

Important Deputations.

The Common Cause.

The Organ of the Women's Movement for Reform.

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ONE PENNY.



Mr. Lloyd George: "My conviction is that you will never get really good effective measures for housing, for temperance, or for other social reforms, until you get the millions of the women of the land to co-operate in such legislation." (Albert Hall, Dec. 5th, 1908.)

Miss Wales: "I am ready, David. I have helped you. When are you going to help me?"

The News of the Week.

Conference of Welsh Liberal Women.

Liberal women have the opportunity of a lifetime this week, and it is Welsh women in particular to whom all liberty-loving Englishwomen look to speak for them in no uncertain voice, and tell the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the language he loves that women want their freedom before he prosecutes any more philanthropic schemes. The date of issue of this number is also the date of what should prove a historic conference. The Welsh Liberal Women are meeting in Cory Hall, Cardiff, to confer on the Suffrage question, and there will be a great public meeting in the evening.

The organisers, Mrs. Glen Wade and Miss G. S. Milner, report that their arrangements are complete. They have secured Mrs. Lester Jones to preside at the conference, and in the regrettable absence of the member for Cardiff (Mr. D. A. Thomas), who has voted twice for the Bill, and writes in strong approval of it, the chair at the evening meeting will be taken by Mr. Edward Thomas, J.P., a prominent Welsh scholar, ex-Mayor of Cardiff, and a staunch Suffragist. Mr. Brailsford will explain the Bill at the Conference in the afternoon, and among the announced speakers are Sir Alfred Thomas, M.P. (chairman Welsh Parliamentary Party), the Earl of Lytton, Mr. Ellis J. Griffith, K.C., M.P., Mr. Walter Roch, M.P., Mrs. Principal Edwards, Mrs. Viriamu Jones, and Mrs. David Salmon (of the Swansea Training College). Mrs. D. A. Thomas and others will be among the supporters.

The Amended Bill.

Evidence is accumulating that those declared Suffragists who voted for the Conciliation Bill to be sent to a Committee of the whole House did not intend their vote to be hostile to the Bill. Mr. Pollock, M.P. (Warwick and Leamington), and Mr. Birrell have both stated that they wish to see the Parliamentary franchise extended to those women who already possess the municipal vote. It is important that those who are asking members of Parliament to sign the memorial to the Prime Minister asking for time should know that the Conciliation Committee adopted the restricted title (A Bill to Enfranchise Women Occupiers) only in order to economise time in debate. In response to the desire expressed by Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George that "the whole question" should be "effectively dealt with," the Committee will ask leave to "recommit the Bill pro forma in respect of its title." The effect of this would be that any amendment could be moved to it.

Liberal Scotsmen.

The General Council of the Scottish Liberal Associations at Dunfermline, on October 22nd, passed a resolution calling upon the Government to grant facilities during the autumn session for the final stages of Mr. Shackleton's Bill for Women's Suffrage.

The present state of the electoral law was described as anomalous, confusing, and unjust, and the Conference declared itself in favour of Adult Suffrage.

Keswick Women Liberals.

At a general meeting of the Keswick Women's Liberal Association, held in the Battersby Hall, on October 19th, Mrs. Hayes in the chair, the following resolution was proposed by Miss Newling, seconded by Miss Knight, and carried *nem. con.*:—"That the members of the Keswick Women's Liberal Association urge the Government to give immediate facilities to enable the Conciliation Bill to become law. Should the Cabinet continue to refuse their demand, the Association will feel obliged to disregard party politics during the next general election, and only support those candidates who are prepared to press the cause of Women's Suffrage."

Northern Liberal Women.

The resolution passed at the annual meeting of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Women's Liberal Associations, held in Rochdale, was so oddly reported

that we find many people misunderstood it. It expressed to Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Winston Churchill regret that they are unable to support Mr. Shackleton's Conciliation Bill on the ground that it does not go far enough. The Liberal women of the Union would like to assure the right hon. members that they are satisfied for the present (by the Bill, not by their vote on the second reading!), and hope that they will be able to reconsider their decision and vote for the Bill, which will give at least 1,000,000 women the vote.

Distracted Counsels.

Anti-suffragists are trying hard to discount every fresh expression of support for the Bill. One is quoted as saying: "On any matter of business I would take the view of the Manchester Corporation, but this is not a matter of business." We can assure this gentleman he is much mistaken. We mean business. It reminds us of Mrs. Somervell's sneer at the political views of medical women. "On a question of health," she said, "I would listen to them." She overlooked the fact that medical women, at any rate, do not live in a "man-made shelter, on man-made wealth." To whom, then, should we appeal? To the "experts"? The politicians? Here, indeed, the poor anti-suffragists fare no better, with our majority of 110. "A highly artificial majority!" cries the anti-suffragist. But what, in the name of common sense, is a "natural majority"? "The Times," we see, has abandoned the "never, never" tone, and says in a leader this week: "The wishes of women themselves in a matter which affects them so vitally should be the deciding factor." So Lord Cromer is thrown overboard. Poor Lord Cromer!

Women at Municipal Elections.

There are said to be only twelve women candidates for the municipal elections, and people are lamenting this, and scolding women about it. We lament it, too; but we won't scold. We think a man with no Parliamentary vote and no political power would stand a poor chance of getting elected. We think a man who was called "unmanly" for standing would have to be very courageous to stand, especially if women called him so. We think that if a man had no money of his own he would find it impossible to stand. Lastly, if no married men were allowed on city or borough councils, we wonder how many candidates there would be!

The Divorce Commission.

This Commission has resumed its sittings, and has been hearing the evidence of doctors on insanity as a cause for divorce. Doctors naturally take the eugenic point of view, and are in favour of separating couples in whom insanity is likely to be a heritage. Dr. May Thorne, Miss Helen Webb, and Dr. Ethel Bentham all gave evidence in favour of the equal standard. Dr. Bentham, with intimate knowledge of working people, said she represented the Fabian Women's group, and held their view that the want of equality and freedom of all the community with regard to the marriage laws was causing grave harm to the nation, by tending to break up family life, to lessen respect for the marriage tie, to increase illegitimacy and prostitution, and generally to lower the standard of morality. This lower standard, and especially the lower standard tacitly accepted by law and by public opinion from men, tended also directly to the lowering of the birth-rate, and to the birth of children physically and mentally unfit, who were likely to be a burden on the community from their inability to become self-supporting citizens.

She made a number of practical suggestions for the diminishing of these evils.

Dr. Smith Clouston also advocated divorce for incurable madness. He showed a strange point of view in holding that a man suffered more from the incurable madness of his wife "because there was no one to look after the children." But in the working-classes a woman with a mad husband has "no one to look after the children" either, for she has to become the breadwinner, and she must find help out of her woman's wages, which are always lower than a man's.

BEGINNERS' PAGE.

WHAT IS "THE COMMON CAUSE"?

It is the cause of the uplifting of womanhood, a cause "common" to men and women, because when the women rise the men rise with them, and the degradation of its women degrades the whole nation. Women have been working their way upward for many years now; they have won the right to education, the right of entry into certain professions, and to some share in public life. They are now asking for the sign and seal of citizenship, the Parliamentary vote, which will give them the power to share, with men, in the great work of trying to better, through legislation, the terrible conditions under which so many people have to live to-day.

This paper is the organ of the great union known as the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, consisting of over 200 societies in different parts of the country. The President of the whole Union is Mrs. Henry Fawcett, the widow of the late blind Postmaster-General, who has been working for this and other great reforms for more than 40 years. The Union is non-party—Conservatives, Liberals, and Socialists all belong to it. It aims at getting the vote for those women who are qualified in precisely the same way as are the men who vote, whatever those qualifications are now or may be in the future.

THE CONCILIATION BILL.

Nevertheless the Union is supporting the CONCILIATION BILL now before the House of Commons, which proposes to give the vote to some only of the qualified women (*i.e.*, to the occupiers and householders, withholding it from the property owners, lodgers, university graduates, and holders of the service qualification), because half a loaf is better than no bread, and to have some women enfranchised is better than to have none at all. Besides, it is the only Bill which seems to get the support of all parties. It has been drawn up by a committee of fifty members of Parliament—Conservatives, Liberals, Labour men, and Irish Nationalists—who have agreed together that this is the measure which has the best chance of becoming law. It satisfies the Conservatives because it is moderate; it satisfies the Liberals because it does not increase the property vote; it satisfies the Labour Party because 82 per cent. of the women enfranchised will be working-women; and it is accepted by the women as an instalment of justice.

AGAINST WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

There are some people—some women even—who are working and speaking against this great reform. They held a meeting in Manchester the other day, at which Lord Sheffield, Lord Cromer, and Miss Violet Markham spoke. Let us consider a few of the arguments which they used.

PETTICOAT GOVERNMENT.

Lord Cromer warned the electors not to consent to "petticoat Government." That is a very favourite phrase of the anti-suffragists. What do they mean by it? Until lately the phrase has always been used contemptuously of indirect feminine influence. When a woman, by the charm of her sex, influenced a man against his reason and judgment, then we heard of petticoat government. But is this what the Suffragists want? No. It is exactly what they seek to do away with. So long as women have no direct political power and responsibility, "petticoat influence" is the only weapon in their hands. When they are honoured and trusted like men the excuse for this demoralising means of compassing their ends will disappear. It is not under the rule of a queen that we hear of "petticoat government."

"Britain won its proudest bays

In good Queen Bess's glorious days."

and the Victorian age shines brightly in our history. "Petticoat influence" will continue so long as men continue to deny training and responsibility to women.

TOO GOOD, OR NOT GOOD ENOUGH?

Lord Cromer was rather hard on women. He said that extreme sentimentality, vague and undisciplined sympathies, and hasty generalisation based on inexperience or

on imperfect information, were "characteristic of a majority of the female sex," and absolutely disqualified them from sharing in government; but Miss Markham said: "I regard women as superior to men," and gave that as her reason why they shouldn't vote. Which are we to believe? They are both anti-suffragists.

"THIS YEAR, NEXT YEAR, SOMETIME, NEVER."

The anti-suffragists couldn't agree either about whether women should ever be allowed to vote. Lord Cromer said that the difference between men and women, which made women incapable of voting, was "organic, and has been drawn by the immutable laws of nature." But Lord Sheffield said: "I am not going to say that the time may not come when women, having proved their fitness in other ways, may come to the stage of voting."

FITNESS TO VOTE.

We must suppose, then, that all the men who vote now have "proved their fitness to vote." But more than 41,000 men who couldn't read or write voted at the last election. Are all women more ignorant of public questions than these men are likely to be? Mrs. Sidney Webb was on the Poor Law Commission, and her work is respected by the whole nation; but she is placed, by the nation, below these 41,000 illiterate men. Five hundred and fifty-three women are qualified as medical practitioners; people trust them with their life and health; but they are placed by the nation below these 41,000 illiterate men. Three-quarters of the people who teach the children, the future citizens of the empire, in the elementary schools, are women; and they are placed by the nation below these 41,000 illiterate men. What test of fitness, we ask, is applied, or can be applied, to the men which many women could not pass?

WOMEN'S WORK.

Miss Markham said (to a Lancashire audience) that "women cannot take part in any of the heavy industries which are the great industries of the country." Is not chain-making a heavy industry? Is not the cotton industry a great one? It is, at any rate, the fourth largest industry in the country, and two-thirds of the people employed in it are women!

We want facts, not fancies.

WOMEN'S WAGES.

Miss Markham went on to say that so strongly did she feel about women's labour that if she thought the vote would raise the wage she would not only be a Suffragist, but a Suffragette. Let us give her a few facts. In March last year fourteen women applied to the Guardians for poor relief. The Guardians inquired whether they were in work, and they said "yes." "In full work?" and they said "yes" again, explaining that they worked for sixty hours a week. "What, then, are your wages?" "2s. 7d. a week!" "Who," the Guardians then asked, "was the employer who dared to sweat them like this?" and the women replied: "The Government." For they were employed in making bags at Woolwich Arsenal.

Is it possible for the Government to treat its men employés like this? No; the men have votes, and through their political power they have secured a "fair-wages clause" in every Government contract, which makes it illegal to pay any man at less than trade-union rates; or, if there is no standard wage in the industry, 25s. a week. How does Miss Markham explain the fact that this applies to men's work only? Wages, she tells us, are a question of supply and demand. But here we have the law of the land interfering with the laws of supply and demand, and fixing a standard wage in the case of men. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is quite frank about the reason. "My experience in Government departments," he tells us, "has convinced me that the inequality of pay between men and women there would be impossible if women had the Parliamentary vote—*i.e.*, the same power to call the Government to account that the men have."

THIS WEEK'S MOTTO.

"Two heads are better than one."

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday.

LONDON AGENT.—Communications referring to advertisements may now be addressed to our London agent, Mrs. H. A. Evans, 10, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C. Friends in London desirous of helping to get advertisements will kindly communicate with her.

THE PAPER WILL BE POSTED to any address in England or abroad for the following prepaid payments:—

3 MONTHS	...	1	9
6 MONTHS	...	3	3
12 MONTHS	...	6	6

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, accompanied by a stamped envelope addressed if it is desired that they should be returned. The Editor accepts no responsibility, however, for matter which is offered unsolicited.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices, and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents, however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long beforehand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last possible day, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, giving the name and address of the newsagent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

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Shuffling and Delay.

There never has been a time of greater hope and activity. The concentration of Suffragists upon the practical matter of putting pressure on members of the Government and of Parliament is piling up evidence of their earnestness, discipline, and statesmanlike capacity for compromise and reasonable agitation. The goal is so near that all who have the cause at heart must be anxiously hoping that Suffragists may do nothing to cause even the smallest delay. The answers given by Mr. Birrell and Mr. Runciman last week; the efforts which Welsh women are making and will make; the signs that Liberal women are at last sick of delay and shuffling, all show that the Government will shortly be in too tight a place to turn any more, and then the day is ours. We have always thought that, to ask us to take the advice of Mr. Asquith, a consistent and obstinate opponent, was to presuppose our idiocy; but it is another matter carefully to weigh the advice of men like Mr. Birrell and Mr. Runciman, who, though they are far indeed from realising the importance of our measure, and will probably always put their party first, yet would rather than not see women enfranchised, and realise acutely that persistent obstruction by Liberals must seriously damage the Liberal Party.

Mr. Runciman showed that he did not grasp the true inwardness of women's plea for enfranchisement when he said that the taxation of food, temperance, and social reform were all more important. It is like saying the house is more important than the bricks and mortar with which it will have to be built. In this respect Mr. Lloyd

George, in the Albert Hall, was nearer the truth when he said we should "never" get social reforms until women—who are the social reformers after all—have the vote. When Mr. Lloyd George allows his conscience to speak, and rises superior to petty annoyances or party and personal ambitions, he knows that what he said then was true.

Another proof of the immense difficulty a party man has in seeing things as they are was given in Mr. Runciman's complaint that there was some "trick," and that the Bill was drawn to conciliate the Conservatives. We must again repeat that the Bill was not drawn to conciliate any one party alone, nor to conciliate the Women's Suffrage Societies. The Women's Suffrage Societies are absolutely agreed, and always have been, in asking for the removal of the sex disability, and they require no conciliation, and they refuse no instalment. The Liberal Suffragists in the House say they want to do more than this; the Conservatives say they want to do less. The Conciliation Committee tried to find a qualification which both Liberals and Conservatives would support. When we hear of "conciliating Conservatives" it is well to remember that every single restriction of the franchise from that enjoyed by men was made to conciliate Liberal feeling. Liberals objected to the ownership, the lodger, and the graduate vote, and these were all abandoned; since they raised trouble about the £10 occupiers it has even been proposed to abandon these most hard-working and deserving women and leave only householders. All these concessions were made to Liberal feeling, and in return the Liberals abandoned a vague dream (which they never pressed upon the country or the House with any assiduity or conviction) that it would be a nice thing if a man could say, when he married: "With all my worldly goods I thee endow, as also with the Parliamentary, but not the municipal, vote."

Now, Mr. Lloyd George has been suggesting that Mr. Asquith's pledge was never "given a chance," and writers to this paper have explained that this meant that if a Bill with a wider scope, requiring much longer debate, had been introduced instead of this narrow little Bill, Mr. Asquith would have been bound to give all the time necessary. Mr. Runciman knocked that theory on the head by saying: "I am quite sure, if we had endeavoured to obtain the whole time necessary for the passing of a great constitutional Bill of this kind, that it would have been impossible for us to succeed in persuading those who were opposed to our view to have given the time of the House of Commons to what was necessary." In Mr. Asquith's hands lay the power to give time, and Mr. Runciman, who is in the Cabinet, says he is "quite sure" he would not have given it.

Everyone knows there was time last summer—and ample time—to discuss the whole question. Time was refused by our Anti-Suffragist Prime Minister. Mr. Runciman and Mr. Birrell now tell us there is not time before Christmas for the full discussion of a wide Bill, and the Government refuse to discuss a narrowed Bill. The situation is that, while nothing was doing, in the lull of party strife caused by the King's death and the ensuing conference, Mr. Asquith refused time, and now, having wasted time and lost a golden opportunity, our friends in the Cabinet urge us to "concentrate on 1911," and to widen the Bill.

Suffragists have no objection to widen the Bill, if a wider Bill will pass. The Conciliation Bill is not our Bill. It was drawn to please men, who want not to give women what they ask, but quarrel among themselves because some want to give more and some want to give less than women ask. In some ways the franchise dispute reminds us of the education dispute, in which men forget all about the children in the joy of fighting about the control of the schools.

"Show us the Bill you will pass!" is our cry. It is empty friendship to insist upon the Bill being drafted so that it will not command a majority.

And then, besides the form, there is the question of time. There was time—

"Never season was more fit,
Never room more apt for it,"

and if our friends in the House are going to allow the time to go by, what have they to offer? "No one knows what may have happened by 1911," says Mr. Runciman. Yet he says "we." Can one conceive that, if women had the vote, they would tolerate a representative in the House who spoke of "our way," and yet offered no more than his "general sympathy"? We must have more than that from our friends.

Mr. Birrell says "the time for shuffling and delay in this matter has gone by." We look to Mr. Birrell, Mr. Runciman, Mr. Haldane, Sir Edward Grey, and Mr. Lloyd George to extract a pledge worth having from the Prime Minister.

Lord Beaconsfield and Woman Suffrage.

"I observe that in a recent debate in another place and country some ridicule was occasioned by a gentleman advocating the rights of the other sex to the Suffrage. But as far as mere abstract reasoning is concerned, I should like to see anybody get up and oppose that claim. I may say that in a country governed by a woman, where you allow women to form part of the other estate of the realm—peeresses in their own right, for example—when 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 Church and State, on what reasons, if you come to right, she has not a right to vote."

A prominent Anti-Suffragist has once more done service to our cause. For some time past the N.U.W.S.S. and the Conservative and Unionist Franchise Association have in their leaflets connected the above statement with Beaconsfield's speech of April 27th, 1866 on the Representation of the People Bill. Our Anti-Suffragist pointed out that the quotation could not be found in Hansard under that date, and that therefore the quotation should be withdrawn. Investigation has, however, established some interesting points. The Anti-Suffragist did not mention that though the extract was incorrectly given, Disraeli made a speech on April 27, 1866 similar in spirit, though not in words, to that attributed to him by the Suffrage Societies. The following extract from Hansard [3 ser., vol. 183, p. 99] gives the form of words actually used:—

"The conditions on which he upheld universal Suffrage might recommend its adoption to us to-morrow. The first is—that the Suffrage should not be confined to the male sex. Now I have always been of opinion that if there is to be universal Suffrage women have as much right to vote as men. And more than that—a woman having property now ought to have a vote in a country in which she may hold manorial courts and sometimes acts as churchwarden."

Knowing that Miss Blackburn [Woman Suffrage, p. 53] had quoted the words as used in leaflets, it seemed desirable to find out more as to the origin of the mistake. A search in the Blackburn Library at Girton College, kindly undertaken by Miss Reinherz revealed the same error. Miss Becker's manuscript notes on lectures, etc., and a report of the Bristol and Clifton Branch of the National Society also connected the quotation with the 1866 movement for Parliamentary reform. It seemed almost incredible that there should not have been some source common to these writers. One could only wonder whether Disraeli might not have made the utterance on some other occasion. A study of his speeches has proved this to be the case. The familiar statement attributed to April 27th, 1866, occurs in a speech of June 20th, 1848 [Hansard, 3 ser., vol. 99]. Disraeli, in his earliest speech on Parliamentary reform, made those remarks which for some inexplicable reason have been connected so frequently with a much later time. While passing through various changes of opinion on many points, Disraeli would thus seem to have maintained quite consistently the views adopted when first he had to deal with the question of "abstract right."

To the Anti-Suffragist we tender our thanks. For not only can we correct a date in our old quotation, and add a new one in our next edition of the "Opinions of Conservative leaders," but we can show that the views of the young Parliamentary hand remained those of the experienced leader. Possibly some Conservative with leisure may carry the matter further by showing what light, if any, Disraeli's novels may throw upon the question of his views.

We have been convicted of carelessness. In this instance no serious harm has been done, but it might easily have been otherwise. As a correspondent recently urged in "The Common Cause," so would the present writer urge it to be of vital importance to cultivate accuracy in the statement of facts. At present we but too often give the enemy just cause to attack us for our bad history.

ELLEN A. MCARTHUR.

Three Important Deputations.

The Prime Minister.

On Friday, October 28th, Mr. Asquith, in response to a petition sent by women of E. Fife that he would receive a deputation on the subject of the Conciliation Bill, met a small deputation of women of his constituency at Wormit. When he was asked by them to grant facilities this autumn he expressed surprise that such a request should be made. The speakers pointed out that the Home Secretary had implied that the passing of the Second Reading could not be looked upon merely as an affirmation of the general principle of Women's Suffrage. The Prime Minister dissented to this. When he stated that the Bill was undemocratic and a bad one, a speaker replied that, in the neighbouring city of Dundee, a large majority of those enfranchised would be working-women. Whereat Mr. Asquith rejoined: "You must see what Mr. Churchill says as to that." In conclusion, Mr. Asquith held out no hopes for this autumn, but would say nothing as to a future session.

The Chief Secretary for Ireland.

On October 28th, Mr. Birrell received a deputation from the Irish Women's Franchise League, consisting of representatives from Dublin and Belfast. They were introduced by Mr. Nannetti, M.P.

In reply to the request that he would use his influence to secure facilities for the passing of the Conciliation Bill this session, Mr. Birrell said the question was one on which he did not think there need be any difference of opinion between them. He felt confident it was impossible to resist some, at all events, of the arguments employed for Women's Suffrage, and therefore he voted for the Conciliation Bill and supported it in the House of Commons, in the Cabinet, and elsewhere, and he would certainly vote for it again.

NOT A BELIEVER IN UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE.

He was not a believer in what was called Universal Suffrage, either manhood or womanhood, and therefore he rejoiced that the Conciliation Bill was put forward as placing on the register over a million of women whose claims to have a voice in the government of the country were, in his judgment, as strong as any claim put forward by the corresponding persons of the male sex who were already on the franchise book.

KEEPING THE BILL DOWNSTAIRS.

He would like to say one word about the vote he gave for keeping that Bill downstairs. To have sent it upstairs would have been a breach of the distinct understanding, arrived at in all parts of the House a few years ago, when the practice of sending Bills before the Special Committee was initiated, that no controversial Bill of any sort or kind should be taken away from the Committee of the whole House to be sent upstairs to be threshed out in a small Committee. To send it up would have been a breach of Parliamentary faith, and, besides, would have been useless, and the scenes in that Committee upstairs would have been of a character that would have been discreditable. The Conciliation Bill was highly controversial. Numbers of Members on both sides were bitterly opposed to it, some for one reason, some for another, some because they objected to the idea of introducing women into political life, but that was very ridiculous because they are in political life already, and you cannot keep them out. The deputation said in all

Ireland the people were unanimously for it. Such unanimity would be very remarkable, but that certainly was not the case in England, where a man who wanted to get a rather cheap or dirty kind of popularity amongst the vulgar type of the inhabitants of his constituency could do nothing more popular than to get up on the platform and say, "Never, never, under any circumstances will I give a vote to women." The Bill, instead of being sent to a small Committee upstairs, must, like any other great measure of constitutional change, be considered in Committee by the whole House.

A POSTPONED SESSION.

Then, as to the next session, that would not begin till November 15th, and would certainly last till the 15th of December. It was simply a postponed session for the purpose of dealing with the postponed Budget, and he was quite sure it would be simply impossible to give the time for the discussion of the Conciliation Bill. He was strongly of opinion that in the course of next year facilities must be given, because otherwise women were placed, owing to the division of opinion between both parties, in a helpless, hopeless state. The Tory party were divided and the Liberal party were divided, and therefore it seemed to him that Women's Suffrage might be postponed for ever, and that they would never get a Government to take up the Bill as their own. And I am not sure, added Mr. Birrell, that even if you had your own Cabinet over here you would not find differences of opinion in it on this point very strongly expressed within it.

ENTITLED TO TIME.

His own strong opinion was that whenever Parliament meets next year this question will have to be definitely decided. The Bill would have to be introduced; it would take a long time, because it had to be introduced in a form which would admit of amendment, and a large party would oppose it altogether. Therefore it would take time. But it was entitled to time. And therefore, said Mr. Birrell, I certainly think (and in this I am only expressing an opinion that I have expressed in private before), with apologies to members of my own party, I certainly think the time for shuffling and delay in this matter has gone by, and that time will have to be given. Proceeding, he said it would be a big job and a long job, and it was an important matter that ought to have been treated a long time ago. He would do the best he could in the coming year to see that it obtained a full measure of Parliamentary time, which it could only obtain if facilitated by the Government of the day.

In the course of subsequent remarks Mr. Birrell said, "I think you are perfectly right in feeling irritated and annoyed at the delay that has taken place, but you know before the time comes (and I think you are entitled to insist on it at the earliest possible moment) that the decks are cleared for action."

(This account is taken from a report in the "Manchester Guardian.")

The President of the Board of Education.

On Tuesday, October 25th, Mr. Walter Runciman received a deputation organized by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. The deputation was introduced by Mrs. Leonard Firth (President of the Dewsbury Women's Suffrage Society). The speakers were Mrs. Cannon (President Leeds W.S.S. and Leeds W.L.A., member Leeds Board of Education), Miss Maude Illingworth (Vice-President Bradford W.S.S., member Executive Yorkshire Council of W.L.A.), Mrs. Grosvenor Talbot (P.L.G., President Kirkstall W.L.A., member Executive Leeds W.S.S.), Miss Mary Fielden (Organizer N.U.W.S.S.), Miss I. O. Ford (Parish Councillor, Hon. Life Member Leeds Trades Council, member Executive N.U.W.S.S.). These were supported by representatives from Dewsbury, Wakefield, Huddersfield, Barnsley, and Sheffield.

Mrs. Leonard Firth introduced the deputation, first thanking Mr. Runciman for his support of our cause in

the past, and telling him how much we hoped from his help in the future.

Mrs. Cannon referred to the moral education for which women had always worked, instancing Mrs. Josephine Butler's campaign, and made a most emphatic point in explaining how women's work for education has been injured and cramped since the last Education Bill, and how few are now co-opted.

Miss Maude Illingworth in a telling speech referred to Mr. Lloyd George's words at Criccieth, and also spoke of the growing impatience the Liberal women are feeling at the manner in which the Suffrage is deferred.

Mrs. Grosvenor Talbot took the local government aspect, and dwelt particularly on the fact that women, after having been elected to fill certain offices, found how seriously they were handicapped by their low political status.

Miss Fielden sought to impress Mr. Runciman with her experience of the interest and support given to the cause. She pleaded how urgent it was that the matter should be settled, and that women would be as deeply affected as men by the great issues likely to arise, and that their industrial position must be raised before further taxation was attempted. She then dealt with the Bill, and particularly with the fact that so many Members are opposed, on principle, to Grand Committee, and even as friends voted against it.

Miss I. O. Ford spoke of the democratic spirit of the Bill and the class of women who would be enfranchised. Also that there is no practical demand on the part of men voters for Womanhood Suffrage, and that an Adult Suffrage Bill means Manhood Suffrage. She referred to the growing enthusiasm for our cause, and asked Mr. Runciman if, as our friends in the House are willing to ask for leave to recommit the Bill pro forma in respect of its title, what would he do? What would happen? And what did he advise our doing about the matter?

NOT A PARTY MEASURE.

Mr. Runciman, in replying to the deputation, said that the division of opinion on both sides of the House made it impossible for this Bill ever to be taken up as a Government measure by either side. "I therefore feel," he said, "the only possibility of any progress being made is by allowing the House of Commons itself, independent of Government control, to express its own view and to act on its own view on the Women's Suffrage question. If it is allowed to do that, I cannot say what would happen to every detail of the Bill, but I am quite sure if it is allowed to do that, we should see our object attained before many years passed."

NO FACILITIES THIS SESSION.

"I don't see why it should not be done next year, but I ought to tell you at once that I do not think there is the least possibility of the necessary facilities being given this winter. There will only be six weeks of the fag-end of the session, and those six weeks must be filled up almost entirely with work on the Budget, which will occupy the bulk of our time, and then there will be other formal business that will carry us up to Christmas."

He urged that we should not waste our energies on a struggle to secure facilities this winter. "Indeed, I for one should not feel free to ask for further facilities for this winter, because it is well known that when we secured the two days for a full and formal debate in the middle of the session it was on the understanding that the debate was to be used as a very serious occasion on which to ascertain the views of the new Parliament. I am quite sure, if we had endeavoured to obtain the whole time necessary for the passing of a great constitutional Bill of this kind, that it would have been impossible for us to succeed in persuading those who were opposed to our view to have given the time of the House of Commons to what was necessary. They agreed ultimately to a serious ascertainment of the views of the House of Commons."

NEXT YEAR.

"That view being ascertained, I think we are quite justified in pressing our claim next year for fuller facilities to be given for the discussion of this Bill in every stage."

Mr. Runciman said he could not follow Miss Fielden in her view that all questions were of less importance than this. For his own part he regarded taxation of food, temperance, and the better regulation of social life as of more importance than giving the vote. Still he realized "the sense of grievance under which women labour, the mark of inferiority they detest."

He added that it was impossible to treat this question with rapidity in the House. "It is indeed one of the greatest of our constitutional changes, and when a request was made in the middle of this last session to send this Bill to a Grand Committee upstairs, although I had both voted and spoken in favour of the Bill quite wholeheartedly without any reserve, except those I mentioned in the discussion, I voted against the Bill going upstairs to the Grand Committee."

PREPARED TO HELP.

"I think all of us who are in favour of this Bill and who wish to do all we can to further the general question, must face the necessity of having a full discussion in the House of Commons itself on the Committee stage, and take it stage by stage. For my own part, I am prepared to do what I can in the House of Commons during that Committee discussion. I shall not shirk debate there, and I hope those who support the Bill will not think it necessary to shirk debate in the House of Commons."

AN EXTENDED BILL.

"Then I think every effort should be made to avoid what certainly at the time—the middle of last summer—appeared to many people to be in the nature of a trick in the drafting of the Bill. I know you don't agree with the view of Mr. Lloyd George, but Mr. Lloyd George expressed the opinion of a very large number of Members of Parliament—namely, that by drafting the Bill in its present form an effort was made to conciliate or rather to safeguard the Conservative instincts of those who sat on the opposite side of the House, and in so doing the form of the draft precluded those who wished to extend the area of the Bill from moving any amendment. I gathered, from what Miss Ford has said, that this point is fully realized, and an effort will be made by those who are responsible for this Bill to extend its drafting so that, if necessary, if it be the opinion of the House of Commons, its scope can be extended by an amendment."

ALIENATING SYMPATHIZERS.

Mr. Runciman pointed out that the excesses of the militant suffragists had driven bodies of opinion in the House away, and although these might be called lukewarm and not worth having, the fact remained that every vote counts, and we want every vote we can get. "We shall have to hold a solid majority in order to get it through its Committee stages. I trust we have advanced a stage and we shall have no difficulties placed in our way. When I say 'our' way I speak as one who wishes to push the thing forward in the House of Commons. I trust we shall have no difficulties placed in our way by violence outside."

CONCENTRATE ON 1911.

After a discussion of the effects of enfranchisement Mr. Runciman said: "My suggestion is that you concentrate your efforts on claiming that next year the House of Commons should have the right not only to express its view on the general question—it has done that already—but it should have a right to deal with all the details of the Bill to be introduced as early as possible next session, that time shall be given for this Bill, and that there shall be no obstruction in the programme of the party, so that the Bill may be dealt with in the course of the session 1911. That is what you must press for."

"I believe you must modify your draft. It is impossible to leave the title in the form in which it has been placed, for it definitely, at the present time, bars amendment which would extend the scope of the measure. You must face that. If you think that that is likely to lose you Conservative support, it is for you to decide. I should extremely regret your decision. I don't believe you would lose sufficient Conservative support to endanger the measure."

NO ONE KNOWS WHAT MAY HAPPEN.

Having summed up his advice by saying, "You should concentrate your efforts on 1911 and you should remove the main cause of opposition to the Bill, by altering the draft," Mr. Runciman concluded, "I cannot say what may be the decision of the Cabinet when we meet next year, if ever we do meet, as to the programme of next year. No one knows what may have happened by next year. I can only tell you that if that request is put forward, and it is by any means possible—I mean reasonably possible—that we can deal with a question of this magnitude in 1911, I for my part should consider the request a perfectly fair one, and I should support that request to the best of my ability. But I am sure you will believe that I am quite sincere when I add that next year is so full of political possibilities that I cannot tell you now definitely what even my own attitude would be. I can only give you an expression of my general sympathy and ask you to accept it for what it is worth."

Miss Fielden pressed Mr. Runciman to say whether he would support this Bill if it were re-committed in respect of its title, so that the title might be extended, and Mr. Runciman replied that he did not think they could do it. "I feel myself bound by the arrangement we came to when we secured the time for the discussion on the second reading."

The Manchester City Council and the Conciliation Bill.

The Anti-Suffragists have rather over-reached themselves in Manchester, and their too-eager gentleman from London put up the backs of the City Council by writing them a long letter on their duties and sending it to the Press the night before it reached the Lord Mayor. In the coming municipal elections the hardest fight of all is being waged in St. Luke's Ward, and the fact that both candidates were prominent in support of the resolution indicates that the candidates believe (as we do) that the women municipal voters of Manchester desire the Parliamentary vote. Mr. Maconachie's letter was merely an expression of the views of the Anti-Suffrage League. The North of England Society, on the other hand, sent a brief memorial signed by 652 persons, stating:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Manchester, pray your Lordship to lay before the City Council, which alone represents women, our urgent request that a petition may be sent to Parliament asking the Government to grant facilities for the third reading of the Parliamentary Franchise (Women) Bill."

It was agreed that the memorial be entered on the minutes.

Councillor Thewlis proposed the following resolution: "That a petition be presented to Parliament praying for facilities for the Third Reading of the Parliamentary Franchise (Women) Bill."

As the afternoon was wearing on he made only a short speech, but he contrived to say a good deal in the time. First he appealed to precedent, saying that that Council had on five occasions petitioned Parliament to give women votes (1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875), and that they had that very day petitioned Parliament to pass two Bills; he cited the example of the Councils of Glasgow, Dublin, and Dundee, and he asked, "Have we not in our own Council to-day women? One we know not much of as yet, but the other we do know takes her part equally with all other members of the Council."

Councillor Dr. Fletcher pointed out that the resolution only asked for fair play; he reproached the Prime Minister with hanging up the Bill, and said, "We want this vital question to be put to the final test, yea or nay"; he showed how closely interwoven are State and municipal affairs, and pleaded that surely, therefore, municipalities had the right to petition Parliament; he pointed out that this measure had support from all parties, and was therefore not controversial in the ordinary party sense.

Councillor Hailwood, dealing with the objection that councillors had no mandate on this question, stated that when he was a candidate he was questioned, that he spoke at some length in favour, and, being subsequently elected, he considered he was justified in supporting the motion. He pointed out that councillors were returned partly by the votes of women, and he did not think any councillor would have the temerity to get up and say that any of those women had voted in the wrong direction. "We here," he said, "are representatives of the people. Members of Parliament are not representatives of the people, but representatives of men, and consequently we have a stronger claim to ask for fair play."

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

OBJECT: To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.
METHODS: (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in this country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

Hon. Secretaries: MISS EDITH DIMOCK. *President:* MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. *Hon. Treasurer:* MISS BERTHA MASON (Parliamentary).
Telegrams: "Voiceless, London." *Secretary:* MISS T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A. *Telephone:* 1900 Victoria.
Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Executive Committee.

We hope that all members who are in London on Thursday, November 3rd, will make a point of coming to our "At Home" at the office in the evening—8 to 10. It will be the opportunity for having a straight talk about the "Common Cause" with the Editor and some of the directors, and we hope that those who have suggestions or criticisms to make will think them over carefully beforehand, and come prepared to discuss them fully. It should prove to be a most interesting and useful evening, and we urge our members to take advantage of it.

The programme for Suffrage Week is now nearly complete, and will be found on the back page.

Some of the more important things which have taken place this week have been the interviews with Mr. Birrell, Mr. Runciman, and Mr. Asquith. Mr. Birrell is reported to have said that the time for shuffling and delay had gone by, and time would have to be given to the Bill. It was an important matter that ought to have been treated a long time ago, and he would do his best in the next *Parliamentary year* to see that it obtained a full measure of time. Mr. Runciman emphasised the fact that the question cuts across parties, and therefore cannot be taken up as a Government measure by either side, and that the only possibility of progress being made is by allowing the House of Commons itself, independent of Government control, to act on its own view on the Women's Suffrage question. In view of the decision of the House (110 majority) he felt members were quite justified in pressing their claim *next year* for full facilities to be given for the discussion of the Bill in every stage. He thought the draft of the Bill must be modified to allow of amendments; but he suggested that all efforts should be concentrated on claiming that next year the House of Commons should have the right to deal with all the details of the Bill as early as possible in the session. Even Mr. Asquith would not say to the Suffragists who interviewed him that the Bill would not be given further facilities *next year*.

Mr. Brailsford well brought out this marked change in the attitude of prominent Cabinet Ministers in his inspiring speech at the splendid demonstration of the Surrey Societies at Guildford on Saturday afternoon. He pointed out that the question had been transferred from "the dim and speculative future" to "next year," and urged the Societies to go on without ceasing with their processions and their meetings, their deputations to members of Parliament, and their requests to Town Councils to petition for the further stages of the Bill. He thought the work they had already done was producing this change, and that it only now remained in the short interval still at their disposal to bridge over the chasm between this session and next. Friends, the crowning act must

Councillor Sir William Vaudrey said that in giving his vote he was approving of the measure itself. He was in favour of women having the right to vote for Parliamentary candidates on the same terms as men.

Councillor Margaret Ashton, who was listened to with the greatest attention, said all they asked was a fair field and no favour. They wanted a straight vote. Only the Government now stood in the way. It had wasted much time during the summer, and it was not fair that it should raise the plea of want of time now.

On being put to the vote, the resolution was carried by 43 to 10—majority 33, and the result was greeted with cheers.

be put to that bridge during "Suffrage Week," and we would urge every one of you to let nothing but absolute impossibility stand in the way of your being present at the Albert Hall meeting on Saturday, November 12th. Buy your tickets now, at once, so that no other engagement shall come in the way. By straining every nerve at this juncture you may be able to do away with the need for years of future work; and who knows but that this meeting will go down to history as the last great demonstration before the vote was won.

We are asked to tell our Societies that Mr. Lawrence Housman cannot undertake any fresh speaking engagements until the end of next March. Until March 25th his address will be: Greycott, Swanage.

EDITH DIMOCK.

Treasurer's Notes.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

October 15th to October 29th, 1910.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	2,101	6	10
Subscriptions—			
Miss Mary Vizard		0	10
Mrs. Kenny		5	0
Miss Davies-Colley		1	0
The Lady Laura Ridding		1	0
Mrs. Auerbach		25	0
Miss Mary Morton		0	10
Mrs. Davidson		0	5
Miss E. Mathieson		1	0
Mrs. Lucian Oldershaw		0	10
Miss W. Harold		0	1
Miss W. S. Henderson		0	2
Miss M. C. Strachey		1	0
Miss Edith Dimock		5	0
Miss L. R. Bazeley		0	2
Mrs. Skirrow		0	2
Miss Bertha Mason		5	0
Mrs. John Albert Bright		1	0
Donations—			
Miss Helen Fraser (collections)		4	11
Mrs. Norman		0	0
Mrs. John Marshall (for Suffrage Campaign)		30	0
Election Fund—			
By-Election Fund, 4th instalment (South Shields), collection, per Mrs. W. E. Downson		7	5
Affiliation Fees—			
Penarth W.S.S.		0	13
Brookenhurst W.S.S.		0	5
West Dorset W.S.S.		0	8
The Misses Emma and Edith Miller		10	0
	£3,202	2	2

MILLION SHILLING FUND.

	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1,745	9
Mrs. Graves	10	0
Miss S. Tiner (collection)	1	0
The Misses Smith	60	0
	1,816	9

Our warm thanks are due this week to Mrs. Auerbach, Mrs. John Marshall, and to the Misses Miller, for their special contributions, which are a great help at the end of the financial year, which closes on October 31. Will the secretaries of our affiliated societies kindly send me the balance-sheets for this year?

BERTHA MASON, Treasurer.

By-Elections.

SOUTH SHIELDS.

Polling Day: October 27th.

Result: Mr. Russell Rea (L.) 7,929
Mr. Vaughan Williams (U.) ... 4,910

Liberal majority 3,019
No Change.

WALTHAMSTOW.

Candidates: Sir J. A. Simon (L.).
Mr. J. S. Johnson (U.).

Committee Rooms: 384, Hoe Street, Walthamstow.

Organizer: Mrs. Merivale Mayer.

Polling Day: November 1st.

The N.U. meetings continue to be distinguished by the good feeling and harmonious atmosphere they create. On Monday and Tuesday I had the valuable co-operation of Miss Cockle, who came down and spoke at four meetings, which were most successful. I was regretfully obliged to withdraw Mrs. Fawcett's name, which I had billed for the Leyton Town Hall on Thursday, 27th, and only one clear day and a half remained to advertise Miss Palliser and Miss Helen Ward, who most kindly stepped into the breach at such short notice. The meeting, if not quite so large as we could have wished, was most sympathetic. The audience listened with keen interest to the most excellent and instructive speeches by Miss Ward and Miss Palliser, and at the close, when I, as chairman, put the resolution in support of the Bill, it was carried unanimously.

I fear that the watchword which all the other societies have adopted here, "Keep the Liberal out," is really creating a false impression in many minds, for people are continually saying when they come to my meetings, before they understand the difference between societies, "Why don't you come out in your true colours? Why don't you own up that it's Tariff Reform you're working for, and not Suffrage?" It becomes an immense fatigue telling them one after another that *we* do not work on the same lines.

Of course, as polling day draws nearer party feeling on the question becomes deeper, and bitterness and opposition begin to manifest themselves. I think Sir John Simon has begun to realise his mistake in not having answered our questions to the full and put Women's Suffrage in his election address. He sent the following wire to Mrs. Nesbitt on Thursday, in answer to a letter from her telling him that he would have had our direct support if he had published his support of our cause:—

"Many thanks for letter. You have quite correctly represented my views. Hope your friends will act accordingly.—SIMON."

But of course such a document as that is quite insufficient, and no action could possibly be taken upon it.

I have sold a hundred and fifty "Common Causes" already, which is remarkable, considering that the other societies with armies of workers are selling their papers freely.

Miss Martin and Miss Browne came on Saturday, and took a meeting at James Street, beginning at 1 p.m. Miss Browne kept it on after Miss Martin had "chaired" till nearly four o'clock, which was simply splendid, as it is considered rather a difficult pitch to work.

C. MERIVALE MAYER.

Our Meetings in Suffrage Week.

Members of the National Union will doubtless be attending innumerable other meetings during Suffrage Week, but they should not forget that it is their first business to attend the great Albert Hall demonstration at 7.30 on Saturday, 12th, and the public reception at Chelsea Town Hall at 3.30 on Wednesday, 9th. Admission to the latter is free.

The Albert Hall meeting is the climax of the whole week, and all the societies taking part in the week's work must play up, to show that they are united in this demonstration. We want the National Union to take a very large share. Societies all over the country are urged to take a box and send people to fill it. Miss Lowndes, of the Artists' League, is carrying out the decorations. So many of the societies now have beautiful banners of their own that they will be glad to bring and help to make the decorations distinctive and national.

Boxes hold from 8 to 20 people, and range in price from £1 to £5 5s. Application should be made early to Miss Whitehead.

The Common Cause.

NATIONAL UNION NEWS.

Last week we wrote to Federation secretaries suggesting a change in the method of sending news to "The Common Cause," and we are glad that the suggestion has met with a hearty response. Four of them say it is an excellent idea, and we hope that the scheme will soon be put into practice. The suggestion was that each Federation should appoint a "Common Cause" correspondent, and that all societies should send news to this officer, who would make monthly reports to us, and would, in addition, send news of immediate interest and national importance at once. We think that this should give more satisfaction to the Societies, and should make the reports more interesting.

SHARES.

Miss Bertha Mason has most generously offered to take 20 shares, and suggests that if 49 other persons will do the same our capital will be assured. This offer was made a fortnight ago, and, by an oversight, not published.

We are glad to report that we have received applications and promises for over £700, and 81 subscribers have made formal application.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING.

Lady McLaren writes: "I should be sorry indeed if 'The Common Cause' were given up. It is splendidly written, and useful to the Cause."

A correspondent from Birmingham writes: "The anxiety about 'The Common Cause' has had the effect here of raising a good deal of interest in it, and people are *reading* it who before only *glanced* at it."

Dr. Elsie Inglis, in applying for 5 shares, says: "I only wish I could make it twenty times as many, for 'The Common Cause' is one of the best weapons we have, and I feel it would be suicidal to hamper it in any way."

From Leeds one writes, applying for a share: "It will be a deep disgrace to us if this admirable and most necessary paper is allowed to die."

Another friend, applying for 5 shares, writes: "We hope to do more soon, and although I am afraid there isn't much practical value in little sums like this, if you will let it stand as a pledge of more, as soon as we can send more, and as an indication of our warm sympathy for the Cause, we shall be glad."

WHAT WE SAY.

The paper is *not* "going to die." It is going to live. We hope it is going to live long, long after women have won the vote, as "the organ of the women's movement for reform." This is one reason why the existing title was chosen, and we hope that people may care even more for the Cause when they realize it is the *Common Cause*, and not the cause of women only. One or two correspondents have suggested that the name should be

changed. It would be impossible to find a name which everyone would like better than any other, and many of our readers have become attached to this name and its significance. We do not wish to change it; but even if we liked another name better, we should still think it bad business to change, now we are known.

LOST! A BLOCK.

Will the secretary who borrowed the block of Mrs. Fawcett's portrait from "The Common Cause" kindly return it to 64, Deansgate Arcade, to-day, if possible.

HELP THOSE WHO HELP US.

Mrs. Aubrey Dowson writes us that she is arranging for a stall at the Birmingham Sale of Work to be devoted to specialities advertised in "The Common Cause." A glance down our advertisers' index will show how many articles advertised in our columns are suitable for sale at a bazaar, and we commend this idea to other societies who are having sales of work and Christmas presents.

Federation Notes.

Midland.

BIRMINGHAM DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL.

A very large audience assembled in the Town Hall to hear the distinguished speakers in favour of the Conciliation Bill, on Wednesday, 26th October.

Mr. Chapman brought forward striking evidence from his magisterial experience of the injustice of the law to women. Lady Frances Balfour's words were weighty and convincing, and their power was augmented by the fact that she had come to us straight from her work on the Divorce Commission. The thought of her steady and unselfish toil on behalf of other women ought to rouse those whose sympathy ends with paying a yearly subscription. Lord Lytton's brilliant speech was a clear and well-reasoned explanation of the present political situation with regard to Women's Suffrage, and was followed with close attention. The point emphasised by all the speakers was that whether women wanted the vote or not, the State needed it, and that it was bound to come, the only questions being: When, and how?

Surrey, Sussex and Hants.

DEMONSTRATION AT BRIGHTON.

The Brighton and Hove Women's Franchise Society may congratulate itself on the largest and most successful meeting ever held under its auspices. On Thursday evening, the 27th October, a demonstration in favour of the Conciliation Bill was held at the Dome, at which the Sussex societies, as well as those of Portsmouth and Tunbridge Wells, were represented. Other societies represented on the platform were: The Women's Social and Political Union, the Women's Freedom League, the Women's Co-operative Guild, the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, the Women's Liberal Association, the Women's Local Government Association, the Church League for Women's Suffrage, the British Women's Temperance Association, and the Men's League for Women's Suffrage. There were also present ladies and gentlemen well known in Brighton and Sussex.

The Chairman, Lieut.-Colonel Savile, had a very disappointing announcement to make—namely, that Lord Lytton was not able to be present, as, owing to illness in his family, he had been summoned home that morning. In a letter expressing great regret for his absence, Lord Lytton said that he trusted Brighton would join with other towns in urging the Government to allow the Conciliation Bill to become law.

The resolution in favour of the Bill was moved by Miss Margery Corbett, B.A., seconded by Mr. Percy Alden, M.P., and passed by a majority of about 1,000. There were nine or ten dissentients, and a few people abstained from voting.

Miss Corbett, in a delightful speech, reminded the girls of to-day that the pioneers of the Suffrage movement were also the pioneers of the better education of women. "We girls," she said, "have had a better mental, moral, and physical training than was the lot of girls who came before us. And because we have greater knowledge and greater liberty we have a far greater responsibility." Women were asking that they might co-operate with men to make towards healthier homes, a stronger nation, and a more splendid empire. Men had no business to legislate for adult women until they had consulted the women.

Mr. Alden opened his interesting speech with a quotation from a report issued in Norway before Norwegian women were granted the vote: "To exclude them is not merely injustice, but is inflicting injury on the community, which requires all the forces at its disposal." He remarked that the modern State needed the representation of all views and all interests, and how could we shut out one half of the society that made up the State. If women were petty and narrow it was because men had made them petty and narrow.

Girls must grow up with the idea that they were going to exercise their rights as citizens. He considered that although under this Bill married women are largely excluded, it was the unmarried women who were the more entitled to the vote. "A married woman has got a husband—though he may not be of much use; but the young unmarried box-maker, the chain-maker, and the sweated worker is at the mercy of a merciless world. Her only help will come from herself."

Sir Harry Johnston, C.G.M.G., moved a vote of thanks to the speakers, which was seconded by the Rev. J. E. Page.

The Society is in the happy position of having more than covered the heavy expenses entailed by its meeting. The sale of tickets amounted to over £30, and another £9 was taken at the collection. Eight dozen copies of the "Common Cause," besides other literature, were sold in the hall.

GUILDFORD DEMONSTRATION.

On October 29th the National Union Suffrage Societies in Surrey, and representatives from the Fleet, Brighton, Portsmouth, and Horsham Societies, held a demonstration in Guildford. The Guildford Society arranged the demonstration, and great credit is due to Miss Baker (hon. secretary) and to the Demonstration Committee and all the numerous helpers for the great success of the day. Our thanks are also due to members of the London Society, to the presidents, and to Miss Philippa Strachey for invaluable help and support.

In addition to the Societies within the Federation, the following joined in the procession:—Conservative and Unionist W.F.A., Women's Forward Union, Freedom League, Women's Social and Political Union, Church League, Men's League, University Graduates, Artists' Franchise League, Suffrage Atelier, Writers' League, New Constitutional Society, Actresses' Franchise League, Adult School, and others. The following supported us on the platform:—Viscountess Middleton, Lady Farrer, Mrs. G. F. Watts, Miss Gertrude Jekyll, Sir Wm. and Lady Chance, Mr. and Mrs. Auerbach, Miss Edith Dimock, Mrs. Bryan, and Mrs. M. A. Marshall. Mr. Arthur Chapman was in the chair.

Up the picturesque High Street nearly 400 Suffragists, carrying numerous banners, walked, three abreast, to the tunes of the town band. Then we assembled in the Borough Hall, and held our overflow meeting in the Council Chamber. Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Frances Sterling, and Mr. Brailsford each addressed both meetings, and all laid stress on our right for further facilities for the Bill.

By kind permission of the Chief Constable we were allowed to speak in the open air, and quite 200 outside listened with great attention to Miss Ward, Miss Palliser, Miss Cockle, Mr. Potts, and Mr. Hinscliff. Resolutions in favour of the Bill were passed at each of the indoor meetings, and a most generous collection of £30 odd was taken. We were disappointed not to have our new banner, which Mrs. Auerbach is presenting to the Federation, ready for the day.

M. O'SHEA.

Another correspondent writes:—"The people who lined the streets were respectful, and evidently deeply interested. The Borough Hall was crammed from floor to ceiling, and likewise the overflow meeting was packed, and numbers had, alas! to be turned away. Dense crowds thronged round the doors and tried to get in. The outdoor meeting, which lasted from 3-45 to 5-30, passed the resolution unanimously, and 'Common Causes' sold well. Everything went with a swing and enthusiasm which were good to see."

Western.

For a week I have been in Taunton trying to find out how much Suffrage interest there is and working up a meeting which Miss Abadam is to address on November 4th. The apathy of the west country towns is a difficult problem. It will need the infusion of a good deal of Suffrage enthusiasm and some hard work, but with both those I think we may hope for some good results. There is one consolation, the west country towns work splendidly once they have been won over.

On Friday I went to Wells to speak at their first meeting since the formation of a local branch. The meeting was well attended, and was held in the Cathedral Grammar School, by kind permission of the headmaster. Mrs. Coode, a member of the committee, took the chair. The audience was attentive, and seemed interested throughout. Several questions were asked at the close. Mr. A. E. Clarke proposed, and Mr. Carter seconded, a vote of thanks to the speaker. A number of new members were enrolled, and three dozen "Common Causes" were sold.

Mrs. Coode thanked all those who had worked so well in making the meeting known, and particularly the Rev. Lewis for allowing us the use of the room, thereby saving the young Society expense.

M. NORMA-SMITH.

West Lancashire, West Cheshire and North Wales.

I have just returned from my visit to the Welsh Coast societies. In these towns the English residents, who form the bulk of the membership, leave home for lengthy periods in the summer, and my visit was opportune, as in most places the plans for beginning winter work are just now under discussion. I addressed drawing-room meetings in Colwyn Bay and Bangor, and public meetings in Rhyl and Llandudno; also, by special request of the warden, a meeting of students at the Normal College, Bangor. Resolutions

were passed at all meetings in favour of the "Conciliation" Bill. At Carnarvon I was only able to meet the committee, and discuss with them possible developments of their work. The necessity of "keeping in touch" with the local Press, and, if possible, of forming speakers' classes or debating societies to train local speakers, was everywhere urged, and will, I hope, have good results. It is very evident that before the Welsh-speaking people can be brought into the societies in any number a Welsh-speaking organiser must be found.

EDITH ESKRIDGE.

FORMATION OF A SOCIETY AT WIDNES.

It is hoped that very soon there will be a branch of the N.U. at Widnes, and, with this end in view, the first public meeting will be held in the Liberal Club at 7-45 on Monday, November 7th. The chair will be taken by A. E. Calvert, Esq., and the speakers will be Mrs. Allan Bright, Mrs. Billinge, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, and Joseph Baskerville, Esq.

Manchester and District.

This has been a most lively and encouraging week for the Manchester Federation. First there was our demonstration in the Free Trade Hall on Tuesday; then the exciting and most satisfactory debate and vote in the City Council; and, lastly, the Anti-Suffrage demonstration on Friday. We give elsewhere accounts of the debate in the City Council and of the Anti-Suffrage meeting. The excellent and full reports in the "Manchester Guardian" of all these events were invaluable, and the three leaders were most sympathetic and convincing.

GREAT MEETING IN THE FREE TRADE HALL.

The distinguishing features of the great meeting in Manchester on October 25th were the excellence of the speeches and the whole-heartedness of the audience. The resolution urging the Government to grant facilities for the Conciliation Bill was carried without a dissentient, and every point made by the speakers was appreciated; it was emphatically a demonstration in support of the Bill. We are glad that Manchester should have had the opportunity of showing in some degree its appreciation of the work done for the Suffrage by Lord Lytton and his sister, and the opportunity also of hearing speeches which must have inspired their hearers to do and to sacrifice more for the enfranchisement of women. Mr. H. N. Brailsford was unfortunately prevented from coming by stress of work, but his place was taken by Mr. G. G. Armstrong, to whom the thanks of the Society are due for so kindly filling a gap at the last moment. The chair was taken by Sir George Kemp, M.P. for North-West Manchester, who thus added one more to his many services for our cause.

Besides the chairman and speakers, the committee wishes especially to thank Mrs. Darlington and Mrs. Norbury, whose decorations on the platform were greatly admired; Miss Muggell, who kindly played the organ; Mr. and Mrs. Barnes and Miss Darlington, who organised the stewards, and all those who helped them, as well as Miss Walshe and the "Common Cause" sellers.

The committee have decided to take at least one box for the great meeting in the Albert Hall, London, on Saturday, November 12th. The box will hold twenty, and will be decorated with the banners of the Manchester and District Federation. Seats in the box, price 5s., may be booked on applying to the secretary, 85, Deansgate Arcade. The meeting will begin at 7-30, so that it will be possible to travel on Saturday afternoon. The railway companies issue a week-end ticket for 19s. 4d.

North of Scotland.

Work is going on actively in the North of Scotland Federation. Now that the holiday season is over, meetings have been held in various districts within the area of the Federation. At all of these resolutions were passed asking for further facilities for Mr. Shackleton's Bill.

Miss Bertha Mason's lantern lecture drew crowded and enthusiastic audiences at Inverness and Elgin. From start to finish the lecturer was followed with the keenest interest and appreciation.

On the 22nd October a largely attended drawing-room meeting was held at Golfview, Nairn, the residence of Mrs. Ellis, president of the Nairn branch, when stirring addresses were delivered by Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. James Fraser, from Inverness, and Mrs. Ellis and Miss Clunas, Nairn. It was resolved at that meeting that the Inverness and Nairn Societies should have a Christmas Sale and Banner Exhibition in Inverness in December, for Federation funds. Meetings are being organised for Suffrage Week. A. N. BLACK.

Mrs. Fawcett at Winchester.

It was our first big meeting since our branch of the N.U.W.S.S. was formed, and Mrs. Fawcett was coming to speak. We were jubilant, yet we were anxious. Would people come, or would they severely stay away? Winchester is so highly respectable that it is just a little hard to move, hard to interest, hard to rouse to enthusiasm. But still—Mrs. Fawcett! Everybody, whether Suffragist, Anti-Suffragist, or Indifferentist, must know her name, must surely want to see her, and to hear her speak! The meeting was held in the banqueting-room at the Guildhall. It is a

handsome apartment, and its walls are hung with portraits of the City Fathers. The most interesting picture is a fine full-length portrait by Sir Peter Lely of King Charles II., presented to the Corporation by the Monarch himself—it is said in lieu of paying certain debts.

The crowd *did* gather! Before eight o'clock struck the hall was crowded in every part, and many had to stand the whole time from lack of seats. Then the speakers came on the platform, and the Countess of Selborne took the chair. Twenty years ago the writer had heard Mrs. Fawcett speak, and had been converted to the cause, and it seemed to her that those twenty strenuous years had passed over Mrs. Fawcett's head leaving her untouched by their burden. The same calm, noble face; the same clear, emphatic voice; the same sane, reasonable, logical speech, only more fluent with practice; the same flashes of wit and humour. She took for her subject, naturally, the Conciliation Bill, and explained it clearly to her audience, who listened intently and were not sparing of applause, catching the points of her argument readily. She wound up with an eloquent and moving appeal to all those present who felt in their hearts the justice and righteousness of the Cause to come forward and join the Society, and give not only of their money, but of their sympathy and help.

The second speaker was Dr. Josiah Oldfield, who is well known as a leader in the Reform Food movement. He pleaded that it was not right to make sex the fundamental qualification for the vote. It should be intelligence, not sex; and for his part he found as his experience of life that men as a whole were not more intelligent than women. He spoke eloquently on the home question, and maintained that the happiness and welfare of the home would increase by women having a wider outlook and a keener interest in life.

Only one or two questions were put, which Mrs. Fawcett answered with her usual clearness, and then, with votes of thanks to Lady Selborne and the speakers, the meeting broke up.

Books For Sale.

The following have been given to the National Union, and are offered for sale by the Literature Committee:—

- (1) *J. H. Round's English Peerage and Family Histories*. Published (1901) at 15s. Price 10s. secondhand.
- (2) *Johnson's Gardeners' Dictionary*, edited by C. Hewright and D. Bewar. Published (1905) at 9s. 6d. Price 4s. 6d. secondhand.
- (3) *A Treasury of Irish Poetry*, edited by Stopford Brook and T. W. Roleston. Published at 7s. 6d. Price 4s. 6d. secondhand.
- (4) *Letters on Life*, by Claudius Clear. Published at 3s. 6d. Price 2s. secondhand.



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"Saving Women from Suffragettes."

At last the Anti-Suffragists have succeeded in getting up a meeting in Manchester. Last year they took the Free Trade Hall, and announced a great demonstration, but it fizzled out, and they were glad to compound for a debate—with what results our readers know. This year they sent their Mr. Maconachie from London, and after six weeks of really heroic work, he succeeded in bringing some hundreds of men into the Free Trade Hall last Friday to hear Lord Cromer, Lord Sheffield, and Miss Markham. Women were excluded from the hall and from voting, although they were "accommodated" on the platform.

The Anti-Suffrage Press, after our meeting on Tuesday, frankly abandoned the plea that "women don't want it," and became very truculent about "men and men alone." An article appeared in the "Manchester Evening News" of October 27th which so exactly reproduces the condition Mrs. Fawcett described as "cutting themselves with knives and crying aloud," that I must quote a few sentences to entertain my readers with—

"That is the largest and gravest issue of all that is now at stake. Is a scratch majority in the House of Commons—a majority artificial and unreliable to a degree—to have power to stand between the people and the people's will? If so, then indeed are the very foundations of popular self-government undermined, the substance of democracy strangled by its forms, and that sacred principle, 'government of the people by the people,' becomes a memory.

"It is therefore high time for the men of England to wake up. Their most intimate interests, their most vital rights in civic life, are in issue. Is England to remain a virile land in virile hands, or is it to be made the appanage and the vassal of a false feminism, the plaything and the victim of a triumphant decadence? All this is involved in the plausible plea of 'Votes for women.' It is a time not only for women to comport themselves as women, but for men to be steadfast and act the part of men. Unthinking, superficial, mistaken amiability, suicidal benevolence to misguided women, complacent slumbers on the edge of an abyss—these are the enemy today. We rejoice that Manchester is to hear to-morrow the first note struck in the great national 'revolt of man' against the monstrous pretensions which now beset the State. Lord Cromer should find, to-morrow, a ready response among Manchester men."

Well, somehow Manchester men did not respond very readily to this thrilling appeal, nor did they show much concern to "save women from Suffragettes," as the hoardings implored them to do. Can it be that chivalry is dead already, and women, nice womanly women, are really being abandoned to the tender mercies of the Suffragettes? The hoardings also (poor, innocent, dumb mouths!) were made to cry: "Votes for Women?—Never!" But discretion proved the better part of valour, and the resolution submitted to the little band of men merely protested against any Bill being passed into law "to give votes to women without previously referring the issue to the country," while Lord Sheffield cruelly abandoned the one solid plank that "men are men and women are women," by confessing that he thought the day might come when women might be sufficiently educated to be given the vote. He hastened to say that this would not be in his time. We, however, hope we shall not lose Lord Sheffield so soon.

The Anti-Suffrage Press said the hall was half full. This is a very generous estimate, but I will leave it at that. The resolution was carried by what looked like two to one. Probably there would have been a much better attendance if there had not been so much hanky-panky with the tickets; but then, more Suffragists might have got in, and there was a panic about this. There was, at any rate, a fine attendance of the police, whom we are always glad to welcome, and the stewards were very alert and anxious for the fray, but they got no opening, for the Suffragist men were tolerant and polite.

There were several entertaining incidents, one being Miss Markham's introduction of Miss Ashton's name, the signal for loud applause; another the cry of a man in the gallery, when one speaker referred to "this magnificent meeting": "Have ye ever seen a Suffrage meeting?" Otherwise the speeches were rather boring, and there was nothing of them left at the end, for, like the Kilkenny cats, they were mutually destructive.

NORTH-OF-ENGLANDER.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

President: THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN.

Hon. Secretary: THE REV. C. HINSLIFF, 11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

The Church League gave an extremely successful "At Home" on October 26th. Steinway Hall looked very gay decorated with the white and golden banners of the League,

and was well filled with a sympathetic and enthusiastic audience. The music was just enough and just of the right kind. The event of the evening was an address by Mrs. Mackirdy, better known to the public as Miss Olive Christian Malvery. Mrs. Mackirdy is one of those social reformers who has tried to taste for herself by actual personal experience the sufferings of the poorest classes of women in modern England. Her strange adventures as a flower girl, a costermonger's assistant, a factory hand, etc., are recorded in her books, "The Soul Market" and "Thirteen Nights." To those who had connected her mainly with sordid scenes in London slums, and had forgotten her Eastern extraction, her beautiful purple oriental robes came as a pleasant surprise. But if her appearance was suggestive of the "Arabian Nights" her words brought us quickly back to the sorrows of modern England. She has hitherto stood somewhat aside from the Suffrage movement, and some of her remarks seemed to those present to indicate that she has hardly understood it; but she has now come to realise that the granting of fuller freedom to women is the only means by which the terrible things some women now suffer can be prevented, and the social atmosphere purified. She said that not long ago, when she was pleading for the erection of a shelter for women in London, a minister of the Crown said to her, "Women do not want shelters they ought to be in their own homes." If this is the intelligence shown by our legislators, we cannot be surprised that social reformers are, in the present condition of things, reduced almost to despair. But in the Suffrage movement they find the hopes they need. Mrs. Mackirdy has joined the Church League, and has shown her readiness to work for it by at once giving this address. The Rev. C. Hinsliff was able to announce that though the Church League is not yet a year old, it already has 800 members and ten branches. Members are looking forward to the meeting on Nov. 11th and the procession on Nov. 14th.

The Greenwich and Lewisham Branch was inaugurated on October 15th (president, Archdeacon Escree), and successful meetings have been held at Anerley and Lichfield. Members are requested to do all in their power to render "Suffrage Week" a notable success. Besides taking part in the mass meeting at the Albert Hall on November 12th, the C.L.W.S. is holding the following meetings:—(a) An At Home at the Medical Society's Hall, 11, Chandos Street, W.; chairman, Rev. C. Baumgarten; speakers, Miss Abadam, Miss Frances Sterling, and a member of the Conciliation Committee. (b) A short devotional service at the Royal Chapel of the Savoy, conducted by the Rev. C. Hinsliff, at 6.30 p.m. (c) A procession to evensong at Westminster Abbey on November 14th. The procession will form at Cleopatra's Needle, Victoria Embankment, at 1.45, starting at 2.10; those wishing to march are asked to send in their names immediately, and to arrive at the place of meeting punctually, as very little time can be allowed for assembling. C.L.W.S. Christmas cards will be ready shortly, and it is hoped that members will take this opportunity of helping the funds of the League.

MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH LEAGUE.

November 11: At Home at the Medical Society's Hall, 11, Chandos Street, W. (near Oxford Circus). 3 p.m.
Devotional Service, Royal Chapel of the Savoy. 6.30
November 14: Procession to Westminster Abbey. 5 p.m.
November 16: Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, Miss Maude Royden.
November 17: Kenilworth.
November 18: Leamington.

Grand Matinee at the Aldwych Theatre.

We would again remind our readers of the matinee which is to be given by the Actresses' Franchise League and the Women Writers' Suffrage League on Friday, November 18th, at 2.30, at the Aldwych Theatre.

The programme will be, if possible, stronger than last year's, and a great many leading actresses who have not before taken any active part in the movement will appear in Miss Cicely Hamilton's Pageant of Great Women, which will again be under the direction of Miss Edith Craig. Amongst the well-known actresses who have promised their services are Miss Lena Ashwell, Miss Gertrude Kingston, Miss Marion Terry, Miss Lillah McCarthy, Miss Lily Brayton, Miss Evie Greene, Miss Gertie Millar, Miss Evelyn D'Alroy, Mr. Henry Ainley, Miss Eva Moore and her two sisters, and Mrs. Despard will again appear as St. Hilda.

Two very interesting one-act plays will be produced for the first time, one by George Paston (the author of "Nobody's Daughter"), and the other by Cicely Hamilton. In addition to these there will be star turns by Miss Gertie Millar, Miss Evie Greene, and others. The programme-sellers, under the direction of Miss Lilian B. Braithwaite, will be leading actresses and writers. Tickets, at ordinary theatre prices, may be obtained from the Actresses' Franchise League, 2, Adelphi Terrace House; the Women Writers' Suffrage League, 55, Berners Street, W.; the Aldwych Theatre, and from other Suffrage Societies.

Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union.

A CARAVAN TOUR.

For eleven weeks last summer in the months of July, August, and September, a caravan decorated with Suffrage posters travelled through Aberdeenshire and Banffshire for the Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union.

The caravan was kindly lent by Miss Lumsden, of Aberdeen, the horse was bought, the harness hired, and the travellers, with one exception, were graduates or students anxious to spend part of the summer in work for Women's Suffrage.

The organiser, Miss Parker, had charge of horse and caravan, and was helped at different times by Miss Ireland, Miss Barrowman, M.A., Miss Chrystal Macmillan, M.A., B.Sc., Miss Jameson, M.A., Miss Simson, M.A., Miss Colvin, Miss Hardie, and Miss Campbell Smith, M.A.

As caravan life was new and strange to all who took part in the tour, a man was employed to drive and look after the horse for the first five days, but for the rest of the time the caravanners preferred to manage without one.

Fifty different places were visited and fifty-eight meetings were held; some in fishing villages and towns, some in country districts, and others in the more fashionable places by the sea and on the Dee-side.

Generally the caravan moved on to a fresh place every day; search was made for a camping ground, a stable, and an open-air pitch for the evening meeting. The bellman (in one instance a drummer) was sent round to rouse people with bell and voice. Only once did the weather interfere and make an open-air meeting impossible.

In the larger towns a longer stay was made, and halls were taken and indoor meetings held as well as the usual open-air ones.

Of all the places visited, three will remain greenest in memory; one where literature was most eagerly bought, one where questions were most thoughtful and numerous (lasting nearly an hour), and one where fisherwomen struggled and pushed their way, penny in hand, to the collection plate, fearful lest their chance of helping should be lost.

At Peterhead much help was given by Miss Smith; at Fochabers Miss Bain gave hospitality; Sir Alexander MacRobert entertained those who were with the caravan at Tarland; and at Aboyne Mr. and Miss Macdonald gave a great deal of encouragement and help; but it is impossible to do more than mention a few of those who gave sympathy and hospitality.

At the end of the tour the horse was sold, and in this instance at any rate it was cheaper to buy and sell again than to hire.

There is no doubt that a caravan tour is an excellent way of spreading Suffrage news in out-of-the-way places and awakening interest in larger towns, and the organiser hopes that if work is necessary next summer many graduates and students will send in their names as early as possible in order that a more extensive campaign may be undertaken.

Free Church League for Woman Suffrage

The Free Church League will join with the Church League in the procession to Westminster on November 14th. On arrival at Westminster the Free Church League will hold a devotional meeting in a Free Church building, whilst the Church League is at its service in the Abbey. The procession will be formed at Cleopatra's Needle, Victoria Embankment, at 1.45, and will start at 2.10. All interested in the Free Church League are asked to walk in the procession, and to attend the meeting. Those unable to attend are asked to send aside from 3 to 4 o'clock for prayer and intercession. Further particulars may be had from Miss Hatty Baker, 133, Salisbury Square.

Miss Hatty Baker will give a lecture in Ward Street Chapel, Guildford, on "The Religious Aspect of the Suffrage" on

OPPOSITE THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

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Saturday, November 5th, at 8 o'clock. She will speak in the same place on Sunday afternoon at 3.15 on "A Notable Feature in the Decay of the Churches," and will preach at the evening service. On Monday evening at 8 Miss Baker will give a lecture at King's Weigh House, London on "The Public Ministry of Woman."

Foreign News.

GERMANY.

The ninth annual meeting of the German National Council of Women has just taken place at Heidelberg. The president, Frau Marie Stritt, resigned the position she had held for many years, and her place has been taken by Dr. Gertrud Bäumer.

All the delegates, with the exception of those representing the German Evangelical Union of Women, passed a long and dignified resolution, expressing their deep disappointment at the references to women's work in the Emperor's speech, recently made at Königsberg. These have revealed his entire misunderstanding of the aims and objects of the modern women's movement in Germany, which does not ignore the domestic side of a woman's life, but realises the necessity of organised co-operation for widening her experience and knowledge. They regretted that their endeavours to prepare women for the conditions of modern life had thus received such a serious set-back.

There was considerable discussion as to the advisability of petitioning or otherwise working for municipal and Parliamentary franchise for women. After heated arguments on either side, it was decided to work for the granting of votes for parish councils. The Council hopes in this way to further the cause of temperance, which it has particularly at heart.

We hear from Thüringen that the town of Gotha has decided to have a woman on the board of management of its higher girls' schools. It has also been arranged that a woman teacher may represent the staff on the board of managers.

FRANCE.

Our readers may be interested to know that the strike amongst the women of the "A Réaumar" firm is over, neither party having given in. The workrooms remain closed, and the workers are being placed in other business houses.

The "Société féministe du Havre" has asked the "Conseil Général" to give a vote in favour of Women's Suffrage. In spite of a delightful report given by one of the members, which evoked a favourable response from the Council, this motion was lost by twenty votes against twelve. On the other hand, the Council has put forward the following demands:—1. That there be women cantonal delegates. 2. That Parliament recognise the equality of men and women teachers.

Madame Brunshwicg has sent the following interesting account:—The general meeting of the French Union for Women's Suffrage was held on Thursday, October 20th. Madame Jeanne Schmahl was in the chair. The members were asked to vote for a new resolution: the object was to found a consultative committee, consisting of an equal number of men and women; the original committee to be composed of women only, as before. Several other amendments were voted for.

Madame Léon Brunshwicg, secretary of the committee for propaganda, gave an account of her work during the last half-year. Seven thousand leaflets had been distributed, 600 boxes of literature were in circulation, about twenty meetings had been organised all over the country, three branches of the Union were already working in the provinces (at Nice, Bordeaux, and Clermont Ferrand), and several new branches were in process of formation (at Rouen, Dijon, Aix, Marseille, Charleville, etc.).

This committee was also responsible for a letter which had been sent round to all the deputies, asking them to bring forward Monsieur Buisson's report in the new Chamber of Deputies. Two hundred favourable replies have been

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received, which means a success of considerable importance to the Women's Suffrage movement.

During the coming winter leaflets will continue to be distributed, and meetings will be organised in Paris and the provinces.

Madame Schmahl announced that during the holidays a leaflet has been published containing the views of sixty-four influential men on the question of Women's Suffrage. Monsieur Jean Finot had written a striking introduction to this "Charte de la Femme," which can be procured at the "Siège Social," price 1.50 fr.

A year ago the French Union for Women's Suffrage had 200 members; now there are between 1,400 and 1,500.

UNITED STATES.

The "Woman's Journal" says that "The Oklahoma Women's Suffrage Association has translated Woman Suffrage literature into the Choctaw, Chickasha, and Cherokee tongues, as there is expected to be a large Indian vote cast this fall."

We hear from Kentucky that "Mrs. Frances E. Beauchamp, president of the Kentucky W.C.T.U., announced her candidacy for Congress a few days ago, from the Seventh Congressional District, on the Prohibition ticket. She is a widow, a speaker of ability, and a woman of high character."

Pains and Penalties.

More people should have been at the Bechstein Hall on the 29th ult. to hear Mr. Laurence Housman's eloquent reading of his play, "Pains and Penalties." The verdict of the censor of plays against this moving portrait of Queen Caroline, wife of George IV., has given the play a certain send-off, and one could only deplore the Lord Chamberlain's acquiescence in that verdict as one followed the gradual unfolding of the drama of this woman's life. We have not advanced much since 1820 along the line which is to give equal justice to men and women. It may still be said of our country that, as the sad Queen says, "England is a country which takes from a mother all her natural prerogatives." Or again, "In your land (England) a father may do anything," meaning "with the children." We all know how much Mr. Housman has the women's cause at heart, and his strong views on the subject certainly colour the play. We can find in it a very clear statement of the woman's side of the marriage laws; we can see what real courage brought Caroline back to England to assert her claim to be crowned Queen—she seems, if one may put it so, to have been the first strong Suffragist. She came back to make the claim on behalf of all the women who should come after her, of all the women who want only a courageous example to make them act decisively. Mr. Housman pictures her as having a sweet-natured, childlike spirit, finally driven into distasteful action by the burning wrong she suffered. Her magnificent (and historic) answer to the question politicians tried to ask her, but which she herself had to put into words for them, met with the applause it would have heartened her to hear, could she hear these Englishwomen applauding her action nearly a hundred years after her death. "Have I committed adultery? Is that what you would ask me, gentlemen?" "I committed adultery once only when I became the wife of the husband of Mrs. Fitz-Herbert." There is no doubt that right-thinking people are everywhere challenging the moral aspect of the relations between the sexes—are thinking and saying that the same measure must mete out justice to both husband and wife; and when this feeling becomes strong enough the alteration of the marriage and divorce laws must follow as a matter of course. I have touched only on the "Common Cause" aspect of the play: there is much else in it. It is singularly moving, and rises in certain scenes into a passionate intensity. The witty indictment of the English system of cross-examination put into the Queen's mouth does not come from her character as Mr. Housman draws it—it comes instead straight from the author himself. AGNES EVANS.

Review.

THE LAW OF MAINTENANCE AND DESERTION AND CUSTODY OF CHILDREN, by Temple Chevallier Martin and George Temple Martin (Messrs. Stevens and Haynes. Pp. 330. 9s.)

We are solemnly warned by the philosopher against explaining *why* a thing is so before we know *if* it is so. Similarly, the law reformer must know what the law is before he or she can profitably argue as to what the law *should* be. With such a book in hand as Martin's "Law of Maintenance and Desertion and Custody of Children," which has now reached its third edition, the advocate of reform need not go far astray. Within its limits (and it does not claim to be an exhaustive treatise of the law of Husband and Wife, see page 29) we have a clear and trustworthy account of the law relating to the maintenance of wife and child, and to the custody and protection of children—this last a subject

occupying so prominent a part in the legislation of the last reign. It is significant that, since the last edition in 1896, the chapter on Children has grown to more than four times the size. The lengthy Children Act, 1908 (and the rules made under it), and many other important Acts, are given in full, with such notes as can be supplied to Acts so recent, but, by omitting the forms of order, etc., the editors have contrived to embody all this additional valuable matter without materially adding to the length of the book. The forms were of use mainly to the practitioner, and are readily available elsewhere. The result is a volume which, unlike most of the leading works on the subject, is of quite a handy size, but which, nevertheless, contains the main points which we all need to know, and also the most copious references to the authorities on which it is based, for the use of the practitioner and those general readers who wish to pursue their investigations further.

Beginning with a short but valuable account of the mode of proving a disputed marriage, solemnised either here or abroad, Chapter I. treats of the husband's liability for the wife's maintenance, whether living together or apart, his liability for her debts, and her rights of property under modern legislation. The parents' liability for the maintenance of the child, whether legitimate or not, their rights to its custody, and the effect of the wife's misconduct, conclude that chapter. Chapter II. treats mainly of desertion, and the authorities on this often perplexing question are carefully and clearly cited. Chapters III. and IV. deal with maintenance, protection, and affiliation, orders. Chapter V., above mentioned, is by far the longest, containing as it does the text of the Children Act, 1908, and of shorter Acts. The appendix contains the full text of several important Acts, among them the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885, the Criminal Evidence Act, 1898, and the Licensing Act of 1901.

We will give a few references to what is to be found in the pages of this interesting work. For example, the nature of the "double standard" of morality comes out very clearly. We are apt to think that the wife's having to prove in divorce two kinds of marital misconduct, instead of one, is the only grievance, but this is not the case. We read (p. 26) that "in law the adultery of the wife is equivalent to her death, and puts an end to all her conjugal rights; she returns to the same state as if she were not married, and the husband is not obliged to answer for his wife's contracts or to receive her into his house." In such a case he cannot even be got at through the Poor Law. And this even though he may, by his conduct, have conduced to her adultery, if committed subsequent to the order, or may have been guilty of similar misconduct (*ibid*). The only thing that her misconduct does not overturn is a separation deed containing no special provision for its nullity in case of her unchastity. One need hardly say that the husband's misconduct has no such far-reaching effects in law. The expression, "double standard," reminds us of the currency controversy of a few years ago. One might say that our present law allows a system of "moral bimetalism" for the husband. He can pay in a depreciated, even a debased, currency, if he will, but the wife is on a monometallic basis, and must pay gold.

The books shows that the recent dictum of a Manchester Stipendiary Magistrate, quoted in these columns from the "Manchester Guardian" on the 15th September, is wrong, as reported. The Stipendiary is said to have stated that a wife who had obtained a separation order under the Act of 1886 could not enforce payment of arrears, if the husband was willing to go back. This is not the law (pp. 53, 54, 59, 62, and 63). Re-cohabitation must be voluntary on the part of the wife, and, if she decides not to have the husband back, there is an end of the matter, the magistrate having no discretion, unless there is proof of alteration in the means of either party, in which case the magistrate may vary or discharge the Order.

The editors refer to the important recent case of *Harriman v. Harriman*. This decides that the husband's absence after a justice's order has been made for non-cohabitation, cannot be regarded as "desertion without reasonable excuse," so as to be reckoned in the period of two years required for subsequently obtaining a divorce. In view of this decision, it has been doubted whether justices ought to insert the non-cohabitation clause in orders made for desertion alone, and not for cruelty or neglect. But while divorce remains so far beyond the reach of the classes usually applying for magistrates' Orders, the better course, one would think, is generally to give the wife the undoubted benefits of the non-cohabitation clause, unless there is a very strong probability of her being desirous of bringing, and able to bring, divorce proceedings at some future time.

The case of *Durose v. Wilson* is given (p. 281, note a), deciding that a house divided into flats, some of which are used for the purpose of prostitution, may be held to be a "disorderly house." A statement in the recent "White Slave Traffic" (p. 97) is at variance with this view of the law, but there is no doubt that the text book is right. In the case just cited the porter of the premises was convicted under s. 13 (1) as a person who "keeps or manages, or acts or assists in the management." However, there is no doubt that the Act is capable of much amendment, and the conviction in *Durose v. Wilson* was affirmed only after considerable hesitation on the part of the judges.

Among the Acts given in full is the Guardianship Act of 1886. Our Anti-Suffrage friends have much to say about this, but they always fail to mention that, under it, a guardian appointed by the father's will acts jointly with the mother, but that a guardian "nominated" by the mother does not act at all unless the Court is satisfied that the father is for any reason unfitted to be "the sole guardian," and therefore confirms the appointment, after which he and the father act jointly.

The Children Act, 1908, should be carefully read by the law reformer. Though partly a consolidating Act, it considerably amends the law previously existing, and will no doubt prove valuable. It contains provisions relating to infants let out to nurse and maintain; infant insurance, which is now, in certain cases, not only made void but is made punishable; cruelty and neglect; overlying when under the influence of drink; allowing children to beg; allowing children or young persons to reside in brothels, with provisions for the safety and future maintenance of the victim; voluminous provisions in regard to reformatory and industrial schools (including an extension of the system of day Report); increased facilities for allowing bail in case of young persons, and for committing them to some place of detention other than a prison; giving liquor to children under five; allowing children in bars; their safety at entertainments, and so forth.

It is impossible to give further references, but all interested in the above subjects may be recommended to the study of this useful book.

FRANK LEIGH.

Correspondence.

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

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE AND THE UNIVERSITIES.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I was fortunate enough recently to read a most interesting article in your columns on the possibilities of a domestic science. May I venture strictly from an educational point of view to suggest therein a confusion liable to impede a movement of great value.

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In a word, it was essentially as a branch of higher education that such a science was advocated. Now, surely that is pre-eminently just what it can never be. Must not any domestic science that is to be other than a characterless abstraction from indeterminate fields of knowledge, be essentially a definite technical training? What is it; wherein lies its value if not directly in its utility as teaching how to conduct a sphere of affairs left hitherto to "instinct"? Is nursing a higher education in the sense of the writer of the article? Is that to enter the curriculum of the older universities? Yet what, if not something of the same kind as the science of nursing, is to be domestic science? Nay, what else can it be than a development of some of the more general aspects which this more than kindred science has manifested?

Or, to take another parallel, surely there is in it something very analogous to the position of military training with regard to men. Admitted at once that this is pursued along with the higher education and at the universities. But whoever contended that it formed in itself a higher education—could be made an instrument of general culture, with benefit either to that culture or its supposed instrument? Nay, the value of the parallel lies just in this combination of higher education with the acquirement of a particular science, not a branch of it, but no less essential for the sex to learn.

Technical education domestic science essentially must be, and as such let it assume its proper position; neither made little of in its own place, nor invading one that is not its own.

Moreover, if the imperturbable public are to be brought to recognise its value, may we ask to hear more definitely what it is. The study of the laws of economics in the psychical world, in relation to the organization of the basis of home living—if I have not misapprehended the general tenor of the paragraph,—is a curriculum it is hard to criticise; not wholly suggestive of the household, mysteriously unlike a science.—Yours,

WALTER WINTER.

University College, London, October 24th, 1910.

LIBERAL WOMEN AND THE BILL.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Liberal women are holding meetings to support the Conciliation Bill all over the country just now, and passing strong resolutions asking for facilities for the third reading this session. It seems to me the exact moment to press home the good suggestion made by Miss Eleanor Rathbone in "The Common Cause" of August 11th, 1910, that Liberal women should sign a pledge "binding those who signed it not to work for any Parliamentary candidate who was not upon a list of those approved as convinced and active supporters of the Suffrage by the committee of the Forward Suffrage Union within the W.L.F., or by any other body selected as the arbiter." Such a pledge gives backbone and weight to the demand for facilities, and makes it possible for women to stay in their associations honourably and effectively until better times come again. To many the breaking away from their party is so great a strain and unhappiness that they cannot or will not face it. This course leaves them still Liberals of the best and most consistent type, and emphasises their belief that principle is higher than party. There is no better way of convincing their party leaders.

I suggest that at every W.L.F. meeting pledge cards should be offered for signature, and the members helped by such united peaceable action to press this reform to successful accomplishment.—Yours,

MARGARET ASHTON.

October 31st, 1910.

HELPERS NEEDED AT NEWCASTLE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Miss Florence J. Sutherland, Thurso House, Fernwood Road, has been nominated as a candidate for a vacancy on the Board of Guardians. As five men are competing for the same vacancy, every house will need to be well canvassed. Offers of help are badly needed, even if they be only to canvass one street.—Yours,

MARGARET MEIN.

WOMEN AND PUBLIC OPINION.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—In reply to "Waverer" may I say that it appears to me to be impossible to doubt that one of the very first uses women would make of the vote would be to see that the laws contained in that section of the Criminal Law Amendment Act which refers to outrages upon children should be properly administered, and that certain clauses which make it possible for magistrates to give light sentences should be deleted from the Act altogether? It is appalling to think that a few months may be considered sufficient punishment for this hideous crime, and I am convinced that until women take up this question the law will continue to be thus administered, for the fact is undoubted that the men of the community are not taking steps to make the punishments for this offence sufficiently severe to act as a deterrent, and nothing else will stamp out this crime.

"Waverer" asks: "If they got the vote would women be courageous enough to break through this unholy barrier of

prudish silence? . . . Mrs. Swanwick and other women are answering this by speaking about it in public now even without the vote. But "Waverer" seems to think that to speak about the subject now, and so help to form and rouse public opinion, is a mistake, else why write "Otherwise her mere publication of horrors does the cause no good, but rather harm"? I confess that I fail to follow "Waverer's" reasoning, which apparently amounts to this—that want of courage in dealing with this canker will help women to get the vote, while courage will keep them back. This question alone is enough to make every woman who knows of it determined that at all costs the vote must be gained. It is not a pleasant subject to speak or write about; it is difficult to do it, but it is much more difficult *not* to do it, and I repeat that we women must tackle it. Men in public positions, whose opinions carry great weight, have said to me that they considered that if every man guilty of such a crime got two years we would have no cause to complain. Comment is needless.—Yours,

NELLIE M. HUNTER.

Glasgow, 29th October, 1910.

LETTERS TO MR. ASQUITH.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Mr. Asquith asks for proof that Women Suffrage is wanted. He has had plenty; but would it not be rather effective if two or three million individuals wrote letters (not postcards) asking for facilities for the Conciliation Bill, and posted them in time to reach Downing Street by first post on Thursday, November 10th? Of course, this would have to be universal, or it would be ineffective.—Yours,

E. M. FENNINGS.

[We are constantly receiving suggestions of this sort. We believe such procedure to have no good effect at all. The only effect it has—a very slight one—is one of futility. It savours far too much of the snowball and the bazaar. Letters written by persons known to the Premier or to the world at large have effect, but not even millions of such letters as these would count, for everyone knows how easily they might be "machine made."—Ed. "C.C."]

WOMEN'S INFLUENCE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—There was one thought that struck me in reading your leader, "Public Opinion," last week. You condemn the perpetrators of certain outrages justly, but I am sure you will agree with me that many women do their utmost to arouse in men the passions which a man cannot legitimately gratify. This matter ought to be fairly thrashed out, and I am quite sure you will see that my man's point of view is perfectly natural. We men are not angels, but we should often be only too glad to be able to master our vices. Unfortunately, women who are often perfectly pure themselves do not scruple to drive us into impurity. That is the other side of the question, plainly and truthfully stated. If women could realise that some of the best men in other ways ought to be carefully handled in sex matters, they would perhaps cease to govern our susceptible sex by appealing to our nature. I hope and believe equality between the sexes will end all that.—Yours,

MEN'S LEAGUER.

October 28th, 1910.

[We agree with our correspondent that equality will end much, even if it does not end all. As the world is now, a woman often has no power except through her sex. Men must give women the means of honest livelihood, open expression, and responsibility. Then men and women together will create a healthier public opinion.—Ed. "C.C."]

Reports of Societies within the 'National Union.

Secretaries would simplify the work by sending in notices of FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, endorsed with those words, with time, place, and speakers legibly written, on one side of the paper only, and on a sheet of paper separate from other matter. (The following were unavoidably held over last week.)

NOTTINGHAM.

We have been inviting the municipal women voters to our weekly At Homes. They have not responded very well so far, but we intend to persevere. Our Committee adopted this course instead of canvassing the voters with a petition.

Miss Hillford Dickson (of Australia) has been organizing for us most energetically in Hucknall, ending up with a capital open-air meeting on Thursday last, to be followed by an indoor meeting on Thursday next.

We are holding a Special Effort Month for "The Common Cause" in November, and have at our Committee meeting secured promises for ten shares in the Company, and decided to take regularly two dozen extra copies of the paper.

RUGBY.

On October 11th seven of our members went on a deputation to our Liberal candidate, Mr. Basil Williams. We were received with the greatest courtesy. But, unfortunately, Mr. Williams and his wife remained obstinately "Anti." Mr. Williams asserting that he saw neither evidence of any widespread desire for the vote nor any need

of it, since the wishes of women were already adequately voiced by their male friends and relatives.

On October 12th Mrs. Ring spoke on "Factories and Girl Life," her address forming the fourth in a series of afternoon meetings for members.

Arrangements had been made for Mrs. Ring to speak at an open-air meeting the same evening, but the heavy rain made this impossible.

The fortnightly discussion classes, discontinued during the summer holidays, are to begin again next week.

SHREWSBURY.

A small but enthusiastic audience assembled in the Suffrage Shop, by the invitation of Mrs. Philip Deakin, on Tuesday evening, October 18th. The case for Women's Suffrage was ably demonstrated by Mrs. Harley, assisted by Mrs. John Southam, and as a result three new members were enrolled. It is proposed to hold weekly informal meetings in the shop during the winter.

WAKEFIELD.

The Women Municipal Voters' Petition sheets are coming in, and the results are most encouraging. On October 12th Miss Fielden came over from Leeds to oppose an Anti-Suffrage motion at the Y.M.C.A. here, and had quite an ovation. She is to speak at a meeting at the Olympia Garage on the 24th, and we hear that many of those who were at the Y.M.C.A. debate wish to hear her again—which is not surprising.

Tuesday, October 18th, was a red-letter day in our history, for Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., was with us, at a drawing-room meeting at Hatfield Hall. She received a most hearty welcome from a deeply interested audience, and spoke splendidly, filling us all with fresh courage and enthusiasm. Miss Fielden also spoke, and a resolution was carried unanimously asking the Government for facilities for the Conciliation Bill. A vote of thanks, proposed by Mrs. Peacock and seconded by Mrs. Hudson, was given with great enthusiasm to Mrs. Fawcett. All our "Common Causes" were sold, and three new members joined the Society.

WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON.

During the past eight days this Society has been holding a vigorous autumn campaign. Miss Phillips, Midland organizer, has addressed meetings every day, besides doing valuable work in calling on people. She has addressed both outdoor and indoor meetings in Leamington and Warwick, the most useful of which was held at the L. and N. W. Railway goods station at Milverton, by kind permission of the stationmaster, when she addressed an interested and attentive audience composed entirely of voters.

On Saturday, Mr. Pollock, the Member, received a joint deputation, consisting of members of our Society and the W.S.P.U. Mr. Pollock explained his position in voting for sending the Conciliation Bill to a Committee of the whole House, saying that, as a Conservative, he could never vote for a Bill of first-class importance being sent to Grand Committee. He assured the deputation of his sincere support of this measure, and signed Mrs. Brailsford's postcard to the Prime Minister asking for facilities.

The campaign culminated in a large and well-attended meeting at the Town Hall on Thursday night, at which Mrs. Fawcett presided. Mrs. Fawcett received a warm welcome. Miss Abadam was the speaker. She made a capital fighting speech, and both she and Mrs. Fawcett confined their remarks almost entirely to the subject in hand at the present time—viz., the Conciliation Bill, and a resolution calling on the Government to grant facilities this autumn was carried unanimously.

WEST HERTS.

Our public meeting on October 17th, at which Lord Robert Cecil and Miss Frances Sterling spoke, was brilliantly successful. The resolution calling upon the Government to give time for passing the Conciliation Bill into law was carried nem. con.

We have held another meeting for working women, at which Miss Campbell spoke. She dwelt on the need from an economic point of view for the enfranchisement of women.

The debate on Women's Suffrage, in which Mrs. Robinson took part, went against the Suffragists. The Anti-Suffrage side was taken by a local lady who is a teacher, and who spoke with much skill and charm. But her appeal was, alas! to sentiment, and to those "vain imaginings" upon which so many false ideals with regard to

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sex relations are based. Sentiment is often more attractive than fact—especially, so experience teaches, in small parochial debating societies.

WORCESTER.

By kind invitation of Canon and Mrs. Wilson a meeting was held at their residence on October 13th, and was very well attended. Mrs. Wilson was in the chair. Miss Martin (Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association), and Lady Isabel Margesson (Women's Liberal Federation) addressed the meeting. Both speeches were extremely well received, and so convincing that several new members were enrolled. A resolution in support of the Conciliation Bill was also carried.

YORK.

A successful meeting of the women occupiers of Monk Ward, York, was held in St. William's College. Mr. E. P. Holmes was in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Miss Pringle, of Whitby, who said that many women who took up public work found their hands tied because they had not the power which the granting of the Suffrage would give them. The following resolution was carried with enthusiasm: "That this meeting urges the Government to allow immediate facilities for the passing of the Women's Suffrage Bill now before the House of Commons."

A successful and well-attended meeting was held in the Central Hall of the Exhibition on Wednesday evening, October 19th. Councillor Margaret Ashton was the principal speaker. Alderman S. W. Meyer was in the chair.

Miss Margaret Ashton, who was splendidly received, gave a stirring address. She said that the Conciliation Bill represented the greatest common measure of the three parties of the House. The Bill was imperfect, but women were willing to accept it as a compromise, but a handful of men in the Cabinet would not give facilities for the Bill to pass its third reading, an act which meant that the Government were over-riding the House of Commons and that the will of the people should not prevail. It had always been an axiom that taxation without representation was tyranny. Women felt that tyranny just as much as men had done in the past. Where was the representative Government? It was representative of men only—the minority of the country. The fact that the State was more and more interfering in home conditions was a good reason why women should have a say in the affairs of the country. Miss Ashton then proposed the following resolution: "That this meeting urges the Government to allow immediate facilities for the passing of the Women's Suffrage Bill now before the House of Commons. Mr. E. P. Holmes seconded the resolution. The resolution was heartily carried, and a cordial vote of thanks to Miss Ashton and the Chairman was proposed by Mr. Dennis Taylor, seconded by Miss Wilkinson, and supported by Mrs. Edwin Gray.

ALTRINCHAM.

On Friday and Saturday nights, October 21st and 22nd, owing to the kindness of Mr. R. H. Wolff in undertaking the management, dramatic performances were given in aid of the funds of the above Society. The play, "The Jacobite," a comic drama in the picturesque

setting of the eighteenth century, was a great success. The intervals were made thoroughly enjoyable by orchestral selections by the Altrincham Orchestral Society, by songs by Miss Dorothy Storey, and, on Saturday night, by a recitation by Mr. James Yates.

The proceeds of the entertainments cannot yet be ascertained, but the performances have proved an excellent advertisement to a public which is not touched by meetings.

BLACKPOOL AND FYLDE.

A meeting was held in the Station Coffee Palace, Blackpool, on Thursday, October 27th. Councillor Margaret Ashton gave an interesting address on "Women Ratepayers." In the absence of Ald. J. Heap, J.P., Mr. J. Revill kindly took the chair. There was a large attendance. Miss Ashton moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting strongly urges all women ratepayers to use their votes at the municipal and other elections in the interests of better conditions, both moral and sanitary, for women and children." She said it was stated that some women did not meddle with votes, but votes meddled with women, and they must see that they meddled with them in a proper way. Miss Ashton spoke of the Conciliation Bill, and contradicted the assertion that it was dead. Dr. Dora Bunting, assistant medical officer of health, seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

(We are again obliged to hold over some reports of Societies.)

Other Societies.

IRISH WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION.

Although the evening was very inclement, there was a crowded attendance (between sixty and seventy) at the meeting for women only on Friday last. Mrs. Haslam presided. Dr. G. Prosser gave a most admirable address on the subject of "Our Girls: How Can We Save Them from a Life of Shame?" She dealt with the question from the earliest age of children (boys and girls), and emphasised the necessity for treating both alike, inculcating self-control and self-renunciation for the sake of others. She alluded to Mrs. Butler and her work for social purity.

Miss Buchanan, P.L.G., followed in a most impressive and touching appeal to mothers. Both ladies several times alluded to the necessity for Women's Suffrage, saying that the elevation of the standard of moral responsibility will never be fully realised until women are placed on an equality with men.

THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

A meeting under the auspices of the above Society will be held in the Grand Hall of the Criterion Restaurant on Friday, November 4th, at 3 p.m. Mrs. J. B. Fagan will take the chair, and the speakers will be Lady Constance Lytton, Mrs. Pertwee, Mr. Cecil Chapman, and Mr. Campbell-Johnstone. As this meeting is to count as one of the series to be held during "Suffrage Week" it is hoped there will be a large attendance of members of all the different Suffrage Societies. Admission is free.

A highly successful At Home was held at the Piccadilly Hotel on Wednesday, October 26th, at which Madame Yvette Guilbert spoke. The beautiful Georgian Room of the hotel was packed with a large audience. Lady Meyer and Mrs. J. B. Fagan were the hostesses, and the other speakers besides Madame Guilbert were Miss Deanna Moore (in the chair), and Mr. Frederick Whelen. A good number of new members joined the League, and a considerable sum of money was raised for the A.F.L. Everyone felt very grateful to Madame Guilbert for her most charming speech.

On Friday, October 28th, a meeting was held in the New Reform Club, kindly lent by the secretary at very short notice to the A.F.L., for members and their friends of the musical and dramatic profession. Miss Abadam gave a very interesting address on "How Women Will Vote Down the White Slave Traffic." There was a large attendance.

Will Suffrage Societies please note that Miss Ellison Gibb, Elliott House, Hillhead, Glasgow, has kindly undertaken to act as hon. secretary to the A.F.L. in Glasgow? She will be glad to hear from those wishing to become members of the League, and give information to Suffrage Societies desiring the professional services of members on tour.

WOMEN'S TAX RESISTANCE LEAGUE.

On Thursday and Friday, Oct. 20th and 21st, Mrs. Kineton Parkes visited Letohworth, when Miss Stephens, of Tring, very kindly gave two drawing-room meetings, to which only tax-paying women of the district had been invited. Very great interest was manifested in this recently developed branch of the Suffrage movement, and many women were made to see their duty, power, and responsibility at this crisis. A group of tax-resisters had been formed in the garden city, which Miss Lee, of Norton Way, has undertaken to develop and extend.

On Tuesday afternoon, October 25th, Mrs. Louis Fagan was "at home" at 37, Rutland Court, to an entirely new audience, who had been invited to hear about the objects of the above League and to listen to an address from Miss Abadam. In following the remarks of the lecturer, one realised at once the great amount of thought and research which had been expended in order to produce so eloquent a speech out of the somewhat prosy subject of unrepresented taxation, Mrs. Fagan, who presided, introduced the subject in a masterly way, and at the end made a special appeal for funds, which met with a generous response. Mrs. Kineton Parkes dealt with the common-places of the movement, and Mrs. Ayres Purdie gave some very valuable information in answer to the many questions which were asked. Tea and conversation about finances, together with the enrolling of new members, concluded a very pleasant and instructive meeting.

Members walked with their banner on Saturday, Oct. 29th, in the procession organised by the Guildford and District Woman's Suffrage Society.

MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. SUSSEX BRANCH.

This League has removed from its offices at 114, London Road, Brighton, to 134, Western Road, Brighton.

On October 24th the League entertained about twenty members of the W.S.P.U. to tea at these offices, and on the 26th about twenty members of the W.F.L. It is hoped that the N.U.W.S.S. will be able to come next week.

The first cycle run to Ditchling and Keymer on Saturday was an unqualified success. Two open-air meetings were held, and the resolu-

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tions were carried unanimously. The speakers were Messrs. J. Edward Frances and Adrian Brunel. Next Saturday, 5th November, the Cycle Corps will run through Steyning, Washington, Sullington, Ashington, and Storrington. Brighton cyclists will start from 134, Western Road, at 2.30, or Old Shore Road at 2.40. All Suffragists (men and women) are invited to join. There will be work for all. On Saturday, 12th November, there will be a mass meeting of Suffrage Societies on the Brighton Level. There will be four platforms, and representatives from about sixteen Societies.

Will all interested in the Cycle Corps communicate with the Secretary at 134, Western Road, Brighton?

A. BRUNEL.

Forthcoming Meetings.

NOVEMBER 3.
 Dublin—Irish W.S. and Local Government Association—Committee Meeting. 11.30
 Plymouth—Chambers—Miss Willcocks, B.A. 8.0
 London—Hampstead—The Library, Prince Arthur Road—Mrs. Stanbury, Miss Clementina Black. 4.0
 London—St. George's, Hanover Square—Drawing-room Meeting—Lady Brasser, Mrs. Fawcett. 3.15
 Leeds—Nethergreen Girls' Club—Miss Fielden. 7.30
 Croydon—19, Wellesley Road—Mrs. Andrews' Drawing-room Meeting—Miss B. Duncan. 3.0
 Ludlow—Public Meeting—Miss le Clerc Phillips.
 Bradford—Illingworth's Mills—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Cooper. 12.45
 Bradford—Morphey Street—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Cooper. 8.0
 New Forest—Ringwood—Lecture Hall—Miss N O'Shea. 2.45

NOVEMBER 4.
 Tonbridge—Public Hall—Lady Frances Balfour.
 London—Blackheath—Concert Hall—Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., R. Cholmeley, Esq., M.A. 8.0
 London—Hampstead Garden Suburb—Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Raphael, Miss C. Corbett. 3.30
 London—S. Paddington—Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Franklin Thomasson, Miss Thomson, B.A. 4.0
 Plymouth—Stoke Public Hall—Miss Willcocks, B.A. 3.0
 Bradford—Ikeringills Mills—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Cooper. 12.45
 Rugby—Co-operative Hall—Miss Ashton. Afternoon
 Rugby—Market Place—Open-air Meeting—Miss Ashton. Evening
 Croydon—18, Wellesley Road—Mrs. Richards' Drawing-room Meeting—Miss B. Duncan. 8.0
 Church Stretton—Town Hall—Public Meeting—Miss le Clerc Phillips.

Bradford—Shipley Market Place—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Cooper. 8.0
 Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—At Home—Miss Frances Simson. 4.30 and 8.0
 Blackpool and Fylde Society—Whist Drive.
 Pontypridd—Congregational Hall—Rev. J. P. Griffith, M.A., Mrs. Viriamu Jones.
 London—Camberwell—The Grove—Open-air Meeting—Miss Margaret Hodge. 7.30
 Weston-super-Mare—Red Room, Brown Bros. Café—Mrs. W. H. C. Cross, Mrs. Strickland. 3.0
 Weston-super-Mare—Woodley Hall—Public Meeting—Miss Tanner (chair), Mrs. Strickland. 8.0
 Edinburgh—49, Manor Place—Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Raeburn, Mrs. Lumsden.

NOVEMBER 5.
 Edinburgh—19, Granby Road—Drawing-room Meeting.
 Norwood—Suffrage Offices—Herbert Jacobs, Esq., Miss Green. 7.0
 Bradford—Rawson Square—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Cooper. 3.30
 Bradford—Morphey Street—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Rennie, J. Foster. 8.0

NOVEMBER 7.
 Hyde—Public Meeting—Miss Robertson.
 London—N. Hackney—Highbury Quadrant—Debate—Miss H. D. Cockle, Miss Stuart (A.S.L.). 8.0
 London—Blackheath—3a, Eliot Place—Speakers' Class. 5.0
 London—58, Victoria Street, S.W.—Speakers' Class—Miss M. Corbett, B.A. 3.0
 London—Camberwell—Surrey Masonic Hall—Reception—Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Merivale Mayer. 7.30
 Letchworth—At Home—Mrs. Rackham. 8.0
 Croydon—The Shanty, Sanderstead Hill—Mrs. Wilkinson's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Loch, Miss B. Duncan. 3.15
 Wallasey—70, Romson Street—Weekly Meeting. 8.0
 Colwyn Bay—Cartmill Café—Miss Eakin. 8.0
 Widnes—Liberal Club—Public Meeting—Mrs. Allan Bright, Miss Eleanor Rathbone. 7.45
 Hyde—Public Meeting—Miss Robertson.

NOVEMBER 8.
 Fleet—Pinewood Hall—Earl of Lytton, Miss Mildred Ransom. 8.0
 Oldham—Unity Hall—Public Meeting—Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Robertson. 8.0
 Croydon—Club Room, Girls' Friendly Lodge—Mr. H. Carter, Miss B. Duncan. 8.0
 London—St. Pancras—Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Garlick, Miss J. Thomson, B.A. 4.0
 Edinburgh—Iona Street—Open-air Meeting—Miss Lisa Gordon. 8.0

NOVEMBER 9.
 York—St. William's College—Women Occupiers—Miss Fielden. 7.30
 Nottingham—Weekly At Home—Mrs. W. R. Hamilton. 7.30
 London—Enfield Lock—Miss Rinder. 3.0
 London—Highgate—Debate. 8.0
 Burnley—Salem School—Members' Meeting—Miss Robertson.
 Edinburgh—3, Ravelston Place—Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Matheson, Dr. Elsie Inglis.
 London—Chelsea—Town Hall—Reception—Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Dimock.

NOVEMBER 10.
 London—Epsom—Town Hall—Lady Frances Balfour, Cecil Chapman, Esq.
 Croydon—Pembroke Hall—Public Meeting—Miss Frances Sterling, Mr. R. L. Cholmeley. 8.0
 Havant—Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Hodgkinson, P.L.G., Miss Basden.

NOVEMBER 11.
 Preston—Public Hall—Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Allan Bright.
 Leeds—Lidgett Park Chapel Schoolroom—Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Fielden. 8.0
 London—St. Pancras—Drawing-room Meeting—Miss L. Ravenscroft, Miss M. Hodge.
 London—Camberwell—Station Road—Open-air Meeting. 7.30
 Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—At Home. 4.30 and 8.0

NOVEMBER 12.
 Edinburgh—Buccleuch Hall—Jumble Sale. 2.30
 London—Albert Hall—United Mass Meeting. 7.30
 New Forest—Brookhurst—Church Room—Miss R. Phillips. 3.0
 New Forest—Bransgore—School—Miss R. Phillips. 7.30
 Edinburgh—19, Granby Road—Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Sutherland, Dr. Elsie Inglis.

NOVEMBER 14.
 London—Wilkesden—St. Andrew's Schools—Public Meeting—Mrs. Rackham. 8.0
 London—58, Victoria Street, S.W.—Speakers' Class—Miss M. Corbett, B.A. 3.0
 Penarth—Paget Rooms—Public Meeting—Miss Chrystal MacMillan. 8.0
 London—Surliton—Assembly Rooms—Lady Frances Balfour. 8.30
 London—Blackheath—5a, Eliot Place—Speakers' Class. 5.0
 Reigate—Joint Meeting with Men's League.
 Macclesfield—Town Hall—Public Meeting—Rev. J. Elstob, M.A., Miss Abadam. 8.0

SCOTTISH FEDERATION.

GLASGOW CAMPAIGN.
 Nov. 3: Drawing-room Meeting, Mrs. Chalmers Smith, Miss Lamond. 3.0
 Nov. 4: Gourock, Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Lamond. 3.0
 Nov. 5: Greenock, Beltrees School, Miss Lamond. 3.0
 Nov. 7: Charing Cross, Open-air Meeting, Miss Stuart Paterson. 8.0
 Nov. 9: Wellington Street, Open-air Meeting, Miss Lamond. 8.0
 Nov. 11: Greenock, 46, Regent Street, Hostess Mrs. Connor. 3.0 and 8.0
 Nov. 12: Greenock, Miss Lamond. 3.0 and 8.0

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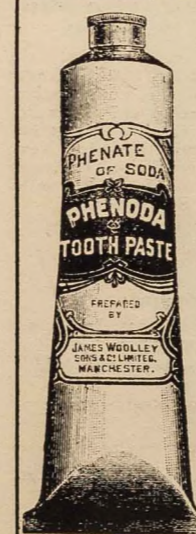
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The North of England Society for Women's Suffrage.

have taken a box for the GREAT MEETING in the

ALBERT HALL, LONDON,

on November 12th, at 7.30. Members of the Society may obtain seats, price 5s., from the Secretary, 85, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester. Early application is requested.

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Suffrage Week.

Full Programme.

Women's Suffrage Conciliation Bill.

DEMONSTRATIONS

In support of the Bill by all sections of Suffragists.

SUFFRAGE WEEK,

NOVEMBER 7 TO NOVEMBER 12.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4th.

Actresses' Franchise League.
(Adelphi Terrace House, W.C.)
At Home, Criterion Restaurant, Grand Hall. 3 p.m.
Hostess—Mrs. George Edwards.
Chair—Mrs. J. D. Fagan.
Speakers—The Lady Constance Lytton, Mrs. Pertwee, Mr. Cecil Chapman, J.P., Mr. Campbell Johnston.
Admission free.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7th.

Women's Freedom League.
(1, Robert Street, Adelphi.)
Public Meeting, Caxton Hall. 8 p.m.
Speakers—Mrs. Despard, Mrs. E. How Martyn, A.R.C.S., B.Sc., Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Miss Matters, Maj.-Gen. Sir Alfred Turner, K.C.B., Mr. Granville Barker.
Admission free. Reserved Seats, 1/-.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8th.

Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.
(48, Dover Street, W.)
Meeting, St. James's Theatre. 3 p.m.
Chair—The Countess of Selborne.
Speakers—The Hon. Mrs. John Bailey, Lady Stout, Sir John Rolleston, M.P., and others.
Tickets, 2/6, 2/-, 1/-, and 6d.

Artists' Suffrage League.
(259, King's Road, Chelsea.)
Meeting, 11, Cheyne Gardens. 8-30 p.m.
Speakers—Miss Lowndes, Miss Palliser.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9th.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
(Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street.)
London Society for Women's Suffrage.
(58, Victoria Street.)
Public Reception, Chelsea Town Hall. 3-30 p.m.
Speakers—The Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Emily Davies, LL.D., Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Maude Royden, and others.
Admission free.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10th.

Younger Suffragists.
(75, Victoria Street.)
Lantern Lecture, Small Queen's Hall, Langham Place. 3 p.m.
"History of the Women's Suffrage Movement,"
Miss Bertha Mason.
Speeches—Miss Corbett and Miss Costelloe.
Admission free. Reserved Seats, 2/-.

Women's Freedom League.
(1, Robert Street, Adelphi.)

At Home, Caxton Hall. 3 p.m.
Chair—Mrs. E. How Martyn, A.R.C.S., B.Sc.
Speakers—Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Sproson.
Admission free.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11th.

Church League for Women's Suffrage.
(11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park.)
At Home, Medical Society's Hall, 11, Chandos Street. 3 p.m.
Chair—Rev. A. Baumgarten, M.A.
Speakers—Miss Abadam, Miss Sterling, and others.
Admission 6d. Reserved Seats, 1/-.

National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society.
(5, Duke Street, Strand.)

New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.
(8, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge.)

Fabian Society Women's Group.
Public Meeting, Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C. 8 p.m.
Chair—Miss Gore Booth.
Speakers—Mrs. Louis Fagan, Miss Murby, Miss Reddish, Mrs. Ridge, Miss Roper, Miss Williams, The Earl of Lytton, and Rev. Hugh Chapman.
Admission free. Reserved Seats, 2/6 and 1/-.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.
(40, Museum Street.)
Mass Meeting, Trafalgar Square. 2-30 p.m.
Six Platforms.
United Mass Meeting, Albert Hall. 7-30 p.m.
Chair—Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.
Speakers—Mrs. Despard, Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A., Miss Reddish, The Earl of Lytton, Archdeacon Escreet, Sir Alfred Mond, M.P., Mr. Goldman, M.P., Mr. Brailsford, Sir John Cockburn, and others.
Tickets, 5/-, 2/6, 2/-, 1/-, 6d., and Boxes various prices, from the Albert Hall, and from all the Societies taking part.

These are:—Actresses' Franchise League, Artists' Suffrage League, Church League for Women's Suffrage, Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, Forward Suffrage Union, Men's League for W.S., London Graduates' Union, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, New Constitutional Society, Scottish Graduates' Union, Suffrage Atelier, The National Industrial and Professional Women's S.S., Women's Freedom League, Younger Suffragists.
Orchestra free for Men and Women Suffragists of the working class.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14th.

Church League for Women's Suffrage.
Procession from Cleopatra's Needle, Embankment, 1-45 p.m., to Westminster Abbey, Evensong, 3 p.m.
The Free Church League will join procession and hold meeting near.
Forward Suffrage Union within the Women's Liberal Federation.
(44, Highbury Grove, N.)
Reception, Westminster Palace Hotel. 9-30 to 11-30 p.m.
Speakers—Lord Lytton and others.
Tickets, 3/-.