

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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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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WHAT WE THINK.

The Reconstruction of the Franchise.

That we are on the eve of a reconstruction of the Franchise there can be no manner of doubt. The effort of the predominant party will be so to reconstruct it that the Conservatives will be weakened into permanent invalidism. Against all possible contingencies which may follow the loss of the Irish members in the event of Home Rule being given to Ireland at an early date, the party in power must be protected. The vote is likely to be separated from house or land and to be attached to the person as securely as his hair, and without the natural chance of loss. The Conservative, with property in different constituencies, who in the event of plural voting being abolished would, like a skilful chess player, move his piece to the most effective place at his command, must be effectually blocked. The curtailment of the Conservative vote and the extension of the Liberal electorate is not unlikely, then, to be the great work which the Government will undertake in the New Year, to which even the apparent world-rocking party issues must be subservient. We are up against a very subtle and a very dangerous alternative; we are facing that which woman Suffragists have never asked for, the dangerous principle of the wide door. We know perfectly well that for one who would keep the small door against us, sex-jealousy would raise ten if the wide one were about to be thrown open. Efforts at so-called democratic franchise must be watched with the greatest care; those who talk of it are those who mean us no good.

What was said by Lydia Becker, when the last Reform Bill was passed and women were left outside the door, is just as true to-day—"every extension of political freedom amongst men leaves women in a more unequal position than before."

Clothing Male Paupers,

Under the heading "Paupers' Clothing" some interesting details of the way women are paid for making trousers for male paupers has recently appeared in *The City Press*. Tailoring is by way of being a male trade, but this designation, of course, only applies

to that section of it which is well paid. Fourpence, we learn, is the price paid for making a pair of trousers, and it is stated that the hours of working are fifty. Rev. J. F. Marr, commenting on this, says that a woman to make 15s. a week—a living wage—would have to make forty-five pairs in fifty hours—a herculean task. To use sweated labour in making paupers' clothing is the grimmest of grim jests.

Vigilant Women Factory Inspectors.

The serious side of woman's work in the past year has been made the subject of an article in *The Daily Telegraph*, in the course of which we find it stated:

In factory inspection more women are being employed. Not until 1893, after some fifteen years of representations from various parts of the country, did the Home Office appoint two ladies, a number which this year has grown to seventeen. There are now senior women inspectors in London, Manchester, and Birmingham; in Glasgow for Scotland, and Belfast for Ireland, each with her own office and staff. As a fact, which is not generally known, about one-third of the total prosecutions for offences under the Factory and Truck Act are undertaken at the instance of the women inspectors, and in about 95 per cent. of their cases conviction follows.

This reform came very slowly, and even now more women are needed as inspectors. Their vigilance and their incorruptibility are well known to employers, and the unscrupulous ones dislike them very cordially.

Married Women's Debts.

It is not our business to be jubilant over anyone's loss, but it is very interesting to note that the law which was supposed to make the husband responsible for his wife's pledging of his credit cannot be always got to work. The law, always in a state of subtle change as it flows from the mouth of the law-givers, has a tendency to create new precedents, and we find drapers moaning over the fact. "The trade is reminded with regrettable frequency of the unsatisfactory condition of the law relating to married women's debts by cases coming before the Courts," says *The Drapers' Record*. The laws, as we all know, were made on the understanding that a wife was her husband's chattel. In so far as the law is ever in her favour, it only assists her if she desires to be dishonest. If every married anti-suffragist took advantage of the opportunities the law gives her—provided she is socially in a good position—of "doing" tradespeople there would be fewer of them solvent. And for the making of these ridiculously framed and unjust laws men are alone responsible.

Limited Corporations Want Votes.

We find it stated at each election as an injustice that limited companies are denied the right to vote. We are told that "The fact that such companies have no vote to-day is a striking illustration of the difficulty of securing businesslike reforms." But this injustice must be mitigated by the fact that the individuals forming them have votes under other electoral qualifications. The "injustice" done to the limited company, which, if redressed, would only result in an increase of plural voting and mean "more votes for men," finds ardent champions in the City, who see nothing ludicrous in their complaint, while women, who have no means of representing their views as the company has in the persons of directors and shareholders, are still waiting for justice.

PROPAGANDA.

The Outlook.

1910 has passed, and although between it and this new year the dividing line is only an imaginary or sentimental one, to-day is opportune for taking stock of work done and work ahead. What has been achieved, and what awaits achievement? Last year has been one of political uncertainties and surprises, and the logic of events has compelled our agitation to develop along the lines of propaganda, rather than along the lines of militant attack. This year—one cannot tell—may bring quite different imperatives, and the question we have all to ask ourselves is whether we have done all that we can to pass on the gospel from friend to friend in ever widening circles, so that when the tide returns it shall carry our Cause to victory.

On the whole, there is no reason for dissatisfaction. No one can work at the centre of things without feeling how wonderfully vital the movement is, and even where the first flush of enthusiasm has passed, its place has been taken by conviction and unshakable confidence. Success is not far distant. We have all but scaled the height, and already the foremost banners have caught the first gleam of sunlight. We are no longer a few voices crying in the wilderness, but members of a great army of women, who "have seen the vision," a vision of justice, fair play, and equal opportunity for the human race. *We must press on*, and between effort and achievement there must be no gap.

Suggestions Wanted.

Those of progressive minds who are fighting to free themselves from the fetters of tradition, study the history of the past, to learn what to avoid, rather than what to do; and we have to devise new means, new methods, and new measures for the new year. We appeal, therefore, to every enthusiastic Suffragist to think out plans for making the work of the League more effective. There is no more striking evidence of the vitality of a movement than a succession of well-thought-out ideas carried effectively into execution. Much of the work of the League must be executed in co-operation, but this part—the suggestion of new ideas—is the duty and privilege of every one of us individually.

Speakers' Classes.

Owing to prospective developments there is likely to be a great demand for speakers both for indoor and outdoor work, and it is exceedingly desirable for every Branch to institute special classes for the training of speakers. In London we hope to commence two such classes during the month, and members anxious to participate should send in their names.

London "At Homes."

At Caxton Hall, on Thursday, the 12th inst., Mrs. Despard will inaugurate the first of the new series of "At Homes," and our programme includes also for subsequent meetings a particularly interesting list of addresses. Among those who have promised to speak for us are Lady Stout, of New Zealand, Miss Decima Moore, Mrs. H. W. Nevinson, Surgeon-General G. J. H. Evatt, C.B., Mr. Cecil Chapman, Sir John Cockburn, Dr. Haden Guest, and Mr. J. Cameron Grant, &c., &c.

Members' Meeting.

A special meeting for members will be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Friday, the 6th inst., at 8 p.m., and we hope to have a large attendance.

B. BORRMANN WELLS.

POLITICAL AND MILITANT.

The plans under consideration for our work in this department are to be submitted to the committees of the Branches by a representative of the National Executive Committee. I shall be glad to hear as soon as possible from the secretaries as to suitable dates.

Parliament meets on January 31, and the King's Speech will be read on February 6. We shall be prepared to announce our plan of action on the latter date. Will all those who are ready and willing to co-operate actively with us, either as danger-duty volunteers,

or as supporters, kindly send me their names, or call to see me, as soon as convenient?

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE OFFICE.

An informal and pleasant reunion took place at the offices of the W.F.L. on New Year's Eve. All the rooms were thrown open, and dancing, music and games were the preliminary to the ushering in of the New Year at 12 o'clock by a speech from Mrs. Despard. A very large gathering, consisting of members and their friends, listened attentively to Mrs. How Martyn and Mrs. Despard, both of whom spoke very briefly. Mrs. How Martyn recalled the fact that they had spent last New Year's Eve outside Holloway cheering the prisoners, Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans, who were suffering for their action in connection with the ballot-box protest. Mrs. Despard dwelt on the objects and ideals of the Women's Freedom League, and urged the members to stand together in the coming year, which was likely to prove full both of dangers and possibilities. They said good-bye to a year of brave effort, and she hoped the coming year would be for all of them a happy year and one of prosperity, and that in it they would secure the first step in their emancipation.

CONCERNING THE "VOTE."

On the last day of the old year, as the clock struck twelve, a bright young girl stood with a large bundle of THE VOTE in her arms, and with a clear telling voice invited everyone to start the New Year well by buying a copy. Owing to the combined effect of a most delightful evening of fun, an inspiring speech from Mrs. Despard, and the winning manner of the seller, a splendid sale was made, and we only wish we could always command the services of such an ideal vendor of THE VOTE.

More street-sellers are still wanted, and even those who can only give an hour a week will be welcomed. The days are getting longer, the hope of spring will soon be in the air, and we may reasonably expect better weather, so please send your names in now as there is no time like the present.

The Stamford-hill branch is setting a fine example by arranging three open-air meetings a week and starting two street pitches for selling THE VOTE. I am spending most of this week there, and shall be glad to hear from others who would like me to do the same in their neighbourhoods.

As the New Year Number is such an exceptionally attractive one, containing also a fine portrait of Mrs. Despard, we feel many may like to buy extra copies either to sell or give away to their friends and acquaintances. Will they please apply as soon as possible to 1, Robert-street?—ETHEL FENNINGS, VOTE Organiser.

DUBLIN CORPORATION AND SUFFRAGISTS.

The Freeman's Journal says:—

"Although the opening meeting of the Dublin Corporation for each New Year is now shorn of the old ceremony of the inauguration of the Lord Mayor, the summary of the doings of the Council for the past twelve months, and the customary votes of thanks all round, there is a promise of an interesting visit to the City Fathers on Monday next. Already the Council has unanimously adopted a resolution in favour of the demand for votes for women, and, assured of a sympathetic reception, the members of the Irish Suffragette Association have sent in an intimation to the Town Clerk that a deputation will attend at the City Hall at the opening meeting for the purpose of requesting that a resolution should be adopted condemnatory of the arrest of the Irish ladies, who returned from prison to Dublin on Christmas Eve.

"The reason put forward for inviting the Corporation to act in the matter is that the ladies are residents of the Irish metropolis, and consequently that their grievances should be brought under the notice of their civic representatives, for whom they have a right to vote. This will add a novel feature to the proceedings of the New Year meeting, which since the passing of the Local Government Act in 1898 have usually been of a prosaic character."

LYDIA BECKER.

The name of Lydia Becker is often heard amongst Suffragists. It conveys to them the figure of a great woman with moral courage far above the average, and with an unswerving sense of purpose. There are few women who have saddled themselves with duties as disagreeable as those undertaken by Lydia Becker, and though to-day she has counterparts in organising capacity, she was perhaps the first Englishwoman to undertake Suffrage activities on a wide scale, and to look upon the country as a whole as a battle ground. To recall briefly some of the early struggles in which she took part may not be amiss at the present time.

Born in Manchester, February 24, 1827, her mother of Lancashire stock, her father of German descent, she spent some years of the early part of her life in Germany, and then she returned to England and devoted most of her time to botany and astronomy. In 1867, when she was 40 years of age, we find the first definite signs of her mental attitude when she formed a Ladies' Literary Society in Manchester. In her presidential address

we find her saying of the other learned societies in Manchester that they only admitted men. "They do not," she said, "throw open such opportunities as they afford for acquiring knowledge freely to all who desire it: they draw an arbitrary line among scientific students, and say to one half of the human race: You shall not enter into the advantages we have to offer; you shall not enjoy the facilities we possess of cultivating the faculties and tastes with which you may be endowed: and should any of you in spite of this discouragement reach such a measure of attainments as would entitle one of us to look for the honour of membership or fellowship in any learned body, we will not by conferring such distinctions upon any of you recognise your right to occupy your minds with such matters at all."

In the same year we find her secretary of the Manchester committee for the enfranchisement of women. This committee was the response to the wide-spread feeling of hope that had followed the words of Disraeli in the House on April 28, 1866, when he said:—"I say that in a country governed by a woman—where you allow woman to form part of the other estate of the realm—peeresses in their own right, for example—where you allow a woman not only to hold land but to be a lady of the manor and hold legal courts—where a woman by law may be a churchwarden and overseer of the poor—I do not see, where she has so much to do with the State and the Church, on what reasons, if you come to right, she has not a right to vote." As everyone knows, the famous first petition was presented in 1866, after the words which were "the spark that fired the train." The news of this petition, signed by 1,499 women and taken to the House of Commons by Miss Emily Davies and Miss Garrett never reached Lydia Becker. The signatures had been collected in little over a fortnight, but its presentation had an electric effect, and the Manchester Society formed immediately after did yeoman's service to the cause.

From this moment Miss Becker may be said to have given up her life to the movement. The organisation of

the Suffrage societies was strengthened, and the Manchester Committee presently issued a circular which stated that "it was proposed during the current session to present to Parliament two petitions, one to be signed exclusively by women legally qualified to vote in all respects save that of sex; the other by persons of all classes both men and women." The first of these, the women householder petition, had the signatures of 1605 duly qualified women, and in the preamble of the text said: "That your petitioners fulfil the condition of property or rental prescribed by law as the qualification of the electoral franchise. . . . That the reasons alleged for withholding the franchise from certain classes of Her Majesty's subjects do not apply to your petitioners."

The amendment moved by John Stuart Mill, on May 20, 1867, to the Representation of the People Bill (clause 4) "to leave out the word 'men' in order to insert the word 'person' thereof" was lost by a majority of 123.

The fact that 73 members voted for it gave considerable hope to the early Suffragists. The Manchester Society federated with the National Society, and we find Lydia Becker writing: "I must make a vigorous effort to beg for money in Manchester to go on. I do believe that if we are thoroughly bent on our point, and play our cards well, we may see women voting at the next election, and I am quite sure that if they do not vote then it will be the last general election from which they will be excluded." But her prophecy was doomed not to be fulfilled.

Miss Becker proceeded to call a great meeting in the Assembly Room of the Free Trade Hall, Manchester (April 14, 1868), the first public meeting held in England in favour of Suffrage and also the first to be addressed by women. A resolution demanding the vote on the same terms as men was carried unanimously. Mr.

Jacob Bright, M.P., and Mr. F. B. Potter, M.P., and Dr. Pankhurst were amongst the speakers, and a vote of thanks to Mr. J. S. Mill was also moved at this meeting. Miss Becker then addressed letters to prominent men who could be of use, explaining the woman's position and pointing out that the Act of 1867 struck out the term "male person" and substituted "man," which meant generically both sexes, and that consequently as an Act of Parliament (13 and 14 Vict., c. 21) provided that "in all Acts words importing masculine gender shall be deemed and taken to include female unless the contrary be provided," women were actually entitled to be put on the list of electors. She organised an army of women claimants to be put on the parliamentary register in Manchester, the result being that they were told that if women could be brought in under Lord Romilly's Act so could cows—i.e., that men and women were different species of animals.

An appeal to the Courts followed. Four test cases for appeal were selected and argued before the Court of Common Pleas. The case (Chorlton v. Lings) of 5,346 women householders of Manchester was taken, who had sent in their claims under the new Reform Act; the case of 1,431 women in Salford, who had been placed on the



(By courtesy of Messrs. Williams and Norgate, 14, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden.)

MISS LYDIA BECKER.

register by the overseers, struck off by the revising barrister though no one had objected to them; the case of 857 women of Broughton and Pendleton who had claimed to be put on the register of Salford. The claims were rejected, though the *Times* (November 3, 1868) had pointed out that their refusal would mean that the nation through its judicial representatives was "committing itself to the dangerous doctrine that representation need not go along with taxation." With the announcement of this decision "the first note of the agitation throughout the country was sounded simultaneously." Miss Becker had made arrangement that a letter from her asking every candidate in England and Wales (there was a general election in progress) to support a Bill in favour of Women's Suffrage should be dispatched. With that comprehensive grasp of every detail that might make a point in favour of the cause she "whipped up" those women electors whom the decision in the Court of Common Pleas did not affect, and whose names had been left on by the revising barristers, and got them to go to the poll in Manchester, and this effected with the concurrence of both candidates, she proceeded with all the forces at her command for the introduction of a Bill which would enfranchise women.

Mr. Mill had lost his seat in 1869, and this was a great blow to the women. Mr. Jacob Bright, however, slipped into the breach, and when the question of the Municipal Franchise Bill then before the house was being restricted to male occupiers, Mr. Bright succeeded in getting the word "male" omitted.

Public opinion was now awakened to the fact that women were possessed of administrative capacities, even if it were yet reluctant to pronounce them fit for the vote. In 1870 Mr. Forster's Elementary Education Act was passed and Miss Becker was the first woman in the country to be elected to a seat on an administrative council by the suffrage of a great popular constituency, Manchester having been the first city to hold an election under the new Act.

Then began the long struggle—the forty years in the wilderness. Miss Becker organised meetings in favour of the Suffrage Bill to be presently introduced. Petitions with 184,561 signatures were circulated. Two memorials signed by women were set into general circulation, one to Mr. Gladstone and another to Disraeli. On May 4, 1870, Mr. Jacob Bright was in his place to move the second reading of the Bill, and it was carried by 124 to 91. But the rejoicing of those who were responsible for this victory was speedily damped when it went into committee and was there rejected through the intervention of Mr. Gladstone.

The *Woman's Suffrage Journal* was started in 1870, and edited by Miss Becker, as she realised that the enemies of women bulked largely amongst newspaper owners, and that it was difficult on the whole to obtain a fair hearing without having an organ of their own. The complexities of 1874 were explained by her through this medium, when Mr. Forsyth added a clause to the Women's Bill providing that no married woman should be entitled to vote. While resenting this she wrote concerning the disabilities of married women: "Should measures dealing with the whole or any portion of these disabilities come before Parliament, it would be of great assistance to members in arriving at a just decision if they were responsible to a large body of women constituents, even if all such women were *femmes soles*."

Petition work occupied much of Miss Becker's energies, and even when in 1876 she had the sadness of seeing John Bright oppose the Bill in 1876 and Disraeli, the very good friend of Women's Suffrage, raised to the peerage, she never ceased in her work of whipping up supporters, exciting interest, speaking and writing. Her spirit dominated the movement, her pen was never idle. When Bill after Bill met its fate she never despaired, and we find her writing in 1881 after more than a decade of disappointment, though often on the eve of success: "The great demonstrations of women in so many large towns mark a new departure in the movement, and they prove unmistakably that the masses

of the women of the country are with us and support us in demanding the franchise."

Of the ten years that followed until her death, of the great work she did in those days of depression in keeping the flag flying, there are few of us who do not know, and when she died in 1890 she had helped her own words to come true that "The movement has got far beyond depending on any individual," but it had not got so far that her loss did not seem irreparable. We who stand now in these strenuous days, when the movement has to be sustained by more than the written or spoken word, look back with gratitude to Miss Becker's early work in holding the interest of the country and making the cause a live one. Of an early and brave Roman it was said that his greatest praise was that he never despaired of his country; of her it might be said that she never despaired of the cause.

MARY O. KENNEDY, B.A.

* * * We are indebted for much of our information to Miss Helen Blackburn's book on *Woman's Suffrage*.

GOOD RESOLUTIONS OF WOMEN'S LABOUR LEAGUE.

Meals for Expectant Mothers.

To give the children of the poor a better start right at the beginning is the object of a resolution which will be submitted at the annual Conference of the Women's Labour League which is to take place at Leicester. The suggestion is that free meals shall be given to women of the poorer classes who are about to become mothers. The object is to ensure the birth of healthy children, and the special resolution on the subject urges the Labour Party to introduce a Bill making it possible not only to provide free meals, but also free medical attendance.

Co-operative Housekeeping.

Another suggestion, advanced by the Central London Branch, is that a system of co-operative housekeeping should be adopted. They claim that the methods they advocate would economise labour and prevent waste by making housekeeping cheaper and simpler. They consider it would also free the housewife from a great deal of unnecessary drudgery.

Facilities for Divorce of Poor.

In view of the fact that the Divorce Commission is at present considering what proposals to make, it is interesting to note that a resolution calls upon the Government to make the divorce laws of this country equal for men and women, and to remove the financial difficulties which at present render it impossible for poor people to obtain their freedom, no matter how great the hardship they have to suffer.

Government Maintenance of Widows.

The Railway Women's Guild are desirous that the Government should make provision for the maintenance of necessitous widows, and especially for those incapacitated by illness or age.

Women on Juries.

With a question that has been attracting a lot of public attention lately the Executive Committee propose to deal in the following resolution:—"Since women feel it to be a great hardship and injustice that in a court of justice they should have to plead before men only, and since it is evident that the interests of women often suffer from the want of comprehension or the prejudice of a male jury, this meeting urges upon the Government the need in all cases where women are concerned, and especially in matrimonial cases, to have women upon the jury, and asks that they should be made eligible therefor."

* * * We regret to say that a large amount of matter intended for last week's issue, and posted to reach us Saturday or Monday, did not arrive until Wednesday morning. We trust those whose Branch Notes, &c., have been omitted will see this notice, and post early in future when Bank Holidays are near.

By an error, in the same issue, Miss Slieve McGowan's name was omitted from her interesting article, "Futurism and Woman." We are sorry this omission should have occurred

THE WOMAN'S YEAR.

In nearly every daily and weekly of any note in which the events of the year were summed up prominence was given to the women's movement, though in some cases the spirit of the writers apparently was averse to a full acknowledgment of the progress made. We give a few excerpts.

Founding the New upon the Old.

The year has witnessed, again, a remarkable movement for the political enfranchisement of women. Some of its methods have decidedly been new; and, in so far as they have been so, they have tended to discredit the movement with public opinion. But what was the central idea in the "Conciliation Bill" upon which all the reformers agreed? It was to advance along what seemed the line of least resistance; to take the municipal franchise as it stands, and to extend it to the Parliamentary sphere. A characteristically English way of seeking to found the new upon the old.—*Daily Chronicle*.

The Times Woman's Supplement says:—

The Woman Suffrage movement has again absorbed an amount of attention, and the campaign both for and against the extension of the franchise to women has entered upon a new phase. The supporters of Woman Suffrage, on the one hand, have added largely to the number of their societies, and have numbered their meetings and demonstrations by the thousand. . . . Outside England little advance of a definite nature is recorded, though there have been additions to the number of Suffrage Societies in several countries and a movement for feminine emancipation in Germany. In Iceland, however, a law came into force during the year giving general municipal suffrage to all taxpayers over twenty-five—women as well as men—who have resided a year in one electoral district.

Its "Accustomed Course."

Under the heading "Home Politics," *The Daily Telegraph* has the following paragraph when reviewing the legislative activities of the year:—

The Women's Suffrage agitation has continued its accustomed course of spasmodic violence, interspersed with spaces of quiescence. In the latter part of June the Government accorded a full second reading debate to Mr. Shackleton's so-called Conciliation Bill, which was carried by 299 against 190, after many brilliant speeches on both sides, which showed how erratically parties are divided on the subject. The Bill went no further, but at the close of the Session Mr. Asquith announced that the Government would give facilities in the new Parliament for a Suffrage Bill which was framed on lines that admitted of free amendment.

Extraordinary Success.

The extraordinary success of the Suffrage movement—even its most amazing and eccentric features—proves that the modern woman is anything but apathetic or entirely devoted to games. In this movement rich and poor, young and old, pecesses and factory hands, advanced Socialists and retrograde Tories, show a sense of comradeship, a faculty for working together which is not only new in feminine history, but promises boundless possibilities for the betterment of our sex.—*The Manchester Dispatch*.

Notable Women.

In summing up the notable events of the past year in *The Lady's Pictorial*, Ella Hepworth Dixon describes the year that is past as "A Woman's Year." She says:—

For women especially this year has been a remarkable one. In every sphere, and in every profession, they have done amazingly well.

The act of King George in appointing Queen Mary his Regent in certain eventualities was a compliment to our sex which is not to be lightly passed over, considering that his Majesty has male relatives who, not unreasonably, might have been expected to be thus honoured.

Then the presence of two distinguished women on the Royal Commission on Divorce was a proof that it is now recognised that important changes cannot be undertaken without the active co-operation and advice of the other half of the human race.

Enormous progress has been made by the passing of a Woman's Franchise Bill by a large majority culled from all parts of the House, so that even the Government must soon be aware that they cannot refuse to give their serious consideration to this measure of reform.

When, the other night, the editor of the "Encyclopædia Britannica" entertained at a huge dinner his feminine con-

tributors, one realised to what an extent women are joining in the serious work of the world, and to what an extent this work is recognised by the distinguished men with whom they collaborate.

To see together, in one room, the Heads of Newnham, Girton, and of Somerville; to see Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Janet Hogarth, who is at the head of the Index of the "Encyclopædia," as well as many of the most notable writers of the day, was to realise to what a recognised position women have, in spite of all difficulties and obstructions, managed to climb.

Again, in other spheres, this year that is passing has been an amazingly successful one for women. In the theatre, in the newspaper world, in fiction, they are not only holding their own, but advancing.

Three of the most striking plays produced have been written by feminine hands, to wit, the Countess von Arnim's *Priscilla Runs Away*, "George Paston's" *Nobody's Daughter*, and Miss Cicely Hamilton's *Just to Get Married*, which, I understand, is to be revived immediately.

In music we have the notable fact of an opera by an Englishwoman, Mrs. Maddison's *Talisman* being sumptuously produced in a great German musical capital.

In fiction two of the most notable books of the year come from the spindle-side, namely, Marguerite Andoux's Impressionist novel, "Marie-Claire"—crowned by the Goncourt Academy, and awarded the annual prize of *La Vie Heureuse*—and Miss May Sinclair's remarkable psychological study of the literary temperament, "The Creators."

So different are the methods of these French and English novelists that they cannot be compared, yet they are alike in the delicacy of their impressions, their real observation of life, and that veiled sadness which is always apparent in writers of mark "who see life steadily and see it whole."

So, on the whole, the old year that is passing has been full of import for womenfolk, and leaves us with the lively hope that the young year which is coming will prove even more notable for the progress of our sex.

CANDIDATE M.P.s MENTIONING WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Sir West Ridgeway, still smarting from his defeat at January (1910) Election for London University, has been writing to *The Times*, saying: "Has any candidate, except in the constituencies above mentioned, given Woman Suffrage a prominent place in his election address?" We have already printed several lists of M.P.s who have mentioned Woman's Suffrage in their addresses, and now supplement it by some who were accidentally omitted. If Sir West Ridgeway looks at the December issues of *THE VOTE*, he will find the list of others, which ought to prove to him the danger of putting untruths into print.

F. D. ACLAND (Lib.), North-West Cornwall.

W. P. BEALE (Lib.), South Ayrshire.

W. H. CARR, J.P. (Lab.), Preston.

Sir J. P. GIBSON (Lib.), East Edinburgh.

Sir VICTOR HORSLEY (Lib.), University of London.

H. D. McLAREN (Lib.), Bosworth.

*A. P. MAIN (Un.), Tradeston.

J. D. MILLAR (Lib.), St. Andrews.

R. MUNRO (Lib.), Northern Burghs.

W. H. S. PYMAN (Lib.), Whitby.

H. SNELL (Lab.), Huddersfield.

H. N. SPALDING (Lib.), East Grinstead:

I am in favour of giving Votes to Women. Their wisdom and experience should be most useful in choosing the men who make our laws.

G. D. WHITE (Un.), Southport.

L. WHITE (Lib.), Buckrose.

T. F. WILSON (Lib.), North-East Lanarkshire.

E. H. YOUNG (Lib.), Preston.

* Enfranchisement of women ratepayers.

THERE is another and a powerful reason that our electoral reform must be based upon franchise reform. We have to touch the franchise question, for in the near future we have to determine the terms upon which we are to give our womenfolk the primary rights of citizenship. There is decreasing need to argue the principle of Woman Suffrage. To the believer in democracy the claim of the women is irresistible; it is based upon the very foundations of his own political creed. But even those who feel some lingering distrust of women, or who have been repelled by the excesses of the more vehement advocates of their cause, must realise that the fight is over, that Woman Suffrage will within a comparatively short space be an accomplished fact.—*Southport Guardian*.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 148, Holborn Bars.
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 Directors—Mrs. C. DESPARD, Mrs. E. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc.,
 Miss MARIE LAWSON, Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. L. THOMSON-PRICE.
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1911.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

"Greet the unseen with a cheer!"—BROWNING.

We stand ready to join issue with the new Parliament. We greet it with a cheer! We intend to show what determination, courage, enthusiasm and work can do, so that at the next General Election the women of Great Britain may be found in the ranks of responsible citizens. We remember that our sisters in Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Finland, and in five States of America are already enfranchised, and their achievement encourages us to hope that at last that Parliament is about to meet which is destined to give Votes to British Women.

We face this Parliament more hopefully than we have faced any other. We have behind us a forty-four years' constitutional campaign, and the society responsible for this work is larger, stronger and richer than at any period in its history. We have also a five years' record of an active agitation which is unparalleled in history. What was taken to be an ephemeral outburst of hysteria on the part of a few women has proved to be the starting point of a new growth in the women's suffrage movement which cannot be crushed either by the politician or the police. Where less than six years ago there was one Suffrage society, to-day there are more than twenty; then half a dozen women were prepared to prove their faith by suffering imprisonment, to-day there are hundreds ready to follow their lead. Five years ago the cause of Women's Enfranchisement was not within the sphere of practical politics and to the general reading public was practically unknown; to-day all parties and sections of Parliament have been successfully permeated, while to every man in the street the cry of "Votes for Women" is as familiar as that of "Tariff Reform," "Home Rule" or "The Lords' Veto." The politician is obliged to observe the significance of these facts and to alter his plans accordingly.

The new Parliament which confronts us contains Suffragists in sufficiently large numbers to carry the Conciliation Bill by an overwhelming majority. The Prime Minister, who during the last two Parliaments has been slowly but surely dislodged from his position of uncompromising opposition, is now prepared to "give facilities for effectively proceeding with a Bill, if so framed as to permit of free amendment." Our demand is for facilities during the first session; we see no reason why we should give pride of place to any other measure; and we repeat this demand urgently and insistently, knowing that time in the first session is essential to ensure the passage of the Bill into law during the life of this Parliament.

The formation of the Conciliation Committee last Session marked the Parliamentary progress the movement has made. This Committee intends to continue its work in the new Parliament. We understand that a proposal to bring forward a series of resolutions, including one instructing the Government to find time this Session for our Bill, is under consideration. Meanwhile, there is much work to be done outside Parliament to increase the chances of success of the Committee. The Bill itself is still very imperfectly understood by the ordinary elector, and by many Members of Parliament. To quote *The Daily Chronicle*: "But what was the central idea in the Conciliation Bill, upon which all the reformers agreed? It was to advance along what seemed the line of least resistance; to take the municipal franchise as it stands, and to extend it to the Parliamentary sphere. A characteristically English way of seeking to found the new upon the old."

This ignorance of the Bill can be dispelled by a vigorous campaign of meetings which should be extended to every constituency. Those M.P.s who have not already received deputations must be urged to do so. No time is to be lost if on January 31, when Parliament reassembles, every private Member is to be well-informed not only on every detail of the Bill, but of the reasons which make us demand this Bill or one equally certain to pass.

Active agitation will remind the Government of our claims, but something more than this will be needed to keep the private Member ready and willing to give us that support essential to our success. Such pressure can only be brought to bear in his own constituency. He must realise as never before that in his own constituency his attitude is being sedulously watched. Information of all Suffrage activities should be reported to the local M.P., so that he may be furnished with all those facts from his own district likely to strengthen his influence in the cause of Votes for Women. Let each individual Suffragist put such will into the work that this Parliament may be the last to be elected by men only.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

"ARE WOMEN INFAMOUS?"

UNDER the above heading, in *London Opinion*, Mr. James Douglas has a scathing exposure of the advertising Marinetti and his silly school. We give the closing paragraphs.

"I am disposed to ask Signor Marinetti whether he ever had a mother. It is my favourite poser for woman-haters and woman-slanderers. I have never known it to fail. The most venomous cynic sickens and surrenders before that simple home-thrust and heart-stab. I know it is the fashion to deride mother-worship as sentiment. It is sentiment, and heaven have mercy on the cold heart that has managed to freeze it out! I hate false sentiment as heartily as any man, but the sentiment that is in your blood and in your bones is what makes you human. I wish I could shut up some of our cynics in a cell and give them nothing to read but Mr. Barrie's masterpiece, 'Margaret Ogilvie.' When they came out they would not jeer at women. Fine fellows as we men are, what sort of a world could we make without the practical benignity and beneficence of mothers? Hell, I fancy, is a motherless place, and this earth without mothers would be very like Hell.

"And motherhood is the very crown and flower of love. The nobler the love the nobler the motherhood. Motherhood without love is a maimed and mutilated heroism. Signor Marinetti says that romantic love is the poison in which all the vice of men is bred. Does the gentleman know the meaning of words? There is no vice in love, there is no love in vice, and there is no love that is not romantic. The cynics, the sensualists, and the pseudo-scientists are all busy trying to persuade humanity to turn away from romance and from love. But they cannot dehumanise humanity. There is something hugely humorous in the spectacle of a few egosophists feebly trying to create man over again in their own image. As if man—the great man, mankind—ever would or could take any notice of them! The path of man goes up to the heights, and the higher he climbs, the holier womanhood becomes in his eyes. It is not easy for men to educate themselves out of the barbarity and brutality of convention. They live in a civilisation which holds womanhood cheap, far cheaper than its pet dogs, far cheaper than its race-horses. If you doubt me, go and look at the Belfast half-timers, those barefooted martyr-maidens clad in rags and shod with mud and mire and snow-broth. Then go and look at their Christian employers carrying the plate down the aisle in church on Sunday. And yet there are myriads of women in these islands who fetch less than the half-timers in the Christian market. 'Infamous womanhood,' indeed! What about infamous manhood?"

Stocktaking Sale

Now Proceeding



Shirt (as sketch) in Paisley delaine, with large tucks in front and smart pocket at side. In dark, warm colourings. Original Sale - - 12/9
 Sale Price - - 5/-



Slips (as sketch) in white lawn, trimmed in new design, with Paisley moulin of bright colourings; also trimmed grey. Original Price - - 14/9
 Sale Price - - 5/-



New Fete Blouse (as sketch No. 14), in best quality coloured nixon, with lace vest edged ribbon velvet put on with hand veining, and coloured satin ribbon going round figure. Original Price - - 25/9
 Sale Price - - 21/9



Tailor Shirt (as sketch No. 16) in best quality washing silk, perfectly cut, crepe de chine collar and tie; in plain cream, also with coloured stripes. Original Price - - 25/9
 Sale Price - - 16/9

Debenham & Freebody,
 Wigmore Street (Cavendish Square), London, W.

BRANCH NOTES.

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

Stamford-hill.—114, Holmleigh-road.

An open-air meeting will be held at the corner of Amhurst-park on Friday, January 6, at 7.30 p.m. Speakers, Mr. Hammond and Miss Taylor (granddaughter of Mrs. John Stuart Mill). Also meetings are arranged for Monday, January 9, at 7.30 p.m., at West Hackney Church, and Friday, January 13, at Amhurst-park. Speaker in both cases, Miss Guttridge.

Crystal Palace and Anerley.—Miss FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road.

We have arranged a public meeting for men and women to be held at the Suffrage Offices, 42, Anerley-road (one minute from Crystal Palace low level), on Friday, January 13, at 8.30 p.m., when Miss Ethel Fennings and Mr. Victor Duval will be the speakers. Admission is free, but there are a few reserved seats at 6d. We shall be glad to hear from any who can render assistance of any sort.

Central London Branch.—Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing, W.

The Conference agenda being very lengthy, we shall hold two special branch members' meetings at 1, Robert-street, on Thursday, January 5, and Monday, January 9, at 7 p.m., for the purpose of making amendments and any further nominations which members wish to send in.

As I am acting Branch Treasurer until the annual business meeting is held in February, I must ask any members who have not paid their branch subscriptions for 1910 to make a point of doing so before the end of the financial year.

We hope to hold the public meetings in the Bijou Theatre every fortnight until Easter.

At the next one, on the 17th inst., we hope that Miss Muriel Matters will speak, Miss Bennett taking the chair, with Miss Seruya as hostess.

Will you all make these meetings known to your friends?
 E. G. T.

South-West (Battersea) Centre.—316, Battersea-park-road.

The shop this week has been a great attraction, and we have sold our stock of gifts very well. May I appeal again for gifts for the shop? As one of our customers said, if we could supply cheap, well-made children's garments we should be doing a great service to the people in the neighbourhood. Will those who can give an hour or two or a day or two (either regularly

or at intervals) to the work in Battersea, please volunteer now as it is so much easier to organise the work and there is so much to be done? Many thanks are due to Mrs. Sutcliffe and Mrs. Wall Cousins for their help, to Mrs. Sutcliffe for keeping shop night after night, and to Mrs. Cousins for making and stencilling the curtains for the window.
 MADGE TURNER, Org.

OTHER LONDON BRANCHES.

Acton.—Miss HENWOOD, 153, St. Albans-avenue, Chiswick.
Clapham.—Miss F. UNDERWOOD, 31, Rush-hill-road, Lavender-hill.

Croydon.—Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue.
Dulwich.—Mrs. MOORE, 86, Melbourne-grove, East Dulwich.

Finchley.—Miss HEPWORTH, "Rastrick," Nether-street, N. Finchley

Hackney.—Miss GUTTRIDGE, 17, Dunsmore-road, Stamford-hill.

Hampstead.—Miss LUCAS, 21, Gayton-road.
Herne Hill.—Miss SPENCER, 32, Geneva-road, Brixton.

Highbury.—Miss ARRLAY, 10, Highbury-hill, N.
Harrow.—Mrs. HUNTSMAN, "Rivers," Northwick-park-road.

Northern Heights.—Miss A. MITCHELL, "Merok," Great North-road, Highgate.

Peckham.—Mrs. PICKERING, 23, Albert-road.
Southall.—Miss CUNNINGHAM, "Oakdene," Hayes.

Tottenham.—Miss M. SIMS, 3, Elmhurst-road.
Willesden.—Miss BENNETT, 15, Creighton-road, Kilburn.

Wellingborough.—Miss V. SHARMAN, Ivy Lodge.

Our members attended all political meetings held here, and leaflets were given away at the doors. Questions were sent up to the speakers, and letters were written to the three candidates asking them if they were prepared to vote for the Conciliation or any similar Bill. Favourable replies were received from the Conservative and Labour candidates, but the Liberal, Mr. Chiozza Money, who was returned by a majority of 754, refused to support any Bill less advanced than an Adult Suffrage one.—V. SHARMAN, Hon. Secretary.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.—Hon. Organiser: MISS MANNING, B.A., Harper-hill, Sale, Cheshire.

Salisbury.—Miss GELLER, "Thornlea," Wardle-road.

Chester.—Miss WOODALL, 13, Abbey-square.

Eccles.—Miss KIPPS, 16, Fitzwarren-street, Seedley.

Liverpool.—Mrs. EVANS, 49, Kimberley-drive, Crosby.

Manchester Central.—Miss HORDBEN, 36, Preston-road, Levenshulme.

Urmston.—Miss M. HUDSON, "Oaklands," Flixton.

The holidays, during which meetings are impossible, have given us an opportunity for visiting our friends and reminding them that the January campaign is at hand, which must grow more strenuous towards the opening of Parliament, and culminate with meetings of rejoicing or protest, according as the King's Speech brings us success or disappointment.

The branches are reopening activities this week, and every member must rally to the flag—viz., attend the business meetings of the branches in order that suitable plans may be made and effectively carried out in the busy month which is before us.

Money, too, is a great necessity for a campaign, when weather is inclement and open-air meetings almost impossible. At present the Lancashire and Cheshire district has a small deficit, which has been met from headquarters. Will not anyone subscribe, or bring forward some money-raising scheme which will render us independent again?

Meanwhile the following plans have been made by the various branch committees.

Salisbury.—Members' Meeting at 21, Northenden-road, on Thursday next, January 5, at 8 p.m. *Mothers and Babies' "At Home."*—This, the first of the New Year, will be held, by kind invitation of Miss Johnson, at the Congregational School, Cross-street, on Monday, January 9, at 3 p.m. Tea at 4 p.m. Speaker, Miss Manning.

Urmston.—A Members' Meeting has been arranged for the evening of January 9; speakers, Miss Janet Heyes and Miss Manning. Members will receive notice of the time and place.

Eccles.—A *Whist Drive* has been arranged for Friday, January 13, in Binyon's Room, Monton-green. Tickets, price 1s., can now be had from the treasurer, Miss J. Heyes, Newholme, Hazlehurst, Worsley. This whist drive promises to be a great success, and members should make early application for tickets.

On Saturday, January 21, a *Jumble Sale* has been planned by the treasurer, from which great financial returns are expected. Members should send bundles of old clothes, furniture, odds and ends, to Miss Heyes, or goods will be called for on receipt of a postcard.

Manchester Central.—Members of the branch are asked to keep Wednesday, January 25, free for a meeting in Levenshulme. Time and place and speakers will be announced in next week's issue of THE VOTE.
 M. G. MANNING.

OTHER PROVINCIAL BRANCHES.

Cheltenham.—Mrs. EARENGBY, 3, Wellington-square.

Marlow.—Miss HAYES, "Drifts," Marlow.

Potteries.—Mrs. PEDLEY, 18, Bower-street, Hanley, Staffs.

Sheffield.—Miss LEONARD, 32, Dover-road.

Wellingborough.—Mrs. ENGLAND SMITH, "Newstead," Hatton-park.
 Miss V. SHARMAN, Ivy Lodge.

Wolverhampton.—Mrs. CRESWELL, 25, Rugby-street.
 York.—Mrs. ROBINSON, 30, Ratcliffe-street.
 Swansea.—Mrs. CLEEVE.
 South Glamorgan.—Mrs. WOOLF, Royal Hotel, Cardiff.
 Caldicot.—Miss L. CORBEN, Ivy Lodge.
 Barry.—Miss M. RATHBONE, 7, Oxford-street.
 Middlesbrough.—Miss MAHONY, 27, Waterloo-road.
 South Shields.—Mrs. MILLER, "The Poplars," Langholme-road, East Boldon.
 Sunderland.—Miss CLARK, 3, Havelock-terrace.
 West Hartlepool.—Miss J. H. LEIGHTON, 16, Clifton-street, Hartlepool.
 Hadleigh.—Miss MATTHEWS, 21, Fir Tree-terrace.
 Ipswich.—Miss ANDREWS, 160, Norwich-road.
 Norwich.—Miss M. JEWSON, Tower House, Bracondale.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

Glasgow: Suffrage Centre, 502, SAUCHIEHALL STREET.
 Suffrage Centre Managers: MISS K. McARTHUR.
 Hon. Secretary: MISS B. S. SEMPLE.
 Hon. Treasurer: MISS JANET L. BUNTEN.
 Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas.
 Edinburgh.

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, Rosslyn-crescent.

Mr. Asquith has received the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh, with the now usual accompaniments of police escorts, interruptions, and public interest centred upon—the Suffragettes! Besides the many letters of protest sent to the Town Clerk by ratepayers, letters from Miss A. B. Jack and others appeared in the local Press. Indeed, not until attention had been drawn publicly to the omission did the Town Clerk acknowledge the letters received. The *Liberal Evening News* attempted to prove that Miss Jack's protest was illogical, because the Freedom of the City has on certain occasions been conferred upon women! Although the ceremony was fixed for a most inconvenient hour, the branch was well represented. Three cabs full of members were on the scene, with a fine display of the colours and of banners bearing such appropriate sentences as "Asquith Denies Freedom to Women," "Tax-paying Women Demand the Vote," &c. These were prepared by Miss Caroline Dalziel and Miss Grace Jacob, B.Sc., to both of whom we are much indebted.

On Wednesday we finished the first half of the session's work with one of the best meetings we have had. The Shop was crowded to its utmost capacity when Miss Jacob gave her lecture on "The Evolution of Altruism." Beginning with the lowest forms of life, the lecturer traced the development of the care for others which, as she pointed out, is at the root of our movement, and clearly showed its close connection, almost all through nature, with the maternal function. The interest of the lecture was enhanced by the beautiful lantern slides which Miss Jacob had specially prepared for the occasion.

Every member is asked to make a point of being present at the Suffrage Dance and Whist Drive, in aid of the funds of the branch, in the Café Vegetaria on January 13. Tickets, 2s. 6d. each, are on sale at the Shop. HELEN McLACHLAN.

Glasgow.—Arts and Crafts Exhibition in Glasgow.

Since the Election work in Glasgow and district finished the W.F.L. has been keeping before the people our wishes about Votes for Women in a way suited to the season. The exhibition of artists' goods which has been held in our attractive shop during the fortnight before Christmas has been so successful from every point of view that we continued it till the end of the year. Last year strangers used to look in, this year they have come in, and the result is our funds have considerably increased. The artists also are pleased, and so we are sure of an even larger exhibition next year. Our tearoom is becoming popular, and we have made many new members. We have also heard through this how much interest is felt in our movement by all classes. A young workman, locked out from one of the shipyards, came in in answer to the invitation written on the blackboard at the open door and after looking round seemed most interested. A day or two later he brought in a couple of beautifully made steel pokers. We laughed at the suggestiveness of the gift—evidently to his mind we are not militant enough—but when we sold one next day at 3s. 6d. we felt we could do with more articles showing alike good workmanship and sympathy with our Cause. And more came. Blouses, fancy-work, Scottish pebble brooches and even leather pockets for boys who wear kilts, all helped to make our show successful and interesting.

£1,000 Fund.

£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount previously acknowledged 403 8 11½	Mrs. Sinclair 0 5 0
Proceeds of Jumble Sale 20 0 0	Miss J. Sinclair 0 2 6
Per Mrs. McLeod, Miss McCallum 1 0 0	Miss Janet McVail 0 2 6
Mr. and Mrs. Scrymgeour 2 0 0	Miss Sylvia Murray 1 0 0
Mrs. Allan 5 0 0	Miss Macdonald 0 2 6
J. L. B. 10 0 0	Misses Johnston 0 2 0
	Misses Thomson 0 2 0
	Mr. and Mrs. R. Martin 0 10 0
	Miss Davey 0 1 0

£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Miss Penman 0 2 6	Mrs. Kennedy 1 0 0
Per Miss McCallum (collection) 0 3 6	Mrs. Wilson 0 2 6
Proceeds of Athenaeum Meeting 31 4 3	Mrs. McQueen 0 4 0
Collection, Miss White's "At Home" 2 3 3½	Mrs. Guthrie 0 1 0
Collection, Mrs. Cranston's "At Home" 2 11 11	Collecting-box 0 13 7½
Miss Thomson 1 0 0	Per Miss White:
Per Miss Kirby (collection) 0 4 2	Mrs. Hall Brown 0 1 0
Profit on Literature 5 0 0	Glasgow Election Fund:
Collecting-box, Miss McCallum 0 6 4	Mrs. Sloan 0 5 0
Collecting-box, Miss J. N. Semple 0 5 3½	Miss E. S. Hamilton 0 2 0
J. L. B. (Organiser's expenses) 5 19 9	Miss Baird 0 2 0
Per Miss Eunice Murray:	Miss Wilson 0 2 0
Mr. John Scott 0 5 0	Misses Scrymgeour 0 5 0
Mrs. Scott 0 5 0	Dundee Election Fund:
Miss Jean Scott 0 2 0	Miss Baird 0 2 6
Mrs. Courage 0 5 0	Miss J. N. Semple 0 1 0
	Miss L. Stewart 0 2 6
	Miss E. S. Stewart 0 2 0
	Miss Penman 0 1 0
	Miss E. S. Hamilton 0 2 0
	Mrs. Scrymgeour 0 2 6
	Miss Steven 0 3 0
	Misses Scrymgeour 0 5 0
	497 14 1½

SCOTLAND.

Dundee.—Miss CLUNAS, 1, Blackness-crescent.
 Dunfermline.—Miss J. McCALLUM, 72, Brucefield-avenue.
 Kilmarnock.—Mrs. COWAN, 39, Boyd-street.
 Kirkintilloch.—Miss MCINTYRE, Woodhead-avenue.
 Perth.—Mrs. STIRLING, 5, Atholl-crescent.
 Scattered Members.—Miss E. MURRAY, Moore Park, Cardross, Dumbarton.

MRS. ARCHIBALD LITTLE ON "INDIRECT INFLUENCE."

Writing in *The Outlook*, Mrs. Little says:—"Is the nation better, or the worse, for dispensing with the direct influence of this great and worthy company of thoughtful and experienced and well-intentioned women? People seek to comfort them by assuring them of the enormous indirect influence of women. We know that the indirect influence of the light-of-loves leads men gladly to ruin, to murder, to attempt impossibilities! How rarely to deeds of high heroism! Although it is on record that in the dens of Port Arthur the American women of shameful life called on the Russian officers: 'Run, boys, run!' when first the guns of the Japanese attack sounded out on the surprised night. Yet history records also that they did not run to their ships and regiments. The indirect influence of women has been powerful for evil from the very beginning of the world till now, but rarely has it resulted in good. And we, the great company of whom I speak, the women who would use whatever influence we obtain for good according to our lights, know better than the men who smile as they talk to us of it, that that indirect influence can never be ours. That is for the bright eyes and laughter of youth; that is for the reckless irresponsibility of the women who do not love men, but who can and are used to cajole and flatter them for their own passing advantage, stooping to arts which we who respect ourselves could never stoop to, which we, who respect men, would never insult them by using towards them."

A NOVEL "At Home" will be given by the Women Writers' Suffrage League, at the Little Theatre, John-street, Adelphi, on the afternoon of January 24. Lady Carl Meyer and Miss Beatrice Harraden will act as hostesses. The musical and dramatic entertainment will be under the direction of Miss Edith Craig. At 4.15 "Before Sunrise," by Miss Bessie Hatton, will be played, in which Miss Cicely Hamilton and Mrs. Theodore Wright will interpret the principal parts. Tickets can be purchased at the offices of the League 55, Berners-street, W.

HAVE your back numbers for the last half-year bound. Index and cover now ready.

MADAM STEER, Theatrical Costumier and Wig Maker, 22, MAIDEN LANE, COVENT GARDEN, W.C. Factory: EXCHANGE COURT, W.C.

FANCY COSTUMES Made to Order or Lent on Hire. THEATRICAL BOOTS AND SHOES MADE TO ORDER.

PHASES IN FEMINISM.

SECRET SERVICE FUND FOR ANTIS.

The following letter from Lady Frances Balfour, drawing attention to the extraordinary private letter that the ex-proconsul is having the audacity to send round to the business magnates of our city, appeared in *The Times* of last Saturday.

To the Editor of "The Times."

Sir,—May I ask you, on behalf of the Committee of the London Society for Women's Suffrage, to give publicity to the letter of which I enclose a copy? It has been sent to the heads of business firms, and, as will be seen, invites contributions to what appears to be a sort of secret service fund in aid of the anti-suffrage agitation. The letter has been placed in our hands by a friend to whom it was given by a director of one of the firms addressed, who felt himself in no way bound by the request for secrecy.

It appears that "the ignorance that prevails on the subject" is not to be dispelled, in so far as it might be by making known the sources of the funds employed in organising the anti-suffrage movement. The very unusual proposal not to publish any nominal list of subscribers, coupled with the request that the list of contributors enclosed—*pour encourager les autres*—may be considered confidential, speaks for itself.—Yours truly, FRANCES BALFOUR, President of the London Society for Women's Suffrage.

58, Victoria-street, S.W., Dec. 30.

The Letter.

[PRIVATE.]

36, Wimpole-street, W., October 27, 1910.

Dear Sir,—May I venture to hope that either the firm of Messrs. —, of which you are a director, or the individual members of it will, in answer to the enclosed appeal, afford some pecuniary assistance to the movement which is being organised to resist the proposal that the Parliamentary franchise should be conferred on women? Although the signatories to this appeal believe that the country in general is opposed to the proposal, it cannot be denied that owing to the ignorance that prevails on the subject, which is in a great measure due to the want of organisation amongst its opponents, there is a great risk that the measure will gain a considerable amount of support. I would, therefore, earnestly appeal to you for assistance.

I may mention that it is not proposed to publish any nominal list of subscribers, and I would ask you to consider the enclosed list as confidential.—Very faithfully yours, CROMER.

A WOMAN'S HEROISM. AIDING THE POLICE.

[The following is from *The Daily Telegraph* of last week. If Mrs. Frances Wright had run home, which we are told is the proper place for women, the moment she heard the pistol-shot fired, there would be one policeman the less in the force to-day.]

Mrs. Frances Wright, the woman who so gallantly went to the rescue of Police-constable Haytread, is the wife of a driver employed by a firm of newsgangs, and the mother of five children. She is 36 years of age and a native of Southwark. The severe mental and bodily strain involved in her struggle with Haytread's assailant has naturally given a shock to her nerves, from which she was suffering considerably yesterday. She is also unable to make free use of her hands owing to the fact that the fingers of her left hand were badly torn in wrenching away Police-constable Haytread's whistle, the chain of which she was forced to break before she could put the whistle to her lips. The fingers of her right hand are badly bruised by the blows which she so pluckily dealt to the ruffian when, as she asserts, he had his revolver pressed against the constable's face. Mrs. Wright's story of what happened, as far as she could remember, was as follows:—

"I had left my house (51, Great Bland-street) and was crossing the road to a neighbour's when I saw a man double round the corner and run towards me. The constable was close behind him. The man turned round and fired. The policeman did not stop, and the man fired again. The policeman called out, 'Help me, missus.' I said, 'How?' and he said, 'Get the whistle.' I tried to catch hold of the whistle, but in the struggle I could not get it. Then the man got his hand free and put his revolver to the policeman's forehead. I struck his face—I can't remember how often—and with the other hand I pulled at his collar from behind. The revolver clicked but did not go off. Then I managed to break the last two links of the chain and get the whistle. I blew it for all I was worth. When I could blow no more I ran to the door of a house, where some people were standing looking on, and asked them to blow it, but this they would not do. Then a man I knew came running up, and I gave the whistle to him, and he ran into Dover-street and blew it until help came.

Sailor to the Rescue.

"Meanwhile, a sailor, who was staying in a house in Great Bland-street, came to the rescue, and they got the revolver away from the man and held him. Then, all in a moment, a

crowd collected, and tried to lynch the man. They rushed after him, and said they were going to hang him from a lamp-post. Another policeman came up and the two officers managed to get the man to the police-station. I followed, and at the station all the police thanked me."

Asked whether she was not frightened when she intervened in the struggle, Mrs. Wright said simply, "I thought of those poor fellows shot in Houndsditch. I wanted to save this one if I could. When I was struggling and the man was trying to use his revolver, I prayed God He would spare me for the sake of my children, and He did."

Evidence from other sources shows that the man, who is charged with attempting to murder Police-constable Haytread, had a very narrow escape from the fury of the crowd, and it was only with the utmost difficulty that Police-constable Haytread and the other constable protected him from worse usage than blows with the fist. While, however, the actual struggle was going on, and before the sailor came to the assistance of the constable, there were several men standing by who looked on and ignored the officer's appeals for help. Had they been identified they would, of course, be liable to a criminal prosecution for refusing aid to the police when called upon. Their callous behaviour throws the heroism of Mrs. Wright into brighter relief. In the chase after his assailant, Police-constable Haytread was considerably handicapped by the fact that he was wearing a heavy overcoat, and had not Mrs. Wright grappled with the man he might never have succeeded in his plucky resolve to overtake the fugitive. One of the bullets aimed at him entered a window of a house in Great Bland-street and lodged in the ceiling.—*Daily Telegraph*.

NEW AMERICAN SUFFRAGE CENTRE.

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont has done a great work for New York Suffragists by providing them with a great Suffrage centre with a luncheon annexe at 140, East Thirty-fourth-street. Many notable women assembled at the opening of this new headquarters.

Need for a Permanent Hall.

Mrs. Belmont, who acted as chairman of the meeting, made a brief address in which she emphasized the necessity for a political Suffrage centre.

"The majority of persons do not seem to grasp the significance of this movement," she said. "We have plenty of churches and theatres and halls dedicated to amusements and to science, but no permanent hall where anyone can come and learn just why so many thousand earnest, thoughtful women want the ballot and what steps they are taking to get it.

Pushing Perambulators.

"Almost every day I meet persons who are utterly ignorant of the whole question, and it is by these that our cause and our motives are criticised. Only the other day a well-known diplomat said to me, 'Mrs. Belmont, why do you women want to force men to push perambulators?'

"I replied, 'Every Suffrage mother is only too proud to push the perambulator in which her child is riding, but she wants a chance to have something to say about the conditions of the streets through which she pushes it.'

Conserving Forces.

The Rev. Anna Shaw said that if Col. Roosevelt were remembered for anything it would be for the steps he had taken toward the conservation of the forests and waterways of the country.

"But what is the use of conserving forests and rivers," she continued, "while we are wasting the greatest force of all—womanhood? What is the use of protecting woods and streams while we are destroying the lives of thousands of children in the factories?"

Not Wasting Time on Women Antis.

"We are not going to spend our energies trying to convert women antis," she said. "Women haven't the power to give us the ballot. There is just one argument that will always convince the most obstinate politician, and that is a defeat at the polls.

"We are glad that some men see the justice of our cause, but I do not think we have any special reason to be grateful to them. I wouldn't feel it my duty to thank a man who had picked my pocket for giving me back my purse. Now the vote is our right just as much as it is the right of men, and since they have deprived us of it it is certainly their duty to give it back to us."

SENATOR HECKER, of Denver, has given notice of his intention to introduce a Bill repealing the grant of Women's Suffrage in Colorado. A heated debate is expected.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mrs. Pankhurst's sister, Mrs. Mary Clarke, well known as an organiser in Brighton. Her death occurred two days after her release from Holloway, where she had suffered a month's imprisonment in connection with the November raids. When sentenced, Mrs. Clarke said, "I gladly pay the price of freedom."

WILLIAM OWEN

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* * In this column we publish, as far as space permits, the views of our readers on any subject of interest to members without favour and without prejudice. Only matter coming within the scope of the law of libel will be barred. 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, however, that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions so expressed.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

MADAM,—Whilst I admire the impatience of your contributor, J. Hudson, to add to the burden of work already undertaken by the Suffragists, I beg with all due respect, to protest against the proposed remedy for the particular offences enumerated, and especially against the half-expressed approval you show of the punishment to be meted out.

Will your correspondent be good enough to prove that flogging in any shape or form has ever effected an improvement in the moral condition of society before he urges the Suffrage Societies to agitate for so barbarous and disgusting a form of legalised torture? I am of the opinion that the women's movement, standing on an impregnable position of justice and humanity, has no right to agitate for such a measure—just as the Anti-Suffrage League would be wrong in demanding that vitriol-throwing women should be flogged. A movement demanding equality between the sexes should work for the abolition rather than for the retention of inhumane punishment for men or for women.

My hope is that the women of the movement are too sensible to be enticed into the ranks of the flagellants and brutalitarians on the mere ground of "getting their own back" on the opposite sex.—I have the honour to be, Madam, yours truly,
TH. GUGENHEIM,
Men's League for W.S. and Humanitarian League.

[We gladly publish Mr. Gugenheim's letter in spite of the inaccuracy of statement contained in the first paragraph. If Mr. Gugenheim had read the editorial comment on J. Hudson's letter with care, he could have discovered no possible "half-expressed approval" of the act. All expression of opinion on the matter of the form of punishment was carefully omitted; even Mr. Gugenheim cannot deny that the penalties imposed on men for brutal offences are at present light, and this was our only comment. If he wishes in the interest of humanitarianism to do away with punishment altogether, we prefer to reserve our opinion of the possible result—society being constituted as it is at present—ED. THE VOTE.]

MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY. UNGRACIOUS ATTITUDE TO WOMEN MEDICAL STUDENTS.

COMMENTING on the action of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, *The Medical Press* says:—

It is a common complaint of the advocates of Woman Suffrage that by the law of the land women are put in the same position, as regards votes, as peers, lunatics, and criminals. In Manchester, however, the management of the Royal Infirmary regards women as in a similar inferior category to Irishmen and Scots. Irish and Scots are ineligible for admission to the staff of the hospital, and women are ineligible for resident appointments. It is true, however, that though the case for aliens from Ireland and Scotland seems hopeless, yet the management finds it necessary to make some concessions to women. This is probably not unconnected with the fact that the attendance of women students at the Infirmary threatens to decrease, unless some provision is made for their post-graduate practice. A special committee, therefore, of the Board of Management has suggested that certain clinical assistantships should be instituted, to be held by medical women, and that the posts of anaesthetist and of assistant director of the clinical laboratory might also be open to women. The clinical assistants are, as far as we can gather, assistants to the house-surgeons and house-physicians rather than to the staff. We are well aware of the practical difficulties in the way of appointing women to ordinary resident posts, but institutions such as the Manchester Royal Infirmary should, we think, be able to make some better offer to its women students than those of the committee which has just reported.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

P. A. Preston, Spectacle Specialist.

Mr. P. A. Preston, 130, High Holborn, W.C., makes a speciality of sight-testing, for which he charges no fee. He is a skilled optician, and his consulting room is fitted with all the latest scientific instruments necessary for the determination of all errors of refraction, so that any possibility of error in prescribing glasses is reduced to a minimum. He has always in stock over 100 different patterns of eyeglasses, which enables him to fit any shaped nose with glasses or spectacles. Some of us prefer ourselves in rimless, which are becoming inasmuch as they give considerable expression to the eyes without being heavy in appearance. Mr. Preston's charges are very moderate and his workmanship is the best available. Those of our members who have tried him for eyeglasses or spectacles have been much pleased with the result.

For Lovers of Flowers.

Lovers of flowers, and their name is legion, must pay a visit to Charles Wood and Son's floral establishment, 22, High-street, Manchester-square, W. There is a magnificent display of floral devices for this festive season—and what can be more appreciated than a charming basket of flowers? There are to be seen orange trees growing in pretty pots, and all kinds of foliage plants, &c., most daintily arranged, with cut and growing flowers in baskets, &c. Those sweet harbingers of spring, hyacinths, daffodils, snowdrops, &c., growing in Japanese and other bowls, are most effective for table purposes, as they peep through their green carpet of moss. Any orders entrusted to this very up-to-date firm receive prompt attention, and country orders are most carefully packed after being inspected by Mr. Harold Wood, who attends personally to this ever-growing business. He has just now a remarkably fine exhibition, and our readers could not do better than place their orders with him.

Gem Supplies Co.

The problem of perfect health for town folk and of bathing facilities for country folk is solved at one and the same time by the Turkish Bath Man, whose diverting advertisements have attracted a considerable amount of attention in our columns. The Gem Turkish Bath Cabinet, which can be obtained from the sole patentees and manufacturers, The Gem Supplies Co., Ltd., 22, Pear Tree-street, Goswell-road, London, E.C., is a unique invention. It solves the problem of having a frequent Turkish bath—the healthiest and most hygienic method of bathing—at a fractional cost and without the disadvantages entailed in making a journey to some out-of-the-way place and ultimately losing the good effects by having to face the outer air very soon afterwards. The Gem Bath Cabinet costs only 30s. It has a door which opens full width and which is hinged to frame. Its framework is in four sections, strong and durable, made of best steel wire, galvanised to prevent its rusting, and there are flaps open at top for cooling off, which fasten with patent swivel buttons. The cabinet is roomy, so that knees, arms and body do not touch the sides. There is plenty of room for hot foot bath, and to sponge, towel, and cool the body while inside. It folds flat, like a screen in 1-in. space and is easily carried. Size, 43-ins. high, 30-ins. long, and 26-ins. wide. Its weight, complete, with the perfect heater about 10lbs. Both as a cure and as a preventative of disease this little bath is wonderful. In the booklet issued by the firm are many records of cures, particularly of rheumatism, obtained through this wonderful invention. All the evil secretions of the body are "sweated off," and the system is thoroughly cleansed in a natural way. Numerous authorities on hygiene—physicians, heads of hos-

pitals, &c., well-known literary men and public men are at present using the Gem Turkish Bath Cabinet and finding it exceedingly useful as a preservative of health and a means of keeping away illness. A great authority says:—"I heartily recommend these baths for every man, woman, and child. They open a way for the elimination of the impurities which clog the system, give permanent relief, and are a life and health-giving institution." We recommend those of our readers who appreciate the special properties of the Turkish bath to procure one of these admirable little cabinets. The subsequent baths will work out at only a penny a time.

Winter Sale at Debenham's.

Exceptional bargains are obtainable at Debenham and Freebody, Wigmore-street, London, W., during their stock-taking sale which is now in progress. Beautiful evening gowns and French model day dresses are reduced in some cases to a third of their former price. Ready to wear evening frocks, adapted from the newest Paris models, made in ninon over satin or chiffon over satin can be had for 89s. 6d. and £6 19s. 6d. respectively, in exquisite colouring and beautifully cut. Coats and skirts beautifully built, and carried out in chiffon—finished velveteens, serges, &c., many of them suitable for early spring, are being sold at very moderate prices. Smart blouses for day or evening wear, evening wraps and furs are all much reduced, as a large firm like Messrs. Debenham and Freebody cannot store goods which are occupying space which they require for the continual influx of new fabrics and models. Consequently, those who buy wisely in the best houses at sale times get excellent value. We advise an early visit to Messrs. Debenham and Freebody's fine establishment in Wigmore-street.



[By courtesy of Edinburgh "Evening Dispatch."
W. F. L. in Edinburgh. Occasion of Presentation of Freedom of City to Mr. Asquith.

KILLING NO MURDER.

A ghastly drama was enacted last August at the Palais de Justice, Paris. An artist, who had met his wife, from whom he had applied for a divorce, at one of the Courts, was so enraged at the decision that their daughter, a girl of sixteen, should be committed entirely to her custody, that, as they were passing through a lobby on their departure, he took out a revolver and fired repeatedly at the poor woman, killing her on the spot. The trial has taken place at the Seine Assizes, and the artist has been pronounced by the jury to be innocent of the murder, but guilty of having carried a prohibited weapon about him, so he has been sentenced to a month's imprisonment and a fine of 16*fr.*—*Daily Telegraph*, December 29.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.

- Thurs., Jan. 5.**—1, Robert-street, 7 p.m. Central London Branch special members' meeting.
- Fri., Jan. 6.**—1, Robert-street. National Executive Committee, 2 p.m. Caxton Hall, 8 p.m. Special members' meeting, as arranged at previous meeting on December 15. Open-air meeting at Amhurst-park, 7.30 p.m. *Speakers*: Mr. Hammond and Miss Taylor (granddaughter of Mrs. John Stuart Mill).
- Sat. Jan. 7.**—1, Robert-street, 11 a.m., National Executive Committee.
- Mon., Jan. 9.**—8, Church-lane, Hornsey, 8 p.m. Northern Heights Branch members' meeting. 1, Robert-street, 7 p.m. Central London Branch special members' meeting. Open-air meeting at West Hackney Church, 7.30 p.m. *Speaker*: Miss Guttridge.
- Thurs., Jan. 12.**—Caxton Hall. "At Home," 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard.
- Fri., Jan. 13.**—8.30 p.m., at Suffrage Offices, 42, Anerley-road. *Speakers*: Miss Ethel Fennings and Mr. Victor Duval. Open-air meeting at Amhurst-park, 7.30 p.m. *Speaker*: Miss Guttridge.
- Tues., Jan. 17.**—3 p.m. 161, Croxted-road, West Dulwich. Mrs. How Martyn.
- Sat., Jan. 28.**—Caxton Hall. Annual Conference of Branches.
- Tues., Jan. 31.**—Parliament opens.
- Mon., Feb. 6.**—King's Speech.
- CHESTER.**
- PROVINCES.**
- Mon., Jan. 9.**—Branch meeting at 22, Bridge-street-row, 8 p.m. *Chair*: Miss A. Dunn Yorker. *Speaker*: Miss Winifred Davies.
- IPSWICH.**
- Mon., Jan. 16.**—7.30 p.m. Miss Anna Munro.
- BASINGSTOKE.**
- Tues., Jan. 17.**—8 p.m. Mrs. Betham.
- LOWESTOFT.**
- Thurs., Jan. 19.**—3 p.m. Mrs. How Martyn.
- IPSWICH.**
- Thurs., Jan. 19.**—Miss Munro.
- CHELTHENHAM.**
- Mon., Jan. 23.**—Town Hall, Cheltenham, 8 p.m. Miss Neilans.
- EDINBURGH.**
- SCOTLAND.**
- Tues., Jan. 10.**—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road. "At Home," 4 p.m.
- Wed., Jan. 11.**—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road. "At Home," 7.30 p.m. *Speaker*: Mrs. Finlayson Gould.
- Fri., Jan. 13.**—Café Vegetaria, 3, Nicolson-street. Suffrage Dance and Whist Drive, 8 p.m.
- GLASGOW.**
- Fri., Jan. 6.**—Glasgow Branch meeting, Suffrage Centre, 302, Sauchiehall-street, 8 p.m.
- Sat., Jan. 14.**—"At Home," in Suffrage Centre, 7.30 p.m. *Speakers*: Mrs. Billington-Greig and Mrs. Joseph Dobbie.

C.L.W.S.—*Hon. Secretary*: REV. C. HINSLIFF, 11, St. Mark's-crescent, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

On the Festival of the Epiphany, January 6, a Quiet Day will be conducted for members of the Church League by the Rev. Samuel Healey, at St. George's, Bloomsbury (Hart-street, W.C.). Times of services will be as follows:—Celebration, 8 a.m., addresses at 11, 3, and 6.30. Branch secretaries and correspondents in London and district are asked to meet the Organiser, Mrs. Hinscliff, at the offices, 11, St. Mark's-crescent, N.W., on Thursday, January 12, at 8 p.m. A reception will be given to the delegates attending the General Council on Monday, January 30, at 8.30 p.m., at the Caxton House Restaurant, Tothill-street, Westminster. Tickets for members and visitors at 1s. each, including refreshments (not 1s. 6d. for visitors as stated last week), can be obtained from the offices. A public meeting will be held in the middle of February to discuss "Women's Suffrage and the Social Question."

A. F. L.

On Friday, January 6, the Actresses' Franchise League are giving their usual monthly "At Home" in the Grand Hall, the Criterion Restaurant, at 3 o'clock. The speakers will be:—Miss Ab. Adam, Mr. H. W. Nevinson, Sir Thomas Barclay, M.P., Miss Eva Moore will be in the chair, and Miss Auriol Lee will act as hostess.

A very special feature on this occasion will be a Suffrage song, entitled "The Awakening," by Mrs. Ella Wheeler Wilcox. The song will be sung by Miss Edith Clegg with a full chorus, and accompanied by the composer, Miss Teresa del Riego.

The doors will be opened at 2.30, and those desirous of obtaining a seat are advised to be there early, as it is expected that the hall will be very full. Admission free.



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