.

Abroad, the advance is as striking as it is here. Women serving on juries, women as State Superintendents of Education, women Justices of the Peace and women police officers—all these are familiar now in America and elsewhere, and many of them are "making" their work in the same sense that Miss Anderson made hers—creating a new tradition, accepting a new responsibility, facing world-old problems in a new spirit, the spirit of hope.

The professions are everywhere opening to women. In some countries women may practise at the Bar; in some churches they may be called to the ministry. In nearly all countries they practise as doctors of medicine. They are beginning to take up the profession of architecture. They are determining that

\*Judge Lindsey, writing of Women's Suffrage in Colorado.

as types but as individuals, for work in developing national education, and that not only as teachers, but in framing and carrying out the law. But Mr. Balfour's Act of 1902 deprived them of a great opportunity for service when it abolished the School Boards and gave them practically nothing in exchange. They had done noble work, but they were voteless and could not be considered, even by a Suffragist Prime Minister.

It is pointed out in the *Woman's Journal*, by Bertha T. Hebb, of the United States Bureau of Education, that "the highest educational officers in the State, in Colorado, Idaho, Washington and Wyoming, are women." These four are all Suffrage States.

### The Right to Vote and the Duty to Fight.

Without expressing any opinion on the question of conscription or universal service, Suffragists will not fail to observe that a resolution on the subject was "talked out" by one of its supporters. This means that those who believe in universal service did not dare to take a vote, presumably because the defeat would have been too crushing. How, then, are we to be made to accept the view that the right to vote goes with the duty to fight? Do men imagine that they can make soldiers without any training at all? If so, let our genial contemporary, the *Spectator*, teach them sense:—

"The state of the majority of the male population of these islands is such that they would, under present circumstances, be almost useless for purposes of military defence. They have never had any drill: have never fired a shot: do not know one end of a rifle from another."—*Spectator*, December, 1910.

But no supporter of universal service ever reminds men that their enfranchisement carried with it the duty which—we women are assured—alone justifies the voter in voting. Such arguments are specially reserved for our consumption only. Sir Henry Kimber, by the way, gave some figures in the House on April 9th which make the other side of the "physical force" argument look rather comic. He pointed out, in introducing his Redistribution Bill, that one Member of Parliament represents an electorate of nearly 58,000, and another only 1,676; that (in other words) the strong male voter of Kilkenny must be, according to "physical force" Anti-Suffragists, as strong as 32 strong male voters in Romford.

### Two Great Suffragists.

Every Suffragist who can get a ticket should be present at the reception to Mrs. Catt on May 7th (9 p.m.). Our International President is a woman whom to hear for the first time marks an epoch in the life of most of us. There is no one alive who can have so wide a knowledge of the Woman's Movement, for her knowledge is the result of world-wide travel with this special object always in view. And on the other hand, that deep spiritual insight without which knowledge is vain or impossible, informs all her thought and all her statesmanship.

Mrs. Perkins Gilman, whose book, "Women and Economics," has had so great an influence on British Suffrage thought, is also to visit us, and will be here from May 12th to June 21st. Mrs. Gilman is prepared to take speaking engagements, and those who wish to apply for her services should do so through Miss Damer Dawson, 10, Cheyne Row, Chelsea, S.W.

### Release of Mrs. Pankhurst.

Mrs. Pankhurst was released from Holloway on Saturday morning, and removed to a nursing home. Her health is reported to be in a very serious condition. Miss Annie Kenney has been arrested, but has been released on bail on undertaking to abstain from making "inflammatory" speeches until her case comes up for trial. The National Political League has called a Conference to bring pressure to bear on the Government to abandon forcible feeding altogether.

### The "Common Cause" Competition.

We call the attention of our readers to the competition announced on page 27 of this issue. A Union of the size of ours ought to have a larger organ, and every increase in the circulation makes this more possible. It is our earnest wish to make the paper representative of the best thought and feeling of the N.U.W.S.S., and at the same time to appeal by its variety and width of range to all men and women who are interested in any aspect of the Woman's Movement as a whole. But to do this, more space is required, and THE COMMON CAUSE cannot grow until its circulation grows also. Will members of the National Union do their part, (1) in selling the paper in the streets, (2) in getting subscribers, especially (3) by entering for the announced competition? No speech can, in the ordinary way, reach so wide an audience as this paper can. We will move heaven and earth to make it a good paper. What will you do?

for the woman of the future it shall not be, as it has been in the past, often a tragedy to have unusual powers.

Where the vote has been won, progress has naturally been most swift, and women, working along the lines most natural to them, have set themselves to the development of our modern civilisation on the side—too long and disastrously neglected—of the care of children and the lifting up of the race. The teaching of the domestic arts and sciences, the regulation of pure food and milk supplies, have become an important part of the State's work, and this has been due to the insistence of the women.

All these are commonplaces to the Suffragist of to-day. What is not commonplace, and has, perhaps, not been sufficiently realised, is the hope that underlies them all. The advance, it will be seen, is all along the line. Here we move more or less swiftly; but everywhere we advance. It cannot be too constantly borne in mind that the goal towards which we move is not the vote, but the freedom and the responsibility that the vote implies. Every advance, therefore, is to us a victory, and everyone who marches with us truly an ally, though they disguise themselves as foes. Mrs. Humphry Ward's Local Government Committee, Mr. Arnold Ward's Local Government Bill, Mr. Holford Knight's urging of women's right to be called to the Bar—all these are as much our allies as though they knew (as they do not) their friends when they saw them. It is true that some Suffragists, narrowed by the strenuousness of perpetual controversy, sometimes speak as though the vote were an end in itself and nothing else of any consequence. But no view could be more false than this. Every advance is of consequence. And wherever the vote itself has been won, it will be found to have been part of a great general movement of progress. It has not been because women were utterly depressed and down-trodden that men in pity have given them the vote. It might, indeed, seem that this should happen, and, perhaps, if men and women were a little nearer to the angels, it might have happened. But, in fact, it has not. Freedom has "broadened slowly down, from precedent to precedent," and the more free in spirit and earnest in service women have been, the more certain has been the next step in the march of progress.

It is, of course, easy to make the desire for freedom look like a selfish clamour. But the cheap sneer at women who sought to "live their own lives" was answered for us long ago by the Teacher of the parable of the talents, and the answer contents us to-day. If a woman has a gift for public service, or the mind of a statesman, she will not now be persuaded to bury her talent in a napkin because she ought not to have had it, being a woman. It is as much hers to use as any other gift of God. Hers to use, not hers to throw away. Her responsibility is the greater for it—that is all.

That this is the meaning of the change in women's outlook is shown by the way in which they take up their duties. It is not the brilliant parts that attract them most. It used to be held up as a dreadful threat by Anti-Suffragists that women would, if they insisted on voting, be liable to be called to serve on juries. Truly, an unattractive form of service. To sit for hours in the squalid surroundings of the court, breathing bad air and listening to bad details of a sordid "case." Who would desire it? But we hear that the women of Washington, U.S.A., have "served rather extensively on juries, and have resisted all attempts to relieve them of this duty." They have no desire to shirk the duties that go hand-in-hand with freedom.

It is the spirit that has changed and this is the real revolution. That women should desire a share in public affairs, should demand it with insistence and often at the cost of their own personal happiness—what does that mean? It means the end of that despairing state of mind which believes it can escape responsibility by refusing it. It means courage, it means hope. How long have women pursued the old way of ignorance and with what pitiful results! Because they would not face the facts (for instance) of the "social evil," the social evil grew until it was—what it is now. And reformer after reformer broke his heart in vain against the passionate refusal of the women who were "safe" to hear the truth about those who were not. It is not that women have at last been driven to face the truth. They have always been "driven" and have generally refused. It is that they now desire to face it: they ask for knowledge: they admit responsibility.

The agitation for the White Slave Traffic Bill evoked a spirit of courage, it is true; but the spirit was there already. The belief, so natural to us all, but deliberately fostered in women, that to be ignorant is to be blameless—that is dead or dying. We are no longer absorbed in the effort to be blameless; we want to help. And to give us the vote will be no revolution; it will only be to admit that a revolution has taken place.

## German Women and the Birth-Rate.

Recently the Centre party in Germany has quite changed in its attitude to the Woman's Movement—apparently having the wit to anticipate events and make a virtue of necessity. Other parties in the State also seem to be considering a change of front, though they move more slowly than the Centre. However, with the sole exception of the Social Democrats, this new friendship is clearly superficial and platonic, as is proved by the treatment of the problems of population and declining birth-rate.

One would have thought that this particular question would have concerned women somewhat closely, but no one has conceived the idea of consulting them in the matter. It therefore behoves us to tackle the question without waiting for an invitation, and thus force a hearing.

A decline in the birth-rate undoubtedly exists, and has existed for 40 years. Germany's birth-rate from 1872-76 was 41.82 per 1,000. From 1902-6 it was 34.83 per 1,000, and from 1907-11 it was 32.20 per 1,000. Taking 1910 by itself, the figures were 30.72, and in 1911 29.48 per 1,000. There is thus no mistake about it. This decline, however, is not half as dangerous as it is generally assumed. Alongside it we get a decline in the death-rate—29.24 per 1,000 in 1872-3 has decreased to 19.32 per 1,000 in 1902-11, and to 17.10 per 1,000 in 1910. In 1911 it rose again to 18.16 per 1,000—an increase easily accounted for by the hot summer. Thus we get a distinct increase in the population, which has grown, with an occasional backward movement, from 12.58 per 1,000 in 1872-6, to 14.39 in 1902-6, and which reached the high-water mark in 1902 with 15.63 per 1,000. Since then it has gone back slightly, though the decade 1902-11 is still credited with an increase of 13.88. In 1911 the increase of population was only 11.33 per 1,000 as against 13.62 in 1910. Still, even in our worst year—1911—we have an actual increase of the population of 740,000.

The crux of the whole question is this. These hundreds of thousands must be fed and clothed and housed, a task of ever-increasing difficulty, since the cost of living goes on growing automatically, and the father of a family is no longer able, as a general rule, to provide for a large family by his own exertions. As a result we get a deterioration in the people's health, and an increase in the number of women obliged to go out of their homes to earn their daily bread. There is a significant increase in diseases of the nervous system among all classes, particularly among workers. From the school medical reports we find that in many districts 30 to 40 per 1,000 of the "infant scholars" among the school-children were insufficiently nourished. It is the same all over the world—prices are everywhere increasing, and the difficulties of living become more and more acute. The Labour troubles of 1911 in Belgium, France and Austria brought about by these conditions, resulted in a still further increase in an area far wider than that directly affected by the disturbances. Couple this with the lamentable death-rate of infants, the child labour, and the influx of women into the industrial world and its consequences—neglect of children and increase of juvenile crime—and the terrible housing conditions, thoroughly effectual as an instrument of physical and moral deterioration; then a decline in the birth-rate, unaccompanied by any shrinkage in the population, loses all its terrors. Rather, it is criminal, under such conditions, for working people to bring up a number of children in excess of the available means of subsistence—a crime against the children themselves as well as against the community.

This is where we mothers come in. It has been said "the so-called weaker sex must at least be endowed with superior strength if it is to respond with any confidence to the demands made upon it." In 1907, 13 million women were struggling for existence in Germany; to-day these figures are far exceeded. Millions of German women, in addition to their paid labour, have to do household work, including the care and upbringing of their children. And most of them are as heroic as the textile workers of Alsace, who, in answer to the questions of factory inspectors in 1899 as to whether their health suffered in the factories, said: "Not our health, only we cannot be with our children."

To the woman's general burden as a toiling citizen is added the individual burden. To her work in the world of industry has to be added her duties as mother, as childbearer, as nurse to a new generation. Death, miscarriage, the bearing of sickly children, the destruction of infants, sickness, disease, and many premature deaths among mothers, that is the inevitable price of a high birth-rate under present social conditions. The cost might be borne if the children only lived, if it were at least possible to make them healthy and useful members of the community. But a multiplicity of births is often the prelude to a

multiplicity of deaths, and the immediate cause of a weakly generation. Because the numerous weakly births, doomed to extinction in their first year, have lived long enough to take food and light out of the lives of the others, long enough to impose on the community the burden of the mother's wasted powers, the expenses in connection with midwifery, attendance of doctors, medicine, etc., and even in quitting a world which does not want them, and for whose hardships they are unfitted, these poor little lives cost a disproportionate amount in burial expenses.

We women must see to it, then, that we do not bring into the world more children than we can educate and nourish. We must, indeed, fight for it in the name of our children, and in the interests of the well-being and health of the nation. We ought, also, to fight for health certificates to be furnished before marriage contracts are made, and through them for the most rigid exclusion of sickly and degenerate elements. If the importance of these matters were realised, fewer children might be born, but fewer would die, and the survivors would have a fair prospect of growing up into healthy and virile beings. Even though the increase of population would thus advance more slowly, the balance of population would be of far greater value than at present.

This is the reply which we German women give to the reproach that the Woman's Movement is the cause of a declining birth-rate.

HENRIETTA VÜRTH.

[Note.—The attention of our readers is specially called to the above article in view of the exceedingly serious statements made by the President of the Board of Education about the declining birth-rate in this country. In facing this problem, the point of view of the mother is not only important, but supremely so, and our legislators will be obliged to take this point of view into account, and give it due weight at the polling station, if they desire to solve it.—Ed. C. C.]

## Mr. McKenna's Coercion Bill.

The following letter has been communicated to the Press by Mrs. Fawcett:—

SIR,—Now that Mr. McKenna's Prisoners' Temporary Discharge Bill is in Committee, may I be allowed to make through your columns a strong appeal to the House of Commons to insist that it shall be employed as a substitute for forcible feeding and not in addition to it.

The National Union deprecates physical violence in every form; it has constantly protested against it when employed by the so-called Militant Suffragists; it protests against it as strongly when the State employs it against them. Forcible feeding, as practised in prisons, is a form of torture which ought to be absolutely forbidden.

The Liberal Party is committed to the principle that "Force is no Remedy." It has again and again applied this principle to other political problems with marked success. Cannot its leaders see now that they are abandoning this principle if they simply pile up measures of coercion against the Militant Suffragists, while doing nothing to remove all grievances of which they (and we) complain? A few years ago Mr. Asquith, referring at a Guildhall banquet to the satisfactory pacification of South Africa since a free constitution had been granted, used the expression "Great is the magic of free institutions." Let him try this magic upon fighting women as he had the courage to try it upon fighting Boers.

If a Statesman could be found who would punish law breakers with unflinching severity, abstain from torturing them, and at the same time extend the operation of free representative institutions to the women of the country, all the trouble which has dogged the life of successive Home Secretaries for the last six years would disappear as if by magic.

Your obedient servant,  
MILlicent GARRETT FAWCETT.  
(President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies).

## The Fabian Society and Women's Demand.

Miss Charlotte M. Wilson, Hon. Secretary of the Women's Group of the Fabian Society, writes:—

It was the Fabian Society, at a members' meeting (March 14th), which passed the resolution you quote in THE COMMON CAUSE last week. I make the correction because the opinion involved is that of a larger number than the Women's Group and is that of men as well as women. The Group is circulating a manifesto in the same sense.

## Professor Geddes at University College.

Under the attractive title of "The Widening World of Women," Professor Geddes' presidential address to the Social and Political Education League was announced for last Wednesday night. The Botanic Theatre of University College was packed with the band of honorary lecturers who form the League, and with an outside audience, who appeared to be mainly workers on one side or another of the Woman's movement.

Rumour had it that the Professor, who is at once one of the greatest living experts in Botany and in Biology, in Town Planning and in City Development, the pioneer of Town Planning and Educational Exhibitions, and the producer of Masques of Learning, was to make on this occasion some pronouncement as to "a better way with Militancy," and the talk was that he had been overheard to remark that while one section of the Woman's Suffrage movement urged Bombs, and another Bills, and the continuous answer of the Government was Prison, yet no one had so far solved the problem. Thus expectancy was on tiptoe for the Professor's elucidation.

It was therefore felt to be a somewhat piquant commencement when Professor Geddes introduced his remarks by a sentence indicating that the present political situation could be trusted to take care of itself, and that it was social education of which we were so sorely in need. Of abstract reasoning we had enough, he remarked and, producing "the latest triumph of journalism," a copy of the first number of *The New Statesman*, he illustrated his meaning by reading an extract aloud. Women, working-men, and simple scientists, rightly craved for more concrete expression; since the social problems could not be solved by theorising—however cleverly—about abstractions.

We were just, emerging, he said, from the Industrial Revolution and realising the need for escape from the havoc of the desolated cities of the Renaissance. We were living, in fact, in a time of struggle between the forces of the Palæotechnic and the Neotechnic periods of the Industrial age. On the one hand, we had to-day the vicious circle of cheap machinery producing cheap material for cheap people—an orgy of expenditure of energy—and on the other hand, there was the desire for a more ordered world with finer machinery, producing more artistic material for a more cultured humanity, with a corresponding ideal of the conservation of human and natural forces. From this side evolved concrete experiments to provide a better environment for less squalid lives—the Garden City and the Super Metropolis.

Social education involved better housing conditions and Town-Planning, and with the utterance of this magic word the Professor found himself launched into a widening world of his own making—for women and for men. We were forthwith taken to Leipzig to inspect its Housing Exhibition; and to Ghent, where a corner of the prospective Exhibition has been given over to the Professor to demonstrate Town Planning. With a small scale map of this in hand—as an emblem of concrete expression—the gates of the centuries were rolled back and we were shown the evolution of the city from ancient Athens and Imperial Rome, through the age of the spacious cities of Mediævalism; the period of the architecture of the Renaissance; its degradation into the slums of the Industrial era and the re-awakening of Town Planning to-day.

Then a peep was vouchsafed into the future of cities, with the decentralisation of the metropolis and the gradual growth and development of the provincial town, its evolution dictated by its own place in time and space, and its institutes the realisation of its characteristic culture. This then was "the widening world of women"—and of men.

The audience, with secret longings for Bombs and Bills, had by this time grown restive, in spite of the extraordinary profusion showered on them of *obiter dicta*, of humour and of illustration drawn red-hot from current events. Even the editor of the *Contemporary Review* in a subsequent appreciative speech could not avoid a gathering together of points which could, with slight pressure, be applied to the Woman's movement; yet in his summary of forces, which included Mary Wollstonecraft and John Stuart Mill, Olive Schreiner and Ellen Key, he quite omitted "pillar-boxes and Mrs. Pankhurst," while offering a gentle rebuke to the lecturer.

Professor Geddes was, however, obdurate. He was well aware of the situation; political education, he reiterated, could be well looked after by the community and if he had sinned it was "malice aforethought." And as for the Widening World of Women? The Press table was ominously silent. Yet we know not whether to be grateful or angry with Professor Geddes, who has so relentlessly exposed our base by expressing in his "elfish" manner that Woman's Widening World is man's also, and that there is but one human heritage, and one common cause, which is that of both man and woman.

### Mrs. Bates.

"Look! how this love, this mother, runs through all the World God made."—TENNYSON.

When you went to visit Mrs. Bates you first came up against a row of stone "flags" looking like a piece of pavement set on end and erected in front of her house to produce the illusion that it stood in its own grounds. Over the top of the stone slabs you could gaze straight into Mrs. Bates' front bedroom window, and in order to reach her door you had to descend five steps. Customers of hers (she kept a greengrocer's shop) would come and shout down over the wall to ascertain if she had any cabbages or oranges that day, before they took the trouble to descend to the counter. Then they would go in and probably stay for quite a little chat. For Mrs. Bates was a pleasant woman and a born "contriver," who had always some new idea for making both ends meet; so that it was a liberal education to know her. The shop was very small and dark, but there was just sufficient gangway between the baskets of vegetables to admit of a customer's passing from the door to the chocolate-coloured counter. The vegetables were not of the trim and taut order, and even the potatoes were wrinkled; but this was not due to carelessness on Mrs. Bates's part. Her goods, filtered through from the main streets' stores, were the only kind her customers could afford to buy.

She herself was a small withered woman with an anxious face, and her voice had much of the harshness peculiar to underfed people. When anyone entered the shop she always appeared from the living-room behind in a swift, business-like manner; and with her, as she opened the door, came a breath of miasma-laden air, and more often than not the sound of a hard, dry cough. All Mrs. Bates's customers knew that cough belonged to a young factory-worker who, on a bed in the corner of the room, lay dying of consumption. She was not related to Mrs. Bates, but she was the fifth, and last, of her family whom the motherly woman had nursed to the end—first the father and then the mother; then a brother and a sister. They had come to her as to a refuge to die. "Oo's last," she would say to her customers, regretfully, "an' what ah shall do when oo's gone and there's nobody moor to be motherin', ah don't know. We've no childer, tha knows, 'im an' me; an' it's lonesome-like wi' nobody to cur (care) for. That gives a-body somethin' to live for; and there needs it, ma word, i' this world."

On the consumptive girl Mrs. Bates lavished much tenderness of a practical kind. She was ingenious in providing "tasty bits" when the girl could eat them. As she spoke to her, her harsh voice wavered up and down in the cooing inflexions used to soothe babies; and she expended much thought on ways to prevent the invalid from imagining that she regarded her inability to pay as in any sort "sponging."

One day a visitor came to see the consumptive. She was a young woman of eighteen years of age, about the same age as the girl on the bed—delicately brought up, ignorant, with rosy notions of a world permeated with charitable instinct. She came and sat in the living-room's sole armchair, and, overwhelmed by the disparity of needs and means, tried to ascertain what could be done for the sick girl. It would have been better for the girl to go where she would be more skilfully nursed, but there was no hospital where they would take her to die. She was too hopeless a case for the sanatoria, which were crowded with those patients who had a chance of recovery, and the workhouse had no ward where she could lie without spreading infection among the other inmates. So she waited in the darkest corner of the living room, on the broad bed under the blue and crimson patchwork quilt. The room was clean, but dreary. Everything was faded, not tenderly with the sun, but dingily with the smoke-born dirt. Even the fire had no glow to contribute, because during the long winter afternoons it was necessary to darken it with "slack" in order to save the coal. Boxes of vegetables, ready to be carried into the shop when the stock gave out there, were heaped up in one corner of the room, as there was nowhere else to keep them; and the odour of the vegetables added to the burden of the invalid's breath. The air was often not freshened during many days, for if they opened the window with the wind in one quarter the rain slung in—with the wind in another, the smoke hurried down the chimney.

This afternoon the consumptive was in great pain. She lay on her face in hour-long endurance, and was able to make but one attempt at the relationship of hostess and guest. "Please excuse me taking no notice of you," she panted out in thin tones of which the pathos was poignant to her visitor. Mrs. Bates set the young guest in a chair, having dusted it first with her apron of brown sacking, and then departed to answer a shout

from over her flag wall. The visitor gazed at the consumptive's form, her rosy world of gracious condescension and grateful acceptance already somewhat sobered. The sick girl's body, outlined in bas-relief on the bed, looked so small and thin; the back of her head, its two plaits fastened with red cotton rags, was dark against the pillow; her shoulders, clad in a nightdress which had turned a brownish colour in the washing, showed above the bed-clothes and shook now and then in a convulsion of coughing that seemed about to rend her. The girl's moaning struck on the visitor's heart so painfully that at last she herself murmured a childish "Oh, dear!" She longed for Mrs. Bates's return.

Suddenly the back door opened and a tall man entered. He was powerfully-built, but his figure shook with the drunkard's unsteadiness, and he stared with a foolish smile at the visitor, who was as strange as a wild rose in that den. He stood in the doorway, his clothes a-drip, and the wet air steamed in from behind him. There was a rustle from the bed, and the consumptive turned her face to ask him to shut the door. He obeyed and sat down stupidly on a wooden chair just inside it. He began to babble at the young visitor in a torrent of senseless questions to which he himself gave answers. Fear came into her eyes. It was the first time she had been so near to a drunken man.

"That's my chur you're sittin' in," he finished. "Armchur's furt th'ouse—'tis—'tis. Eh? Why don't you answer me?"

"Don't mind him, miss. Don't answer him. Take no notice of him," came from the bed, distress and patience mingling with it.

Then the lumbering mass which was Mr. Bates got itself into motion again, with a ponderous noise, and swayed forward to the visitor. The consumptive roused herself with difficulty and pain, and her eyes fell on the face of the young girl. Seeing her afraid, her instinct of protection glowed into sudden passion. She raised herself into a sitting posture. Standing was impossible to her, but she stretched out a covering arm as if to interpose with a yearning of all her forces between the man and the frightened girl. "Sit down; or go upstairs and change yerself," she said, her voice suddenly strong with the feeling that moved her.

For a moment Mr. Bates stood irresolute in amazement, and then, with a foolish look, he fumbled back to his chair, and sat down conquered by some strength he could make nothing of. "Don't you mind him, love. Don't take no notice of 'im," the sick girl murmured. "'E's one o' the burdens. But doan't you mind 'im, love." Then, with a moan of intensified pain, she sank back on her pillow.

At that moment the door of the shop opened again and Mrs. Bates stood on the threshold, embarrassed and aghast, like a ship in which the sails have been suddenly struck lank by a calm. It was her habit not to speak of Mr. Bates but to bear him in heroic silence as one would endure a sore which could not be cured. "Oh, it's thee," was all she said, with the faintest trace of contempt in her voice. He stared back at her and filled the silence between them with intermittent chuckles.

It was in the shop that the visitor ascertained from Mrs. Bates, in few words, the consumptive's immediate needs; and then she slipped away, oppressed with the burden of a tragedy under which her simple charity dropped helpless, yet heartened to bear it and go forward by the sick girl's protecting arms.

A. M. ALLEN.

### Church League for Women's Suffrage.

The Rev. Claude Hinscliff writes that the membership of the Church League for Women's Suffrage may be estimated at 4,200, the figure of 20,000 members given in last week's report being a desirable, but so far unrealised, ideal.

### WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

(1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.)

### Public Meeting at Caxton Hall,

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23rd, AT 3.30 P.M.

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Chairman: Miss C. NINA BOYLE.

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## The A.B.C. of Women's Suffrage.

We are often told that women ought not to have a vote because they are ignorant of Politics and would therefore make terrible mistakes in the way they used their vote. One Anti-Suffrage lady said in a debate that as women knew nothing about the Newfoundland Fishery question, or about the Behring Straits settlement, it would be

### Unsafe for England's Welfare

to give them the vote. Now, we know quite well that a very large number of men voters do not understand these two great questions, and a very great number have never even heard of them. Only about 60 men probably—politicians—in England know about these Imperial matters and understand them thoroughly and completely.

But in order to make the working-man take an intelligent interest in his country's welfare, and to teach him the importance of Imperial as well as domestic questions, he was given the vote in two instalments—in 1867 and in 1884. It was at the time discussed and agreed upon that, to make a man a voter, to give him responsibility, was the very best way to awaken his intelligence, and to make him realise that as he was a part of the nation he *must* take an interest in the nation's affairs. The nation's affairs were his affairs.

### This Applies Equally to Women.

When women are a part of the nation they, too, will begin to feel they *must* understand the nation's affairs. And they will also help to increase men's interest in these questions. The canvasser, too, who helps to educate voters will talk to women then as well as to men. The candidates will do the same. Also, do we disfranchise men because some do not vote wisely?

A Liberal man in a large Yorkshire town refused to vote at the municipal election last autumn. He was asked why he behaved in this odd manner. His reply was—"Because t' Liberals on t' Corporation sent a man round to look at my ash-bin, and if they do it again I shall vote Tory next time." He has not been struck off the list of city or Parliamentary voters.

Another excellent citizen voted Tory at Parliamentary elections because he had heard the Liberals wished to blow up his old parish church.

### He was not Disfranchised.

We cannot, therefore, allow that men are voters because they always vote intelligently. Use alone

can teach them to do so. When women have the vote they and their men-kind will together discuss political questions, and as two heads are proverbially better than one, it is quite certain men will consequently become more interested in and more intelligent about their own votes.

Perhaps the day will come when all men, as well as women, will understand about the Newfoundland Fisheries! When you go amongst working women, and into their homes, you do not find they are stupider or cleverer than their men-kind. You find

### Women are Clever in a Different Fashion.

The men understand their Trade Union questions and things they are *used to* better than women; but the women understand about the price of commodities, rents, etc., because they are the purse-holders and pay the bills. They understand about housing, too, better than their men-folk do. Each understands his or her own particular business best.

Sir James Chetham in "Middlemarch" is quite incorrect when he thinks that "a man's mind, what there is of it, is of course superior to a woman's . . . and therefore even his ignorance is of a sounder quality." Ignorance is always ignorance, whether it be masculine or feminine ignorance, and the only possible way to lessen it is for men and women each to have political responsibility, that greatest of all educators, bestowed upon them.

Alone, they can never be fully intelligent human beings; but together they can work out their own, and therefore the whole nation's, welfare in the best way possible. This is gradually happening in countries

### Where Women Vote.

So it is not merely an uncorroborated statement. It is founded on facts. Men have voted in larger numbers since women have been enfranchised. An equal wage for equal work is being gradually established in these countries. Women see it is more civilised to obtain equal wages for men and women, because it is better for men, as well as for women, when neither can undersell the other. In England our Trade Boards frankly consider a woman is only entitled to a part of what a man is paid.

### To Hold Women Cheaper than Men

is not at all intelligent, for it produces disastrous results to the whole nation. When women have votes in England they will work for more intelligent legislation, because having votes will make them think, and will make men think more intelligently.

## Some New Books.

AN ADVENTURE. Second Edition. With appendix and maps. (Macmillan.) 3s. 6d. net.

This story, of which the first edition appeared in January, 1911, records an extraordinary adventure of two ladies at Versailles in 1901 and 1902. In visiting the Petit Trianon they saw buildings and landscape not as they then existed, but as they appeared at the time of Marie Antoinette. The ladies were directed on their way by keepers, and spoke to persons whom they never doubted at the time to be real individuals, but whom they discovered afterwards were characters living at the period of the unfortunate Queen. Their awakening to the fact that they had simultaneously entered some fairyland of history was gradual and individual, and during nine subsequent years they have been at utmost pains to discover by the records of history and art the details of the historic scene which they perchance had seen. The facts of their adventure are already well known, but what is new to the world is the result of their research, which is published in the appendix to this volume.

As the veracity of these two ladies is beyond doubt, and as they appear to be level-headed persons of much culture, the mystery of their "adventure" is merely enhanced by these careful historic notes. Their own explanation of the affair, that they walked by hazard on the anniversary of one of Marie Antoinette's bitterest of days into the materialised dream of an agonised Sovereign, is hardly one that can be acceptable to psychic student or psychologist, yet it would be difficult to offer any more satisfactory solution even by pushing the application of the psychological Law of Association to its furthest limits. But even if read as mere fiction, the tale has a weird fascination that compels attention.

PHYSICS AND POLITICS. By Walter Bagehot. New and cheaper edition. (Kegan Paul and Co.) 1s. net.

This interesting volume contains Bagehot's application to the political development of society of the principles of natural selection. As is the case with almost everything he wrote, it has the quality of setting the reader's mind to work on its own account, and it is to be hoped that this cheap and handy edition will bring the book into the hands of many people who have not hitherto been acquainted with it.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN, April, 1913. (Sidgwick and Jackson.) 1s. net.

The *Englishwoman* for April contains an article upon "Committee Procedure," which, under that somewhat uninviting title, presents subtle and amusing psychological observations. No person accustomed to attend many committees can fail to observe how every one of them has its own character—the main, but by no means the sole, ingredients in which are the personalities of the Secretary and Chairman. The immense range of variation, again, between the impeccably business-like committee (which is effective, but dull to attend), and the hopelessly unbusiness-like one (which is so infuriating as not to be even amusing) is illustrated by typical instances, and the position is shrewdly summed up in the remark: "Fortunately, the good temper of a committee of this kind" (the unbusiness-like) "is generally proportioned to its irregularities."

Perhaps the most important article in the number is that upon the new affiliation law in France. At last French fathers of illegitimate children are to be held, in theory, and sometimes, it is to be hoped in practice, responsible for the support of those children. The great difficulty of proof, inherent in all affiliation cases, will, no doubt, open a door of escape, as it does in this country, to many men who ought to be made to pay. Nor is this all: the fear of abuse has "made the legislators so careful that the interested parties will experience great difficulty in obtaining the redress it offers." The redress, when obtained, however, will be fuller than in England; the child will have a right to its father's name and nationality, will inherit half the property which would have descended by law to a legitimate child, and must be provided for according to the position of the father; but the latter, if these rights have been enforced against him at law, will lose all, or part, of his paternal authority. Although the law is retrospective, proceedings cannot be taken

by the child, but only by the mother, or, in case of her death or desertion, by some legally appointed guardian. Thus it is abundantly clear that the new law will not succeed in placing upon more than a small proportion of fathers the duty of supporting their unacknowledged children.

But laws are valuable, not only for what they succeed in achieving, but also for the measure in which they educate public opinion. As long as the law of France supported a man in the callous course of refusing to pay a penny for the support of his child, so long would the worse kind of man believe that he had a moral right to seduce and then abandon his child's mother. So long, also, did such a man perceive that, from his point of view, the law put a premium upon such paternity as against that of a husband. Now, the law makes a different declaration. It asserts plainly that the man who becomes a father is responsible, both morally and financially, for his child's welfare, whether he be or be not married to its mother. Perhaps when the new affiliation law has been at its educational work for five years it will no longer be possible for a Senator to declare publicly in debate that more than one-third of the births registered in one year in Paris are illegitimate.

## The Building Exhibition.

The Building Exhibition at Olympia is more interesting for what it does not contain than for any originality shown in the exhibits. I looked in vain for a satisfactory sink with rounded corners where the grease could not collect, or a kitchen grate that did not need the ministrations of a black-lead brush. Although there were many patent flooring materials for bathrooms and sculleries, there were none that sloped up into the walls and made a washable skirting.

One firm showed an ingenious fire-place that looked like an ordinary sitting-room grate, but was at the same time the means of heating the range in the kitchen, thus saving the housewife the trouble and expense of two fires. The kitchen range could also be used separately. I feel myself a little doubtful as to whether the oven could be sufficiently heated by the fire in the sitting-room as there was no flue to draw the flames round the oven, but this is a defect that could be remedied, and the idea certainly was a good one for artisan homes. Another kitchen range had a double door to the oven, the inner one being of glass, so that the cook could look at her pastry or cakes without letting in the cold air. There were some iron casements with double frames that could be opened either way and cleaned on both sides without the help of a man with a ladder; unfortunately this contrivance adds considerably to the cost of the casement, but this consideration is amply outweighed by its great convenience.

The casement curtains with rings that clip on to a patent tape will appeal to every woman who has made her own curtains.

Most of the exhibits are of building materials and patent methods of construction. The most striking of these are the exhibits of slate, showing in what a variety of tone and texture slate can be procured and how decorative it can be when used in the right way.

ELSPETH SPENCER.

## Women in Local Government.

The list of the National Union's active members who have commended themselves to the suffrages of local electors, as recorded in last week's *COMMON CAUSE*, might, writes a correspondent, be still further increased. Miss Anna Bateson, Hon. Secretary of the New Forest Women's Suffrage Society, has been elected a member of the Lymington Rural District Council, and on standing for re-election to the Milton (Hants.) Parish Council, was returned at the head of the poll.

## The Press and Women's Suffrage.

Following the records of the press work as given in the Annual Press Report, the number of papers described as "favourable" from the areas which have sent in particulars should be 250 (not 1,000 as given in error in last week's *COMMON CAUSE*). This number is by no means exhaustive as it does not include Scotland, the small London local papers, and the records of those Federations which have not yet sent in their reports.

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## Extracts from the Press.

### Women in Local Government.

"THE DAILY TELEGRAPH," April 8th, 1913:—

The Bill for extending the Local Government Franchise as regards women, which has been laid before the House of Commons by Mr. Arnold Ward, does not command general approval among the Anti-Suffragists, many of whom look upon it as to some extent compromising their cause. This view is the more interesting when it is remembered that Mr. Ward is one of the honorary secretaries of the Parliamentary Anti-Suffrage Committee. It is well known that the hon. Member promotes the measure in sympathy with the opinion recently expressed by his mother, Mrs. Humphry Ward, that if women are not to receive the Parliamentary vote, they ought to be given a closer association with the affairs of local government.

"THE DAILY TELEGRAPH," April 9th, 1913:—

An outstanding feature of the election for Guardians was the number of ladies who offered themselves as candidates. This fact is considered to account for the increased percentage of electors who recorded their votes. In St. Pancras, Mrs. H. B. Irving headed the poll with 775 votes. In Kensington the only two ladies who contested seats were defeated, but six others were returned unopposed. During the past three years three of the 34 Cambridge Guardians have been women, and now another has been successful, the four ladies being Mrs. Keynes, wife of the registrar of the University; Mrs. Rackham, wife of a classical tutor at Christ's; Mrs. Ramsay, wife of a tutor of Magdalen; and Miss Alice Digby. At Kingsbury the position of a lady at the bottom of the list was ascribed to the indignation felt in the district at the local outrages by militant Suffragists.

### The Plural Voting Bill.

"THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN," April 11th, 1913:—

Speaking as a party agent, I have not the slightest hesitation in stating that the present measure barely touches the fringe of the plural voting anomaly, and whilst it will tend in some small way to check the evil, it at the same time opens up a wide field for abuse. . . . It does not require much imagination to picture the work, worry, and confusion which will be entailed at a General Election, the party agent in one division appealing for his supporters to vote where his residence is, and the party agent for the division where the voter's business is appealing for him to select to vote there. The voter will not only be bewildered, but will be heartily sick of this addition to the ordinary election worries. No agent will be quite certain of how many supporters will vote in his division for his candidate, adding to what is always an uncertainty a greater confusion.

[Extract from a letter by Thomas F. Tweed, Liberal Agent, Eccles Division, Lancs.]

"THE LABOUR LEADER," April 10th, 1913:—

The rank and file of the Labour Party in annual conference assembled have instructed their Parliamentary representatives to oppose any Franchise Bill which ignores the claims of women. We are not going to argue that this instruction applies to the Plural Voting Bill. It is a Registration Bill rather than a Franchise Bill, and the discussion at the Conference was confined solely to a consideration of the situation that would arise if the Government were to re-introduce a measure scorning the rights of women and merely extending the franchise to men. But the Conference of the Independent Labour Party, which met a fortnight ago in Manchester, went a step further. It deliberately included within the scope of measures to be opposed all Bills which propose to alter the Registration Laws.

[Leading Article.]

### Equal Pay for Equal Work.

"THE DAILY TELEGRAPH," April 8th, 1913:—

By 17 votes to 15 the Dublin Corporation yesterday decided, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board, to pay equal salaries to men and women sanitary inspectors. The resolution stated that women and men had the same examinations, the same hours, and equally important work.

### "The Christian Commonwealth."

The *Christian Commonwealth* has several excellent articles on the Suffrage question this week, in which the political situation is dealt with, both as regards the movement itself and the treatment of militant Suffragists in prison. No paper has more consistently treated Women's Suffrage with the insight of statesmanship, and their articles preserve the high standard set before. The *Commonwealth* reminds politicians of what has been so readily forgotten by Liberal Members of Parliament—that Mr. Asquith, in drafting his Bill so that women could not be included, has been guilty of what his own colleague (Mr. Lloyd George) said would be "an outrage on public faith"; yet he makes no attempt to redeem his honour, for the *Commonwealth* estimates the offer of "facilities for a private member's Bill" at its true worth, as do most Suffragists. The articles on militancy are also full of interest and understanding.

### Campaign in East Fife.

Writing from the Post Office, Dunfermline, Miss Alice Crompton sends the following particulars of the forthcoming campaign in the Prime Minister's constituency.

Preparations for a fortnight's campaign in East Fife, to be held April 24th to May 7th inclusive, are going on apace. The

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local Societies have taken up the scheme enthusiastically, and Leven, Cupar, Tayside, St. Andrews, and Dundee—though not all of them within the Parliamentary division—are giving valuable help in the preliminary reconnoitring and advertisement so essential to a successful campaign. Anti-militant feeling runs extremely high, and constitutional Suffragists will be glad to think that this important division is to be made thoroughly aware of the existence, the energy, and the earnestness of the National Union. In addition to the grant of £50 from Headquarters, and Miss Lee's generous gift of £10, Mrs. Rowland and Mrs. Leng have each kindly given £1. Further donations of money, or personal service, will be most gratefully received, and also names of sympathisers in or near the county. The electorate in 1910 numbered 10,372, agricultural interests predominating, though the linen industry employs some hundreds. With a motor-car it is just possible to touch all the towns and villages in one day. How infinitely welcome, therefore, would be the loan of a car, or the wherewithal to hire one! Next week the campaign will be in full swing. Meanwhile, "bis dat qui cito dat"!

## Women and Rural Housing.

In the second report of the Rural Co-partnership Housing and Land Council, of which Lord Henry Bentinck, M.P., is president, the importance of the woman's view in the matter of housing receives—perhaps for the first time in the programme of a Building Association—its just share of recognition. In a section headed "The Woman's Outlook," it is stated that "it is part of the Council's policy to obtain consideration for the social and domestic requirements of women. As to the question of the cottage parlour, it is not sufficient to consider it only from the point of view of bare utility as though cattle were being housed. . . . If the brighter young women (and with them the more skilled men) are to remain contented with the rural side of life, then their housing accommodation must approximate to that of their town cousins, and to the general fashion of the present day. It has not been found impossible to make a structural compromise by which the ugly externalism of the urban 'cottage villa' is replaced by simpler outline, and not unpleasing colour, while its domestic advantages are retained. What is needed is to banish, not the parlour, but its wax-flowers, and to enlarge the living room by enlarging the ground plan.

"Whenever practicable, the wives of the prospective tenant members, before plans are passed, are called together and consulted as to details of house arrangement."

With such views of a wise co-operation of the sexes in the construction of the home, one may venture to predict that this Council will go far in the removal of many inconveniences from which inmates of the cottage and small house have suffered needlessly for so long.

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### A GRAVE SITUATION.

Forcible Feeding. Mrs. Pankhurst's Release.  
Mr. Dickinson's Bill.  
MR. PHILIP SNOWDEN on the  
Government, the Plural Voting Bill, and Women Suffrage.  
W.S.P.U. DEMONSTRATION  
At the Albert Hall.

"How I Became a Suffragette." By Olive Hockin.

See "THE CHRISTIAN COMMONWEALTH"  
of Wednesday, April 16.

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Suffragists.

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## In Parliament.

APRIL 9TH.—REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.—Sir Henry Kimber introduced a Bill to correct the inequalities in the size of the various constituencies, which make the vote of a man in (for example) Kilkenny equal to the votes of 32 men in the Romford division of Essex. He pointed out that "50 members were sent to Parliament by the same number of people as" (in another part of the country) "send four."

MINIMUM WAGE MOTION.—Mr. Will Crooks moved that the Trade Boards Act be extended to provide a minimum wage of 30s. a week for "every adult worker" in towns, and "an approximately equal standard for the country." He moved that the Government set an example by adopting this minimum in its own workshops." No one was able to discover whether Mr. Crooks intended to include women among his "adult workers," or whether he knew that women existed.

Mr. Cooper wished to make a rule that every adult man should get 4d. an hour, and every adult woman 3d., as a minimum. Mr. Alden was of opinion that to give the same wage (30s.) to women as to men would mean that a great many women would lose their employment.

APRIL 10TH.—DEBATE ON SUPPLY: THE SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, ETC.—Mr. Pease (President of the Board of Education) alluded to the decline of the birth-rate, and the decline—great, but not proportionately great—in the infant death-rate. He admitted that the education of infants in schools had not been "to the best interests of the small children," but claimed that the "schools for mothers," now numbering over 200, medical inspection, care committees, and so forth, were doing good work. Mr. Pease went on to the question of the serious shortage of teachers. He announced that there were now 16 women inspectors among those who inspect (among other things) the sewing of three and a half million of girls. The debate which followed centred chiefly on the difficulty of obtaining teachers, and the necessity of grants from the National Exchequer to relieve the growing burden on the ratepayer. It was said by Sir Henry Hibbert, and repeated by others, that education was increasingly unpopular in the country owing to the intolerable nature of this burden. Complaint was also made of the expensive training of certificated teachers, who were afterwards unable to find posts owing to the large employment of uncertificated teachers. Mr. Balfour pleaded for greater elasticity and fewer examinations.

Women will be interested to observe the importance attached by Parliament to the question of education. The President of the Board of Education receives £2,000 a year; the President of the Board of Trade £5,000. Mr. Goldstone remarked: "That is very typical of John Bull. The shop counts more than the school." Not quite so typical of Jane Bull, we think. Later in the evening the House was nearly counted out, although Mr. Joseph King was speaking, and he is "always right" on the subject of education. He said this himself, so there can be no doubt about it.

THE PRISONERS (TEMPORARY DISCHARGE) BILL.—In Committee, the Bill was criticised as likely to be ineffective. Lord Robert Cecil pointed out that the conditions of the licence would "notoriously" not be observed. The Home Secretary would then be exactly where he was before.

[Note.—The Bill was still in Committee at the time of going to press.]

## News from the United States.

On April 7th, when the special session of Congress opened, a mass meeting was held in the Columbia Theatre, with Dr. Shaw, Mrs. Catt, and other prominent speakers. After the meeting, 531 women, one from each Congressional District, and two at large from each State, for the two Senators, marched to the Capital to present to each Senator and Representative a petition from home asking their support for the constitutional amendment to give women the nation-wide suffrage. The wording of the amendment, as framed by a committee of Suffragists, is:—"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State thereof on account of sex." Copies of resolutions and letters sent to President Wilson were received in enormous quantities at the Washington Suffrage Headquarters every day during the early part of April. The messages coming from the non-suffrage States are particularly urgent. Miss Alice Paul, Miss Lucy Burns, and Miss Eliza Lord are in charge of the campaign.

Massachusetts Suffragists secured a large majority when the constitutional amendment came up in the House of Representatives for final action late in March. It was only 11 votes short of the necessary two-thirds majority. After a three and a half hours' debate, 144 voted for the amendment and only 88 against.

A Bill to enable women to vote for Presidential electors was defeated in the New Hampshire Legislature in March.

Alaska—where Suffragists have scored their tenth victory—passed the Bill giving votes to its women as the maiden measure of the first Legislature. It is reported that the unanimous vote in favour of this Bill was due to the wish of the Alaskan legislators to attract more women to the territory! Evidently they do not look upon the ballot as a burden, nor would they seem to believe that the majority of women so regard it. Women are scarce in Alaska, and the settlers want wives. So they make their territory attractive to the women by enfranchising them. To Suffragists this is very good logic.

Judge Lindsey, of the Denver Juvenile Court, in an article in the *Delineator*, makes the following interesting statement *apropos* of the effect of the woman's vote in Colorado:—"In Colorado prostitution is confined to its four or five cities, and only exists in the balance of the State as a wind-blown evil that follows the rise and fall of mining camps. Denver, as the largest city, contains the largest number of prostitutes. Chief of Police Armstrong puts the number at 500." Judge Lindsey goes on to point out that only 144 of these women voted, while the number of women who voted in Denver at the last election was 30,000.

Ten State Legislatures in the United States have voted by large majorities for constitutional amendments enfranchising women in the last three months. Two of these, Maine and West Virginia, fell just short of the full constitutional majority required, but American Suffragists consider the vote most encouraging.

The new Governor of West Virginia, Henry D. Holfield, who was inaugurated on March 4th, has declared himself in favour of Woman Suffrage.

At the Kansas election women were appointed on the Board by the Mayor—one woman in each ward as judge, and one from each of the four wards as clerk. No smoking, chewing gum, or swearing was allowed in the voting stations. Five hundred women of Kansas assembled in Wichita City Hall last month to hear 21 candidates for municipal offices state their qualifications and programme. Each was allowed five minutes in which to give an account of himself. The idea of the women was to get information which would help them to know how to vote rightly at the primary election of March 24th.

American Suffragists are deriving a certain amount of amusement from the manoeuvres of politicians who do not wish to offend the vicious interests that have votes to-day and the women who will have votes to-morrow. The *Woman's Journal* of March 15th remarks that it is new and cheering to see them "pulling caps" for the privilege of introducing Suffrage measures. The great desire seems to be to "get the party the credit." Maine democrats voted against the Suffrage amendment, and Maine republicans take care constantly to remind them of the fact; and in Massachusetts republicans were told not to vote for the amendment by their leaders, and democrats will not allow them to forget it. In those States where all parties are Suffragist, those who showed their colours first are advertising their priority. Meanwhile, as the *Journal* puts it, the Suffragists smile, and continue to gather in State after State.

## International Congress at Buda-Pesth.

We are afraid several people have misunderstood a letter of invitation received from the Hungarian Society as meaning that hospitality will be given to them. This is not so except in the case of two delegates from each country. All other visitors going to the Congress will pay their own hotel expenses.

Twelve delegates and twelve alternates will be appointed by the N.U. Executive. All others going to the Congress will go either as Associate Members of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, that is to say, if they have paid their subscription of £1 to the Alliance three months previous to the Congress, or they may take part in this particular Conference from the 15th to 20th June on payment of a fee of 8s. 6d. to the Hungarian Society. It should be addressed to:—

The Executive Committee of the  
VII. International Congress for Woman Suffrage,  
VII. Istvan-út 67, Buda-Pesth.

## Notes from Headquarters

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President:—MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:  
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MISS O. E. MARSHALL (Parliamentary)  
MISS EMILY M. LEAF (Press).  
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Office: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

## "Common Cause" Competition.

The National Union enjoins upon all its Societies the duty of promoting the circulation of its organ, THE COMMON CAUSE, which is of unique value to our movement, both as a means of spreading accurate knowledge and information concerning the political situation and as a paper that aims at educating and influencing public opinion. THE COMMON CAUSE deals with every aspect of the Women's Suffrage question, and just in so far as it gets more and more into the hands of the public and its circulation increases, by just so much will our prospects of success be strengthened and increased. The Executive Committee of the National Union proposes, therefore, to organise a competition with a view to stimulating and encouraging Societies which are helping in the promotion of this object, and is prepared to offer a prize to the Society which can show the largest number of annual subscribers to THE COMMON CAUSE in proportion to its membership.

The prize will take the form of a grant to the winning Society for special Suffrage work. Seeing how often our active Societies are hampered for want of funds, it is believed that this form of prize will be more acceptable than any other, and in the hope that all Societies, from the largest to the smallest, will enter for this competition, the following scale of prizes has been fixed:—

A grant of £5 to the winning Society having less than 100 members.

A grant of £10 to the winning Society having over 100 and under 500 members.

A grant of £20 to the winning Society having over 500 members.

## Rules of the Competition.

1. Societies who wish to enter for the competition must send in a formal entry and state the number of their members. All entries must be received on or before Monday, May 5th, and must be addressed to THE COMMON CAUSE Competition Secretary, c/o N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

2. The time allowed for the competition will be two months. During that period competing Societies will make every effort to obtain promises, in writing, from as many of their members as possible to subscribe to THE COMMON CAUSE for not less than twelve months. A member may promise to subscribe for several copies, in which case each subscription promised will count separately. Thus, if in a Society with 100 members 50 members promise to take two copies and the remaining members do not subscribe at all, the Society would still return 100 promises (i.e., at the rate of 100 per cent. of subscribers to THE COMMON CAUSE). Competing Societies will be free to organise the work of collecting promises in whichever way they think best.

3. The written promises must be collected and sent up in one single envelope from each competing Society, addressed to the Competition Secretary, c/o N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W., and must reach the office not later than Monday, July 7th, the date on which the competition will close. The names of the winning Societies will be announced in THE COMMON CAUSE the following week.

All Societies are strongly urged to enter for THE COMMON CAUSE Competition.

## Press Department.

THE NEW STATESMAN.

The chief event of the week from the point of view of the Press, has been the advent of the *New Statesman*, the weekly review of politics and literature, which is already said to be having a record reception. It is a relief to turn during the breathing-space of a week-end from the daily newspaper, with its cinematograph re-production of events, politics, and criticism, to the larger and more leisurely views of writers who individually and collectively have beliefs to declare, and the power and determination to drive them home.

The *New Statesman* has a huge task before it. It believes

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primarily in the world-wide movement towards collectivism; its distinctive object will be to give an opportunity for its expression of the collectivist theory in the light of the experience afforded by the changing economic circumstances of the different nations of the civilised world. It will not confine itself in any way to topics of special interest to Social reformers, Labour men, or Socialists, but will contain, week by week, comments and articles on all current articles and political events of importance." One of the main features of its contents will be its complete independence of those exigencies of party politics which arise from time to time to limit the freedom of party organs of all kinds. The *New Statesman* aims at being as far abreast as possible of the knowledge of the time, and proposes to "hammer out week by week, a consistent body of thought from a standpoint of its own."

The "hammering" process begins vigorously this week upon the policy of Mr. McKenna. In spite of the assertion that the *New Statesman* "aims at the investigation of all facts and problems in the same spirit in which the chemist facts and examines his test tubes," we find little of the mild spirit of the chemist in the vigorous invectives against torture, and a complacent Government, in the article on "Forcible Feeding." Neither does the idea of the "test tube" occur to us in connection with the exhilarating methods of Mr. Bernard Shaw in the articles which no one is supposed to know are by him.

The *New Statesman* shows abundance of strong feeling where principle is at stake; there is no quarter for a Government which allows the "irrelevant to obscure the essential," and acquiesces in discrepancies between words and things. The Labour Party is bidden boldly to take "long views, to consider the very definite perils of alliances," and to bid fearlessly in three-cornered elections for the progressive vote.

As Suffragists, we welcome the *New Statesman* as a notable addition to the influential papers which give us strong support. We feel here that party considerations will not damp enthusiasms. "Everybody knows, except those who never know anything beforehand, that the women are going to get the vote. That is what makes all the mischief so exasperating."

E. M. LEAF.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1912	1,687	11	0
Received April 8th to 14th:			
<b>Subscriptions.</b>			
Mrs. Lewis Lloyd	0	10	0
Mrs. Reeve	0	1	0
Miss Emily Ford	1	0	0
Mrs. Stuart Hogg	0	10	0
Miss V. Garrard	0	2	6
Miss Poppleton	0	5	0
Mrs. Paris	1	1	0
Mrs. Norman MacLehose	0	10	0
Mr. J. Arthur Price	1	1	0
Mrs. G. Unwin	0	10	0
Miss Vizard	1	0	0
Mrs. R. Uniacke	0	5	0
Miss Lovsey	0	5	0
<b>Donations.</b>			
Per Miss M. Hilston— Collection at Pontypool	1	13	0
Collection at Abersychan	1	1	0
Mrs. Radford	5	0	0
<b>Affiliation Fees.</b>			
Paisley W.S.S.	1	12	6
Malvern W.S.S.	0	12	6
Castle Douglas W.S.S.	0	5	0
North Berwick W.S.S.	0	13	0
Cupar W.S.S.	1	2	6
<b>1913 Campaign Fund.</b>			
Miss Matheson	0	5	0
Miss Lovsey	0	5	0
Mrs. Ballance	0	5	0
	£1,707	2	0

Election Fighting Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	5,303	5	0
Mrs. Roberts (2nd donation)	1	0	0
Miss Roberts (2nd donation)	1	0	0
Miss C. A. Jones (2nd donation)	2	2	0
Mrs. Townsend (2nd donation)	10	0	0
Mrs. Slous	1	0	0
Mrs. Jones	0	15	0
Mrs. Hans Reynolds (2nd donation)	2	0	0
The Misses Kemp (2nd donation)	5	0	0
Mrs. A. Whitting (2nd donation)	1	0	0
Mrs. Todd (quarterly donation)	0	13	0
Mrs. Homan (2nd donation)	2	0	0
Mrs. Carter	0	12	6
<b>Houghton-le-Spring By-Election.</b>			
The Hon. Mrs. Graves	5	0	0
Mrs. R. Uniacke	1	0	0
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### News from the Societies and Federations.

**Kent.**  
**FOLKESTONE.**—The Folkestone Branch is making steady progress and has never had a larger membership than it has at present. The chief event of the past month was the holding of a Sweated Industries' Exhibition at the Town Hall on March 29th. The Exhibition was organised by the following Suffrage Societies: The New Constitutional, the Church League, the Men's League, and the National Union, who combined to furnish a stall stocked with their respective publications. Six women workers exemplified untraded labour and awakened great interest as they plied their trades of trouser-finishing and the making of shirts, boots, artificial flowers and match-boxes. Behind each worker hung a printed card setting forth the average rate of wages and the number of hours of labour customary in her trade. The Exhibition was opened by Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, who kindly undertook this office in the unavoidable absence through ill-health of Lady Brassey. Speeches on Women's Suffrage and the "Economic Position of Women" were also made by Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, the Rev. Claude Hinschiff, of the Church League for W.S., Mr. Vulliamy, Secretary of the Cambridge University Men's League for Women's Suffrage, and Mr. Proctor, of the Men's League for W.S. Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, who has constantly given valuable help to the local branch of the National Union, was in the Chair. The local newspapers showed great interest in the work of the various Societies, and gave good reports of the Exhibition.

**MARGATE.**—This Society is doing a busy trade selling THE COMMON CAUSE in the streets and at the doors of the Cinema Theatres. A 30-inch advertisement has been published in the best known local paper, protesting against violence and urging people to join our non-militant Society. The *Gazette* has also opened its columns to our Cause and published an admirable letter from G. M. Sewell on "Citizenship and the Vote" (reprinted from the *Standard*), as well as a letter from the Organiser announcing a forthcoming Public Meeting. Posters are being displayed in all parts of the town and handbills distributed.

**RAMSGATE.**—Quiet propaganda work is being done here. Leaflets are distributed amongst the tradespeople and protest posters placed in prominent positions in the town. There has been an increase in membership and several canvassers for "Friends of Women's Suffrage" have offered themselves.

**ROCHESTER.**—This Society is doing sound and steady work. The thoroughness of its propaganda and the stimulating effect of its distribution of leaflets and display of posters is shown by the increase of its membership—a most encouraging and satisfactory result.

**TONBRIDGE.**—On March 18th a meeting of members and friends was held at Hope House, when an address was given by Miss Griffith Jones on "The Present Position of Women's Suffrage." Mrs. Venning presided. Two resolutions were adopted by which a Government Measure for Women's Suffrage was demanded and the violent methods of the militant suffragists were condemned. A Public Debate was announced for March 28th, to be held in the Public Hall Chambers at 8.15. By 8 o'clock the room engaged was full and as considerable numbers of people were still endeavouring to gain admittance, the meeting was adjourned to the Large Hall. The Rev. Llewellyn Smith (Hon. Secretary, Men's Church League) spoke admirably on behalf of the justice and expediency of extending the franchise to women. In the unavoidable absence of H. Williams for the N.L.O.W.S., Miss Mabel Smith spoke for the anti-suffragists. Mr. Goldberg was Chairman. On the motion being put to the vote, 70 voted for Women's Suffrage and 25 against. Nearly half the audience gave no indication of opinion.

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS.**—A Lantern Lecture, "Women at Work" was given at the Town Hall on March 27th. Lady Matthews presided, the speaker being Miss Moseley. Much interest was shown in the meeting, which was an enrolment of new "Friends of Women's Suffrage." On April 2nd an "At Home" for the "Friends" was held at the office by Lady Matthews. Mrs. Dodd, Miss Dickinson and Lady Matthews addressing the gathering. The speaker's class is being held weekly. A few members have resigned in consequence of the adoption of the Anti-Government policy by the N.U.W.S.S.

**Oxon, Berks and Bucks.**  
**BANBURY.**—The second annual meeting was held on March 14th. Mrs. F. J. K. Cross took the Chair and moved the adoption of the Report, which was seconded by Mrs. Haverfield (Oxford). The Report showed that the membership of the Society has just doubled in numbers during the year, and that the Society is in a flourishing condition.

**BERKS (N.).**—Mrs. Tatham, of Abingdon, lent her drawing-room for an afternoon meeting on March 11th. The speeches from Mrs. Cartwright and Miss Dora Mason resulted in a gain of four new members.

**HERTS (W.).**—A Jumble Sale was held on March 11th which resulted in the addition of £3 15s. 7d. to the funds of the Society. On March 13th an open-air meeting was held in the Market Place. The speaker was Mr. Mackinlay. At the end of his speech many questions were asked on the subject of Militancy, the Croxley Station, about a mile away from Watford, having been burnt down a few days before; the meeting was, however, perfectly quiet and orderly.

On March 31st Miss Abadam addressed a crowded meeting of about 450 people on the subject of the White Slave Traffic. She proposed the following Resolution, which was carried by an immense majority, only three anti-suffragists holding up their hands against it: "That this meeting is not satisfied with the scope of the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1912, and is of opinion that the question of the White Slave Traffic will not be effectually dealt with until women have the vote, and therefore demands that a Government measure to enfranchise women should be introduced and carried through all its stages this Session." Leaflets were distributed and literature and THE COMMON CAUSE were sold

in the Hall, a collection of £3 10s. 3d. being made. A number of new members gladly joined the Society as a result of this meeting, and many supporters have been gained.

The educational work begun in January by Miss Mason at one of the factories in Watford has been carried on, and some of the girls are now genuinely interested, and ask intelligent, instead of flippant, questions. The fortnightly meetings for members and friends continue. At the last one the new by-election policy of the National Union was the subject of discussion. The Secretary in charge at Rickmansworth arranged a meeting on April 8th for the members there, to discuss the same subject.

**KING'S SUTTON.**—The Members met on April 1st at Greycourt, where Mrs. Browne entertained them to tea. Future plans were discussed, and arrangements made for a meeting in April at the Council Schools.

**MAIDENHEAD.**—A successful meeting was held by permission of Mrs. Tabois at her studio in Harrow Lane on March 10th, when Miss Violet Eustace gave an interesting speech on the World-wide Women's Movement, tracing its historical development. One new Member and several "Friends" joined. On March 11th a Meeting was held at the Mill House, Cookham, by invitation of Mrs. Muller. Mrs. Matheson delivered an interesting address on "Voteless Men and Women in Russia," describing their fierce efforts for freedom from the year 1848 and onward. In Russia the idea of disability on the ground of sex does not prevail, and men and women have struggled side by side for political rights. Mrs. Oldershaw, who took the Chair in the absence of Mrs. Robie Uniacke, referred to the aims and objects of the National Union.

**OXFORD.**—Miss Helga Gill has been engaged as organiser to the Society. She will begin work on April 21st.

**READING.**—Miss Violet Eustace addressed the West Reading Adult School on March 9th, the subject being "The World Movement for Women Suffrage." The audience of both men and women, though not large, was interested and sympathetic, and much discussion took place after the address. On March 13th Miss J. O. Ford was chief speaker at a meeting held in the Palmer Hall. The audience were delighted with Miss Ford's vivid description of personal experiences and her moving account of the lives of some factory workers. In the absence of Mrs. Muller, Mrs. Robie Uniacke, Mr. F. J. K. Cross took the Chair. Dr. Sydney Gilford spoke on Women's Suffrage and the Labour Party.

#### Scottish.

**GLASGOW.**—The organising of sub-committees and branches in the separate constituencies of Glasgow has proceeded during the month with the following results:—

**BRIDGETON.**—In view of the fact that it is proposed to make Bridgeton a Fighting Fund constituency, visiting in the district has been active, and a Drawing-room Meeting is being arranged.

**GOVAN.**—A separate Committee in Govan is also forming and there is every hope that it will soon be in full swing.

**PARTICK.**—The energetic Sub-committee in Partick made arrangements for the very successful Suffrage Debate held on March 6th in the Partick Burgh Hall, when about 700 people were present. The affirmative was maintained by Dr. Elsie Inglis in one of her most convincing speeches. Mr. Robie Uniacke supported the negative, and many spontaneous contributions were given to the debate, principally, if not entirely, from the Suffrage point of view. As a result of a show of hands, the Chairman, Mr. Ballantyne, was able to announce an overwhelming majority for Dr. Inglis.

**RENFREWSHIRE (EAST).**—The East Renfrewshire Sub-committee has been busy for the last month in connection with a Jumble Sale, which was held on April 5th.

**ST. ROLLOX.**—A successful meeting was held in the constituency on March 3rd. About a hundred people were present—an excellent attendance, considering the short space of time given to organising. A Miss Munro was in the Chair, and the speakers were Miss Helen Waddell and Mrs. Laird. Three new members joined, and the collection amounted to £1 6s. 6d. The St. Rollox Women's Guild was also addressed by Mrs. Jackson on March 10th and fourteen Friends were enrolled. Miss Kirby obtained eight more Friends at a meeting held in Dennistown on March 18th.

**TRADESTON.**—The work here is progressing favourably, and College, although holding somewhat aloof, is hoped will improve in time.

Three "At Home" have been held at the Omoo during March. On March 7th an excellent paper, "Women as Educationists," from Miss Frances Melville, B.D., was read in her unavoidable absence by Miss Stuart Paterson. On the 14th Miss Henderson, Parliamentary Secretary for the Federation, spoke on the Council Meeting held in London, concerning herself more particularly with the new by-election policy. This was well reported in the  *Herald*. Dr. Jane Robertson gave the last paper of the series on March 28th, a very interesting one, on "Women in Medicine." A number of Speakers' Classes have been held at the Office, promising soon an excellent crop of fresh speakers. Owing to a misunderstanding, a meeting held in Motherwell on March 29th did not gather the large audience its speakers deserved, the addresses from Miss Gordon, Miss Stuart Paterson, and Mr. Ballantyne being most interesting. The question of Motherwell is being seriously considered at present at Glasgow Headquarters. It will probably be organised as a branch Sub-committee.

On the 31st a Drawing-room Debate was held in Milngavie by the kindness of Mrs. Kelsall. The subject was "Militancy versus Non-Militancy." Miss Jarvis, seconded by Mrs. Kelsall, spoke in favour of militant methods, while non-militancy was supported by Dr. Jane Robertson and Miss M. Kerr. A very lively debate ensued, and a vote being taken, 9 were found to favour militancy, while 16 were against. Four new members joined imme-

diately, and good seed was evidently sown in several others present. Altogether 34 new members have joined the association during March, and about 50 "Friends" have been enrolled.

**KILMACOLM.**—The Society's Annual Meeting took place in March, when the addresses given by Dr. Everett MacLaren and Miss McNaught on Eugenics were much appreciated.

**LEVEN.**—The Annual Social Evening of the Leven Women's Suffrage Society was held on March 27th in spacious Kirk Hall. There was a large attendance, considerably over two hundred being present, and the programme, consisting of music, a dialogue, and a speech by Dr. Elsie Inglis, was greatly enjoyed. Several new members and "Friends" were gained.

#### West Lancs., West Cheshire and North Wales.

**BIRKENHEAD.**—The Annual Meeting was held on March 17th in the Institute Room, Park Road, Mrs. Kent presiding. Miss Jessie Beavan, Hon. Secretary of the Federation, gave an address, which was listened to with interest. Miss Wyse, by invitation, gave an address on "The Attitude of the Government to Women's Suffrage" to the Current Events' class of the Men's Adult School, Oxton Road, on March 17th. The Address was followed by a good discussion, several of the audience signing the "Friends of Women's Suffrage" cards.

**CHESTER.**—An afternoon meeting was held on April 1st at the Holborn Restaurant, Foregate Street. Miss Tomkinson presided, and Miss Eskridge spoke on "The present By-Election Policy of the National Union." One new member joined and a fair collection was taken.

**CHIRK.**—A most successful meeting was organised by Miss Stewart, Secretary of the Llangollen Society, on March 18th, in the Council Chamber of the Chirk Parish Hall; unfortunately the room was not large enough to hold all who wished to be present. The audience consisted mainly of colliers and their wives. Miss Stewart took the Chair and Mrs. Harley spoke. The curate of the Parish had given much help in introducing Miss Stewart to the colliers, and moved a vote of thanks to the speakers. The workers had been told that there would be disturbances, but fortunately this prophecy was falsified. The rest of the organising work has been done by the Liverpool and District Trades Councils and Branches of the Trade Unions, details of which have been published already in THE COMMON CAUSE.

**CHORLEY.**—A Members' Meeting was held to arrange work to follow up the by-election. Owing to the policy pursued at the election by the National Union 200 Liberals were present and several sent in their formal resignation.

**LIVERPOOL.**—A meeting of members was held at the office of the Society on March 17th. Miss Chubb presiding. Mrs. Egerton Stewart Brain, Hon. Secretary of the Federation, and Miss Jessie Beavan spoke on "The New Policy of the National Union." A discussion followed, in which several members took part.

**PENMAENMAWR.**—The Annual Meeting was held on March 10th in the Hewan Hall, Penmaenmawr. Mrs. Herbert Jenkins, President of the Society, took the Chair; Miss Muriel Matters, who spoke, was listened to with interest. Mr. Phillips also spoke in Welsh. The meeting was well attended, and the cause of Women's Suffrage has made a distinct advance in the district.

**PRESTON.**—A meeting of members and Friends was held at the Café Orient, about 100 being present. Mrs. Lowry, a member of Committee, spoke on "Problems of the Age, Mental Deficiency and Eugenics."

**WALLASEY AND WIRRAL.**—This Society started the "Friends of Women's Suffrage" scheme at a meeting of the New Brighton Women's Temperance Guild. Miss E. F. McPherson spoke on "The Legal Position of Women"—14 out of 15 women present signed the cards.

**WARRINGTON.**—Mrs. and Miss Crossfield gave an "At Home" in the Ladies' Parlour, Cairo Street Schools, on March 10th. Invitations were principally sent to non-members, between 70 and 80 being present. After tea, Miss Jessie Beavan, Hon. Secretary of the Federation, gave an address. Mrs. Griffiths, Miss Fairclough, and Mr. Redfern provided a charming musical programme, and 13 new members joined at once and probably more will do so.

**WREXHAM.**—Dr. Katherine Drinkwater and Miss Wadsworth were hostesses at a Drawing-room Meeting held on March 14th at Grosvenor Lodge, where Miss Muriel Matters spoke. In the evening a meeting for men only was held in the Central Hall when Miss Matters again spoke. Mr. Hubert Drinkwater, M.D., took the Chair.

#### Yorks: N. & E. Ridings.

All communications for the N.E. Federation should, until further notice, be sent to Mrs. Catt, Pavilion Terrace, Scarborough. She has now undertaken the Hon. Secretaryship permanently, having been appointed at the Federation Committee meeting in March. Miss Dutton is working in Wensleydale, a hitherto untouched part of the Federation, and is making good progress.

**HARROGATE.**—The Annual Meeting was held, by invitation of Dr. Laura Veale, at 23, York Place, on March 11th. There was a good attendance of members who elected the officers and Committee for the ensuing year. The Committee was greatly strengthened and already good results are being seen. The Secretary's report told of many successful meetings held during the past year, and of the opening of the new Branch at Ripon. The Treasurer's report was equally encouraging, showing a balance on the right side. An interesting report of the Annual Council meeting in London was read by one of the delegates. Miss Dutton, in the Chair, summed up the political situation, and explained the

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Yorks: N. and E. Ridings.—(Continued).

National Union policy for 1913 in a clear way, and answered several questions arising from her remarks. It was decided that work should be done among the Women's Co-operative Guild and the Adult Schools. Plans are being made for propaganda in the outlying districts of Harrogate during the summer. Two meetings have been arranged for next month, at which Mrs. Swanwick will speak, and there is every prospect of making great progress during 1913.

HULL.—A successful meeting was held on April 8th at 17, Jameson Street. The speakers were Mrs. F. Richardson, who explained the new policy of the National Union, and Miss Annie Jackson. Congratulations were sent from the meeting to the three members of the Hull Society who were elected as Guardians of the Poor on April 7th. Seven Women Guardians were elected in Hull.

GRMSBY.—This Society held its first Annual Meeting on March 5th. The Secretary's report showed an arduous and successful year, the membership having increased from 40 to 250. The Treasurer's report showed a balance in hand of £9 15s. 9d. Last year's officers and Committee were re-elected; several new ones being also elected to fill vacancies. Mrs. Ritching, the delegate to the Annual Council meeting of February 27th, gave a full report of what happened there. Miss Norma Smith followed with an interesting speech.

MALTON AND DISTRICT.—On February 18th a Drawing-room Meeting was held at Mrs. de Mirimonde's. Mrs. Proctor of Huttons Ambo, was in the Chair, and Mrs. K. E. T. Wilkinson, of York, gave a very able address. Four new members joined and copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. On March 28th a Public Meeting was held in the Adult School when Mrs. Edwin Gray was in the Chair and Miss L. O. Ford the principal speaker. Miss Dutton made an appeal on behalf of the Society for more members and funds. Miss Dutton has been working in Malton, paying calls and speaking at a Cottage Meeting and an Invitation Meeting.

SCARBOROUGH.—On February 26th and March 6th new members were entertained to tea in the office. On March 14th the Lecture, arranged by the C. and U.W.F.A. on "Women at Work," was held and was delivered by Mrs. Handcock in the Municipal Schools, Miss Alice Thompson in the Chair. Between 50 and 60 were present; there was a good collection and the local Press published an excellent notice. The Bazaar Sale on March 29th added over £5 to the funds. A show of posters, press cuttings, photos, etc., in the window of an empty shop, next the office, was begun on January 23rd, and will be continued till the end of April. The poster, "Protest Against Violence," has a prominent place.

WHITBY AND DISTRICT.—At the request of the Federation this Society held a Sale during February in the rooms of the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Tattersfield; £8 9s. 4d. was realised, which sum was divided between the Federation and the Society. A member of the W.S.S. Committee stood as candidate at the recent Board of Guardians election. Canvassing was done on her behalf by members of the Society, and to our satisfaction she was returned. We have now two Committee members who are Poor Law Guardians. Some members of the Society who have the municipal franchise sent questions to their candidates at the local elections asking whether they were or would be in favour of (1) the equalisation of the Local Government franchise for women with that for men; (2) the appointment of women to the local Committees for the administration of the proposed Mental Deficiency Bill; and (3) a Resolution on W.S. if brought before the District Council. Some useful information was collected through the replies received.

The anti-suffragists have been helping us lately in rousing interest in the question of Women's Suffrage by drawing-room debates between the two Societies. These are not so formidable as public debates, and are at the same time an education in themselves. The credit of the idea, which seems to appeal to many people who could not be induced to attend our meetings, is due to our opponents, and the scheme may be recommended for apathetic districts, where any interest displayed in public questions, no matter on which side they may be ranged, is preferable to a dead-alive indifference.

YORK.—On April 2nd a Cottage Meeting was held at Mrs. Newcombe's, 25, Sward Street, when an interesting address was given by Mrs. Meyer. Although only five of Mrs. Newcombe's friends attended the meeting may be considered successful, as at the close the whole five were enrolled as members.

Suffrage Canvass in North Westmorland.

The Annual Meeting of members was held on Friday, April 11th, in Mr. Garside's Pavilion, Ambleside, Mrs. Cunliffe presiding in the unavoidable absence of Col. Mair, J.P., the President of the Society. Satisfactory reports were presented showing that the Society now numbers 182 members, and that the income during the year from members' subscriptions, donations, etc., including a successful "White Elephant Sale," held in the grounds of "Croft" last September, amounted to over £80. The report of the Divisional Secretary, Miss Sharp, gave details of the canvass made in December last, which resulted in hundreds of postcards being sent to Mr. L. Sanderson, M.P., requesting him to vote for one of the women's suffrage amendments to the Franchise Bill. Each postcard was signed by a voter in the North Westmorland division. The figures for Grasmere, where a complete canvass was made, are of much interest. The total number of voters on the register are 105. Of these 96 signed the postcards, 44 refused, and 25 were either absent or illiterate. We found that about 70 per cent. of those canvassed signed in favour of some measure of women's suffrage. After the adoption of the reports and the re-election of the present Officers and Committee, interesting addresses were given by Miss G. W. Evans and Miss Coyle, and the meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Cunliffe and the speakers.

Meeting at Bath.

On April 9th a meeting was held at Oldfield Lodge School, by kind permission of Miss Ellis. There was a very good attendance, and Miss Adamson, B.Sc., took the chair, the principal speaker being Miss Tanner, from Bristol, who gave a most interesting address, and was well supported by Major Boileau. Much interest was evoked by the presence and opposition of Dr. Norburn, a well-known local "Anti," who strongly opposed "Votes for Women." His arguments, however, were ably met and answered by Miss Tanner and Miss Adamson. Others present asked intelligent questions and a lively interest was taken in the proceedings. At the close of the meeting a vote of thanks was proposed to Miss Tanner and Major Boileau, and a collection was taken, and "Friends of the Women's Suffrage" cards were distributed.

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Forthcoming Meetings.

ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION.

APRIL 18. New Brighton—Green Tea Room—(Wallasey and Wirral Society)—Miss Jessie Beavan—Chair, Mrs. Masters 8.0 Newcastle—Annual meeting—Chair, Dr. Ethel Williams—Speaker, Miss I. S. A. Beaver 7.30 Hawes—National School—Speaker, Miss Dutton—Chair, The Rev. T. E. Ellgood. 5.0 Birmingham—Franchise Club, 10, Easy Row Debenham—Foresters' Hall—Miss Colman, Miss Waring, B.A., Miss Garlich 8.0 Sheffield—Nether Schoolroom—American tea and Annual Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Benton 3.30 East Bristol—Women's Suffrage and Labour Campaign—April 18-26—Speakers, Miss Margaret Robertson, Ald. F. Sheppard, J.P., Mr. J. O'Grady, M.P., Mr. R. C. Wallhead, Councillor Ayles, Miss Barrett, etc.—Meetings to commence 8.0 Camberley—Oddfellow's Hall—Speaker, Miss Wright: Recitations 3.30

APRIL 19. Aysgarth—The Institute—Primrose League—Speaker, Miss Dutton. 6.0 Camberley—Porterberg Hall—Miss Agnes Dawson—"Why Women Teachers need Votes." 3.0

APRIL 21. Hereford—Perivall Hall—Public meeting (women only)—Miss Abadam, "White Slave Traffic"—Chair, Mrs. Lilley 8.0 Birkenhead—Egerton House, Rockferry—Hostess, Mrs. Winder—Drawing-room meeting—Chair, Mrs. Hodgson, P.L.G.—Speaker, Miss J. Beavan 3.30 Sheffield—St. James' Schoolroom—Jumble Sale 2.5 Salford—Oldfield Hall, Gardenwall Street—Miss Hatton 8.0 Croydon—Mrs. Akroyd, "School Clinics" 3.30

APRIL 22. Lowestoft—Mrs. Swanwick Afternoon. Mrs. Swanwick Evening. Accrington—Oswaldtwistle Weavers' Institute—Chair, Mr. Hartley—Speakers, M. T. Richardson, M.P., Mrs. Annot Robinson. 8.0

Bacup—Natural History Rooms—Chair, Mr. Thomas Howarth—Speaker, Mrs. A. Nield Chew 7.30 Farnham—Ranson's Rooms, South Street—Mrs. R. Durand, on "Where Women Vote"—Tea, 4.30; meeting, 8.0 Waterloo Park—Beech Lawn—Drawing-room meeting—Discussion 8.0

APRIL 23. Beccles—Lecture Hall—Public meeting—Mrs. Swanwick, M.A.—Chair, The Rev. F. W. Bennett Symons 3.0 Darlington—Temperance Institute—Hostess, Mrs. Baynes—Speaker, Mrs. J. D. Bilcliffe 7.30 Kirkheaton—Socialist Club—Chair, Miss Siddons—Speakers, Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. Benton "Socialist Club—Chair, Miss Siddons—Speakers, Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. Benton 7.15 Diss—Assembly Rooms—Public meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., Miss Colman 8.0 Leeds—9, Park Lane—"At Home" 3.30 Dudley—Temperance Cafe, High Street—H.H. the Rance of Sarawak, Mrs. Harley, Miss Noel Wright 3.30 Great Bookham—Victoria Hall—Public Meeting—Chair, Mrs. Homan—Speakers, Mrs. Ashby Corbett, Mr. Cameron Grant. 8.0 Brighton—9, Standford Avenue—Hostess, Mrs. Hardy—Miss Florence Haythar, on "Women in Art and Literature" 8.45

Gateshead—Suffrage office, 115, High West Street—Social meeting—Speaker, Miss S. M. Foley, "Women Workers in the Church." 2.30 Lowestoft—Beaconsfield Lecture Hall—Meeting (women only)—Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., "White Slave Traffic" 3.0 "Beaconsfield Lecture Hall—Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., "The Ode of the Vote" 8.0 Hull—Church Institute, Albion Street—Speaker, Miss Geraldine Cooke—Chair, Miss Annie Jackson 8.0 Bristol—St. Agnes Vicarage, St. Paul's—Fortnightly meeting—Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, Mrs. Rashleigh 3.0 Bridgenorth—Miss Abadam 8.0

APRIL 24. Norwich—Thatched Assembly Rooms—Annual meeting—Speaker, Mr. J. Cameron Grant—Chair, Mrs. James Stuart 8.0 Stowmarket—The Beches—Hostess, Miss Worthington—Speaker, Mrs. Swanwick—Chair, Miss Hitchcock 3.0 Castleford—Women's Co-operative Guild—Co-operative Hall—Miss I. O. Ford. 8.0 Woking—Public Hall—The Earl of Lytton "Votes for Women"—Chair, The Marchioness of Downshire—Performance of "The 218 Look"—The Actresses' Franchise League 8.15 Hove—24, Clarendon Villas—Miss Coast, "Sweated Industries" 8.0 Felixstowe—Hamilton Hall—Public meeting—Chair, Mrs. W. T. Griffiths—Mrs. Swanwick, M.A. 8.15 Llangollen—Pavilion—Speaker, Mrs. F. A. Steel—Chair, Mrs. John Alkin 4-6 Gateshead—Suffrage office, 115, High West Street—Social meeting—Speaker, Miss Sheard 7.30 Bristol—2, Park Avenue, Victoria Park—Miss Tanner, Mrs. Willis 8.0

APRIL 26. Preston—Café Orient—Meeting for members and friends—dramatic performance 7.30 Gateshead—Ely Street—Jumble Sale 2.30 Broadwater—The Shrubbery—Mrs. Chapman's "At Home"—Chair, Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell—Speaker, Miss Rosamund Smith, "Friends of Women's Suffrage Scheme." 8.0 APRIL 28. Hindley (Wigan)—Public Hall—Meeting—Chair, Mr. Cooper—Speakers, Mr. Stephen Walsh, M.P., Mrs. Mitter Wilson, Mrs. Annot Robinson 7.30

LONDON.

APRIL 18. Islington—Miss J. Bisset Smith's, 57, Hillmorton Road, N.—Study Circle 8.0 APRIL 21. Walthamstow—The Pioneer Institute, 182, Hoe Street—Lantern Lecture on "Hungary," by Miss A. Hibbert-Ware 7.45

APRIL 23. Highgate and North St. Pancras—21, Clevedon Mansions, Lissenden Gardens, N.W.—Drawing-room meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Ronald Garrett—Chair, Mrs. Garrett—Speaker, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, L.L.D. 3.30 Holborn and South St. Pancras—25, Cartwright Gardens, Euston Road, W.C.—Social meeting for working women—Speaker, Miss Anna Martin, B.A.—Tea 8.30

APRIL 24. Holborn and South St. Pancras—6, Gordon Square, W.C.—Drawing-room meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Candeley—Speaker, Mrs. Gimingham, M.A.—(A genuine old Chinese robe will be for sale.) 4.30

Hoxton—Hoxton Market Mission, Pittfield Street—Three meetings—Speakers, Miss Anna Martin, B.A., Miss Ruth Young 8.0 North Hackney—Ferdale, 4, Durlay Road, Amhurst Park, N.—Drawing-room meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Summers—Speaker, Miss Agnes Dawson 8.0

APRIL 25. Islington—Miss Bisset Smith's, 57, Hillmorton Road, N.—Study Circle. 8.0

APRIL 26. Stepney—Trafalgar Social and Athletic Union—Trafalgar Square Evening School, White Horse Lane—Debate—Captain Furber, Mr. Maurice Liverman 8.0

APRIL 28. Islington—Mrs. Bartram's, Fernlea, Kelross Road, Highbury—Study Circle 8.0 Greenwich—St. Paul's Parochial Hall, Royal Hill—Public Meeting—Chair, The Ven. Archdeacon Essex—Speaker, Miss Sterling 8.0 Kensington—Upper Kensington Lane Council School—Public Meeting—Speakers, Miss M. Fielden, Miss F. M. Hewitt 8.30

SCOTLAND.

APRIL 18. Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters, "Penal Reform" 4.30

Newhaven—Free Fisherman's Hall—Miss Muriel Matters 8.15

APRIL 19. Bo'ness—"At Home"—Miss Muriel Matters 5.30

APRIL 22. Edinburgh—Livingstone Hall—Miss Matters, Miss Alice Low 8.0

Glasgow—151, Greenhead Street, Bridgeton—Miss W. Kerr's Drawing-room meeting—Miss Kirby, Dr. Jane Robertson. 8.0

APRIL 23. Leith—Board Room, Co-operative Society, Bangor Road, Miss Muriel Matters 3.0

APRIL 24. Newtongrange—Lothian Hall (L.L.P. Party)—Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters 7.0

APRIL 25. Public meeting—40, Shandwick Place—Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters 4.30

APRIL 26. Leith—Public meeting—Smith's Rooms, Leith (Duke Street)—Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters 8.0

Edinburgh—Drawing-room meeting—25, Regent Terrace (Mrs. McLaren)—Miss Muriel Matters, Miss Alice Low 3.0

MEETINGS ADDRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL UNION.

APRIL 22. Totterdown—Co-operative Guild—Miss Agnes Tanner 3.0

The following meetings in the Houghton-le-Spring Division have been arranged by the National Union:— April 19—New Seaham—L.L.P. 10.45 April 19—Houghton—L.L.P. 6.30 April 21—Miners' Hall, Ryhope—Chair, Councillor R. Richardson 7.30 April 23—Preliminary meeting—Ryhope 6.30 April 23—Miners' Lodge, Moorsley 7.30 April 23—Preliminary meeting—Philadelphia 6.30 April 30—B.W.T.A., New Herrington. 8.0

We are informed that Miss Abadam is speaking in Ireland on the following dates:—

April 25—Waterford 8.0 April 26—Cork 8.0 April 28—Cork 8.0 April 29—Limerick 8.0 April 30—Nenagh 8.0 May 1—Birr 8.0 May 2—Dublin 8.0 May 3—Dublin 8.0

Coming Events.

We shall be glad to announce Meetings of Societies, Lectures, etc., in this column, and a charge of 2s. per insertion of 24 words will be made. To ensure insertion in our next issue all advertisements must be received not later than Wednesday morning.

A DRAWING-ROOM MEETING will be held at the house of Miss Southwell, "Fairfield," Bridgton, Shropshire, April 23rd. Chair, the Rev. W. G. Clark-Maxwell. Speaker, Miss Abadam. "White Slave Traffic."

CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (CARDIFF BRANCH). First Public Meeting, Y.M.C.A. Hall (opposite T.U.B.), Thursday, April 24th, 8 p.m. Speaker, Rev. Claude Hinscliff. Admission free.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. Public Meeting, Caxton Hall, April 23rd, at 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Morivale Mayer. Chair, Miss Nina Boyle. Admission free.



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## GENERAL.

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