

The Common Cause

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

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Notes and Comments.

The Political Situation.

In the article under this heading, last week, the following passages should read thus:

The time table, as indicated by the Prime Minister gives no justification whatever for the suggestion that he has any intention of contravening the pledge given on November 17th, 1911. To withdraw the Bill or to reverse, either in the letter or in the spirit, the pledges regarding the intention of the Government to proceed with the Bill, and the introduction of amendments to enfranchise women on other terms than men, would weaken the prestige of the Liberal Party beyond recovery.

Mr. Asquith has told us that a majority of the Cabinet are in favour of women's suffrage, and the entire majority supporting it in the House is reckoned at 131.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's speech on the occasion of the introduction of Mr. Snowden's amendment to the Home Rule Bill on November 5th was a striking prelude to the intended action of the Labour Party to "fight all the way and every ditch of the road respecting the enfranchisement of women, and to vote at every stage of the Government Bill for the inclusion of women in its scope."

The division on November 5th, and the fact that 30 Liberals voted according to their principles and against the Government Whips, gives a reliable indication of the limits beyond which party influence's powerless.

Mr. Keir Hardie's Hopes.

Mr. Keir Hardie, speaking last week at York and at Nelson, declared himself fairly confident that some amendment to the Reform Bill enfranchising women would be carried this Session. Mr. Hardie belongs to a cautious nation, and is not at all disposed to make statements without believing that there is a substantial basis for them. He also said, in reply to questions, that the Women's Social and Political Union had done more to damage Women's Suffrage than all other causes put together—a weighty pronouncement from a man who has been an avowed suffragist for many years before that union was founded, and who showed for some years nothing but friendliness towards its endeavours.

What "Militants" now want.

It may be well at this point to remind readers of THE COMMON CAUSE what it is that at this moment the "militant" suffragists wish. They wish—according to their own declaration—that the Reform Bill shall be withdrawn and that a Government measure to enfranchise women shall be introduced instead of it. As a first step, therefore, they desire that an amended Reform Bill shall not pass; and any concerted outbreak of militancy

that may occur between this time and the introduction of the Bill will be actually designed to damage its chances. Those Members of Parliament, therefore, if any, who vote against suffrage amendments on account of "militant" deeds will be actually fulfilling the wishes of the perpetrators. What would really be annoying to the violent group (whom at this stage it is absurd to call suffragists, since they are working for the defeat of suffrage amendments) would be to pass the measures that they are trying to defeat; and to show them and the public that the people who were right were those suffragists who have always worked within and according to the law.

Maintenance Grants to Wives.

Under the Summary Jurisdiction (Married Women) Act of 1895, magistrates have the power of deciding that maintenance grants to married women, under Separation Orders, shall be paid into Court. It must be evident to any thinking person that a woman should not be required to apply personally, week by week, for the money legally allowed her, to the man whose cruelty or drunkenness has compelled her to separate from him. In many instances women have been brutally ill-treated on such occasions; in others the husbands have absolutely refused to hand over the money (which the Court had ordered them to pay unconditionally) unless the women would consent to return to them. Of the "reconciliations" that are enumerated so complacently by well-to-do people unacquainted with the realities of poverty, a considerable proportion are due merely to the compulsion of wives who cannot see their children starve and are unable to extract the maintenance grant.

A Better Plan.

The Women's Industrial Council has lately made inquiries on this point and found that in Liverpool practically all grants were ordered to be paid into Court and that the magistrates of Manchester have lately followed the same practice. In London women sometimes ask that their money may be paid to some official for them, but the request has not always been granted, the reason given for refusal being that all officers and other persons connected with the Court have already too much to do to undertake this extra duty. The Women's Industrial Council addressed a letter to the Home Office which resulted in the issuing of a circular to all Metropolitan Magistrates by the Secretary of State, who suggested that a trial of this system should be made in the Metropolitan Police Courts, and recommended that before making any Maintenance Orders under the Act of 1895, the Magistrate should ascertain that the woman understands that two alternative modes of payment are open to her under the Act, and should make sure that the alternative which is more beneficial to her should not be overlooked owing to her ignorance of her rights or her failure to make the necessary application to the Court.

Penal Reform.

The annual meeting of the Penal Reform League takes place this evening at eight, at the Caxton Hall, and should be particularly interesting. Sir John Macdonell will preside, and the speakers will be the Rev. Dr. Cobb, Mr. Atherley Jones, M.P., Commissioner Adelaide Cox, of the Salvation Army, and Dr. Frances Ede, who has herself been in prison. Some readers of THE COMMON CAUSE may have seen a reprint of the noble and touching speech which she made in Court.

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

ADVERTISEMENTS (Trade), S. R. Le Mare, Advertisement Agent, 21, Paternoster Square, London, E.C.

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 Joint Campaign."

Meeting in the Opera House.

BY MRS. H. FAWCETT, LL.D.

A short account of the morning session of the Conference called by the Joint Campaign Committee to promote the inclusion of women in the Government Franchise Bill, was given in our issue of December 6. The meeting was of such great importance and significance that, as THE COMMON CAUSE had to go to press before it was possible to give any account of the afternoon session, we once more return to the subject.

The officers of the National Union had already, several days before the Opera House Conference, received a positive assurance from one of the most eminent members of the Cabinet, that the rumours which have been so industriously circulated, that Mr. Asquith would retire if any of the women's suffrage amendments were adopted by the House of Commons, were absolutely without foundation. The reiteration of this assurance by all the most influential speakers at the Opera House meeting on December 4, was the outstanding feature of the Conference. Speaker after speaker said the same thing; Mr. Henderson, Sir John Simon, Mr. Acland and Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald. Without, of course, using identical terms, they virtually repeated what Mr. Lloyd George had said in February, regarding the nature of the promises given by Mr. Asquith on November 17th, 1911, viz., to suppose after those promises that the Prime Minister would resign if the House adopted a women's suffrage amendment was "an imputation of deep dishonour," which would be repudiated with indignation by every member of the Liberal Party. Sir John Simon said that the promises of the Prime Minister of November 17, 1911, created an opportunity for the practical success of the women's suffrage movement which had never before existed. There were two great risks in the way of the accomplishment of women's suffrage during the present session. One arose from the lack of unity among different sections of suffragists inside the House of Commons, and the other from outbreaks of violence which had already been "palpably disastrous." The risk arising from want of unity among different groups of suffragists, it was the object of the Conference to minimise. Every single-minded suffragist in the House, whether Liberal, Conservative or Labour, ought to unite in supporting the amendment on the first line of the first subsection of the first clause, to omit the word "male." If this were successful, and it ought to be successful by a substantial majority, it did not in itself enfranchise women, but the door would be opened for subsequent amendments defining the particular kind of suffrage which the House desired to see conferred upon them. If it were defeated, Sir John Simon's opinion was that all women's suffrage amendments would be ruled out of order. It was an error which was constantly promulgated by the anti-

Lord Tullibardine again.

Most readers will have seen Lord Tullibardine's rather wandering letter to the Press, with its declaration that he should now become an anti-suffragist and its insinuation that the "guilty conscience" of the National Union at once identified the un-named "indecent pamphlet" of his question. Mrs. Fawcett's reply (which appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* of Monday, December 9th) points out that in the two years since he became a Member of Parliament Lord Tullibardine has already voted on several occasions against Women's Suffrage; and that the name of the pamphlet was discovered by getting friends in the House of Commons to enquire it.

Women Advertisers.

Women's achievements in the direction of publicity have received recognition at the Advertising Exhibition being held from December 9th to 14th, at the Horticultural Hall, Westminster. In the small section allotted to the display of posters, catalogues, and newspaper advertisements designs by women is the exhibit of Miss Frances L. Fuller, of 20, Brook Street, W., who is, we believe, the only woman at present carrying on an "Advertising Agency" business in London, which has been established and carried on throughout by herself. We understand she is successfully managing the advertisement pages of various papers, and specialises in schemes of publicity for professional and business women.

Municipal Councils and Suffrage.

The gentleman who wrote to us recently has repeated his exhortations to his fellow countrywomen to abandon working for Parliamentary enfranchisement and devote themselves instead to local government work. He does not think that the question of income enters into the matter. The writer of our note, however, was well aware of the great difficulty of finding, in the wealthy London borough of which she is an elector, a qualified woman who could afford both the necessary expense and that devotion of almost all her time which is required. The number of qualified women is everywhere comparatively small; at least half of those qualified are engaged in earning their living or by family duties which deny them the needed leisure. If our correspondent were to take the register of women burgesses in any town, and to canvass them, as other people have done, he would learn that there is not, in fact, a large population, but a very small one, of possible candidates. But, evidently a hundred women can give a little time to suffrage work for one who can stand as a municipal candidate. Hence that comparative affluence of suffragists which he deplors. Of course, the local government candidate is (in seven cases out of nine) also a suffragist.

Women and the Royal Geographical Society.

The question of admitting women as Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society will come up for consideration at a meeting on the 15th of January, and Lord Curzon has written a letter on the subject (printed in the "Woman's Platform" of *The Standard* for December 2nd), over which Suffragists will be apt to chuckle. His lordship remarks:—

We do not anticipate that there will be such a rush of women anxious to obtain the privilege of fellowship as to confront us with any problem of overcrowding, and it will always be in the power of the Council, as an electing body, to keep within reasonable limits the feminine addition to our ranks. We should, indeed, hope to begin by inviting a small number of women, distinguished in the pursuit of geography, to accept the first batch of fellowships, with a view to instituting a reasonable standard of qualification. No disqualification being placed upon any woman when elected, women would under our proposal be competent for election to any of the offices of the society. But here again the society will be the master of its own fortunes, and the consequences are not such as we regard with the slightest apprehension.

It sometimes looks as though the Anti-Suffragist attitude of giving to women everything except that for which women chiefly ask will considerably lighten the work remaining to be done after the vote has been secured. The time lost in agitation is not, after all, wholly lost.

Manchester Suffrage Campaign.

The Manchester Society opened its week's campaign on Monday, December 9th, by holding eighteen meetings in nine shops which have been taken in different places. Mr. Richard Robinson, Miss Ashton, Professor Chapman and Mrs. Chapman and Professor Alexander took part in the meetings held in St. Ann's Square.

suffragists that the only choice before the House of Commons was suffrage for every adult woman, or the total exclusion of all women. This was entirely incorrect. After the carrying of the omission of the word "male," there would be a series of amendments in a descending scale. The first would embody adult suffrage—that, Sir John Simon believed, had little chance of acceptance by the House; the second was known as the Dickinson or Norway amendment, giving suffrage to women householders; the definition of householder in the case of women to include the wives of men householders; the third would be on the lines of the Conciliation Bill. Sir John Simon himself preferred the middle or Dickinson amendment, and believed it had a good chance of success if a fair amount of Conservative support could be secured for it. In this connection, he paid a warm tribute to that "honest, courageous Conservative, Lord Robert Cecil," who had given such whole-hearted support to the women's suffrage cause. The other risk, the renewal of violence and outrage, was also referred to by all the speakers. The danger it creates arises not only from the alienation of sympathy and support inside the House of Commons, but from the hostility it arouses outside the House in the constituencies. A movement like women's suffrage, which in the nature of the case has no large body of voters disposed to give it a first place in their political programme, depends most essentially on arousing public opinion in its favour; and public opinion was obviously estranged and alienated by militancy.

When Mr. Acland spoke, in opening the afternoon session, he said, while reiterating the general opinion that militancy was the chief obstacle to the success of the women's cause at the present time, that it was satisfactory, considering women's want of political education, that only one society was now definitely adopting militant methods, and that this society was one which did not practise what it preached—votes for women—but was governed on absolutely autocratic lines.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's speech was awaited with great interest; because, as chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, he represented the only political party which has made the enfranchisement of women one of the objects for which it strives. He addressed himself to the subject from the point of view of the House of Commons. He said the battle was won as far as argument was concerned. It was won, too, in the sense that it had a majority in the House of Commons. "We have got our majority; the practical question is:—How are we going to make it effective?" After declaring himself with no uncertain sound against militancy, he replied to a question which had been put to him from the audience, "What would the Labour Party do on the Third Reading in the event of women not being included in the Bill?" He said he did "not believe in a policy of threats, but he would say this:—It would be both disgraceful and unfair to leave women out, and he did not believe it would be done. The Labour Party were convinced that manhood suffrage ought not to be given now unless there was a large and substantial inclusion of women. I am out," he added, "to get votes for women. The practical question is how are we going to do it?" He denied an accusation that he had ever repudiated his Albert Hall pledge, but he did not want to commit the Labour Party to a hypothetical situation which he did not believe would ever arise.

Before the meeting closed, Mrs. Fawcett, in response to a question from the audience, explained the position of the National Union, and said that while they stood for suffrage for women on the same terms as for men, they attached immense importance to breaking down the sex disqualification in any shape. People talked about a "broad and democratic suffrage," but it was much more broad and democratic to admit even a small number of women to the franchise than to keep all women out. A democracy founded on the exclusion of half the population was a sham, and was false to the facts of human life.

Rosalind, Countess of Carlisle, who followed, said she could not answer for the Women's Liberal Federation that they would be as patient in the future as they had been in the past, if the success of women's suffrage was further delayed.

The resolutions submitted to the meeting were carried unanimously, and the whole proceedings were throughout both orderly and enthusiastic. There was a large attendance of Members of Parliament.

A verbatim report of the speeches of Mr. Henderson, Sir John Simon, Mr. Acland, and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, and of Sir John Simon's speech separately, can be obtained from the Secretary, Women's Suffrage Joint Campaign Committee, 30, Queen Anne's Chambers, Tothill Street, Westminster, or from the Literature Department of the National Union of W.S. Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

"Reclamation Road."

While all England is full of outcries against the white slave traffic, and while our Parliament can find no punishment too severe for those who are engaged in it, the English Governor of Ceylon, urged by the Inspector-General of the local police, is actually refusing to put into force the laws of that island as to the closing of houses in Colombo in which young native girls are held prisoner to serve the vices of white men residing in or visiting that town. There exist ordinances dating from the year 1889 and enacted by Sir Arthur Gordon, then Governor, "by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council," according to which any person who keeps or manages such houses, is the tenant, lessee or occupier, or the lessee or landlord of them is declared to be guilty of an offence, and liable at the discretion of a court of law to fine or imprisonment.

Yet there has existed for years in a street bearing the ironical title of "Reclamation Road" a row of such houses, two of the most conspicuous and well-known being those of a woman called Goldenberg (who says openly that a thousand girls have passed through her hands), and of a Sinhalese called Chara. In these houses are a certain number of white women—rarely English (it is one of the customs of this traffic that women are not put under a government of their own nationality) but often German or American—and a further number of very young native girls, nearly always less than twelve and sometimes less than ten years old. Of these children, some have been sold to procurers by their parents or guardians, some enticed and some kidnapped. These houses are frequented chiefly by white men of some social standing in Ceylon, as well as by European passengers arriving from ships—who are, indeed, often carried into Reclamation Road by rickshaw men to whom they have given no such instructions. This occurred, for instance, to a Nonconformist minister who reported the fact.

This state of affairs was, some years ago, brought to the attention of Mrs. Human, a sister of Mrs. Constance Garnett, and of Miss Clementina Black. She was taken to see a Sinhalese girl-child dying in the hospital of disease contracted in one of these places. From that day she never rested from enquiring into the facts, and endeavouring, when she had learned them, to get these markets for the sale and destruction of children abolished. Many men and women in Colombo joined in the effort, and a memorial signed by members of the Legislative and Municipal Councils, and by the most influential European and native citizens was addressed, first to the Inspector-General of Police and then, since he did not take action, to the Governor, Sir Henry Macallum. The replies sent were marked *Private and Confidential*. They contained no denial of the character of the houses, but expressed an opinion that any attempt to abolish prostitution and houses of ill-fame was an impossibility. That is to say, the Governor and the police, entrusted with a specific duty by the laws under which they were appointed, deliberately refused to carry out that law. If they believed it impossible to fulfil the duties laid upon them by their office, their proper course was to resign. They have continued ever since to ignore the ordinances of 1889, and the vicious houses go on and flourish while the police patrol Reclamation Road and watch the customers come and go.

Naturally, the group of people who felt the horror of this sacrifice of children did not desist from their efforts. In 1910, Mrs. Human was in England, and consulted various people, including the late Mr. Walter MacLaren; and in September, 1911, a petition, signed by many well-known Colombo ladies, was sent to the Governor. It set forth (1) that the presence in the vicious houses "protected by the police," of young native girls, "some apparently as young as 10, 11 and 12," was personally known to some of the signatories; (2) that the children were practically slaves, and that they never had a chance of seeing respectable women, or making known any wish to escape; (3) that no such house could be kept open for any length of time without fresh supplies of girls, and that the Government "by countenancing and protecting these houses is acquiescing in the procuring of girls"; (4) that the petitioners realised that difficulties might be imposed upon the police, and that disorder might possibly arise in the town, but that they ventured to say that "justice to these native girls demands that this risk shall be run, and to point out that if a resolute policy is adhered to, the disorder at worst can only be temporary."

A reply was sent to the effect that enquiries would be made for "any young immature native girls," and that if any were found, the Government would co-operate in their removal. An enquiry accompanied as to persons or institutions willing to receive such girls.

Sir Edward Grey and Women's Suffrage.

The following important letter from Sir Edward Grey was read at the Suffrage Demonstration, held in Glasgow upon December 9th:—

"Women's suffrage will have its chance in the Government's Reform Bill. There is no truth in the report that if a women's suffrage amendment to the Reform Bill were carried it would be followed by a resignation which would break up the Government. The corollary of such a position would be that if women's suffrage were not put into the Reform Bill the members of the Government who are in favour of women's suffrage should resign and withdraw their support from the Bill. This is not the position. On the contrary, if women's suffrage is put into the Bill by the House of Commons the Government will continue their support as a whole, and women's suffrage will become part of a Government measure. The members of the Government who are in favour of women's suffrage and those who are adverse to it will equally accept the decision of the House of Commons whatever it may be. This is the one method which is fair to the House of Commons and to the question of women's suffrage, and it is the only possible method of enabling the House of Commons to decide this question on its merits, and to make women's suffrage, if it chooses, part of a Government measure. In no other way can this be brought about, for the present Government are divided on this question, and if the Opposition succeeded us to-morrow they would form a Government that would also be divided on the question. Everything depends upon the feeling of the House of Commons. The greatest obstacle to the question is the exasperation which has been caused by militant acts of violence, and which will be increased to an overwhelming degree if they are continued. The greatest danger to women's suffrage consists in this exasperation, and those who attempt violence and intimidation are far more hurtful to women's suffrage than any of its declared opponents. It is by argument, sympathy, and conviction that the day will be won."

Among other letters from friends of the movement read on the same occasion was one from Lord Haldane, which contained the following passage:—

"My message is that those who believe in their cause must not for a moment allow themselves to be disheartened by either the opposition of those against them, or by the folly of those militants who have done their party much damage. This is a time in which passion and prejudice about women's suffrage have been stirred up to an extent without precedent. But I am convinced that when the tumult which can only be temporary has died down, it will be found that the cause has been making much progress. The number of those who hold serious views about it on one side or the other is far greater than was the case three years ago. People now think of this as of a practical and pressing problem. I entertain little doubt of what the ultimate judgment of the majority will be."

Lord Selborne expressed his hope that the meeting might:

"lend strength to our protest against the injustice and folly of a proposal to grant the franchise to every man, however unfit, while leaving the most fit and capable of our women citizens without it."

Mrs. Fawcett reminded the Suffragists of Scotland that:

"We are in the most important crisis which the suffrage movement has ever reached. Our enemies are vigilant, and many of them are unscrupulous. We shall need all our courage and strength to fight the good fight against them. But there can be but one end to this great struggle. The great victories recently won for the suffrage cause give us the strongest assurance that our victory cannot be far off."

Mrs. Emily Davies, after congratulating Scottish Suffragists upon coming forward in response to the recent Anti-Suffrage meeting in Glasgow, added:—

"May we not infer that the anxious activity of our opponents at this critical moment is stimulated by a well-grounded fear that the battle of so many years is on the eve of being crowned with victory?"

And Sir John Macallum concluded a brief letter with the words:—

"I think the cause looks more hopeful at this hour than it has done for some months."

Mrs. Human wrote to say that the Salvation Army Rescue Home would gladly receive as many such girls as could be accommodated there. She added: "While we are thankful for any steps that may lead to the removal of young girls who are now in these houses, yet their removal was not what we asked for in our petition. We asked for the closing of the houses themselves. While these remain open, it appears to us to be in vain to suppose that the traffic in young girls will cease. Other girls will be brought to replace those that may be taken away." It does not appear that any "young immature girls" were found. Since the police are anxious to prevent the closing of the houses, they are, of course, not anxious to make damaging discoveries about them. All that has occurred is that children are kept better hidden. Yet more than one has been seen since.

In the summer of this year, Mr. John Cowen, a representative of the National Vigilance Association, came to Colombo, and began a vigorous campaign. Volunteers patrolled Reclamation Road, a register was kept of men visiting the houses—a register found to consist largely of the names of resident Europeans; such men were addressed and asked to go away, and much information was collected about the manner in which these establishments were carried on. A letter from Mr. Cowen was published, entire, in THE COMMON CAUSE of August 8th, 1912; and, generally in a truncated form, in some other papers. It contained a full and lucid account of the situation, aroused much attention here, and was quoted in Parliament, but produced no practical effect in Ceylon. The next step was to establish, under the editorship of Mr. Cowen, a weekly paper: *The Christian Watchman*, in which the facts were stated plainly; but the names of the men noted were not printed, although a warning was given that this step might be taken as a last resort. *The Christian Watchman* makes painful reading for English people who wish to be proud of their country, and throws a lurid light upon the character in which our Government must appear to native parents whose daughters have been abducted.

At the present moment, Mrs. Human and a Salvation Army nurse have gone to live in Reclamation Road, at a house between that of Mrs. Goldenberg and that of the infamous Chara. Of the house, as it was before she took it, she writes, in a private letter, thus:—

There is an open drain, nearly in the centre of the one living room; there are no windows in this room, only barred ventilators at the height of 8 or 9 feet; there is only one door, no back entrance—and that door opens on the road. This door was always closed, of course, in the day-time except for the peephole in it, with the slide over it. Fancy having a meal in such a place! Upstairs the floor is divided into six rooms with a passage between. Three, those occupied by the foreign women, have windows and look over the road to the harbour; the three others have no windows nor lights, and are merely wooden cubicles, each with a door with a bolt inside and out. These were the Sinhalese girls' rooms. . . . Half-way down the stairs are two extra rooms, also bedrooms. The whole house has gas laid on. . . . I am tempted to go even if we have no windows. But . . . we want that room to be pleasant, and to have books and magazines, and outside to put up in big letters: "All women are welcome."

Thus now in Reclamation Road two decent women are living in the midst of these nests of vice, and, outside, decent men are passing up and down and suffering insult and assault—one, Mr. Houlder, was stunned by an unprovoked blow, and lay unconscious "for a long time" one night in August. No notice was taken of the incident by the police.

All Colombo knows now what are the facts, what is the law, and that the Governor refuses to administer the law. Many people in England now know all this, too. Surely the fight cannot last much longer, and surely it can have but one end.

Timely Help.

We have received from Miss Naish, Hon. Treasurer of the Birmingham and District Association for the Rescue and Training of Young Women, a kind and most helpful letter about the case of a young girl mentioned in the COMMON CAUSE of November 29th. This letter has been forwarded by the next post to the lady who called our attention to the case; and we hope that in consequence of it the poor girl's child may be born among good influences, she herself helped to useful work, and the father compelled to contribute to the infant's maintenance. As the excellent report of the Association justly says: "It is impossible for a girl without training to earn enough to keep herself and her child. The most satisfactory help is that which pilots her safely through the time of acute distress, and guides her to an honourable and self-supporting future."

Women's Tax Resistance League.

On Friday, December 6th, Mrs. Cecil Chapman stated her reasons for being a Tax Resister during the sale of her goods at the Broadway Auction Rooms, Walham Green, where a large crowd had collected. A very interesting meeting was held after the sale in Kelvedon Hall, and Mrs. Cecil Chapman took the chair, the speakers being Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Miss Eaton, Mrs. Juson Kerr. The procession to and from the auction room was most effective, as a large number of members and friends attended. On the same evening Mrs. Kineton Parkes spoke on Tax Resistance at a meeting held in the Scotch Café, Kingston Bridge, which was organised by the Kingston W.S.P.U.

Mrs. Harvey, of Bromley, Kent, the "champion barricader," whose siege of eight months came to an end last week, had her goods sold on Monday, December 6th. There was a joint demonstration made by the W.F. League and the Women's Tax Resistance League, and a procession formed up at Bromley Station and marched to the Drill Hall, where the goods were sold and where the protest meeting was held. Speeches were made by Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle, Mrs. Kineton Parkes, and Miss Amy Hicks, M.A.

Some New Books.

MARIE ANTOINETTE: HER EARLY YOUTH. By Lady Young-husband. (Macmillans, 15s. net.)

This interesting volume contains a detailed account of the life of Marie Antoinette from her marriage to her husband's accession. It brings out the incredible difficulties and dangers of the position in which this girl of fourteen was placed in a foreign court, under the nominal rule of a king who was weak, unprincipled, and swayed by an ambitious and vulgar mistress. The boy, whose wife she was in name, was awkward, shy and helpless; the daughters of the king, who became her aunts by marriage, and tried to influence her, were always in the wrong; the ladies of her household were either foolish or mischievous; her mother, Maria Theresa, was too autocratic in her advice from a distance, and, in short, the only useful care or guidance available for the poor little Dauphine came from the Austrian Ambassador, Mercy d'Argentau, who watched over her with somewhat of the care and a little of the fussiness of an uncle. Lady Young-husband brings out, very justly, the essential rectitude and frankness of the princess's character, and sets her reader wondering at the very few mistakes made by her.

The book would have been easier reading if it had been arranged on a more strictly chronological system. To return, after reading of Marie Antoinette's marriage, to her childhood, and even to the marriage of her parents, is confusing, and the confusion is not lessened by a sudden allusion to events in the exiled family of Louis Philippe. We must seriously protest against calling a date the "anniversary" of an event that happened many years later.

THE PROBLEM OF RACE-REGENERATION. By Havelock Ellis. (New Tracts for the Times. Cassell, 6d. net.)

The Problem of Race-regeneration, as dealt with by Mr. Havelock Ellis, is a fascinating study. This book is written in a way that will appeal both to the practical and the sentimental. While dealing with materialistic things, Mr. Havelock Ellis never seems to lose sight of the something higher, and it is only people who approach this subject in that way who will ever make Eugenics popular or productive of good results.

The writer deprecates the prevalent idea that parents are not responsible for the advent of children—that their coming is in the hands of Providence. He points out that a high death-rate is often the concomitant of a high birth-rate, and a high death-rate means also a high defective rate. The dead baby is next-of-kin to the diseased baby. The result of feeble-mindedness is often immorality, and the propaganda of the unfit a problem of overwhelming importance. The burden of the unfit is becoming almost more than the fit can bear. During recent years £22,000,000 have been spent in this country on the enlarging of asylums. Yet, though millions are being spent on tinkering with bad results, little is done to remove causes. Mr. Havelock Ellis quotes:—"To-day the dregs of the human species—the blind, the deaf mute, the degenerate, the nervous, the vicious, the idiotic, the imbecile . . . and the epileptic—are better protected than pregnant women."

The problems that the future has to face are:—(1) The use of the control of the number of children as a lever to regenerate the race. (2) The prevention of the unfit from propagating the unfit. Mr. Ellis makes suggestions with respect to the unfit which very few people will consider either drastic or unfair.

This is a book that ought to be read. L. F. WARING.

MARRIAGE AND MOTHERHOOD: A WIFE'S HANDBOOK. (The People's Books. T. C. and E. C. Jack, 6d. net.)

This is a sensible little handbook dealing lucidly with the hygiene of "the great miracle of maternity." As the author points out, many young women enter on married life with the vaguest glance forward to the facts and duties of motherhood, under which circumstances its advent is often heralded by undue alarm, and its subsequent functions are carried out with insufficient watchfulness. As both these states of mind are prejudicial to the health of parent and child, and as rule-of-thumb information obtainable from "elderly, gossiping women" is

usually unreliable, the author has not overstated the case when he says that the young wife seeking knowledge on these intimate and important matters, "cannot do better than choose a book on the subject by a reliable authority." This little volume answers a need, and has the advantage of being written by a medical man of repute, of being expressed in simple, non-technical terms, and of being eminently practical. It is, however, surprising that in the concluding chapter, which deals with the care of the newly-born child, that the author should refer to the "excellent results" ensuing abroad from the employment of the "wet nurse" in cases where a mother cannot suckle her own infant. The fact that the foster mother's own child is thereby deprived by economic pressure of its heritage is quite overlooked, although artificial feeding in this case is a greater ill than when resorted to by the well-to-do mother. We can, however, recommend the handbook to our readers' notice.

THE ART OF EXTEMPORE SPEAKING. By Harold Ford, M.A., LL.D. 11th Edition. (Elliot Stock, 2s. 6d. net.)

An eleventh edition of a publication is in itself a proof that it is filling a need in the community, and in the case of this little treatise on the first principles of oratory, we can endorse the general opinion by heartily recommending it to the notice of would-be public speakers. The Suffrage platform would indeed receive distinct aid if all new-comers who have the woman's cause at heart, but who lack the habit of addressing an audience, would assimilate the very practical advice given in this small volume.

THE LIGHT-BEARERS. By M. Sylvestre. (John Long, 6s.)

"The Light-Bearers" is an honourable attempt which falls short of success because the author can neither create a character nor write a plain, unexaggerated style. Meant for tragedy, it is but melodrama, and fails to touch because it never once commands belief. It was a little indiscreet to bestow upon the heroine the name of Tara, which almost inevitably recalls a refrain brayed, not so many years ago, by every barrel organ.

Books Received.

THE FOOD REFORMER'S YEAR BOOK, 1913. Edited by Henry B. Amos. (James, 3d.)

MARIE ANTOINETTE: HER EARLY YOUTH. By Lady Young-husband. (Macmillan, 15s. net.)

FOLK TALES OF BREFFNY. By B. Hunt. (Macmillan, 3s. 6d.)

THE ART OF EXTEMPORE SPEAKING. By Harold Ford, M.A. (Elliot Stock, 2s. 6d.)

THE BLUE BOOK. (Crosby Lockwood, 1s. net.)

A HOME HELP IN CANADA. By Ella C. Sykes. (Smith, Elder, 6s. net.)

THE ADVANCE OF WOMAN. By Jane Johnstone Christie. (J. B. Lippincott, 6s. net.)

MARGARET ETHEL MACDONALD. By J. Ramsay MacDonald. (Hodder and Stoughton, 3s. 6d. net.)

THE ROYAL PRIMROSE ATLAS. (John Knight, 1s.)

CHAMBERS'S JOURNAL (December). (W. and R. Chambers, Ltd., 1s.)

THE VINEYARD (Christmas Number). (Fifield, 6d. net.)

For the Complexion.

Have you ever realised how very necessary oil is to the health of the skin? Without it the skin soon becomes harsh and dry. Nature is always exuding oil through the minute oil glands, but we, with constant applications of soap, always more or less alkaline, and water, often hard, are robbing the skin of this oil. OATINE CREAM restores the oil to the skin, a thing that vanishing creams are unable to do, and in restoring it, not only keeps the pores open and the skin healthy, but cleans the skin and keeps the complexion clear, in a way that nothing else can do. A few applications prove this beyond question.

Send a postcard to-day for a free sample tin and booklet on the "Care of the Complexion," to the Oatine Company, 282, Oatine Buildings, London, S.E.—[ADVT.]

TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, Birmingham

R. CROMBLEHOLME, General Manager.

Public Support for Women's Suffrage.

We have pleasure in publishing the admirable table compiled by the West Lancashire, West Cheshire and North Wales Federation, showing the evidence of support for Women's Suffrage obtained in their area during the last year or two.

We are sometimes accused of devoting too much attention to the purely political side of the suffrage movement. Of course the Parliamentary work is only the machinery by means of which the pressure of public opinion created in the constituencies can be applied to Parliament in order to obtain the passage of a Women's Suffrage measure into law. The building up of public opinion is really the important thing, and for this we depend on the steady persistent propaganda work of our Federations and Societies. But a great deal of good work in the constituencies is wasted because it is not made politically effective. A carefully tabulated record, like that given below, is immensely valuable. It provides exactly the kind of evidence most needed to strengthen the hands of our friends in the House of Commons, and ensures that every piece of good work done by the smallest society in the remotest corner of the country shall have the utmost possible effect. In order to compile a table of this kind it is, of course, necessary for each society to keep record of all its activities and to report results to the Federation Secretary when required. A duplicate of the monthly COMMON CAUSE would serve this purpose.

We commend this plan to the imitation of other Federations.

C. E. MARSHALL,

Hon. Parliamentary Secretary (pro tem.)

EVIDENCE OF PUBLIC SPIRIT.

ELECTORS' PETITION.—General Election, January, 1910.

Number of Signatures obtained:—

Liverpool	..	..	..	9,748
Bootle	..	..	..	2,050
Widnes	..	..	..	1,373
Llandudno	..	..	..	700

WOMEN MUNICIPAL VOTERS' PETITION in Eight Wards of Liverpool and Bootle:—

Ward.	Number on Register.	Number Signed.	Refused.	Not seen.	Percentage of those seen who signed.
Netherfield	.. 352	.. 202	.. 16	.. 134	.. 92
West Derby	.. 545	.. 200	.. 75	.. 270	.. 73
Abercromby	.. 643	.. 321	.. 121	.. 201	.. 72
Granby	.. 679	.. 297	.. 145	.. 237	.. 67
Princes' Park	.. 616	.. 302	.. 77	.. 237	.. 79
Dingle	.. 550	.. 381	.. 65	.. 104	.. 85

Bootle:—

Derby	.. 227	.. 123	.. 54	.. 50	.. 69
Stanley	.. 216	.. 103	.. 39	.. 74	.. 72

Petition from Women Parochial Electors of Ormskirk, April, 1911.

Number of women on Register.	Number who signed.	Number refused to sign.	Number not seen.
269	.. 132	.. 52	.. 85

That is, 71 per cent. of those who had an opportunity signed the Petition.

From women householders of Penmaenmawr.

" " " " Pwllheli.

" " " " Parochial Electors of Llangollen.

" " " " Municipal Voters of Bangor.

" " " " ratepayers " Criccieth—109 signed out of 147

RESOLUTIONS IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE have been passed by:—

County, City, Town and District Councils, etc.

Carnarvonshire County Council (with no dissentients).

Liverpool County Council.

Chester Town Council.

Bangor " "

Preston " "

Warrington " "

Southport " "

Political Associations.

County Liberal Association of N. Carnarvonshire (twice).

County Liberal Association of South Carnarvonshire.

Merionethshire County Liberal Association.

Liverpool Liberal Federal Council.

Preston Men's Liberal Assoc.

Wallasey Town Council.

Widnes " "

Holyhead " "

Pwllheli " "

Ormskirk Urban Dist. Council

Huyton " "

Llandudno " "

Penmaenmawr, " "

Llanfairfechan, " "

Llangollen " "

Bethesda " "

Portmadoc " "

Dolgellau " "

Wrexham " "

Lleyn Rural District Council.

Nevin Parish Council.

Southport Men's Liberal Assoc.

Widnes " " "

Bangor " " "

Carnarvon " " "

Pwllheli " " "

Towyn " " "

Bala " " "

Portmadoc Men's Liberal Association Executive Committee.

Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Assoc.

Lancashire and Cheshire Women's Liberal Association.

Liverpool (East Toxteth, West Toxteth, Wavertree) Women's Liberal Associations.

Bangor Women's Liberal Assoc.

Carnarvon Women's Liberal Association.

Penmaenmawr Women's Liberal Association.

Pwllheli Women's Liberal Association and many others.

At many Conservative, Liberal and Labour Party Clubs, and Branches of the Working-men's Conservative Associations, favourable resolutions have been passed.

Other Bodies.

Liverpool Trades' Council.

Liverpool Federation of University Women.

Pwllheli Board of Guardians.

Women's Temperance Associations

Carnarvon

Pwllheli

Llanerch in Wales.

Llithfaen

Llanaelhaiarn

and many others.

The Women's Liberal Federation, the British Women's Temperance Association, and the Women's Co-operative Guilds all work for Women's Suffrage, and pass frequent resolutions on the subject. At any Literary and Debating Societies, resolutions in favour have been passed, in most instances unanimously.

REPRESENTATIVE MEMORIALS TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT:—

BOOTLE (To Rt. Hon. A. Bonar Law, M.P.).

This Memorial was signed by 38 out of 51 (nearly 75 per cent.) Members of the Executive Committee of the Conservative Association for Bootle Division.

By 32 out of 44 Members of the Bootle Town Council.

" 18 Medical Men out of 21 seen.

" 18 Clergymen, Priests and Ministers, out of 24 seen.

" 10 Justices of the Peace, etc.

(Out of 134 signers, 114 asked for support to the wider measure including married women).

ST. HELENS (To Mr. Rigby Swift, K.C., M.P.).

The signatures contained those of 13 out of 17 Members of the Executive Committee of the Conservative Association, and 30 out of 37 Members of the Town Council.

BLACKPOOL (To Mr. W. W. Ashley, M.P.).

CHORLEY (To Lord Balcarras, M.P.).

The signatures from the small town of Chorley contained those of 29 out of 32 Town Councillors, the Town Clerk, 23 Clergymen, 7 Doctors, 6 Lawyers, and 38 Mill Owners.

ORMSKIRK (To the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P.).

The Memorial was signed by

41 Members of the Urban District Councils of Litherland, Prescott, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale. (Refusals, 4; not seen, 6).

78 Members of the Executive Committee of the Conservative Associations of Skelmersdale, Burscough, Prescott, Ormskirk, Seaforth, Orrell and Litherland. (Refusals, 13; not seen, 10).

16 Doctors. (Refusals, 3).

22 Clergy and Ministers. (Refusals, 7).

8 Solicitors. (No refusals).

CHESTER.

Of the Members of the Town Council, 31 signed, 5 refused, 4 not seen; of the Executive Committee of the Conservative Association 17 signed (excluding Town Councillors), none refused; of the Executive Committee of the Liberal Association 34 signed. The signatures also included those of 45 Clergy and Ministers of Religion, 17 Doctors and Clerks, 13 Solicitors, the President and ex-President of the Trades and Labour Council and 9 prominent political workers (men and women).

INFLUENTIAL MEMORIALS signed by leading Liberals (men and women), by Members of Town Councils, and other public bodies were presented to the Members of Parliament for the following constituencies:—Carnarvon Boroughs, North Carnarvon (Arlon), South Carnarvon (Eifion), East Denbigh, Merioneth, and Montgomery Boroughs.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORIALS to the Government from typical classes of people, e.g.,:—

From 585 Women Members of Local Governing Bodies (Poor Law Guardians, etc.).

„ 70 Clergymen and Ministers of Religion (Liverpool and neighbourhood).

„ 169 Teachers (Liverpool and neighbourhood).

„ 159 Sick Nurses (Liverpool and neighbourhood).

Women's Suffrage Societies, comprising the West Lancashire, West Cheshire and North Wales Federation, exist in the following towns:—

Bangor & Dist.	Criccieth.	Newton-le-	Seaforth.
Birkenhead.	Dolgelley.	Willows.	Southport.
Blackpool.	Frodsham and	Penmaenmawr.	St. Helens.
Carnarvon.	Eddisbury.	Portmadoc.	Wallasey.
Chester.	Holyhead.	Preston.	Warrington.
Chorley.	Llandudno.	Pwllheli.	Widnes.
Colwyn Bay.	Llangollen.	Rhyl.	Wrexham.
	Liverpool.		

And Provisional Committees have been formed at Fleetwood and Blaenau Ffestiniog.

At least 385 Meetings have been organised by these Societies during two years.

Folk-song Concert.

We wish to call the attention of our readers to a concert of unusual interest which will be given in the Bechstein Hall on January 21. Much has been done to revive the folk songs of various countries, but Miss Floriel Florean is the only singer who has introduced to an English public the folk songs of South Africa.

She has collected them, arranged them for performance, and translated them. She sings in the "Taal" dialect, which is in itself both interesting and musical. We greatly hope that Suffragists will help to make this concert a success. They will incidentally benefit the Suffrage cause, as Miss Florean has generously offered to devote half her profits to Suffrage work, and a share will come to the National Union. Tickets may be obtained at Messrs. Michell and Ashbrooke, 7a, Piccadilly Mansions, Piccadilly Circus.

Real Lace for Presents—

"Oh! but I could not afford Real Lace." Well, call at Wilson's, of Bond Street—No. 68—and you will be surprised at what you can get for even a few shillings. Their little book, "Gratifying Gifts," gives some examples, and they are quite willing to make up a selection and send it for inspection.—[ADVT.]

BLOUSES

Our stock of Blouses is exceptionally large and well-assorted, and includes all the latest models produced for the coming Season.

BLOUSES, as sketch, in Ninon, with finely knife-pleated tucks, top part in fine shadow lace, finished with velvet tie and fancy buttons.

29/6

In black - - 35/9

Debenham & FreebodyWigmore Street,
(Cavendish Square) London, W.Famous for over a Century
for Taste for Quality for Value

This word — 'SANITARY' — indicates one of the important advantages of Southalls' Towels.

Ladies who really understand its health significance, never accept substitutes.

Every genuine Southalls' Towel is antiseptic throughout—and scientifically absorbent on the same principle as a sponge absorbs water.

Southalls', therefore, last longest, and, as they are unequalled for softness and silklike elasticity, give the highest degree of comfort and freedom. No lady should forego the advantages offered.

SOUTHALLS' TOWELS

are sold by all Drapers, Ladies' Outfitters, and Chemists, in silver packets, containing one dozen, price 6d. 1/-, 1/6 and 2/- Southalls' Compressed Towels, full size, in tiny silver boxes, size A, price 1d., size B, 1 1/2d., size C, 2d., size D, 2 1/2d.

The "Introduction Packet."

To facilitate personal test and prove the advantages and superiority, the Lady Manager, 17, Bull Street, Birmingham, will send the special Introduction Packet (size S) containing Six Towels in assorted sizes, under plain cover, post free for 6d. in stamps.

WARNING. Do not ask for Sanitary Towels — ask specially for SOUTHALLS', and refuse substitutes.

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

(Compiled from a Speech made by Lord Lytton at Salisbury.)

THE VALUE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY VOTE.

Many men have not yet realised what is the value of the Parliamentary vote. People should think not of the circumstances of their own lives, but of the conditions of thousands and thousands of others to whom the vote is a very necessary weapon.

A WEAPON OF SELF-DEFENCE.

It is those people, the conditions of whose lives and whose labour are intimately wrapped up with the machinery of politics, who, in their daily life and competitive labour, need most urgently this weapon of self-defence. It would be the means of enabling them to bring their interests, which are not otherwise noticed, to the attention of their representative, in Parliament.

THE LESSON OF THE PAST.

Any person who at all doubts the value of the vote should look at the history of any country which has developed democratic institutions. It will be found that there is nothing to which people have attached more importance than the question of whether they were, as a body, enfranchised or disfranchised.

HOW THE ENFRANCHISED FEEL.

There is no single class or section in the country possessing the vote who would be willing, without fighting for it, to give it up, if they were asked to do so.

WHAT IS ASKED FOR WOMEN.

The demand for the enfranchisement of women does not mean that every man and woman born into the world has an inherent right to the vote. What it means is that except peers, lunatics, and paupers (and there is a strong body of opinion that the last group are unjustly excluded), a vote is given to all classes and sections of the population which are specifically differentiated as such in the laws. There are many men who have not yet a

vote, but there is no single section, class, or body of men of whom it can be said that they are particularly differentiated in the laws, and who are without representation. Women form a section of the population specially differentiated in the laws as such, and yet without representation. That position is contrary to the spirit of representative government, and is unjust.

THE LAWS OF NATURE.

Does nature really keep women from political representation? Is it a law of nature that a woman may vote for a Poor Law Guardian, a Borough or County Councillor, but not for a member of Parliament? Is it a law of nature which says that women may vote for members of Parliament in Australia, New Zealand, Norway and even in the Isle of Man, and not in Great Britain? It is no law of nature. It is a law of man, and a silly and antiquated law.

PARLIAMENT AND THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.

There is no other political movement in the country at all comparable with the suffrage movement in respect of the interest, enthusiasm, and self-sacrifice of its followers. For many years Parliament had done nothing but trifle with this very serious question. There used to be a time when Great Britain prided herself upon being in the van of enlightened nations in matters of this kind. It will be deplorable if the country hangs back on such a question.

WHAT WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CAN DO FOR THE STATE.

The suffrage movement is giving to democracy a new ideal—an ideal which will place women side by side with men in the State, as they are in the homes, which will strengthen the hands of both for advancing the interests of the State. Not only will it give to democracy a new ideal; it will make democracy, for the first time in the history of this country, a reality.

In Parliament.

LABOUR EXCHANGE HOURS.—On Tuesday, December 3rd, Mr. Rupert Gwynne made enquiries of the Board of Trade about the hours during which the Eastbourne Labour Exchange was open, these being from nine to twelve, and from two to four—hours at which persons engaged in temporary work could obviously not attend. Mr. J. M. Robertson replied that the Exchange was a new one, that it had been thought at the outset that these hours would be sufficient, and that he would endeavour to arrange that no further difficulties of the kind should arise. It may be suggested that if and where it is found difficult to keep open an Exchange for very long hours it would be better to close during the whole afternoon and re-open between seven and ten in the evening—the hours during which practically all trade unions hold their meetings.

INDUSTRIAL UNREST.—Mr. Cooper inquired on December 4th whether the announcement, made on May 8th last, that the result of the Cabinet Enquiry into general industrial unrest might shortly be expected, is likely to be fulfilled at an early date, how many witnesses had been summoned, and whether any report on the subject could be made public. The Prime Minister mentioned that a special secondary enquiry had been entrusted to the Industrial Council, but on the main question merely observed that the proceedings of the Cabinet Committee were, of course, confidential, and he could make no statement with regard to them; an answer which was presumably accepted by most of his hearers as meaning that the official announcement made in May was not likely to be fulfilled. Yet, with one exception, unnecessary in these pages to specify, no more important matter has, during the existence of the present Parliament, demanded the attention of the Government, nor is there any matter the neglect of which is likely to entail upon the nation more serious consequences.

FAÇADE OF THE OLD POST OFFICE.—Mr. King is always concerned—generally with good reason—about the architectural interests of the public. He did good service by enquiring as to the fate of the front of the old General Post Office, which might, he hinted, be offered to any municipal or public authority outside London that might be willing to re-erect it in connection with a public building. Mr. Wedgwood Benn replied that the First Commissioner of Works was willing to consider any reasonable offer from any municipal or public authority as to the re-erection of the portico and was making that fact known as widely as possible by advertisement in the public newspapers.

PARLIAMENTARY WRITING MATERIALS.—There are still members of the House of Commons who do not use fountain pens. This we infer from the fact that they complain because rough writing paper and envelopes are no longer to be found in the Library, whereas smooth paper is more congenial to fountain pens. No doubt the presence of those attractive quill pens, some of which always adorn tables in the House's committee rooms, is responsible for the preference expressed for a rougher surface. We are shocked to learn from Mr. C. Bathurst that it was found by the Publications Committee that "the most expensive paper used in the House was only used elsewhere in Buckingham Palace."

COINS AND INSURANCE.—Captain Faber enquired whether firms employing a large number of hands whose wages are an even number of shillings experienced difficulty in adjusting the coins, in consequence of the provisions of the National Insurance Act, and whether the desirability could be considered of minting a new coin of the value of eightpence, which could be paid to employees from whom fourpence has to be deducted each week. Mr. Masterman, however, was discouraging; he had no sufficient evidence that the minting of a new coin of the denomination suggested is necessary or desirable.

REMUNERATION FOR EXTRA DUTIES.—Mr. Snowden tried in vain to get definite information as to the payment given to officers and surveyors of Customs and Excise for extra duties in connection with the National Insurance Act. His question implied that the bulk of the persons concerned would receive no extra remuneration until after a period of from ten to twenty years, in the form of an increase of £20 a year of the maximum salary; and as no denial was forthcoming, such are presumably the facts. It would be more satisfactory to learn that these officers knew the conditions when they consented to perform the extra duties.

AN UNCOMFORTABLE SCHOOL.—Mr. Chiozza Money called attention by a question to the lack of proper accommodation for hats and cloaks in a Church of England school at Uppingham,

where the outdoor garments of the children are piled in heaps on the floor, those of the clean with those of the less clean children indiscriminately. Mr. Pease replied that the inspector had reported last month that the cloak-room accommodation was quite insufficient for the number of children in attendance, and that the managers were being asked to furnish proposals for the necessary improvements. Surely the original wrongdoing arose when more children were admitted to the school than could be properly accommodated.

MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS' SUBSTITUTES.—On December 9th, Mr. Hackett asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland for the number of married female teachers whose salaries were withheld by the National Board because they could not provide substitutes as required by Rule 92; the total amount withheld under this rule; and the number of teachers who employed and paid substitutes; and further enquired whether it was proposed to recoup these teachers the amounts that had been withheld. Mr. Birrell replied that he was informed by the Commissioners of National Education that salary amounting to about £900 was withheld from 152 married female teachers because they could not provide substitutes as required by Rule 92; 287 teachers employed and paid substitutes, but the Commissioners have no knowledge as to the total amount paid to those substitutes. As to the last point, the Irish Government were "in correspondence with the Treasury on the subject of the enquiry." We hope to hear what is decided as to the recouping of these teachers.

Foreign News.

France.

At last, after many delays and a long, weary propaganda, the terrible stain on French law implied by the words "la recherche de la paternité est interdite" is removed. The Bill which brought about this reform was introduced some years ago into the Senate and passed on to the Chamber, where an amendment was added, excluding the native women in the Colonies from the benefits of the Act. This led to a campaign throughout the country, and an appeal to the Senate to reverse this decision. The result was delay in passing the Bill, without achieving the hopes of the objectors. Finally, the amendments were discussed and rejected, and the Bill passed the Chamber in the same form as before. The *Française* thinks that all practical feminists will rejoice at the result. To insist on the inclusion of the native women would have caused further long delays, and, perhaps, have endangered the fate of the Bill. Now, it is still possible to work for future amendment, and this will certainly be done.

The general effect of the new law is that paternity without marriage may be judicially declared in case of rape, seduction by treacherous means, when there is some written document to establish the paternity, when the parents have lived in open concubinage during the period of conception, and when the supposed father has provided or helped to provide for the education of the child in the capacity of father. Certain cases are expressly excepted, in particular that where the mother is guilty of notorious misconduct. Whatever grounds of criticism yet remain, the law testifies to an enormous advance in public opinion since the days of Napoleon.

Sweden.

The event of most immediate interest in Sweden is the election of the Town Councils. It is of special importance here to ensure the return of women, not only for the sake of their actual work on the Councils, but because in this way they secure an indirect vote for the Upper House. Five of the largest Councils elect members to the First Chamber, and as a result the elections proceed on strictly party lines. As the Conservatives are opposed to the enfranchisement of women, the Conservative women are asked to separate themselves from their party and either vote for a special list that includes only suffragist Conservative women, or to abstain from voting. In either case, these women would make their power felt, and that is the only way to bring the party leaders round to their cause.

As is pointed out in the organ of the National Suffrage Association, "At each election it is absolutely necessary to make the most energetic propaganda for the women's participation in the elections. Neither faint-heartedness, nor timidity, nor bad example must prevent the women from fulfilling their duty. With regard to suffrage, more than to most other things, we can apply the saying 'that it is a right only as long as we are fighting for it; when we have attained it, it is a duty!'"

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
 Hon. Secretaries: MISS K. D. COURTNEY, MISS EDITH PALLISER, MISS CATHERINE MARSHALL (Parliamentary), MISS EMILY M. LEAF (Press).
 Hon. Treasurer: MISS I. B. O'MALLEY (Literature).
 Secretary: MRS. AUERBACH.
 Miss GERALDINE COOKE.
 Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, W.C.

New Societies.

MORECAMBE ... North-Western Federation.
 BLAIRMORE ... Scottish "
 RHONDDA FACH ... South Wales "

The Annual General Council will be held as late as possible in February. A further announcement will be made when the date and hall are decided upon.

The office will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, December 25th and 26th.

Literature Department.

There is already a great demand for the useful and attractive Diary published by the Eastern Counties Federation. It is a pocket diary with a pencil, and besides the usual information printed at the beginning of diaries, it includes a preface by Mrs. Fawcett, lists of the Societies and Federations within the National Union, of other Suffrage organisations, of important dates in the Suffrage movement, and of books on the Suffrage question. It also has some useful parliamentary information.

It can be obtained from 14, Gt. Smith Street for 1s. 2d., subject to the usual discount, and from Mrs. Kellett, M.A., 4, Belvoir Terrace, Cambridge, for 1s. net.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

Press Department.

This week's *Labour Leader* contains a strong appeal to the Press, and especially to the *Daily Citizen*, to take advantage of the afforded opportunities by its arrival in London for fuller championship for the cause of Women's Suffrage. The claim for a better representation of the great constitutional movement for Women's Suffrage, and the campaign of education which "an army of women is ceaselessly conducting in the country, but about which comparatively little is heard," will be re-echoed by Suffragists from all parts of the kingdom. We look for adequate reports of such important conferences as that lately held at the London Opera House on December 4th. The *Labour Leader*, while "cherishing for the Labour daily newspaper a high ideal," expresses the hope that it will not only be enabled as time passes to develop its machinery and organisation, but will also give full significance to the movement it represents. With regard to the Suffrage, it says, "the *Daily Citizen* has rightly condemned the latest development of militancy on the part of the extreme Suffragists, as harmful to the Woman's Cause, but in giving prominence to the wild deeds of a few, it accentuates that harm."

It is interesting to remark that "J. J. M." in this week's issue of the *Labour Leader* admits that in his pessimistic analysis of the prospects of the different Women's Suffrage amendments to the Reform Bill, as in all which he writes in the columns of the *Labour Leader*, the opinion he expressed was merely individual. In reference to this, the letter of Sir Edward Grey, which appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* on December 10th, should be noted. Sir Edward Grey says "there is no truth in the report that if a Women's Suffrage amendment to the Reform Bill were carried, it would be followed by a resignation which would break up the Government."

The *Daily Chronicle*, on December 5th, says: "All the indications now are that a Women's Suffrage amendment to the Franchise Bill will be carried in the House of Commons. There is reason to believe that Mr. Asquith would loyally acquiesce in a free, unconstrained vote of the House, and would not relinquish its leadership, because the decision was one with which he personally did not sympathise."

The *Daily News and Leader* states forcibly its conviction that "the issue of Women's Suffrage ought not to be prejudiced by the fantastic follies of a few of its supporters," and it makes it perfectly clear that it understands the pledge of the Cabinet to mean "that it would hold aloof from any sort of party propaganda on the subject. Any attempt to influence members is a breach of the spirit of the pledge, and we hope that prompt

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steps will be taken to prevent the exercise of such influence. Mr. Lloyd George's repudiation of the doubts thrown upon the loyalty of the Prime Minister to his pledge will be welcomed. They show an entire misapprehension of the whole career of Mr. Asquith, whose faithfulness to a pledge has never failed."

E. M. LEAF.

Treasurer's Notes.

From next week my place at Headquarters will be taken by Miss Sterling, who has consented to take over the treasurership of the Union. All our members will agree that the financial affairs of the Union will be in safe hands. The work entailed in the Treasurer's department, with the unceasing growth and development of the Union, cannot be a light task, but I am sure every Suffragist will do what is in her power, as every one has done throughout this year, to ease the burden of those who are responsible at Headquarters for maintaining the efficiency of the organisation.

For the next few months I shall be absent in South Africa. It is with infinite regret that I bid good-bye to my fellow-workers at this time of stress and crisis. I shall follow the sequence of events as they happen during the coming weeks with anxiety and suspense. The cause of Women's Suffrage can suffer no real defeat, but it is possible that cowardice, selfishness, and reaction may have their way for yet a little longer. If those who are masters of no art or statecraft save that of political intrigue—and such men are to be found in every party—succeed in their attempts to persuade a sufficient following that party expediency can best be served by allowing each selfish faction and interest to profit by defeating Women's Suffrage in every shape and form, despite the known fact that a great majority of members of Parliament are convinced and declared upholders of the principle of admitting women to the franchise—then I shall know that it is not our cause that suffers defeat, but the renown of party government, and of Parliamentary institutions, that will lie low in the dust, and be besmirched with shame and dishonour. Suffragists will know that they at least have done all that lay in their power to do, and that in the long run no effort, no sacrifice, no labour, will have been in vain.

HELENA AUERBACH.


Contributions to the General Fund.

Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1912 ... £ 222 0 6
Received December 1st to 7th:—

Subscriptions.		£	s.	d.
Mrs. Howard	...	0	5	0
Miss P. G. Fawcett (2nd instalment)	...	34	0	0
Mrs. Powel	...	0	5	0
The Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves	...	0	5	0
Miss Teasdel	...	0	1	0
Miss Nancy Fleming	...	0	10	0
Mrs. Garrett Anderson	...	5	0	0
Miss E. M. C. Druce	...	1	1	0
Miss B. Paine	...	0	2	6
Donation.				
Mrs. Howard	...	0	15	0
Affiliation Fees.				
Morecambe W.S.S.	...	0	5	0
Blairmore W.S.S.	...	0	5	6
Berkhamsted W.S.S.	...	0	10	9
		£265	12	3

Correction December 6th, 1912.

The amounts contributed to By-elections should read:—
Miss Bertha Mason (Bow and Bromley By-election) ... 3 3 0
Mrs. Vulliamy (Bow and Bromley By-election) ... 5 0 0
West of England Federation (Taunton By-election) ... 5 0 0
West of England Federation (Bow and Bromley By-election) ... 5 0 0



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Election Fighting Fund.

News from Rotherham.

Things are moving in Rotherham, the constituency of the Anti-Suffragist Cabinet Minister who is in charge of the Reform Bill which excludes women. Reports come in steadily of the good work our organiser, Mrs. Townley, is doing there. We give below some extracts from the report in a local paper of a deputation of working-men who came up to London last week to interview their member. The men came on their own initiative, and to four out of the five the enterprise meant the loss of a day's wages.

A deputation of Rotherham trades unionists visited the House of Commons on Thursday for the purpose of interviewing the Right Hon. J. A. Pease, M.P., the Member for Rotherham, on the subject of his attitude on the question of extending the franchise to women. The deputation comprised Mr. A. Hutchison (general secretary of the National Union of Stove-grate Workers), Mr. J. J. Antram, Mr. R. Brooks (Carpenters and Joiners), Mr. A. W. Pearson (Shop Assistants' Union), and Mr. E. Ellison (Silverwood Miners' Association). The deputation was entirely unofficial, though in the case of the three last-named delegates a mandate for their visit had been given by a branch meeting, and Mr. Hutchison had a backing in the fact that both his branches had passed a resolution in favour of the extension.

Mr. Hutchison was the spokesman for the deputation, and he urged on Mr. Pease the importance of the question. They were there to ask him if he felt he could not vote for the extension of the Franchise to at least refrain from voting against Sir Edward Grey's amendment to the Franchise Bill, which meant the deletion of the word "male," and the extension of the vote to women. The Rotherham Trades Council, the L.R.C., the I.L.P., the Rawmarsh Trades Council, the Swinton Workingmen's Club, and some thirteen or fourteen trades union societies in the Rotherham Parliamentary Division had already passed resolutions requesting Mr. Pease to refrain from voting against this amendment, and they of the deputation hoped he would agree to that course.

The other members of the deputation also spoke, and emphasised the fact that there was a strong feeling amongst the various trade societies in the Rotherham Division in favour of the vote being given to women. They asked Mr. Pease to reconsider his position, and, if he could not support either Sir Edward Grey's amendment, the amendments of the Labour Party, or the one introducing the Norwegian system on the Conciliation Committee's amendment, to promise not to vote against these attempts to extend the Franchise.

Mr. Pease, we are informed by the Press Association, said he could not see his way to give the required promise. His attitude on the question was unaltered. He was strongly in opposition to any extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women, his main reason being that women are physically unfit to stand the serious strain of political life in the House of Commons. His views on the subject were, he said, fully before his constituency at the last election, and he maintained them unchanged.

The Rotherham branch of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers have passed a resolution regretting the attitude of the Right Hon. J. A. Pease, M.P., towards the enfranchisement of women, and urging the Government to pass no Reform Bill extending the franchise which did not include women.

SUMS RECEIVED.

Already acknowledged	£4,114 14 3
Mrs. Colman	2 2 0
Miss Nancy Fleming	10 0
Miss F. Heath	3 6
	£4,117 9 9

Oriental Fête.

London Society's Bazaar.

The Oriental Fête and Bazaar, in aid of the funds of the London Society for Women's Suffrage, held at the Empress Rooms at the Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington, was precluded by a costume ball which has scarcely been surpassed in brilliancy and animation even in that haunt of dancing. The great feature of the evening was a grand polonaise, in which all the guests joined, which was danced through the Oriental Bazaar in the Empress Hall. Lady Strachey, in the character of "The Mother of Pharaoh," led off this dance with her grandson, Mr. Richard Rendel—typifying the participation in the event of the old and the new generation—and among the many dancers, some disguised as houris and others bright with sequins, many a sober-minded friend of Women's Suffrage could be recognised.

The bazaar was opened on the noon of the following day by Lady Helen Brassey in the regrettable absence through ill-health

of her mother, Lady Brassey. The bouquets presented to Lady Helen Brassey and Winifred, Countess of Arran, respectively, were supplied by Messrs. Alexander and Co., 16, Brook Street, W. The opening ceremony was performed on the Saturday by Winifred, Countess of Arran.

It was a scene of gaiety and colour, for the stall-holders and their assistants were all arrayed in the brilliant costume of the East. The London Society is to be congratulated on the organisation of the prettiest and best-furnished of bazaars, remarkable for the absence from its stalls of the rubbish by which such enterprises are in general stocked. The abundance of excellent blouses, bags, children's frocks and embroideries showed a high level of ability in needlework on the part of Suffragists; and the Oriental costumes were strangely effectual in disguising well-known people. Where everything was well done praise is difficult. It was, however, impossible to take tea in the restaurant "run" by the Hampstead and Highgate committees without observing its admirable management and the singular efficiency of the volunteer waitresses whose promptitude, dexterity and attention far surpassed the ordinary professional standard. But, indeed, every detail had been intelligently planned and was perfectly carried out. As a demonstration of organising ability the bazaar was an unqualified success.

The entertainments in the bazaar theatre were also a very great success. On Friday and Saturday afternoons Miss Carra Lyle's Group of Children gave exhibitions of Greek, Egyptian and English dancing to very appreciative audiences. Then came "Harlequin Schooled by Love," a one-act play by Marivaux (translated by Mrs. Rendel), which proved immensely popular; and after the last performance of this play on Saturday night the audience called insistently for the stage-manager and producer of the play, Miss M. C. Strachey. The Variety Entertainments on Friday and Saturday afternoons were delightful, and among the artistes who so kindly gave their services were Miss Lucy Bensusan, Miss Percival Clark, Miss Caldecott, Miss Crawforth, Miss Emily Ford, Miss Nancy Lee, Miss Malecka, Miss Norbäche, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher White and Mr. Bernard. On Friday and Saturday evenings, the Elizabeth Bessle Comedy Company gave "The Stolen Statue," a farce in one act by F. Anstey, which was received with the greatest enthusiasm at each performance.



Take it when you are young—you'll have a good digestion when you're old.

If the mustard pot were as long as this

there might be some excuse to omit the mustard when you dine. But mustard is always waiting within easy reach to add enjoyment to the meal. Many a woman who is getting on in years owes her good appetite and sound digestion to the practice of taking mustard in her youth.

Colman's
D.S.F. Mustard

S.H.B.

Albert Hall, November 5th.

Table with columns for names and amounts under the heading 'DONATIONS, FIFTH LIST.'

Table with columns for names and amounts under the heading 'PROMISES.'

Table with columns for names and amounts under the heading 'SOCIETIES AND FEDERATIONS.'

CORRECTIONS. November 14th, 1912.—"Collected by a member of the Portsmouth W.S.S." should read "From the Portsmouth W.S.S."

East Bristol Campaign. The East Bristol campaign resumed work on November 19th with an excellent meeting at the St. Luke's Mission Hall, Barton Hill.

"The Woman's Question in Japan."

FROM A CORRESPONDENT. "If Japan progresses at this present rate, the coming of the Japanese Suffragette cannot long be deferred, and the sex war will grow keener and fiercer."

A remarkable campaign is going on amongst the students of the Waseda University in Tokyo. The Asahi Shimbun states that some of the young men formed themselves into a "Society of Justice" last April, with the object of fighting against the social evil and vice in general.

A Forest of Christmas Trees.

With the object of raising funds to promote Constitutional Women's Suffrage work in the Midlands, a forest of Christmas trees and sale of work was opened on November 29th by her Highness Princess Catherine Duleep Singh, and on Saturday, November 30th, by Lady Narkham, in the Mechanics' Hall, Nottingham.

Eager Heart in Palestine.

PERFORMANCE IN LONDON. The Christmas Mystery Play, Eager Heart, makes its annual appearance this year on a larger scale than heretofore, in the fine Gothic Hall of the Church House, Westminster, granted for the purpose by the Archbishop and the Council.

"Thinking Women"

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The Standard

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The Standard, 104, SHOE LANE, LONDON, E.C.

News from the Societies and Federations.

London Society.

GREENWICH.—A successful public meeting was held on November 12th in the large room at the Borough Hall, under the auspices of the Blackheath Branch, Miss Helen Ward in the chair. The resolution was proposed by the Lady Frances Balfour and seconded by Dr. O. V. Drysdale.

HACKNEY (NORTH).—Miss Eve and Mrs. Williams attended an Anti-Suffrage meeting at the Hackney Town Hall on November 26th, and noted with pleasure that there was a very large majority of men present who expressed themselves forcibly in favour of a democratic form of Women's Suffrage.

HACKNEY (CENTRAL AND SOUTH).—Through the kindness of Mrs. Nevett, the C. and S. Hackney Branch of the London Society for Women's Suffrage held a satisfactory meeting on November 29th at 14, Osbaldeston Road, Stoke Newington. The speaker, Mrs. Ford Smith, dealt with the general principles of Women's Suffrage, and gained the interest and sympathy of all present.

LAMBETH (NORTH).—On Nov. 20th, in the absence of Alderman George Hines through illness, the Rev. Canon W. R. French presided over a crowded and enthusiastic meeting at Archbishop Temple Schools, when Miss A. Maude Royden, Dr. C. V. Drysdale, Councillor J. E. Wood, Frank Bryant, J.P., L.C.C., Rev. S. Gopaul, and Councillor Rev. A. O. Hayes, M.A., spoke. The following resolution was passed unanimously: "That this meeting of North Lambeth electors and others calls upon the House of Commons to include women in the forthcoming Franchise and Registration Bill, and to urge the Government to support the cause of Women's Suffrage by voting for such amendments as shall ensure the inclusion of women in the Bill."

MUSWELL HILL.—A successful meeting was held at the Athenaeum on Nov. 25th, when the speakers were Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Rev. Lewellyn Smith and Mr. Malcolm Mitchell. The Rev. Aidan Hancock, Vicar of St. Peter's, Colney Hatch Lane, presided. Mr. Mitchell said that Mr. Lansbury, in resigning his seat in Parliament, carrying with it a salary of £400 a year, in order to fight for a principle, had struck a new note in British politics.

NEWINGTON, W.—On Nov. 27th at Lorrimer Hall, a successful meeting was held, and the resolution was passed unanimously. Mr. John Osborn presided, and the speeches of Mrs. Backham and Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M.P., were greatly enjoyed. Mr. R. Lindsey and Mr. Jesson, L.C.C. also spoke. Nineteen "Friends of Suffrage" were made, also new members. Mr. William Hulock, President of the Literary Association, wrote regretting his inability to attend, and stating he was in favour of all women entitled to vote now for Municipal Elections having the same right at Parliamentary Elections, adding: "that this so-called Liberal Government has not by a short Act of Parliament done this, is no credit to them. I do not believe that there would be any opposition by Conservatives or Liberals."

NORTH LONDON.—The series of meetings held at the Y.M.C.A., Camden Road, during October and November, ended on November 21st with a social gathering, which was very well attended. Mr. Touche, M.P., and Mr. Dickinson, M.P., made most interesting speeches, and Miss L. O. Ford, in the chair, was as inspiring as usual. Mrs. Bouman and Mrs. Burgin acted a duologue, and Mrs. Hadrill arranged an excellent musical programme. Five new members joined the Society, and twenty-two "Friends of Women's Suffrage" cards were signed. A resolution in favour of the inclusion of women in the Reform Bill was carried unanimously.

PECKHAM.—On December 3rd, at the Working Men's Unionist Club, a debate took place between Miss Helen Ward and Mr. Samuels (N.L.O.W.S.) on "World Women's Suffrage Benefits the Community." Mr. Ernest Mitchell was in the chair. The proceedings opened with an excellent musical entertainment. The audience was intelligent and good-humoured, and though no vote was taken, their sympathies were quite obviously preponderating on the side of the woman. Boars of laughter greeted Mr. Samuels' naive statement that he knew far better what was good for working women than they knew themselves. The Secretary, Mr. Bridger, in proposing a vote of thanks, made the following remarks: "The speaker, expressing his firm conviction that a Unionist Government would in the near future deal with the question, as the Liberals had entirely failed to do to their responsibility in the matter. This statement was most warmly received."

ISLINGTON (SOUTH).—The Girls' Institute connected with St. Mary's, Islington Parish Church, was addressed

by Miss Ruth Young on November 21st. The chair was taken by Miss Grace Baker, and the audience was attentive and interested. This is the eighth of the Islington series of lectures and debates.

ISLINGTON (NORTH).—Miss M. E. Hewitt opened a debate on "The Need for Granting the Suffrage to Women" on December 22nd at the meeting of the League of Young Liberals, 734, Holloway Road. She gave a very able speech, and was met by the usual "Anti" arguments from some very young men. Only members were allowed to vote, and the resolution was carried, Miss Horsley, who was present, expressed her disappointment, while thanking Miss Hewitt for her excellent speech.

ISLINGTON (SOUTH).—The Union Chapel Young People's Debating Society were addressed on November 23rd by Mrs. Stanbury. The Chairman, Mr. Eribaech, refused to allow any but members to speak. Miss Housden opposed Mrs. Stanbury and Miss Milne spoke very cleverly in favour of Women's Suffrage, but as the society is decidedly anti-suffragist, the resolution was lost. Many members are mere children, which made it difficult to address them. At both the meetings, on November 23rd and 24th, "Friends of Women's Suffrage" cards were signed, and literature distributed.

Bournemouth.

Members of the Bournemouth Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. attended, by invitation, the meeting of the Richmond Park Men's Literary and Debating Society on December 6th, to discuss Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Laney gave, on November 6th, Mrs. Rowley, Miss Poulton, Miss Kemp Furner and Miss Gibson each gave five minute addresses. Various men members spoke ably both for and against. The resolution "That the Suffrage be granted to women" was voted on by ballot, and the resolution was carried by five votes. This was the first time a W.S. vote had been carried in this Society.

The Federations.

Surrey, Sussex and Herts.

MONTHLY REPORT.—Miss Corbett speaking on October 15th at Lynton, Mr. Shrub, C.C. presiding, and next day at New Milton, the Rector as Chairman. Mrs. Dempster spoke at Lynton on October 29th, the Mayor presiding, and at Ringwood and New Milton the three following days. Mrs. Foley, Hon. Sec. G.U.W.F.A., presiding at New Milton, placed a resolution supporting Mr. Snowden's amendment was carried, and sent to the Member and Party Whips. The New Forest Society and C.U.W.F.A. Branch organised a deputation to their M.P. on November 6th. Mrs. Rowley began a series of meetings there on November 25th.

Mrs. Timpany addressed the Hove Women's Co-operative Guild on October 29th; on November 7th Miss Abadam addressed two meetings at Hove on the White Slave Trade, Dr. Helen Boyle and Mrs. Hoskyns presiding. Large collections were taken, and much literature sold. On the 11th, Mrs. Timpany addressed the Claremont Mothers' Meeting on this subject. Mrs. Bishop presiding. On the 25th, Miss Pickworth addressed Miss Gensome's meeting of business girls in her rooms, Miss Basden presiding; two became members, the rest "Friends."

Miss Corbett's speech at Mrs. Fletcher's, Abbott's Ann, on the 1st, started a promising Society at Andover, when Mrs. Dempster and Miss O'Shea spoke. A resolution was passed. Self-denial offerings, totalling £5, were sent from a Portsmouth Members' Meeting to the Cosham collection. Mrs. Timpany has addressed the Cosham group. The N.U.W.W. Council decided to support the suffrage resolution at their special Council. A successful whist-drive has been held, and over 400 have signed postcards to their M.P.

On the 6th, Mrs. Raybird presided, in the Vicar's unavoidable absence, at Basingstoke, when Miss Ashton spoke, her resolution being carried. Lord Lytton spoke at Salisbury on the 12th, Canon Backwell presiding. Rendall, M.P., announced a speech wired regretting non-attendance. Mr. Hall seconded the resolution calling on the Members for Salisbury and South Wilts to support the Suffrage Amendments. This was carried. Half the audience were men. Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Tabourin and Mrs. Pardoe held a meeting in the Purley Hall, the latter presiding, when Miss Clark spoke, also the chairman on "Sweated Women." Five members joined. On the 15th, Mrs. Harben and Miss O'Shea addressed an enthusiastic meeting at Bexhill. Next day Miss Aston and the vicar of Alton addressed a large meeting at Crookham on the National Union and the White Slave Trade. A Sweated Industries Exhibition was opened at Redhill on the 27th by Col. Rawson. Mrs. Corbett Ashby spoke on sweating. Sweated women piled their trades, and non-sweated goods were displayed in contrast. There were Christmas trees, flower, toy and literature stalls, and a recitation and play, and Mrs. Mackridy explained lantern slides, in the absence of Mr. Evans, Workshops Inspector. A fair balance is expected. Two public and one private meetings were held, and two resolutions passed.

West Lancs., West Cheshire, and North Wales.

ORGANISER'S REPORT.—Pioneer work, aided by Miss Meikle and Miss Crossfield, in the Ormskirk and Blackpool Divisions during October and November has been of an encouraging nature. During ten days Miss Crossfield put herself and her car at the disposal of the Federation, and to be spirited from place to place and to have Miss Crossfield always ready for speaking or interviewing made its effectiveness. The success of the open-air meetings was also largely due to the charm of Miss Meikle's speaking. The Ormskirk Division, centring round Ormskirk market town, including the various districts as Seaforth and Hitherland, suburbs of Liverpool, Skelmerdale and Upholland, small coal mining towns, and Kirby, an agricul-

tural district. At open-air meetings, held in these and other places, we have been met by friendly audiences willing in large numbers to sign postcards requesting the member to support the women's amendment to the Reform Bill.

The Kirby meeting will long be remembered by the speaker, who, standing outside the village inn, spoke to a large audience who had gathered silently out of the night. The surprise of the occasion was that Kirby was a mere hamlet could supply that large meeting, and it was evident it must have gathered from far and near. It was difficult afterwards to supply quickly enough the demand of all those who wished to sign postcards. At Haisall, a similar district not far off, a very different reception awaited us. The squire absolutely refused permission to hold a meeting in the schoolroom, the only hall available, and the place where all political meetings are held in the hands of the squire as to what questions shall be discussed in the only hall available for public meetings! After this campaign of open-air meetings—10 in all—a public meeting was held in the Assembly Room.

At PRESCOTT, on November 12th, Rev. E. Baguley presided, and Miss Rathbone and Miss Meikle were the speakers. The resolution was supported also by Mr. Berry, and carried unanimously, and many postcards signed. Similar work has been carried on in the Blackpool Division, open-air meetings being held in Kirkham, Lytham, Poulton, and following on these public meetings in Poulton and Lytham.

At POULTON, Rev. T. Young was in the chair, and Miss Rathbone and Miss Meikle were again the speakers. There is a marked change coming over the residents of Poulton on the Suffrage question, largely due to the indefatigable work of Mrs. and Miss Roberts, and it is quite hoped that as a result of this public meeting a new branch of the Blackpool Society may be formed in Poulton. A public meeting was held in the Ansdell Institute, Lytham, on December 3rd, Mrs. H. N. Whittle presiding, and Miss Rathbone and I being the chief speakers. Miss Roberts, Mrs. Colquhoun and a band of six or seven of the residents had canvassed the district very thoroughly, and the meeting, which was fairly large, carried the resolution with only six dissentients. But for the strong feeling against militancy, which disinclines people for any association with a suffrage organisation, despite all explanations, the hall would have been quite full.

The time is now felt to be ripe for a Suffrage organisation in Lytham, and those interested in the formation of a local society met, by the kind permission of Miss Johnson, at the Hydro, Lytham, on December 5th. It was agreed to form a branch affiliated to the Blackpool Society, as those willing to join were not quite numerous enough nor sufficiently representative of all parties to form a society affiliated directly to the National Union. Officers and committee for local work were appointed. EDITH ESKRIDGE (Organiser).

BANGOR.—A meeting was held on November 28th, at which the speakers were Miss Cherry and Mrs. Price White. After the addresses a capital performance of "How the Vote was Won" was given. This district has been subjected to an Anti-Suffrage campaign led by Mrs. Gladstone Solomon. The support she gained was not great, and at a meeting held on November 4th, a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was lost by a large majority. To counteract the effect of the "Anti" campaign, Suffrage meetings were held in two slate yards and several tailors' workrooms, where they are reported to have aroused much sympathy. The speakers were Miss C. Leadley Brown and Miss Wortham.

BIRKENHEAD.—A meeting took place on November 6th in Mrs. Henderson's drawing-room. Mrs. Stanley White was in the Chair, and Mrs. Cherry gave an excellent address. On November 20th a meeting was held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, the speakers being Mrs. Ring of Birmingham, and Mrs. Cameron Grant. The Rev. W. T. Tunbridge took the Chair, and a Resolution urging the Government to take the law of the Criminal Law Amendment Act and of a Women's Suffrage amendment to the Reform Bill, was passed unanimously. There was a large and interested audience.

LIVERPOOL.—The Society gave an "At Home" at its new office on December 3rd, at which Miss Muriel Matters was the principal speaker, and Miss Chubb took the Chair. Miss Matters also spoke on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of December on the Exchange Flags, and was much appreciated by the crowds of men who gathered to hear her.

LLANDUDNO.—A meeting was held on November 4th, at which Miss E. Deakin was the principal speaker. Mr. Fisher, C.C. took the Chair, and a Resolution was passed without dissent. The new Conservative candidate, Messrs. Egan and Steward Brown, has publicly announced his support of Women's Suffrage; this is expected to have very beneficial results for his party.

PRESTON.—The Society held its annual meeting on November 22nd, when Mr. Willan took the Chair. There was an excellent attendance, and an animated debate on the National Union election policy.

SEAFORTH.—A public meeting was held on November 22nd at the Town Hall, Waterloo. Mr. Killey, J.P. presided, and the speakers were Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Mrs. Egan. The attendance was good, and the Resolution was passed unanimously.

WALLASEY AND WIRRAL.—A meeting was held at Hoylake on December 5th, when Miss Matters gave an address. A Resolution urging the House of Commons to adopt a Women's Suffrage amendment to the Reform Bill was seconded by Miss Eleanor McPherson and carried unanimously. A number of postcards were signed asking the Member to vote for the amendment.

WARRINGTON.—A meeting was held at the end of October. The speakers were Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Miss Crossfield. Miss Lucy Broadbent took the Chair.

WREXHAM.—A drawing-room meeting took place on November 27th at Mrs. Bates' house. Mrs. Sykes, of

Rossett, took the Chair, and Miss Chubb spoke. A few new members joined the Society, and there was a good collection. On December 4th a meeting was held in the Patriots' Hall, Rossett, lent by Mrs. Sykes, who presided. Miss Muriel Matters spoke, and the Resolution was carried unanimously.

Other meetings took place at LLANDEGFAN, HOLYHEAD, MENAI BRIDGE and BEAUMARIS, all addressed by Miss Cherry. And at FORTMADOC, FWLLELLI, and ORIOICETH, addressed by Miss Eleanor Rathbone.

West Midland.

The Federation has been busy this month in many parts of the area hitherto untouched. Mrs. Cooper has been working in the Five Towns with a great deal of success—also Miss Chambers—and it is hoped a Society will very soon be formed in that locality. Miss Chambers spoke to the Burslem L.L.P., also to the Burslem Co-operative women, and the Trent Valley Debating Society. A successful public meeting was held at Whitechurch on November 5th, organised by Miss Rogers of Oswestry, the speaker being Miss Cicely Corbett, and the Chair taken by Mrs. Clay Finch. It is hoped a Society will be formed at Whitechurch early in the New Year. Our Hon. Secretary, Miss Wright, met on November 20th, the Organisation Committee to discuss with them the future work of the Federation. It is a valuable new departure and it is hoped that its continuance may enable Miss Wright to bring the needs of the Federation before the Organisation Committee, and, at the same time, learn what other Federations are doing. At a meeting of the Staffordshire Trade and Labour Council, held at the Town Hall, Hanley, on November 13th, the following resolution was passed unanimously: "That this meeting, believing that the exclusion of women from the Parliamentary Franchise is contrary to every principle of democracy, calls upon the members for North Staffordshire to do all in their power to secure the inclusion of women in the Reform Bill."

BIRMINGHAM reports several meetings, amongst others a drawing-room meeting held at Selly Oak, by invitation of Miss Lloyd Wilson. A joint meeting with the Birmingham Branch of the C. and U. W. F. A. was held at Moseley, when the hostess was Mrs. Dunn and the principal speaker the Hon. Mrs. Basil Hanbury. An interesting canvass of women Councillors of Great Britain has just been completed, the result of which is published in the COMMON CAUSE of November 29th. An increased interest in the cause is apparent in the working classes and many "Friends of Suffrage" have been gained. Fifteen new members have joined the Society during the month.

MALVERN reports a drawing-room meeting held by invitation of Miss Lakin on November 5th. The Rev. Newman Hall made an interesting speech in proposing the resolution urging the member for the Constituency men to do his utmost to secure some measure of Women's Suffrage in the Reform Bill. It was seconded by Miss Dawson, Hon. Sec. Malvern Society, and carried unanimously.

STAFFORD reports a well-attended meeting on November 5th in the Oddfellows Hall, when Mr. Bostock took the Chair and was supported by the local Committee and others. The speakers were Miss Cicely Corbett, B.A. and Mr. Bailie Weaver, both of whom gave excellent addresses in support of the resolution demanding the inclusion of women in the Government Reform Bill. The resolution was passed with only one dissentient. Mrs. Mott made an earnest appeal for support for the local Branch. Miss Kathleen Anderson kindly contributed some music.

SUTTON COLDFIELD reports a very successful public meeting held at the Town Hall on November 7th, the Chair being taken by Mrs. Joseph Ansell. Miss Cicely Corbett spoke on the White Slave Traffic and was followed by an interesting address from Mr. Bailie Weaver, who touched upon the terrible results of the low wage of women workers.

SHROPSHIRE reports that the result of their collection for the Election Fund right up to the 29th, which was given on November 5th at the Albert Hall meeting. The Society has been busy this month preparing for an entertainment for the Friends of Women's Suffrage, which takes place in December, when a large gathering of working people is expected.

WEST BROMWICH reports that their annual meeting was held on November 7th. Mr. J. A. Pearce, headmaster of the Municipal School of Art, took the Chair, and Mrs. Pearce was responsible for the performance of "Man and Woman." The annual report showed that a considerable amount of useful work had been done during the year—a steady increase of membership and more general interest in the movement. The financial report was also satisfactory and showed a small balance in hand.

WOLVERHAMPTON reports a meeting held in the Agricultural Hall on Friday, November 8th, under the auspices of the Women's Liberal Association. Mr. Max Muespratt presided, and the chief speakers were Mrs. Conybear and Mr. F. D. Aoland, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Mrs. Conybear moved a resolution calling upon Liberal members to do their utmost to secure the inclusion of women in the Government Reform Bill. Mr. Aoland said he personally was in favour of giving the vote to every woman over the age of 21, and he believed women would be just as divided in their opinion as were men, and would vote accordingly. He looked forward to a new era in politics and to a new stimulus behind democracy. The resolution was carried.

WELLINGTON reports an excellent meeting which the local Society had organised for November 28th at the Town Hall. The Chair was taken by Dr. Hollies and the speakers were The Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs. Harley. The resolution urging upon Sir C. Henry, member for Wellington, to do all in his power to secure some measure of enfranchisement for women in the Government Reform Bill, was carried with only one dissentient.

WORCESTER reports a well-attended members' meeting held at the house of Mrs. Carlton Rea on November 23rd. Mrs. Harley, chairman of the West Midland Federation, spoke upon the work and the needs of the Federation, and urged the members of each Society to take their share in supporting it both in the matter of finance and in the work of expansion. There was a very hearty response to Mrs. Harley's appeal.

K. M. HARLEY.

Scottish.

ORGANISER'S WORK.—An interesting record comes from Miss Foggo, who, since October 21st, has visited societies in the West of Scotland, where she has received much hospitality. In Ayr an interesting drawing-room meeting was held by the kindness of Mrs. Abbot, and in Troon, by that of Mrs. Muir, where discussions were stimulated by opinions given on the Glasgow Anti-Suffrage Demonstration and the Criminal Law Amendment. At Kilmarnock several meetings were held, regarding which Miss Foggo says: "The spirit of Suffrage electrified the air." At one of these, a French member gave a description of the French attitude towards the married woman. After her marriage she found she could not draw a cheque without the signature of her husband, though the cheque was on her own money, which, before marriage, she had drawn on at will with no restrictions, from the same bank. At Port Glasgow, the Society which had suffered from the loss of a good President and Secretary, was re-established at a meeting of ardent supporters, and a new President—Mrs. M. Brodie—was elected. Kilmarnock was visited, and interesting meetings held, in addition to the Cake and Candy Sale. At Oban a good deal of work was done. Several meetings held, by the hospitality of members and friends, during Miss Foggo's visit encourage her to believe that the Society is now firmly assured "under its new Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Bushy." The "Friends of Suffrage" scheme has been taken up by some Societies, and the canvassing from house to house in places, and discussions with outsiders at meetings has given opportunities for propaganda, of which the satisfactory results are summed up in Miss Foggo's concluding words, "How quickly we advance!"

THE SOCIETIES.—The Greenock Society gathered a large attendance in the South Hall of the Temperance Institute on October 29th, Mr. Robert Kerr, President, in the chair. An interesting sketch of Suffrage was given by the Chairman, followed by an address from Miss Gordon (Edinburgh) showing women can do to help the cause in the present political situation. The interval was filled by a musical programme provided by Suffrage sympathisers. A resolution urging upon Mr. G. P. Collins, M.P., to support Mr. Snowden's amendment was proposed by Mr. R. McAulian, Junr., seconded by the Chairman and carried unanimously.

HADDINGTON, DUNBAR and BERWICKSHIRE. These Societies did their best to welcome and help on the interesting "March to London." The Dunbar Society reports: "We gave the women marchers a good send-off—by a reserved hospitality (even the mare) and Mrs. Harry Hope entertained them to breakfast. The public meeting at the Cross had a good-sized crowd, and the men were especially interested."

HAWICK.—This Society has been busy since Mrs. Hope's visit in trying to raise the sum asked for the general fund of the Scottish Federation. Some of the members gave donations, others sold home-made cakes and toffee; the Secretary held a drawing-room sale, and two members organised an enjoyable concert, and others a successful Jumble Sale. At a drawing-room meeting, given for the occasion by a member, on November 21st, £15 was thus raised.

GRIEFF Society held a public meeting in the Porteous Hall on November 1st, at which Dr. Elsie Inglis and Miss R. Masson spoke. A resolution demanding the inclusion of women in the Reform Bill was passed unanimously. The sum of £10 was realised in collection and sale of tickets. The Society is to be congratulated on its work during the last few months whereby it has added 53 to its membership.

HADDINGTON Society at its annual meeting, held on November 6th, selected office bearers, reported on the past year's work, and arranged its programme for the next year. This suggests a campaign of meetings in neighbouring villages by which to spread the Suffrage influence. On the 9th, a small Jumble Sale was successful in realising nearly £14, a result very gratifying to its organisers.

THE ORCADIAN Society has received loyal support from its local paper, which gives three full columns to the "successful social" held on November 8th. In these, the address of the President, Mrs. Baikie, is fully reported, thus carrying her impressive arguments to the furthest islands. The annual report is also given for the Burgh and County to do their utmost to secure some measure of Women's Suffrage in the Reform Bill, and declaring no further extension of the franchise to men acceptable which leaves women unrepresented.

PERTH.—This Society held a successful public meeting in the Lesser City Hall on November 12, when Mrs. Scott Murray, President, was in the chair, and Dr. Elsie Inglis was the chief speaker. A resolution similar in text to that of the Oradian Society was passed unanimously, and addressed to Mr. A. F. Whyte, M.P. for Perth City and East Perthshire. Numerous signatures were obtained. On the 30th, a Jumble Sale held in the North Church Hall was most successful.

KILMACOHN.—This Society records the "kind and helpful influence of Miss Foggo" in rousing the interest of outsiders and thus helping to ensure the success of the Cake and Candy Sale held on November 13th.

OBAN.—A similar acknowledgement of Miss Foggo's "excellent work" comes from this Society. A meeting was held on the 21st in the Station Hotel, addressed by Miss Foggo, at which new members were obtained, and a drawing-room meeting by the kindness of Mrs. Mackenzie, at Dungallon, on the 25th, had a like satisfactory result.

FALKIRK.—An audience of nearly 200 assembled in the Christian Institute hall on November 25th, to hear Mrs. Hunter, Secretary of the National Vigilance Society, Glasgow, on the "White Slave Traffic." The account of Mrs. Hunter's experience in Vigilance work showed most graphically the urgent need for prevention as well as cure of an appalling evil, and school teaching in sex hygiene was strongly advocated as a means to this end. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. A. B. Robb, M.A.

F. A. HILLIARD.

We are informed that the Society at Ross has now federated with the West Midland Federation.

EAGER HEART.

(A Mystery Play.)

GREAT HALL, CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

Afternoons, Wednesday Dec. 18th, at 4 o'clock. Friday, 20th, Saturday, 21st, Evening, Thursday, Dec. 19th, at 8.15.

For the sake of young people and holiday makers, a special performance will be given in the early evening of Monday, Dec. 23rd.

NO TICKETS MAY BE SOLD AT THE DOORS.

Apply,

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Prices, 10/-, 7/6-, 5/-, and 2/6. All seats reserved.

A New Calendar.

"A WOMAN AUTHOR'S CALENDAR FOR 1913." (The Rydal Press, Keighley, Ls.)

This calendar may be recommended par excellence to suffragists, for one can hardly glance through the 365 extracts, entirely drawn from the works of women, without feeling a glow of satisfaction at this illustration of women's power of thought and love of humour.

The quotation from George Eliot which has been chosen to enliven the cover, is in itself suggestive, throwing a side-light on women's claim to equality of treatment: "I'm not denyin' the women are foolish: God Almighty made 'em to match the men."

Meeting at Barnes.

A public meeting was held in the Dunmow Hall, Barnes, on December 3rd. The Rector of Barnes was in the chair. Lady Willoughby de Broke made a convincing speech, and Mrs. Nott Bower impressed her audience by her denunciation of the attitude of the House of Commons towards the White Slave Traffic. Mrs. Corbett Ashby and the Rev. Llewellyn Smith also made interesting speeches. Forty-two "Friends of Suffrage" were gained, and the collection amounted to £1 14s. 7d.

"At Home" at Uxbridge.

The December "At Home" friends:—(1) A sale of dolls dressed by members and included at work-meetings to enliven the cover, is in itself suggestive, throwing a side-light on women's claim to equality of treatment: "I'm not denyin' the women are foolish: God Almighty made 'em to match the men." (2) A small show of posters and Christmas Cards designed by the "Iolanthe." (3) A Musical Half-Hour; bass songs from "Iolanthe" being given by Mr. Max Parkes, and a piano solo by Mlle. Ollivier; also a story recited by Miss K. Raleigh. (4) A speech by Mrs. Sadd-Brown, representing the Tax Resistance League.

Jewish League for Woman Suffrage.

A drawing-room meeting of the Jewish League for Woman Suffrage will be held on Sunday, December 15th, at 3.15 p.m., at 2, Orme Court, by kind permission of Mrs. Herbert Cohen. The chair will be taken by the Rev. Morris Joseph, and the speakers will include the Hon. Mrs. Ernest Franklin, Mrs. Auerbach, and Mrs. Herbert Cohen.

Lord Lytton in Glasgow.

A CONTRAST.

A few weeks ago Lord Curzon addressed a great anti-Suffrage demonstration in the same hall in which Lord Lytton and West of Scotland Association for Women's Suffrage and the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association. The contrast was indeed arresting. Both the audience and its spirit struck a different note. The dominating feature of the one was youth and enthusiasm, of the other middle-age and cynicism. True, there were not a few grey heads to be seen, but they were old only in years; the youthfulness of their spirit could be seen in the kindling eye and alert expression with which they received the message of tempered optimism that went forth from the speakers of the evening.

The atmosphere of the meeting was such as one might expect in an army square of victory but determined to take no risks. One could not but be struck by the earnestness of the speakers and by their sincerity. The glib phrasing of the politician was conspicuous by its absence; in its place there was the note of moral passion, the realisation of wrongs to be righted, the fervour that can only come when the depths of the soul have been stirred by contact with realities.

For the information of those in Scotland who might not be acquainted with the speakers, pressmen were supplied with a short account of their life and work, but we did not need that to tell us Miss Royden had done three years' settlement work in the slums of Liverpool, or of her brilliance as a student. Of her intellectual power her speech was sufficient evidence—it was plain from the marshalling of her arguments; but what impressed one most—what I am sure impressed the audience most—was the feeling that here was one who knew the reality of the poverty problem, not as something described in statistics, or in the reports of philanthropic societies, but as one who had wrestled with it as an actuality in the commonplace of the vibrant people. Not otherwise can we account for the vibrant tone that thrilled her hearers when she exclaimed, amid cheers, "Why this long patience when she slum lord and this inconceivable indifference for that most pathetic figure, the slum baby?"

Lady Frances Balfour dealt with Lord Tullibardine's attitude towards the literature issued by the National Union, one might have thought a trifle severely but for the disastrous nature of the insinuation. Lord Lytton, young, tall, slightly built and aesthetically-looking, made play with Lord Curzon's ponderous melodrama on the effects of votes for women in a case of national invasion, and the audience expressed its hearty agreement when he remarked, "The qualities that would be required then would be determination and courage, and no one would accuse either Mrs. Pankhurst or Mrs. Lawrence of lacking either."

After paying a tribute to Lady Tullibardine he pointed out that it might be all very well for her to speak of philanthropic service, but when applied to working women it became something of a mockery.

There indeed we had the contrast in the two meetings; the one dealing with hypothetical difficulties and abstractions far removed from the real problems of human life, the other in touch with realities, throbbing with human feeling, and expressing in the very faces of those present the fire of righteous determination in a cause that is essentially humanitarian. To the writer, perhaps one of the finest features of the gathering was its absolutely non-party nature. The messages of encouragement from Sir Edward Grey and Lord Haldane were cheered equally with that of Mr. Balfour.

Here is a splendid opportunity for all Suffragists to see that whatever their private opinions may be, the Suffrage movement is kept clear of party politics, and that nothing is uttered that could be construed as representing in the slightest way party sentiment. Let the women come to politics with a clear and open mind, determined to use their votes in the highest interests of the country, unaffected by party shibboleths and party prejudice.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN NORWAY.

A Norwegian friend is quite indignant that the Suffrage in his country should be supposed to be such a half-hearted measure, and calls our attention to the following, which appeared in The Times:—

In Mr. Lloyd George's speech recently to the deputation of the Women's Liberal Federation of Wales he referred to "the system introduced in Norway," which he had heard was working well, and which conferred the vote upon "woman householders and the wives of married electors." Allow me to say that the Norwegians went a good deal further. According to the Act of 1907, every Norwegian woman over 25 years who earns a yearly income of at least £16 10s. in the country and £22 in the towns, and who has paid taxes upon such income, is entitled to vote. In other words, all women over 25 years—no matter what class—unmarried, married, or widows, who themselves or whose husbands have paid the above taxes, can vote, and even be elected a member of the Norwegian Parliament.

I may add that this limited franchise for women will, in all probability, be extended to universal Suffrage in the next or following Session of the National Assembly.

H. L. BRERKSTAD.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondents are requested to send their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for any statement made in the correspondence column. Correspondents are requested to write on ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY.

"MARRIED WOMEN'S PRIVILEGES."

The Times of Wednesday, December 4th, has a leading article under the above attractive heading. I wonder if, in these days of amalgamations, Punch and The Times have become incorporated. Its worst enemies can no longer call it dull. I offer a quotation:—"Among the 'privileges' as to which those demanding a change in the legal position of women generally preserve silence, and of which they will be deprived if perfect equality is to be established," is the right to be "maintained in the county asylum at the public expense" while possessing "a large amount of property." (One's imagination runs riot as to who was enjoying the "property" meanwhile.) "Whether these privileges are accidental—whether in altering the law, which was once to the disadvantage of married women, the legislature forgot to make certain consequential changes—matters not; these privileges exist." Enough has been said to show that there is another side to the woman's question besides that of which we hear most. "A married woman is now the special favourite of the legislature."

I hope the article will be quoted in extenso in The Times in 2012. It will be intensely interesting, and only fair to that future generation to make them fully acquainted with those delightful "privileges" which their great-grandmothers so recklessly flung away.

G. BAYLEY.

WOMEN AND THE DIVORCE LAWS.

As a constant reader of THE COMMON CAUSE may I express the regret I feel at the line taken by the writer of the unsigned article "Women and the Divorce Laws," in your issue of November 29th. I am not alluding to the first part of the article on the equality of the sexes, but to the part where the writer expresses such unqualified approval of the "Easy Divorce," recommended in the Majority Report of the Commission.

The writer appears to agree with the evidence put forward by some members of the Women's Co-operative Guild, to the effect that divorce should be allowed for incompatibility, and should be obtainable on the demand of either partner. The writer points out that this is the logical result of the recommendation of the Majority Report, only remarking that it may "be wiser in England to proceed by degrees."

I trust that a discussion may result in your columns on these questions so vitally affecting the life of the nation, and through it of the world. (Mrs. M. C. M. HOSKINS.)

MR. PEASE AND THE VOTE.

On December 5th a deputation of working men went from Rotherham to ask Mr. Pease to refrain from voting against the Grey Amendment.

Mr. Pease asked the deputation if they knew that that meant Adult Suffrage, and that all women of twenty-one and upwards would have a vote. The deputation said they understood that. Mr. Pease expressed himself very strongly in denouncing their attitude, and would mean that women would enter Parliament, and they were physically unfit to stand the strain of Parliamentary life, for he said the average death rate in the House was one per month.

He then proceeded to use the old arguments, "Women do not want the vote," and went on to refer to the poor use they made of the municipal vote. He quoted the Bow and Bromley Election as showing "A public opinion was not yet ripe for this reform, and stated it would be a mistake to get in advance of public opinion. The deputation said they wanted the vote for their women and would rather see the Bill thrown out than go through as it is. They informed Mr. Pease that the Rotherham Trades Council, L.R.C., L.L.P., the Rawmarsh Trades Council, and thirteen other Trades Unions had passed resolutions in favour of women being included in the Bill. Mr. Pease, however, regarded these resolutions as meaning nothing, and said that previous to last election the Rotherham electors knew his position before they returned him, and he should consider it a breach of faith to his constituents if he supported in any way the inclusion of women in the Bill.

Mr. Pease, however, has strange conceptions of the meaning of "breach of faith"—to gain the support of the Liberal Women in Rotherham he promised faithfully that he would do nothing to hinder in any way the Parliamentary enfranchisement of women. The Liberal Women then worked for him, and one woman in particular, of great persuasive powers and a wonderful canvasser, worked for him believing him to be a man who kept his word. But when he had got the help he wanted from the women, he broke faith with them and appeared on an anti-suffrage platform—and, moreover, he would not promise the Rotherham deputation not to vote against the amendment to the Bill—meaning, of course, he would vote against it, in spite of the fact that he promised the Rotherham Liberal Women that he would do nothing to hinder the vote being granted to women.

Such perfidy is difficult to understand, and is rendered worse by the fact that he hides himself behind his electors, some of whom were persuaded to vote for him by women. H. W. D.

New Societies.

Morecambe.

The women of the enterprising little seaside town of Morecambe, feeling that they must progress in Suffrage questions as in other matters, have started a Suffrage Society. People living at the seaside have only the time before and after the season in which to do public work and have to work under difficulties peculiar to a pleasure resort. In spite of these difficulties women here had been trying, often under open discouragement, to further the Suffrage cause, when from out the gloom shot a ray of sunshine in the person of Miss Norma-Smith, whose eloquence has carried all her hearers along with her. With the kindly help of our sister Society in Lancaster, and particularly aided by Mrs. W. Croft Helme, of Lancaster, we welcomed Miss Norma-Smith on November 26th.

Miss Norma-Smith addressed two meetings. Though a guest ranged all day both meetings were crowded, and it is now estimated that we shall not fall very far short of one hundred members. Mrs. W. Croft Helme and Mrs. J. Bell were our two chairmen. One of the most encouraging features of the occasion was the presence of men in the audience. Mr. Mason spoke in terms of unqualified support, and Councillor Ellis, a recently elected member of the Morecambe Council, also spoke in favour of our Movement.

Officers have been elected for the Branch in the persons of Mrs. J. Bell, President, Mrs. Downham, Vice-president, Miss M. Wright, Treasurer, and Miss Wolstenholme, Secretary.

A business meeting was held on December 6th, when it was resolved to place any surplus money in the P.O. Savings Bank, in trust for the Society. It was decided that meetings should be held during the winter on the second Wednesday in each month at Tetley's Restaurant, and that applications should be made for Miss Fraser and The Lady Frances Balfour as speakers. It was also arranged that a "Social" evening should be held to enable members to become acquainted with each other.

A resolution was passed calling upon the Government to give every facility to the passage of a Women's Suffrage Amendment to the Reform Bill. This resolution is to be presented to the Government by our member, Sir Norval Helme, who is a staunch supporter of Women's Suffrage. It was also decided, in order to mark appreciation of Mr. Lansbury's recent action, to send him a copy of the following resolution: "That the Morecambe Society of the N.U.W.S.S. thanks Mr. Lansbury for his brave fight for the principle of Women's Suffrage. By his action he is revered in the minds of women, with such men as John Stuart Mill and W. T. Stead."

Bishop Auckland.

A new Society was inaugurated in Bishop Auckland at a well-attended meeting held in the Edgar Hall on November 22nd, presided over by Miss Berry, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and addressed by Miss Gordon. On December 2nd a public meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, presided over by Councillor B. C. Spoor and addressed by Mr. Mirlees, B.Sc., and Miss Gordon, M.A. There was a good attendance, and the Society now numbers over one hundred members.

Troon.

The Ayr and Troon Society has been active of late. Four drawing-room meetings have been held at Mrs. Abbott's, Ayr, and Mrs. Muir's, Troon. A Jumble Sale was organised by the kindness of Miss Miller and Mrs. Ramsay, and on November 26th, Miss Maude Royden gave one of her inspiring lectures in the Unionist Hall, Troon. Owing to the enforced absence of Mr. William Robertson, the prospective Liberal candidate, Provost Muir took the chair.

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The Week's Meetings.

(ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION.)

DECEMBER 13.	Huddersfield—Drawing-room meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Cockroft, Chair, Miss Siddon	3.0
DECEMBER 14.	Hulme—York Street Temperance Hall—Jumble Sale 2.30—6	
DECEMBER 15.	Oldham—Middleton Road Primitive Methodist P.S.A.—Dr. Olive Clayton—"The Awakening of Woman"	3.0
DECEMBER 16.	Gateshead—C.W.G. Co-operative Hall—Speaker, Miss Elenor Sheard	7.45
	Carlisle—Women's Co-operative Guild—Miss Evans	8.0
	Cobornworks—Woodseats—Mrs. Cowmeadow	2.30
DECEMBER 17.	Norwich—10a, Castle Meadow—Christmas Sale of plum puddings, etc.	2.30—5.30
	Gateshead—W. S. Shop, 115, High West Street—Cafe Chantant and Cake and Candy Sale. Meeting addressed by member of N.U.	6.0
	Wycombe—Christmas Suffrage Sale and Entertainment at "Diverscroft," High Wycombe	
	Waterbeach (Cams)—Schoolhouse—Mrs. Rackham, Mrs. Boves.	7.0
DECEMBER 18.	Dronfield—Council Schools—Mrs. Cowmeadow	7.30

LONDON.

DECEMBER 14.	Shadwell—"Paddy's Goose," 225, High Street—Speaker, Miss I. O. Ford	8.0
DECEMBER 16.	Canning Town—The Tabernacle, Barking Road—Women's Suffrage meeting—Speaker, Miss A. Maude Royden, Chair, Mrs. Clifford	2.45—4.0
	Hackney—Kingsland Congregational Church Hall, N—Chair, The Rev. A. Quail. Speaker, Miss I. O. Ford	evening
DECEMBER 17.	Millbank—C. O. School, Erasmus St.—Girls' Club—Speaker, Miss Fielden	9—10
	Surbiton—Drawing-room meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Longson, 6, Claremont Gardens. Speaker, Miss A. Maude Royden	3.15
	Kingston Hill—Public meeting, St. Paul's Parish Room—Speakers, Miss A. Maude Royden, Mr. Hincliffe.	8.15
	Paddington, S.—Afternoon Tea Discussion Society—Drawing-room meeting, 26, Cambridge Terrace—Hostess, Mrs. Lawder Eaton	

SCOTLAND.

DECEMBER 13.	Falkirk—Oddfellows Hall—Public meeting—Miss Royden, Chair, Dr. Elsie Inglis	8.0
	Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—Dr. Elsie Inglis, Chair, Mrs. Dodds	4.30
DECEMBER 14.	Edinburgh—Scottish Federation Executive Meeting—2, St. Andrew's Square	2.30
DECEMBER 18.	Edinburgh—Drawing-room meeting (Mrs. Freeland Barbour), Charlotte Square—Speaker, The Lady Frances Balfour, Chair, Dr. Elsie M. Inglis	3.30
	Linlithgow—Baird Memorial Hall—Public meeting—Mrs. Guyer, Miss Alice Low	8.0

Mrs. Mary Seaton gives lectures for the Psychical Research Society at 22a, Regent Street, on December 18th and January 9th, at 4.30. Tickets by invitation.

The J. S. Mill Memorial.

The following subscriptions have been received in answer to Mrs. How Martyn's appeal for the J. S. Mill memorial at Avignon:—

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Miss Morrison	0 2 0
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"What we are striving for."

At a meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Women Voters' Association, held at the Women's Institute in Victoria Street, Mrs. Merivale Mayer gave an address on "What we are striving for." She said that work ought to be as Ruskin pictured it. It was being realised that thought was creative, nothing man has thought is impossible. Imagination opens the door to realisation. We have been preached at by men for generations and told we ought to reach their ideals, but we must now try to do better. Women must be delivered from slavery, and the vote was her only weapon of defence. She had seen one of the greatest and richest of the rope factories, where the women had lost all semblance to human beauty, and were almost wild. Women, mothers of the land, must make the world a better place; they must fight for virtue and bring back the better life. When men were helped by women there would be no more slaves, either moral or industrial, no more wild women.

Meeting at Ringwood.

A successful meeting was held in Ringwood on November 26th, when Mrs. Bonnich gave an address on "Patriotism." She said women did not want to take the place of men, but to be in all things their comrades and friends. The following resolution was carried, mem. con. "That this meeting urges the Government to bring in some form of enfranchisement for women in the Electoral Reform Bill."

Irish Note.

The Irish Women's Suffrage Federation is active in the North of Ireland, where Miss Blackstone, the Organiser, has been canvassing, holding meetings and obtaining members for the Friends of Women's Suffrage. Particular interest was shown in Portadown. Various meetings are being arranged for early in the new year.

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HIGH WYCOMBE W.S.S. (N.U.W.S.S.)—Gifts towards a Christmas Suffrage Sale to be held on December 17th, for the benefit of the funds of this Society, would be very gratefully received by the Secretary, Ulverscroft, High Wycombe.

SUFFRAGE Christmas Cards, by Joan Drew, 3d. and 4d.; samples on approval; special terms for Suffrage sales.—Blatchford, Chilworth, Surrey.

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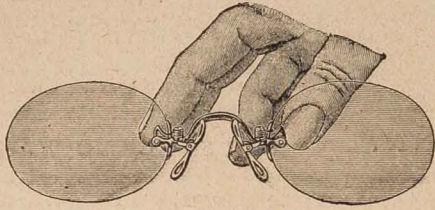
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