

THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE).

VOL. V. No. 115.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1912.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

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EDITORIAL.

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

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

"More Men and No Women."

The expected has happened. The New Year's Honours' List has appeared *minus* the name of one woman. Men in divers walks of life are honoured—education, science, medicine, public service, journalism, commerce have their men representatives, but no woman, not even Mrs. Humphrey Ward. Before the Coronation Honours' List was published an attempt was made by several men to gain recognition for the excellent service to the State rendered by women. We might have expected that a King, whose courtesy to his Consort is so marked and who constantly testifies to her valued co-operation with him, would have extended practical sympathy to a suggestion from his Ministers that woman's work should be honoured. Whether he had the opportunity or not, the fact remains that, although Queen Mary is appointed Regent in case of the demise of the Crown during the minority of the Prince of Wales, and although she is one of the few women who are entitled to wear the Order of the Garter, no woman's name has appeared in the Coronation or New Year's Honours' Lists. The British Government might well have taken a leaf out of the book of the Indian Government; in the bewilderingly long list of Durbar Honours a few women are included, and it is not only to rank and position that the honours are given; among them is Miss E. J. Beck, the hon. secretary of the National Indian Association, who receives the Kaiser-i-Hind gold medal. It is not that women are hungering after awards, but their exclusion from such lists is indicative of the attitude which does not count them as citizens. In King Edward's time Miss Florence Nightingale's splendid service to her country was tardily honoured; there are women to-day who have also earned well of their country. A writer in *The Standard* does justice to the fine work of Mrs. Garrett Anderson. In art, in literature, in science, in public service, in philanthropic work, even in politics, there are women whose names are household words, but the

much-vaunted chivalry towards them of the "man-made world" sees no need to honour them publicly as men are honoured. We do not sigh merely for titles, but we note that political inequality makes itself felt in many ways.

The Luggage of 1912.

The cartoonist of *The Westminster Gazette* has included Votes for Women among the luggage of the New Year. True, it is not piled up on the three important pieces—Home Rule (a large trunk), the Welsh Church (a cabin trunk), and the Reform Bill (a kit bag). It is not even strapped to the bag, but rests on the platform with a nondescript bundle marked "Labour." Father Time, as an old porter, remarks to the young traveller: "You've got enough to go on with, young gentleman!" So we think, and forecast an excess of luggage, but we must see to it that it is not the women who have to pay. The Press reviews of the year also foresee that Woman Suffrage must be faced, and while the "Antis" are crying out for campaigners, *The Nation* cries out for the Suffragists to be fair to Mr. Asquith. Our reply is, that a Manhood Bill must be made impossible.

The Anti Campaign.

We may rejoice that Woman Suffrage is no longer a negligible quantity. It has split the Cabinet, and the "Antis" are taking off their coats. The efforts now to be made are an evidence that they regard the situation as serious from their point of view. Two Albert Hall meetings on the Suffrage question, following each other within a few days, and Cabinet Ministers at each preaching absolutely opposed doctrines, are indicative of the "liveness" of our Cause. The Prime Minister is in a minority, but he is in power; he is a great propagandist of democracy and the rule of the majority. Let him apply these principles to the case of the women. It devolves upon the Suffragists of the Cabinet to do more than lip service on platforms; inside the Cabinet and in Parliament they must stand for the faith that is in them.

"The Reign of Woman has Begun"

Looking abroad at the growing strength of the woman's movement, we may meet the new year with hope. From all parts of the world comes news of progress, news which shows the wide awakening of woman to her true inheritance and to the wide scope of her powers. We realise the various stages of the awakening, but we realise also how valuable is co-operation among the women of the world. The advance guard encourages the rear guard, and certainly the faith of those who are some way behind spurs the leaders to greater efforts. In East and West the movement is proving that women can be comrades. Methods of work may vary according to circumstances and policy. Forbearance is essential to ensure advance upon a road that is encumbered with the *debris* of centuries. The movement is giving women the training and experience they needed in combined efforts; it is establishing a true sisterhood. Knowing how much we have yet to accomplish in our own country, we felt the responsibility for the great movement which rests upon us here when a Russian suffragist, after a brief visit to London, took leave of us the other day, saying, "I go back to my country happy, because I see that the reign of woman has really begun!"

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

A. Happy New Year.—A Happy New Year to every member of the Women's Freedom League, and may the women of Great Britain win their political enfranchisement before this year closes!

Sympathy and Good Wishes.—All members and friends will learn with sincere regret of the recent illness of Mrs. How Martyn, and will join with us in whole-heartedly desiring for her, as also for Mrs. Coates Hansen, a speedy recovery to health and an early return to the work of the League.

The Annual Conference.—The Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League, to be held at Caxton Hall on Saturday and Sunday, January 27 and 28, is of the utmost importance. At the Conference the policy of the League is decided upon; the President, the officers, and the National Executive Committee are elected for the coming year to carry out this policy, so that every member is urged to be present, at any rate during part of the time.

A Freedom League Fair.—We are planning to hold a Freedom League Fair in London shortly after Easter. Our President is taking the keenest interest in this matter, and would like every member of the League to contribute towards its success. In times past our members have given to the League not what they could spare, but the most they could sacrifice. Will they now make one supreme effort, perhaps the last, before woman's political enfranchisement is placed upon the Statute Book? Those who have money can supply us with funds, those who have not money can begin at once to make goods to sell.

Discussion Meetings.—These will be held on Tuesday evenings at 8 o'clock at the "Gardenia," the first of the series being opened by Mr. G. E. O'Dell, January 23, on "George Bernard Shaw's *Blanco Posnet*—the Play that the Censor Banned"; Lady Meyer, the following Tuesday, dealing with "Home Science for Women—Is the Movement a Progressive One?" We hope that our members and friends will make these discussion meetings widely known.

Debate Between Mrs. Sproson and Mrs. Agnes Stewart.—Saturday, January 13, at the Caxton Hall. Mrs. Sproson will move, "That Votes for Women are essential to the welfare of the women of the working classes," Mrs. Stewart taking the opposite view. The chair will be taken at 8 o'clock. Admission will be free, but tickets for reserved seats can be obtained from this office at 1s. each.

"Vote" Street Selling.—Helpers are greatly needed to undertake this work. Mrs. Fisher has more pitches than sellers to fill them, and wishes to hear at once from members or friends who can spare even half-an-hour a week to sell THE VOTE.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

POLITICAL AND MILITANT WORK.

GOVAN BY-ELECTION.

Elected Candidate MR. D. T. HOLMES.
Liberal Majority 986
Liberal Majority last Election 2,040

Owing to the Christmas holidays the full report of the Govan by-election could not appear in the last issue of THE VOTE, but the Freedom League campaign was so extraordinarily successful that it deserves a

further mention. A letter appeared in *The Standard* on the 28th from Mr. H. B. Samuels, asserting that "the ladies" had no effect whatever on the result of the election. Miss Neilans' reply, which also appeared in *The Standard*, not only gives a direct denial of this statement, but will serve to show our members what actually happened. She writes:

As a speaker for the Women's Freedom League I also was in the thick of the Govan Election, and I have never before seen anything approaching the extraordinary enthusiasm and real sympathy which was accorded to our workers there. It is a poor district, with a name for rowdyism, especially on Saturdays, and Mr. Samuels himself was kind enough to warn me of possible rough times. What actually happened? On the Saturday before the poll, when feeling was running high, we held an afternoon and an evening meeting in the open air. All was perfectly orderly, and after answering a string of keen questions, we were cheered by the crowd. Perhaps, however, the best practical proof of our results may be offered in the fact that after every meeting and with no attempt on our part to make a collection, men and women came eagerly pressing pennies, sixpences, and threepenny pieces into our hands for the campaign. The Freedom League had the biggest and most orderly audiences of any party in the division, and the same faces were to be seen night after night, men and women alike, listening with the deepest attention and obvious sympathy.

It was undoubtedly regrettable that the suffrage societies represented were not uniform in opinion, but I found that the Scottish audiences quickly understood that just as men differ in policy so do women, and any attempt to make capital out of the differing was treated with mild contempt by the crowds. I do not wish to pretend that we turned hundreds of votes, but I know definitely of some, and it was evident that those who were wavering between the Conservative and the Liberal were settled in their decision when we pointed out that the Conservative was an anti-suffragist.

The reduction of the Liberal vote at Govan was in all probability due to the Socialist manifesto calling upon their supporters to vote against the Government as a protest against their attitude on the Osborne judgment.

It was impossible last week to thank all the Glasgow Freedom Leaguers who turned out so splendidly to help, but we do so now very heartily, and feel sure that they will see to it that Mr. Holmes has plenty of encouragement behind him to carry out his very comprehensive pledges.

THE ANTI CAMPAIGN.

The Women's Freedom League does not attach much importance to the scare headlines in certain papers regarding the division in the Cabinet upon Votes for Women. It has always been well known that the Cabinet was divided on the subject, and in this respect no new situation has arisen.

So far as can be ascertained at present, the following list represents the views of the Cabinet on Women's Suffrage:—

For.	Against.
Mr. Lloyd George.	Mr. Asquith.
Sir Edward Grey.	Lord Loreburn.
Lord Haldane.	Mr. Harcourt.
Mr. Burns.	Mr. Samuel.
Mr. Birrell.	Mr. Hobhouse.
Mr. Buxton.	Lord Pentland.
Mr. Runciman.	Mr. McKenna.
Lord Morley.	
Lord Beauchamp.	
Mr. Churchill.	
Mr. Pease.	
	Doubtful.
	Lord Crewe.
	Lord Carrington.

That Liberal Cabinet Ministers are willing to speak at an Albert Hall Meeting against Woman Suffrage shows they are not prepared to carry Liberal principles to their logical issue, and illustrates the real difficulty in our work—namely, that so many people may see their principles quite clearly when it only means applying them to men, but must needs drop them when women also ask to be included. As to Mr. Asquith, we have a right to expect that as "an impartial chairman" he will not use his responsible position in the State against Woman Suffrage on any platform other than the floor of the House of Commons.

TREASURER'S NOTE.

In wishing all our members and friends a happy New Year, I should like to remind them that there is only one way in which they can give me any pleasure, and that is by letting their interest and friendship take a practical, tangible form. Spending my time, as I do, poring over our Bank-Book, noble sentiments cannot deceive me; they appear (as they generally work out to be) "such stuff as dreams are made of," and often "leave not a wrack behind." In fact, in so far as our work is impersonal, we may safely devote ourselves to the practical details in the knowledge that the noble sentiments will take care of themselves and occupy their rightful place as accompaniments and not as aims.

I should also like to remind the members that at the coming Conference they will have the opportunity of choosing a treasurer of a less scornful turn of mind, so that those who like dreams better than realities need not be unduly depressed—their chance is coming.

CONSTANCE TITE.

NATIONAL FUND.

(Branch and District Funds not Included.)

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1910, £11,595 3s. 2d.

£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount previously ac-	Miss Neilans 0 2 6
knowledged 2,636 16 0	Mr. John Russell 0 5 0
Miss C. Tite (collected) 4 0 0	Mrs. Russell 0 5 0
Do. (Travelling Ex-	Mrs. Barnett 0 1 0
penses refunded) 2 9 0	Miss Johnson 0 1 0
Miss M. A. Sidley 2 0 0	Mrs. Reeves 0 2 6
Barry Branch (Profit	Miss Valerie 0 1 0
on Whist Drive) 2 0 0	Mrs. McCabe 0 5 0
Miss A. Mocatta 1 10 0	Harrow Branch 5 0 0
Lady L. Treacher 1 0 0	Mrs. Catmur 1 0 0
Mrs. D. Hamilton 0 10 6	Miss C. N. Boyle 2 0 0
Mrs. Vulliamy (Travel-	Tottenham Branch 2 2 0
ling Expenses re-	Mlle. Henry 1 1 0
funded) 6 19 3	Mrs. Vulliamy 1 1 0
Mrs. Tudor (Travelling	Mr. Vulliamy 1 1 0
Expenses refunded) 2 10 10	Mrs. Clarkson Swann 1 1 0
Mrs. E. Mitchell (Travel-	Miss D. Nelligan 0 10 0
ling Expenses re-	Miss A. Mocatta 0 10 0
funded) 1 11 4	Miss E. E. Gill 0 10 0
Mrs. Coates Hansen	Mrs. Ferguson 0 10 0
(Travelling Expenses	Mrs. Spiller 0 10 0
refunded) 1 7 6	Mrs. L. Sidley 0 10 0
Dundee Branch (Profit	Mrs. Tritton 0 5 0
on Shelley Lecture) 1 1 0	Mrs. Tanner 0 2 6
Dr. E. Knight 1 0 0	Miss M. Turner 0 2 6
Do. (Collected) 0 17 9	Mrs. Counter 0 2 6
Miss R. Paget 0 10 0	Mme. Kubler 0 2 6
Mrs. Barger 0 10 6	Miss Light 0 5 0
West Hartlepool Branch	Anonymous 0 0 6
(Members' Sewing	Per Mrs. Clarkson Swann:
Party) 3 0 0	Mrs. Bernard Hill 0 2 6
Mr. and Mrs. Thompson	Per Mrs. Despard:
Miss Frisby 0 4 0	Mrs. Tudor 1 0 0
Miss E. Evans 0 1 0	Miss M. I. Saunders 0 5 0
Miss Voigle 0 1 6	Per Mrs. Drysdale
Mrs. K. Stebbing 0 6 0	(Stall Takings) 10 16 0
Mrs. M. E. Roberts 0 1 0	For New Year Gift:
Miss M. Hickman 0 10 6	Miss M. Turner 0 2 6
Mrs. Fawcett 0 5 0	Special Levies:
Mrs. Clark Hall 0 1 0	Miss M. Turner 0 6 0
Mrs. L. Bennett 0 1 0	Highbury and Hollo-
Miss A. Dawson 0 1 0	way Branch 0 15 5
Mrs. Tyrrell 0 1 0	Per Wolverhampton
Miss S. Keen (M.P.F.) 0 4 0	Branch:
Miss Wakeham 0 1 0	Mrs. Sproson 0 1 0
Miss Blake 0 1 0	Mrs. Taylor 0 1 6
Anonymous 0 8 0	Mrs. Burton 0 1 0
C.T.O., per Miss King 0 7 6	Mrs. Creswell 0 1 6
Per Miss Sample:	Two Clapham Branch
Mrs. Christie and	Members 0 10 0
Family 1 0 5	Miss A. Neilans 0 2 0
Christmas Gift Fund:	Mrs. E. Taylor Brown 0 1 0
Dr. E. Knight 5 0 0	Capitation Fees:
Miss C. Tite 10 0 0	Caldicot 0 8 0
Hampstead Garden	Dunfermline 0 5 6
Suburb Branch:	Acton Branch 0 4 6
Dr. A. Vickery 1 0 0	Barry Branch 0 7 0
Mrs. B. Drysdale 1 0 0	Glasgow Branch 3 3 0
Dr. C. V. Drysdale 1 0 0	Harrow Branch 0 15 0
Eva M. Drysdale 0 2 0	Hadleigh Branch 0 7 10
Miss Bills 0 2 0	Kensington Branch 0 3 6
Mrs. Howard 0 1 6	Marlow Branch 0 6 0
Dr. Bryant 0 5 0	Hampstead Branch 1 0 0
Mrs. Bryant 0 5 0	Middlesbro' Branch 0 12 6
Mrs. Kelson Brown 0 5 0	Mid-London Branch 0 2 6
Mrs. Sydenham 0 2 0	Stamford Hill Branch 1 4 0
Mrs. Beckett 0 2 6	Wolverhampton Br. 0 7 6
Mrs. Betham 0 2 6	Tottenham Branch 0 1 6
Mrs. Tull 0 1 0	Potteries Branch 0 6 0
Mrs. Nevinsou Coul-	South Shields Branch 0 14 6
field 0 1 0	Swansea Branch 2 0 0
Mrs. How Martyn 0 2 6	

£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Branch Banner:	Per Miss Gibson 1 7 4
Caldicot Branch 0 8 6	Govan B.E. (colls.) 0 5 0
For Office Expenses	Miss Sample 0 2 6
Fund:	Miss Steven 0 5 0
Per Mrs. Harbord:	Miss Bunten 0 5 0
Miss Eggett 1 0 0	Collections and Sales:
Political and Militant	London 8 16 5
Dept.:	Total £2,813 5 11
Per Mrs. How Martyn	
"A Lobbyer" 50 0 0	
Per Miss Neilans:	
"D. G." 10 0 0	
Per Miss Munro	
(Hitchin colls.) 1 4 0	

FROM THE UNCERTAINTY OF 7s. A WEEK, and nothing during the six or seven weeks of school holidays, the London charwomen, cleaners, and kitchen-maids under the County Council will in April next be entitled to a minimum wage of 14s. a week for thirty-three hours' work and 5d. per hour overtime, with regular employment during the whole of the year and a fortnight's holiday each year on full pay. This notable victory was celebrated on December 30 with great enthusiasm.

"Thinking Women Read The Standard."

In a few weeks this phrase has become a truism. Why? Order *The Standard* for a week, or a day, and you will see. It is because, since October 3, *The Standard's* daily news pages have included one headed:

"WOMAN'S PLATFORM."

which every Thinking Woman in the land, and very many thinking men, want to see and to study every day. "WOMAN'S PLATFORM" has ended what was called the "Press Boycott" of the serious interests of thinking women—not their ribbons and ornaments, but their thoughts, aims, claims, views, hopes, deeds, and—Work. "WOMAN'S PLATFORM" in *The Standard* has already become the Thinking Woman's own medium in the Daily Press of Great Britain. All thinking women modern women, are keenly interested in "WOMAN'S PLATFORM." They know that it is their own; they themselves determine how much it can serve their own interests by:—

1. Following "WOMAN'S PLATFORM" closely and day by day in *The Standard*, and using it freely in women's interests, as opportunity offers.
2. Inducing the largest possible number of the general public—men and women—to do the same thing, thus extending the scope of its services to women.

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

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THE NOTE OF ADVANCE.

But is it advance? Can we say that this note has been sounded? Some, perhaps many, looking back over the strange and chequered year which has just taken its place amongst the things of the past, would say that, if indeed such a note has gone forth, it has met with no answering vibration of response. There are two modes of movement: one is forward, the other is retrograde. Movement there has been in 1911. The world has not slept; but it is movement that has thrown the world back rather than forward.

If we look only on the surface of things we may find abundant justification for this attitude. The year's retrospect has but few relieving features. Looking abroad there is reaction. The cloud of war has broken where it was least expected; it has been attended with horrors unexampled in recent warfare, and threatens to widen its area. A brave and strong nation that only a short time ago threw off her own oppressors, is in the fatal grip of the most autocratic Government in Europe. Persia is being Russianised; and Great Britain, formerly the champion of the freedom of nations, stands aside "fitted to her petty part," preaching prudence and submission. Another free nation, gallant Finland, is having the chains of ancient servitude fitted more closely on to her limbs. Nations still nominally at peace have been piling up armaments, and, through those who claim to represent them, have thrown words of defiance at one another; and, more than once, in our own nation, during this momentous year, the grim dogs of war have been within an ace of unloosing.

One mighty Empire of the East, influenced, it would seem, by a great and good man, is casting off an ancient tyranny and preparing herself for a nobler life; but, of mysterious China, who can speak certainly? This abroad, and at home nothing but unrest. In the State conflicting parties and divided counsels. Labour, like the great symbolic figure of Samson in his blindness, conscious of its power, but not yet trained to use it, breaking on every side into revolt; and Capital, having discovered that only through combination it can be saved, increasing its strength and tightening its grip on Labour. Woman, deceived again, and still defrauded of her just right, holding herself in readiness for fresh and more arduous conflict.

All this we see as we look back. What, then, about the note of advance? If we would understand a beautiful thing—a work of art, a noble symphony, a fine oration—we must catch its spirit. For in that, and only in that, is the revelation. So with the life of nations at any particular era. Times of apparent prosperity are not always times of progress. "The people perish for lack of vision." And, often, nothing but the fierce stinging of pain, as it tears through barriers, will give the vision room for birth.

To those, therefore, who can see below the surface, who can hear the beating of hearts, who can catch the glow of hope on sad faces, who can dimly sense the meaning of life, it may seem that, with all its apparent retrogression, 1911 has been a year of advance. No one will dare to deny that great spiritual forces are being unchained. There is the force that, to the uninitiated, works itself out as recklessness, that is without prudence, that says virtually, "I, as an individual, am nothing. Let me live, let me die; take me, use me, fling me aside, do anything with me so that the Cause I love moves forward; so that Humanity is served!"

That force is working through our time. Out from the ranks of the army that fights for righteousness have stepped women and men ready to die; and where such a spirit moves, along the whole line there is advance.

Another force, different in manifestation, though similar in essence, is stirring the human soul to action. We lose ourselves to find ourselves. With the eager readiness of the individual to give, comes the consciousness, dim as yet but destined to grow in volume and power, of the great life of that in which, as the ancients have said, 'we live and move and have our

being." In all the great movements of to-day—woman, child labour, unification of religions and drawing together of races—we find this as a driving-power, ringing the note of advance. There are other forces at work amongst us—the spread of knowledge, the thirst insatiable for righteousness, native to humanity, though so long crushed down; the new and larger compassion, the fervent desire for justice, and possibilities of a human life for all. These are growing and being felt. We gather this even from the tone of the reactionists and of those who imagine that things can remain as they are. It is easy in their protests to detect the note of fear. If women are emancipated, if the eyes of the labouring people are opened, if the Churches lose their hold upon society, what, they ask, is going to happen? And so, like children, they build up their sand-castles, to form a buttress against the incoming tide. In vain are their efforts. Destiny neither hastens nor draws back. It advances.

Now and then summer visitors to fishing villages will see an interesting little drama of life. Everything is still. The sea sunlit and radiant; no boats out; a few bare-legged children playing on the shore; sailors with telescopes looking out to sea. Suddenly someone sees something; out on the sea there are ripples that catch the sunlight and throw it back in shimmering radiance. In a moment there is commotion. Boats are dragged down the beach, nets are thrown into them; they are being rowed out with haste to where the disturbance in the water is seen. The visitor asks what has happened. An old sailor, not quick enough now for the job, answers. They have sighted a mackerel shoal. Sometimes it is too far away to be reached; sometimes the boats come back heavily laden with a shining freight. But the shoal has escaped. Only a few stragglers have been captured by the nets.

So with these years and their seeming reaction. The ripple that troubles the surface of the waters means life. It has attracted the attention of those who would imprison it; but nothing can delay its onward movement. To the ocean of life it belongs.

Therefore in the opening days of this New Year we ring joyfully the note of advance; we call upon those who are awake to go forward without fear.

THE "PERFECT WIFE."

If the columns of the "Woman's Platform" in *The Standard* are for the most part solemn and serious, we may often find amusement in the discussions carried on by correspondents. That on "The Perfect Wife" is a case in point; opinions vary from that of the gentleman who vaunts the wonderful characteristics and engaging qualities of his wife, culminating in the declaration, "I need not add she is not a suffragette," to the evidence of others who, after enumerating similar excellencies, observe, "I need hardly add that the whole household are ardent suffragettes," or words to that effect. *Pace* the "Antis," we have never been able to understand why all the excellent and highly vaunted qualities of women who look well to the ways of their households, should not be allowed wider scope through extension to the larger family of the town and the nation. Both stand to gain; the home interests are widened; the outside world feels something of the influence of the home. Passing from the perfect wife to the perfect woman, we may wonder whether she exists any more than the perfect husband or man; perhaps the solution offered to a lecturer may be the true one. He asked an interested audience, "Have any of you ever heard of a perfect woman?" Out of a tense silence came the small voice of a small woman. "Yes, I have." Everyone was eager to hear more. "Who was she?" demanded the lecturer. "My husband's first wife—but she's dead!"

JUAREZ, Mexico, claims to be the only city in the world in which the direction and control of the city parks have been turned over completely to women, a board of eight women managers having exclusive control of them.

ALL THE WORLD OVER.

An Australian Christmas card, wishing every success to the Women's Freedom League, has come from Miss Jennie Gearing, editress of *Weigel's Journal*. It contained some seeds of the Golden Wattle, and each leaf of each plant is to bear a "wish" for us. The seeds have been sown, and when we see the wonder of the golden blossoms, may women hold some fruit of a wisely exercised franchise.

On September 1, Mrs. Chapman Catt addressed a large audience composed chiefly of women, in the Town Hall, at Grahamstown, South Africa. She told them they made a great mistake in the long ago in giving the vote to the black man before they had given it to the white woman. She begged them to rectify the blunder, a comparatively easy task in a new country "which became the path of least resistance for new ideas to be established." She alluded to the rapid growth of the Woman Suffrage movement, and spoke of how women were giving their lives and fortunes and doing everything possible in order to establish this reform. A fallacy, she said, still existed in the minds of some that men represented their wives. She asked how many men on election day had said to their wives, "Come, Mary, let us take counsel together to see how we can cast our vote." She did not believe there was a man present who had asked his wife that question. He voted as he wanted, because it was his vote, and his wife had nothing to do with it. Mr. Chapman Catt thinks her trip in South Africa has been the greatest experience of her life. The bearing on economical and social conditions, the history of the natives, and the women's doings in the recent war are the things which have stirred her most.

The curious delusion that women can do more without the ballot than with it is like the conviction of the Conservatives in China that a woman can do more for her family by the use of her hands only than she could if she had the use of her feet as well. The belief in both cases is equally sincere and equally absurd.

Gifts.

"Wilt thou be mine?" Thus, as a gift, woman has been claimed by man, but the divine messenger has come to us once more, and we feel beneath our hearts the first faint stirring of a new life; henceforth we belong to the race not only for creation, but for re-creation. We who create physically must re-create spiritually; here is the channel for that creative force that surges through our woman-world, for which so many women can find no material outlet under modern conditions. Pain and anguish will be ours, but we have learned to see of the travail of our soul before we can be satisfied. For many dark and weary ages must we bear the burden ere we bring to birth that wondrous life of which, as yet, we are but faintly conscious. Re-create. Women of every race and creed from all the world over, we hear the cry; we march undaunted into that valley of death without which no life can exist, and as earnest of our consecration we bring our gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. Gold, the ornament of vanity, born of the slave's desire to please, and gold the token of vile lust and greed. With souls thus purified, we offer frankincense, the emblem of our dedication to that which is divine. Then, symbol of our suffering, we lay our myrrh upon the altar of the inmost shrine of life.

K. HARVEY, Hon. Head, Press Dept., W.F.L.

"THE LOWER DEPTHS."

Maxim Gorki's play, *The Lower Depths*, now being given by Miss Lydia Yavorska and her company at the Kingsway Theatre, cannot fail to remind us of *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*, which charmed London a few years ago. But it is difficult to compare the task of the "Passers By" in that play with the work before Luka, the wandering idealist of Maxim Gorki's sombre drama, dealing with the outcasts of a great city and the elemental passions of the underworld collected together in a low doss-house in Moscow. Like the "Passer By," Luka comes, we know not whence, to dispense love and sympathy amongst those who have known little of either. Yet these great human virtues, indispensable as they are, are shorn of half their value when not linked to knowledge. It is no use to be a philosopher and an idealist only. One is driven to the conclusion that Gorki has no faith in his own philosophy. The women are particularly interesting. The play has little or no coherent plot, but is excellently acted. It is a bit of sordid and sombre realism, yet full of arresting phrases and suggestive thought.

S. M. B.

HARD-UP SOCIAL.

The "Gardenia" has been taken for the evening of February 17. Following last year's precedent, tickets for this Social will be 1s. each; in addition to buying a ticket, visitors are invited to bring contributions to the supper and something that can be sold. There will be a concert, Suffrage plays by the Actresses' Franchise League, various side-shows and dancing. All communications should be made to the Hon. Secretary of the Hard-Up Social Committee, Mrs. J. van Raalte, 23, Pandora-road, Hampstead, N.W.

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THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

Directors—Mrs. DESPARD, Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. M. H. FISHER, Miss C. ANDREWS, Mrs. E. SPROSON, Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

SATURDAY, January 6, 1912.

WHEN WOMAN IS FREE.

A FORECAST.

The first day of a new year is like a milestone on the road along which we may be travelling. We have been trudging mechanically, without much thought of anything but just going on, when the sight of it pulls us up, and we pause for a moment to take breath.

Into that moment a host of thoughts come crowding. Of what sort is the road that lies before us? The milestone only tells us the distance. Other milestones have been deceptive. They have marked the number of miles accurately, we suppose, but they have given no hint of the difficulties we should meet in covering them, of the toil, the sweat, the danger, the compulsory halts, the anguish of holding to what has seemed a fruitless endeavour. The milestone of 1912 is, in appearance, much like the others. What does it conceal? Idle, some will say, to speculate! Yet, without speculation, without the beckoning vision and the light of life that gilds it, we see not how we could go forward at all.

Therefore, taking advantage of this brief pause, when even politicians are resting, let us try looking on to 1912 and far beyond it, to form a forecast of what may be when woman is free. For concerning this no truly-constituted human being can have any doubt. Sooner or later woman must come into her kingdom, must recover her royal gift of independence.

The woman's movement has been to many a revelation, because, loudly as we prate about our democracy, the greater number of men and women in Christendom, having lived in captivity all their lives, do not know what freedom means.

This we gather from the note struck by many of our opponents. They are bewildered; they want to know what women have to complain of.

If they themselves knew what freedom meant, they might indeed still oppose us; but they would cease to wonder at our urgency.

A certain man, having discovered that a pearl of great price was hidden in a field, sold all he possessed and bought that field. So with woman—luxury, privilege, a lightening of the ancient burden of toil—all these she who knows is ready to give for the pearl of great price, her freedom. And when she is free? As a worker she will claim to regulate the conditions of her own labour. In the schools, in the Civil Service, in the Post Office, and, finally, in commerce, she will demand and obtain a reward at least commensurate with that which is given to men; and they, if they could only see it, would reap an advantage, for one of the reasons why the man-worker finds it so difficult to make just terms with those who hold his life in fee is that the woman-worker is economically deeper in the mire of slavery than he is. When woman is free she will refuse to accept this position. Nor will she allow her work to be regulated for her by men. She will demand and obtain the right of judging for herself and giving her labour on her own conditions.

And this she will do the more readily when she has made good her claim to an education, physical, manual, mental, which will fit her for her work in the world. Her great work of motherhood will then be recognised as worthy of honour and reward. Through legal enactment she will, if necessary, claim from the father of her children, or, in case of his disablement, from the State,

such provision as will enable her to carry out her work with some hope of success, maintaining meanwhile her independence.

The change would work slowly, for the chain of long servitude is not broken in a day; but the effect for good on the life of the nation would be incalculable. To-day a multitude of our homes are unhealthy—rich homes no less than poor ones. For the bodies and minds of unhappy children they generate disease. Then in the healthy atmosphere of free homes, and under the influence of strong, well-instructed, finely-developed women, girls and boys will grow up freely and grandly; they will love wisdom and hold human liberty sacred.

It is not every woman who has a vocation for marriage. The artist, the poet, the politician and the scientist are found amongst women as well as amongst men, for in intellectual and spiritual qualities there is no sex. In the old days these faculties in woman have, to the detriment of humanity, been crowded out by life's small demands, or denied opportunity for manifestation.

When woman is free, she will choose her own career, marriage, literature, art, administration, as the case may be. For marriage will no longer be an economic necessity; it will be freely chosen, with a full sense of its responsibility.

When woman is free she will go out into the world frankly and fearlessly to choose her mate as man now chooses his, and this will immeasurably benefit the race.

We have been dealing with woman's political emancipation. There is another side to the question. Political changes move slowly. Prejudice is strong, and, like a heavy ring-fence, it has grown up round the male ideal which governs our modern civilisation. That ideal must be replaced by the larger human ideal; and this will not be done by Act of Parliament. Although the constitutional pressure which politically educated women of the future will bring to bear upon our legislators may push forward necessary reforms, it is yet true that any great social advance must be preceded by a sound and vigorous public opinion.

When woman is free she will play a much larger part than she does now in moulding the thought of the nation.

But, we are told, women in the past have been against progress, and therefore their entry into public life will bring about reaction.

Possibly there is some justification for this fear. It would be wise, however, before giving place to it, to seek to understand how it has arisen.

"There is really no mystery," we are told. "Woman is timid, and therefore fearful of change. Man is bold and adventurous. Society will base itself in the future as it has done in the past, on the lines laid down by Nature."

But is it Nature, or is it convention? Ages ago the sage, Aristotle, when called upon to defend the institution of slavery, said that it was in the Divine order. The Greek was born free; the Barbarian was born a slave; it was meet and right therefore that one should rule and the other obey.

Aristotle is dead; the Greeks have ceased to be an empire-nation, and the slavish Barbarians, emerging from their forests, have laid the old empires low, have created the kingdoms of the West, and have remoulded the life of the world.

Women, like these primitive peoples, have been forced by circumstances into an unnatural mode of living; fetters imposed by custom have impeded her free movement, and submission, generally accepted and rendered, has dwarfed her growth. The glory of to-day is that all this is breaking up. Like the Barbarian of the primeval forest, woman is realising her strength. With the brother who once, unconscious of his short-sightedness, held her in bondage, she is setting out to build up that new world which is to be the fruit of her freedom.

C. DESPARD.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

* * Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

EVOLUTION AND THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Dear Madam,—The two points which have most impressed me in reading the voluminous correspondence which has followed my article in THE VOTE under the above heading are:—(1) Seventeen correspondents have endorsed my opinion that this is the precise moment in the Women's Movement when those men who, by both words and deeds, have evidenced their practical appreciation and understanding of the woman's point of view, should be given equal voting and administrative rights within our ranks; and (2) four opponents have, individually and collectively, shown an almost abject fear that if men were granted such rights they would immediately proceed to misuse them.

On the one hand, we have Mr. Stanhope-Sprigg quoting from Mrs. Despard's able leading article, "Unity of Force," in which she says: "The Woman's Movement is bound to last, to win its way until, merged in the Man's Movement, it is able to create the New Humanity"; and Miss Leonora Fairweather instancing Mr. Israel Zangwill's recent call in THE VOTE for the co-operation of both sexes: "Joint work of men and women . . . to foster every noble growth, joint work to make a better world for both." On the other hand, we have Mrs. Vulliamy—who thinks that men interest themselves in women's organisations more for the political advantage they can derive from them than for the help they can give them—prophesying that "our smaller Branches might easily be swamped by men from semi-political societies who could modify our decisions in Conference," and Miss Nina Boyle stating that "should the men whom we wish to see become members prove shy, and those who availed themselves of the new privilege not the class who would confer an additional standing advantage—moral or mental—or efficiency in the Women's Freedom League, the prestige of that body would suffer." (Miss Boyle, by the way, does not appear to see that this contingency may happen equally in the case of women!) Miss Jessie Cameron fears that the predominance of the man's point of view would prevail to the detriment of that of the woman—which is not very complimentary to the individuality of the women members of the League—and Mrs. Lilian Sidley, who evidently feels that the present political situation is fraught with immense danger to the Women's Cause—and in this, at any rate, I entirely agree with her—thinks that the admission of men to our councils might so impress us that "in time we, like the National Union, might be content if our Bill were brought in on an amendment—an afterthought, in fact—of the Adult Suffrage Bill."

I assume that this correspondent intended to write "Manhood Suffrage Bill," as this—and not Adult Suffrage—is at present before the country, and I would draw her attention to the fact that the Women's Freedom League has not waited for the throwing open of its portals to men to adopt the very attitude which she deprecates.

The essence of the opposition seems, in fact, to be that the sex-bar must not be removed from our organisation for fear that the sex which is now debarred—by reason of its sex—from taking part in our administrations might abuse the privileges which such removal would confer upon it—the very argument which is used by men against giving Parliamentary voting powers to women!

Let us not forget, moreover, that the Freedom League already admits men within its ranks as associates; that is to say, we are willing that men should come among us, sharing our work and our responsibilities. All that I have asked is that, if we are willing to trust men so far, we should be gracious and generous enough

to give them the privileges as well as the duties of co-workers. We are at present practically saying that, although our men supporters are fit to help us in the drudgery of our work, they are, by reason of their sex and its consequent limitations, unfit to share with us any of the benefits which voting powers would give them. The position would be grotesque if it were not pathetic.

My opinion is that the present political position, with its serious possibilities, should, at least from the League's own point of view, make the co-operation of voters most advisable, if not essential, to the success of its aims. Mrs. Vulliamy's contention that our Branches might be swamped by the political bias of men can be disposed of at once. The Women's Freedom League—assuming that its executive is composed of practical women—would, naturally, properly safeguard itself against the entrance of the political huckster by inserting a clause in the men's membership application form binding the applicant to use his vote on the Franchise question in accordance with the policy of the League. The fullest co-operation of voting men with voteless women for civic liberty for all would, as Mrs. Grossmann suggests, be a source of strength, and not of weakness.

The attitude of the Independent Labour Party at the present moment seems to me to be a conclusive answer to Mrs. Sidley's apprehensions regarding what might happen if the man's, equally with the woman's point of view, were allowed expansion within our League. Had men membership of the Women's Freedom League been an accomplished fact before the present political situation arose, there is, I believe, no reason to suppose that we should have been in danger of forgetting that first most important clause in the objects of the League, as laid down in our Constitution:—"To secure for women the Parliamentary Vote as it is or may be granted to men."

The Independent Labour Party—always the staunch and true friend of women—has, in fact, recognised that while men were admitted to voting rights on a limited qualification, the Conciliation Bill might be legitimately supported, but that the introduction of an extended Franchise, giving all men over twenty-one the vote, by reason of their manhood, transforms the whole position, and makes the granting of a limited measure to women, on the slender chance of an Amendment, an insult to womanhood and one which it is impossible, in the interests of human justice, to allow. Mr. Keir Hardie, one of our best supporters both in and out of the House of Commons, said recently, "I hope the women are going to resent any treatment of that kind," and his party has issued a manifesto in which is embodied the declaration that "further extension of the Franchise to men which leaves the injustice to women unredressed should be definitely opposed, and that the Government must embody Woman's Suffrage as an integral part of its Bill, not leaving the question to the chance of subsequent amendments." The italics are mine.

Surely this should satisfy Mrs. Sidley—and those of us who think with her regarding the attitude which should be taken by the Suffrage Societies on this question—that men of independent ideas are taking a broad and catholic view of the situation. The Independent Labour Party has not contented itself by a simple expression of its views. It is inaugurating a great National Campaign throughout the country in favour of political equality.

Clever and astute Parliamentarians like Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George have succeeded in throwing the "apple of discord" among our erstwhile supporters in the House of Commons, and even among the Suffrage Societies. What is wanted at the present moment is the rallying of forces. I am hoping that our January Conference, which I conclude is, by the votes of its delegates, to settle our policy, may decide that we shall continue to uphold, both in the spirit and the letter, that Clause in our Constitution to which I have alluded above, and that we shall further strengthen our hands in this crisis by giving to our men comrades and co-workers



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the same rights in our organisation which we are ourselves fighting to attain in the political world.

It has been suggested that men will not be in a hurry to avail themselves of the privileges which we might decide to offer to them. If that be so, then our timid members, who are averse to any such change, need not fret themselves. The point is that we should at least be carrying into active practise in our own organisation our demand for sex equality in all things which make for the common good.—Yours faithfully,

LOUISA THOMSON-PRICE.

42, Parkhill-road, Hampstead, N.W.

**AN IRISH JUDGE ON WOMAN
SUFFRAGE.**

With the imminence of Home Rule for Ireland it is of special interest to note the opinions of the late Recorder of Belfast—Judge James Shaw, K.C. (an eminent lawyer and brilliant scholar)—upon Women's Suffrage. The following passages occur in a collection of the Judge's papers, edited by his daughter, and recently published, which I have been reading. In the year 1874 Judge Shaw (then a Professor in Magee College, Londonderry) writes thus to his old friend, minister and former tutor, the Rev. James Rowan:—

The Derry people are to have a new sensation. Three ladies are to address a public meeting in the Corporation Hall on Woman's Suffrage. I fancy I see and hear your expression of disgust! I, you know, being a consistent democrat, go in for political equality in every form, and being a great believer in natural selection and the survival of the fittest, would leave women perfectly free to try any means of earning a livelihood they have a mind to. If they fail, their's is the damage and disgrace, and I am not disposed to believe in the protective system even here.

The second passage to which I would draw your readers' attention is found in Judge Shaw's paper dealing with the life and work of the late Henry Fawcett, at one time Postmaster-General, and is worthy of serious consideration, since the inclusion of women in the electorate of a Home Rule Parliament is still a matter of grave uncertainty. He says:—

Fawcett believed that no one class can be trusted either to understand or sufficiently to care for the wants and interests of another class. An unrepresented class is sure to be neglected both by legislators and administrators, because the natural selfishness and indolence of governors can only be overcome by the stimulus of responsibility and the fear of punishment. For this reason he (Fawcett) strongly advocated the admission of women to the Suffrage, a measure which was opposed by such strong democrats as John Bright and James Mill on the ground that women have no interests so distinct from men of the same class as to need separate representation. Fawcett, following John Stuart Mill, showed, as I think conclusively, that men cannot be trusted to deal wisely and disinterestedly with the social and political interests of women any more than peers and millionaires can be trusted to deal wisely and disinterestedly with the interests of the working classes.

Here, stated in a very concise form, appears to be the very kernel of the matter of women's suffrage. Though Judge Shaw remained true to his principles on the question, his daughter and editor tells us that in later years he found himself quite out of sympathy with the militant tactics of the Suffragettes. But I venture to believe that even Judge Shaw himself would have admitted the tremendous progress which the Cause has made since those days in 1874, when the advent in Derry of three lady speakers on Women's Suffrage was "a new sensation." And, moreover, the strange fact remains to be explained that this rapid progress, and militant tactics have been practically contemporaneous.
L. A. M. PRIESTLEY McCracken.

MISS HILDA CAMPBELL, whose singing gave such delight to the audience at the Christmas Presents "At Home," is an active member of the W.F.L., and one to whom we are indebted for generous help in entertaining at various times. It will interest our readers to know that she is a successful teacher of voice production. Voices damaged by misuse grow strong again under her guidance, and speakers as well as singers profit by adopting her methods. Certainly Miss Campbell's own voice is her best reference, as all who have heard her sing are willing gladly to acknowledge.

**THE INSURANCE BILL: PERTINENT
QUESTIONS.**

[Miss Leah Anson has kindly undertaken to answer questions on the Insurance Bill as it applies to women, and the following will, no doubt, suggest others, besides being of more than individual interest.—Ed.]

1. What is the income limit for teachers, governesses, and all employed persons who "live in"?

£160 a year earned. Exemption can be claimed in respect of pension or unearned income of £26 a year and upwards. The value of the "living-in" is to be added to the money wage, but the rate at which it is to be valued is yet to be settled by the Insurance Commissioners. The only information I have yet seen is a suggestion that "board and lodging" should be valued at 10s. weekly, but this was for domestic servants. This does not apply to State teachers coming under a Superannuation Act. Persons of sixty-five and upwards not previously insured are exempt.

2. What happens if a teacher at first compulsorily insured has her salary raised above the limit? What happens to her contributions?

If she has paid for five years or more as an employed person, she has the right to continue at the same rate as a voluntary contributor if she wishes. If she has paid during a less period, she is obliged to pass out of the Bill and loses the whole of her payments. No person is allowed to be a voluntary contributor if their total income from all sources exceeds £160, unless they have been paying as employed contributors for five years or more. Teachers in public elementary schools who pass out of the Act have their contributions credited to their annuity fund, but this does not apply to private teachers.

3. If a married woman, not insured before marriage, goes to work after marriage, must she be insured and at what rate?

A married woman not previously insured, becoming an employed person after marriage (and not widowed), would have the insurance payment deducted from her earnings and would be entitled to the benefits of the employed person. But supposing she only worked a short time and then again returned to non-wage-earning domestic life, she would lose all her payments. She would not have the widow's right of entry at a later date, nor the right of being a voluntary contributor. Such a woman should claim exemption on the ground of being "mainly dependent for her livelihood" on the husband.

THE FIGHT OF THE FLAX-WORKERS.

From Mrs. Aldridge, the Organising Secretary of the Manchester, Salford, and District Women's Trades Union Council, we hear that the flax workers, men and women, are still united in their determination to hold out until their demands are conceded. It is eleven weeks since the trouble began, and the long struggle means real heroism. The mill management still refuses even to meet the Union officials to discuss the demands of the workers. The Council has now a committee-room nearly opposite the mill; meetings are held every Thursday morning in St. Paul's Schools, and processions are organised from time to time.

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BRANCH NOTES.

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

London Branches Council.—Hon. Sec.: Miss ETHEL CLAYTON.

The next meeting of the Council takes place on Tuesday, January 9, at 1, Robert-street, at 7 p.m., when we hope to welcome our new chairman. All members of the Council are urged to attend, as important business, including the holding of a public meeting, will be discussed.

The next Café Chantant takes place on Saturday, January 20, at Caxton Hall, 7-10 p.m. The programme will include items suitable for children as well as adults. Tickets, 1s. 6d. (adults), and 1s. (children), may be obtained from Mrs. Fisher, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, or from the Branch secretaries.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Anerley and Crystal Palace District.—Hon. Secretary: Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road.

We held our annual general meeting last Thursday at 149, Croydon-road. The secretary was very disappointed that so few members attended, and hopes they will make amends by turning up in full force at the next meeting on Tuesday, January 16, at 3 p.m., to discuss the amended resolutions. The report and balance sheet gave great satisfaction, especially as it is the Branch's first year; the latter showed total receipts, £26 4s. 3d., and an expenditure of £25 3s. 4d. Members are earnestly requested to bring their collecting boxes on the 16th.

Croydon.—Office: 32a, The Arcade, High-street; Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue, Croydon.

The Croydon office was reopened after the Christmas vacation on Tuesday, January 2, 1912. The first weekly "At Home" in the New Year is fixed for January 12, when Mrs. Sproson has kindly promised to speak. Will all members bring a friend on that date? Hostesses for the 12th inst., Mrs. Ridley and Miss Jessett. Miss Anna Munro will be the speaker on January 26. More articles for sale at the office are needed.

Hackney.—Hon. Secretary: Miss P. LE CROISSETTE, 238, Navarino-mansions, Dalston, N.E.

We hear that many Branch members have patronised the local tradespeople who advertise in THE VOTE, but they have not in every case made themselves known as members of the W.F.L. When making a purchase our badge should be visibly worn, or the fact of allegiance to the League should be made known verbally. Mention THE VOTE on every possible occasion.

Mid-London.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing, W.

At our last Branch business meeting we had not a quorum. The rush of Christmas is now over, and I must ask you to let nothing prevent your attendance on Monday next, January 8, when we meet at 1, Robert-street, at 7 p.m., to elect and instruct our delegates to the Annual Conference. If on this occasion we should not have a quorum our Branch will have no delegates to represent our views at Conference. So please prevent such a disaster by making one of the requisite number on January 8.

Stamford Hill.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. CUNNINGHAM, 114, Holmleigh-road.

The session opened on Wednesday, January 3, with a sewing class at Mrs. Cunningham's. On Wednesday next, at 4 p.m., a business meeting will be held at Mrs. Cunningham's for the purpose of choosing a second delegate to the Conference and for making further arrangements for the public meeting on January 31.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND.—Portsmouth and Gosport.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. WHETTON, 64, Devonshire-avenue, Southsea.

The whist drive was a distinct success. Many thanks to Miss Mottershall and all the members who so generously gave the prizes and refreshments. The funds benefit to the extent of 14s. On Tuesday, January 9, a meeting for members and friends will be held at the Co-operative hall, Gosport, at 7 p.m. Mrs. Donald Shaw will read a paper on "Woman's Sphere—Past, Present and Future." Members are urged to bring as many friends as possible, especially unconverted ones.

PROVINCIAL BRANCHES.—Hadleigh, Suffolk.—Hon. Sec.: Miss MATTHEWS, 21, Fir Tree-terrace.

About forty members and friends met in the Co-operative Hall on December 28. The room was prettily decorated with the colours of the League and with flags lent by Mr. Bastian. The new banner of the Branch, which was carried in the Procession on June 17, 1911, was prominently displayed. After tea an enjoyable entertainment was given. In the unavoidable absence of the President, Mrs. Heard presided. Mr. Bastian gave an address and a humorous reading. Mr. A. Moss read an excellent paper on Woman Suffrage; recitations were given by the

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Secretary (Miss Matthews), and songs by Mrs. Roe, Mrs. Emeney and Mrs. Mann. The programme concluded with an amusing sketch entitled "Lodgings," in which Miss Wythe and Miss Matthews took part.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.—Manchester Central.—Hon. Secretary: Miss WRIGHT, Milton House, Peelmoat-road, Heaton Moor.

A new office has been taken at 46X, Market-street, in a most central position in the city, and will be opened by Mrs. Despard on January 18. Any help which friends may be able to give in furnishing the office and supplying it with its necessary equipment will be most welcome.

SCOTLAND.—Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road.—Hon. Secretary: Miss A. B. JACK, 21, Buccleuch-place. Hon. Treasurer: Miss M. A. WOOD, 67, Great King-street. Hon. Shop Secretary: Mrs. THOMSON, 39, Roslyn-crescent.

The first meeting for 1912 will be held on Wednesday, January 10. Tea will be served at 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Finlayson Gould has very kindly arranged an interesting musical and dramatic programme. It is hoped there will be a very good attendance. Tickets, 6d. and 1s., are now ready for the Burns' Night, and may be had from Miss Nora Stinton, Fernyhill House, Gilmertoe. Mrs. Marion Christie, Mrs. Alfred Young, and Mr. Alex. Murray, have kindly consented to contribute to the musical part of the programme. Please note that this meeting is on Thursday, January 25.—HELEN McLAUGHLAN, Asst. Sec. **Glasgow.—Suffrage Centre: 302, Sauchiehall-street. Hon. Secretary: Miss MINA STEVEN. Hon. Treasurer: Miss J. L. BUNTON.**

To take the place of the Branch meeting on Thursday, January 11, there will be a Whist Drive in the Centre. Tickets can be obtained from the convenors or at the Centre. We hope to have a large party. On January 19, Mrs. Sproson will speak on "The Vote and the Working Woman."

OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

Actresses' Franchise League.

The next "At Home" of the Actresses' Franchise League will be held in the Grand Hall of the Criterion Restaurant on Friday, January 12, at 3 p.m. (Please note change of date). Miss Winifred Mayo will take the chair, Mrs. Gilbert Samuel, Mrs. Percy Dearmer, and Sir John Rolleston will speak; Miss Lily Brayton will be the Hostess.

Free Church League for Women's Suffrage. General Secretaries: Rev. C. and Mrs. FLEMING WILLIAMS, 2, Holmby View, Springfield, Clapton, N.

A successful meeting to inaugurate the Lewisham Branch has

been held. J. Hiscox, Esq., president. Miss Bone and Miss Brown, secretaries. The general secretaries will be glad to communicate with those anxious to form Branches or arrange for meetings. Combined meetings with the Church League are being arranged. Donations to the Forward Movement Fund should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Holman, 55, Talbot-road, Highgate, N.

Cymric Suffrage Union.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. E. DAVIES, 57, Racton-road, Fulham, London, S.W.

Will members of the Freedom League who are Welshwomen please understand that they are eligible to become members of the C.S.U.? It is proposed to hold a public meeting for Welsh people early in the New Year in a central public hall, and that Welsh Members of Parliament will address the meeting.

Irish League for Women's Suffrage, Emerson Club, 19, Buckingham-street, Strand.

There will be a meeting at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9, at the Emerson Club, 19, Buckingham-street, Strand. Speaker: Miss Bridget M. O'Reilly. All women and men of Irish birth or connection are earnestly invited to attend and join our League.

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.—Hon. Sec.: Miss BEATRICE GADSBY, B.A.; Hon. Treasurer: Miss MONICA WHATELY; Office: 51, Blandford-street, Baker-street, W.1.

Members are asked to make known the new office address. Office hours, 5 to 6 on Tuesdays and Fridays, or by appointment. Members are particularly requested to write at once to the hon. sec. offering to lend their drawing-rooms for a series of meetings to be held directly after the holidays. Funds are also urgently needed for the campaign.

The New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage, 8, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge. President: Mrs. CECIL CHAPMAN.

The Christmas Sale added over £25 to the funds. Tickets for the Twelfth Night Party, to be held on the evening of January 6, at "The Boltons," S.W., can now be obtained at the office, price 2s. 6d. and 1s. The programme includes Miss May Muckle, Miss Winifred Mayo, and Miss Grainger-Kerr. The next office "At Home" will be on January 9, at 4.15 p.m. Speaker, Miss Helen Ogston, on "Women in History." Will members note matinee, Thursday, March 21, for our funds?

AT A RECENT MEETING of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, at the Institute, Torpoint, Cornwall, Miss Mary Gorill spoke on "Wage-cutting in Women's Labour." The following resolution was carried unanimously:—"This meeting protests against the exclusion of women from the Reform Bill, and calls upon the Government to extend the franchise to women next Session."

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Fri., Jan. 5.—Agenda Committee Meeting, 1, Robert-street, 11 a.m.
Sat., Jan. 6.—Suffrage Party and Whist Drive at 238, Navarino Mansions, 4 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 8.—IMPORTANT MEETING of Mid-London Branch members, 1, Robert-street, 7 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 9.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 7 p.m. |
Thurs., Jan. 11.—NORTHERN HEIGHTS BRANCH MEETING at Miss Danti's, 29, Marquis-road, Stroud Green, 7.30 p.m. Debate at Old Victorian Club, 15, Fenton-street, E., 9 p.m., between Mrs. Harold Norris and Miss Underwood.
Fri., Jan. 12.—WEEKLY "AT HOME," The Office, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Sproson.
Sat., Jan. 13.—Debate between Mrs. Sproson and Mrs. Stewart, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 8 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 15.—NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 2.30 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 16.—N.E.C. MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 10 a.m. ANERLEY BRANCH MEETING at 149, Croydon-road, Anerley, 3 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 17.—Debate between Mr. Elder and Miss Underwood at the Brentham Institute, Ealing, 8 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 20.—CAXTON HALL, Whist Drive and Cafe Chantant, 7—10 p.m. Whist, Games, Music. Tickets, 1s. 6d. (children 1s.). No extras. From Mrs. Fisher, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi.
Sun., Jan. 21.—S. LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETIES' DEBATING CIRCLE, 60, Lyndhurst-road, Peckham, S.E. Mrs. B. H. Jones on "The Political Situation in Respect to Woman Suffrage," 11.15 a.m.
Tues., Jan. 23.—DISCUSSION MEETING, Gardenia Restaurant, 6, Catherine-street, W.C. (next door Drury Lane Theatre), 8 p.m. Mr. G. E. O'Dell on "George Bernard Shaw's *Blanco Posnet*—the Play that the Censor banned."
Sun., Jan. 28.—Bow Baths. Meeting in support of a Government Adult Suffrage measure next Session, 8 p.m. George Lansbury and others. Chair: Mrs. Despard.
Tues., Jan. 30.—DISCUSSION MEETING, Gardenia Restaurant, 8 p.m. Lady Meyer on "Home Science for Women—is the Movement a Progressive One?"
Sat., Feb. 17.—HARD-UP SOCIAL, Gardenia Restaurant,

PROVINCES.
Eastbourne.
Sun., Jan. 7.—PRIMITIVE METHODIST MEN'S MEETING, 3 p.m. Miss Andrews.
Mon., Jan. 8.—W.F.L. "AT HOME," 3 p.m. Miss Andrews. Congregational Woman's Own, 7 p.m. Miss Andrews. Undenominational Sisterhood, 8 p.m. Miss Andrews.
Tues., Jan. 16.—Gravesend.—Presbyterian Debating Society, 8 p.m. Miss Boyle.
Thurs., Jan. 18.—Manchester.—Opening of New Office, 46A, Market-street, Manchester. Mrs. Despard.
Mon., Jan. 29.—Godalming.—Borough Hall. Mrs. Despard.

SCOTLAND.
Dundee.
Thurs., Jan. 11.—GILFILLAN HALL, 8 p.m. "At Home." Speaker: Miss E. K. Brown.
Tues., Jan. 23.—GILFILLAN HALL, 8 p.m., Burns Lecture. Mrs. Sproson. Tickets, 3d.
Edinburgh.
Wed., Jan. 10.—SUFFRAGE SHOP, 33, Forrest-road, "At Home," 7.30 p.m. Musical and Dramatic Entertainment. Mrs. Finlayson Gauld.
Wed., Jan. 17.—SUFFRAGE SHOP, 8 p.m. Miss Irwin, "Some Factors in the Problem of Unemployment."
Thurs., Jan. 25.—ODDFELLOWS' HALL, Forrest-road, Burns Night, 8 p.m. Speech by Mrs. Sproson. Concert, Tableau. Tickets, 6d. and 1s.
Glasgow.
Thurs., Jan. 11.—Whist Drive, Suffrage Centre.
Fri., Jan. 19.—Public Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Sproson. Subject: "The Vote and the Working Woman."

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THE ANTI: Politics are utterly corrupt.
 THE SUFFRAGIST: The only hope for corruption is re-creation.
 * * *
 THE ANTI: The vote is worn-out, useless.
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 * * *
 THE ANTI: It is against Nature.
 THE SUFFRAGIST: Nature has no eye whatever to politics.
 —KATE HARVEY (from *The Standard*).

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