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# Womens Suffrage

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REGISTERED AS

Societies

A NEWSPAPER

# Notes and Comments.

## The Women's Liberal Federation.

We look with interest to the result of the Women's Liberal Federation meetings which are being held as we go to press. The Liberal women can, if they will, secure the enfranchisement of women. It is a great opportunity and a great responsibility. Will they rise to it?

# The I.L.P. at Merthyr.

As we anticipated, the I.L.P. not only remained true to its principles, but is increasing in its enthusiasm for the women's We publish to-day accounts from Mrs. Annot Robinson and Mr. Snowden which put us in very good heart with our election policy.

Labour and the Women.

The "Labour Leader" alluded a week ago to the development of the policy of the National Union in the following terms:-

"All sections of the Woman Suffrage movement are coming to realise that their great hope lies in the growth of the Labour Party. So long as the political machine is absolutely controlled by parties which are divided in opinion as to the wisdom of extending the franchise to women the prospects of a measure with this end in view becoming law are very uncertain. Assured of the support of the Nationalists, Mr. Asquith can snap his fingers in the face of the Suffragists, and however earnest private members may be they are powerless under modern Cabinet rule. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has realised this, and last week at a special meeting of the Council—a democratic body consisting of delegates from 270 societies—it was decided to support consisting of delegates from 370 societies—it was decided to support Labour candidates, especially in constituencies now represented by Liberals whose record is unsatisfactory."

After friendly reference to Mrs. Fawcett's article in our last week's issue the "Labour Leader" goes on to hope our united efforts may gain political liberty for women and proceed to gain "that economic emancipation without which there can be no true freedom for either woman or man."

## The Malecka Petition.

with a good response. It was stated in Friday's papers that 15,423 persons had so far signed. As we go to press the COMMON CAUSE signatures total 1,354. We hope that the remaining petition forms will be sent to the COMMON CAUSE office (2, Robert Street, Adelphi) by the end of this week.

It has been stated on Reuter's authority that Miss Malecka's sentence does not involve deportation to Siberia; but this is weekly and will we hope do much to arouse interest in Irish

# Deep Dishonour.

We are sorry for the colleagues of Mr. Hobhouse. He is doing his best to lay them and himself open to the "imputation of deep dishonour" which Mr. Lloyd George refused even to discuss. At East Bristol, on May 31st, Mr. Hobhouse is reported to have said that the Plural Voting Bill had been difficult to draft because, in view of the length of the Welsh Church Bill and of the Home Rule Bill, it was clear that if the Government were to get the Plural Voting Bill through during the present Session, as they meant to do, the measure must be comprehensive and short. They hoped that before the end of June the Bill would have passed its second reading in the House of Commons, and that before the end of the Session it would have passed through all its stages in the House. If this means anything at all, it means that as far as Mr. Hobhouse is concerned, he sees with equanimity, nay, even with satisfaction, the covering with dishonour by its own act, of the Government of which he is a member.

Let us remind our readers of the specific pledge which Mr. Hobhouse is apparently anxious Mr. Asquith should break. On November 17th, 1911, Mrs. Fawcett asked Mr. Asquith: "Is it the intention of the Government that the Reform Bill shall go through all its stages in 1912?" And he replied: "Certainly, it is our intention. We hope to carry it through that year.' This was the first of the four pledges to which Mr. George alluded, when he said that to suggest that the Government intended any sort of evasion was "an imputation of deep dishonour which I will not even discuss." And yet here is Hobhouse saying that with two such big measures as Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment on hand, an electoral measure must be "short," and suggesting that Mr. Harold Baker's Plural Voting Bill is the only one which will be prosecuted in this

# Mr. Hobhouse and His "Leaders."

iniquity of men "discarding or neglecting those who were the masters.

thought to be their leaders." What else is he doing? He said "when parties had agreed upon the settlement of a dispute beween masters and men, both sides should keep to the agreement that had been arrived at. He knew how difficult it was for a leader to control large bodies of men, and how difficult it was for employers to control all their fellow-employers, but if either side permitted its members to break away from agreements, they rendered conciliation, arbitration and settlement by agreement impossible and did infinite harm not only to their organisatons, but to the trade in which they were mutually concerned.

Quite so, Mr. Hobhouse. And when a Cabinet Minister breaks away from an agreement made by his Chief he makes settlement by agreement impossible; and when a so-called Liberal refuses to attend to grievances until people riot, he is digging the grave of the sort of Liberalism to which he belongs and will do "infinite harm" to his organisation and to the welfare of the people whose trustee he is. Women suffragists are sick of being taxed to the tune of £2,000 a year for the dishonour of being "represented" in Parliament by a man with a double tongue.

# Mrs. Osler and the Birmingham Liberal Association.

At a meeting on Home Rule held in Birmingham under the auspices of the Liberal Association on May 24th, Mrs. Osler in question time asked if the lecturer were aware, in making his learned and forcible appeal for self-government in Ireland, that the Home Rule Bill would only confer this right on half the Irish population inasmuch as it excluded all women from any recognition as citizens. She urged the support of the amendment which would be moved in favour of the use of the Municipal Register as the basis of voting for the new Irish Parliament ,and pointed out that just as Ireland was protesting against being governed without her consent, so women were challenging the right of men to govern them without their

The Malecka Petition.

Our appeal for signatures to the Malecka petition has met with a good response. It was stated in Evidence and the Company of the Malecka petition has met with by the Irish Parliament when formed.

There was a good deal of obvious sympathy with Mrs. Osler amongst the audience, which chiefly consisted of men.

# A New Suffrage Paper.

We have received a copy of "The Irish Citizen," whose chief object is the enfranchisement of women. It is a penny women. The endeavour to suppress all mention of women in connection with the Home Rule Bill, the exclusion of Miss Hoey from the "National" Convention to which she was an accredited delegate, because she was a suffragist, and many other sinister symptoms that the old cowardly tricks will be played in Ireland as over here, make it of extreme importance that the women's movement in Ireland should have a paper of its own to tell the truth about women if others won't.

# Ladies Admitted to the International Law Association

Dr. Baty writes :- "The International Law Association is an important organisation, founded in 1873, of lawyers and publicists interested in the Law of Nations. It is at present, by a favour said to be unique, holding its 27th Conference in the Hall of the Court of Appeal in the Palais de Justice, Paris, under the presidency of Maître Clunet. An interesting feature of Tuesday's proceedings was the election of Mme. Portalis to membership, the first lady to be a member of the Association since the decease, many years ago, of the wife of Mr. Henry Richard. Her election was made with much applause and without a single dissentient voice, and it was followed on Wednesday by that of Miss Lydia Pissargevsky, LL.D. Several of the highest legal authorities of Britain, France, Spain, Germany, Italy and the United States were present at the sitting, and Mr. Millerand, Minister of War, presented the congratulations of his Government to the Association on its forty years' work for peace, justice and civilisation.

Sir Edward Clarke's report into the conditions which led to the London Transport Workers' Strike was issued by the Board of Trade on the 28th. Out of seven specific points raised, Sir Edward Clarke gave an open answer to one, two decisions against the men and four decisions in favour of the men. Since then the Masters have refused the Government invitation to a Conference which has been accepted on the other hand by the Mr. Hobhouse on the same day waxed eloquent upon the men. The Port of London Authority is ranged on the side of Property and Person.

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A correspondent sends us two cases for comparison: On May 20th, at Wells, Harry Johnstone Jordan, for contracting five bigamous marriages and deserting his "wives" after robbing them, was sentenced to three years' penal servitude. On May 29th at Suffolk Assizes, George Gilbert, for firing a stack of straw (his third offence) was sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

The B.W.T.A. and the Vote.

At the opening session of the British Women's Temperance Association Council at Newcastle on May 15th, a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was proposed by Mrs. Walter Runciman and carried. The B.W.T.A. has a membership of

# The Sentence on the Suffragists.

Mr. C. C. Warden, one of the jurymen in the Conspiracy Trial of Suffragists, has written to Mr. McKenna saying, "In view of the jurors' unanimous recommendation of the prisoners to the clemency of the Court, I, in common with several of my fellow-jurors, was appalled at the severity of the sentence, and I would respectfully beg you to remit at least the further portion of the sentence."

Mr. Warden is endeavouring to get into touch with all the other jurymen, so that he may ask them to sign a petition expressing their desire to place on record

"our surprise and concern at the extreme severity of the sentence pronounced on the prisoners, notwithstanding our unanimous recommendation of the utmost leniency,'

and petitioning the Home Secretary to place the prisoners in the first division and shorten the term of their imprisonment.

## Status in Prison.

Mr. McKenna is most unhappy in his statements. We wish to exonerate him from anything worse than forgetfulness or extraordinary ignorance, but what does he mean by saying (as he did on the 22nd in the House) that " in no case have any of those prisoners (Suffragists) ever been asked to put on prison dress; in no single case has that been so "? Do we dream? Have we not seen photographs of Miss Pankhurst and Miss Annie Kenney in prison dress, and that for offences which were literally bagatelles to the present? Mr. McKenna should really read up the records of Lord Gladstone, which will, we imagine, be the wonder and mockery of ages to come.

Speaking with regard to the placing of the Suffragists in the first division, Mr. McKenna was cautious, but his tone seemed to indicate that he was very likely to do this. It is a very misplaced sense of dignity which would delay such an obviously right course.

# Legislation for the Feeble-Minded.

In our correspondence columns are two letters referring to our note last week on "Dangerous Powers." Any communi action from one of such great experience and devotion as Miss Mary Dendy is deserving of the greatest respect, but we think she has misrepresented us in various ways. She states that the Government Bill "makes provision for both sexes equally' we did not suggest anything else, but we did suggest that it would probably not be administered equally. We have a most vivid recollection of a speech made by a well-known magistrate, in which he acknowledged that the law with regard to offences against children was not drastic enough, but he added that it was no use at present making it stricter because men administered it and men would simply leave the stricter law a dead letter. In view of the well-known double standard in such matters it seems to us superfluous that Miss Dendy should suggest some sinister motive in our apprehensions or that the COMMON CAUSE is "lending itself as a tool" to any mysterious body of reactionaries. Into the the question of whether it is easier to restrain male or female feeble-minded persons we did not go; but if it be the case that males are more easily restrained it is all the more a crying evil that they are not so restrained. If less is done for males it is largely due to the general notion that a man's liberty is a very sacred thing whereas a woman's liberty is negligeable.

We never doubted the feeble-minded evil; we are perfectly aware of all that is said in Mrs. Bernard James' letter. It is unnecessary to impute ignorance to those with whom one differs. But with all deference, we submit that the extension of work like Miss Dendy's and the provision of public money for the purpose (which we would greatly like to see) is a very different matter from the enormous extension of State powers of compulsory segregation. When people see a fearful evil they are very naturally apt to cry "For God's sake let us do something—anything!" We dread this rapidly-growing passion

for compulsion, but we dread it far more in a social system such as we still have in England, where women are still told their concerns are only private concerns and all power over public concerns is to be left in the hands of the men. Every fresh law that is made takes power from women and gives power to men in our Man-made State.

A Spur to Canadian Women.

If what was recently published in the Standard is really true, the demand for the vote among Canadian women will receive a great impetus. It is stated by the Ottawa Correspondent of the Standard that the Civil Service Commission has decreed that no more women shall be admitted to the service save as stenographers and typists. At the competitive examination recently held no female applicants were asked to qualify for general work, and the papers of those who came forward will not be serviceable.

Hitherto the Civil Service preparatory schools here have been very busy training girls as Civil servants, as there was little difficulty in finding them posts as women clerks and so on. Once women clerks were not accepted, but later a few were appointed, with the result that any needy woman who could procure a political pull was placed in the departments. Some who spent many years in the Civil Service as girls left and married, and are now back again through the loss of their

Men clerks have complained that positions which should go to the heads of families have been given to women who are in the service only to earn dress money. Some of the wealthiest people in Ottawa have women relatives who are clerks in the departments. So to prevent further crowding with women the commission, responding to an agitation from the men, has definitely banned women clerks.

A Confused Candidate.

The answer given by the agent of Mr. Gibson, late Unionist candidate for South Hackney, will live long in that museum of ineptitudes which suffragists are collecting for the laughter of future generations. Someone must surely have been "cram-Mr. Layland; he came out as pat as a schoolboy with his rote-learnt phrase "sub-judice." But what on earth did he think it meant? Let us refresh the minds of our readers: Mr. Gibson "does not consider it politic for any candidate to express an opinion at this juncture, owing to the recent law cases on the militant portion of your organisation (this to a representative of the National Union! It is too funny!) being still sub-judice."

At that moment the three leaders of the W.S.P.U. were being tried for conspiracy and the question of their guilt was certainly sub-judice and therefore unfit matter for comment. But no one was asking Mr. Gibson whether he thought Mrs. Pankhurst had or had not incited certain persons to break windows; he was asked, as a candidate for Parliament, where he would be called upon if elected to cast a vote for or against the enfranchisement of women, to declare whether he was for or against, and he was apparently so muddle-headed that he could not understand the question. He is no great loss.

# American Women and Home Rule.

At its last meeting, the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association resolved that "the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association notes with regret that the right of Irish women to vote is not included in the Home Rule Bill as introduced, and hopes that an amendment will be moved and carried enfranchising women."

# Important Resolutions.

As we go to press we hear that two resolutions were passed by very large majorities on Tuesday afternoon at the Women's Liberal Federation Council Meeting, expressing appreciation of the support which the Labour Party had given to Women's Suffrage, and the opinion that the Liberal Government would incur serious risk of alienating the support of women Liberals if the Reform Bill was passed without the inclusion of women. Lady Aberconway said she wished that it was possible to maintain that other parties had done as much for the Suffrage as the Labour Party. Miss Balgarnie declared that she had never been so much stirred in her life by any letter as by that of the Master of Elibank. "If he thinks," she said, "that he is going to nurse us on his knee, and pat us on the head like good little girls, he is mistaken. We are not children, we are grown-up women. He must be taught that we will not be mere scaffolding poles, but builders, and master-builders, too. Supposing a Reform Bill is pased without women being included, could any self-respecting woman stand again on a Liberal platform? won't; I should work for the Labour Party," a statement which brought down the house and produced the loudest and most prolonged cheers that that day's session had witnessed.

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

# THE PHYSICAL FORCE ARGUMENT AGAINST WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

# THE ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS SAY:

" Voting is simply an expedient to show which side, being numerically stronger, is presumably best able than do women. But there are some bad men, to enforce its will," and they explain that "for and many more who are indifferent and concoercive purposes men are the dominant sex," and cannot rule."

## BUT WE REPLY

that muscular force (for only if we limit it to muscle the essential is the physical force of men greater than that of women who have more endurance and are longerlived) has little coercive power—"One can lead a the working-men did by Josephine Butler), although, horse to water—twenty cannot make him drink."

# PHYSICAL COERCION weighs nothing when set in the balance against the MORAL POWER OF RESISTANCE.

You can burn a martyr at the stake, but all the physical force in the world cannot compel him to

Do the anti-suffragists really imagine that if all the women of the nation rose in revolt against an unjust law the men could by their physical strength compel them to obey it? That they could never do, and, if they did their worst and

# DESTROYED ALL THE WOMEN

(and they could not do that without many casualties on their own side) they would have destroyed themselves, for without the physical force of women there could never be another generation of men.

But the more moderate anti-suffragists may say: "We do not imagine any such extreme case; but we do foresee the possibility that women might try to

# SCREW MEN UP

by legislation, to a higher level of morality than they were prepared to accept. And in this case the man would refuse to enforce the law."

This is true, but it is equally true for all reformers. Prohibitive legislation, too far in advance of average standards, always tends to become a dead letter. of intelligence, of hard work, of character, of patience, self-(Men have legislated to forbid the wheeling of control, and a developed brain, and the pugnacity and comperambulators on the pavement, but women have bativeness, which, instead of being used up and wasted in never obeyed and the regulation has generally been world conflicts of futile destructiveness, will be, and are being, tacitly ignored by the police.)

# That the

# INEXPERIENCE OF WOMEN

when first enfranchised, may lead them to press for impracticable legislation, is possible. But they will learn, as the men do, by experience, how far it is possible to make people moral by compulsion. And they may even learn more quickly than men have learned that to remove the cause of an evil is better than to attempt forcibly to repress its con-

To imagine that men, as a whole, would resist legislation which women, as a whole, demanded, is to imagine a far greater difference between

# THE IDEALS OF MEN AND WOMEN

than actually exists. As a matter of fact, the best men and the best women want practically the

same things. We may, indeed, challenge the antisuffragists to name one reform which is demanded by men alone or by women alone. Good men no more want to perpetuate the

# WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC

sequently very little is done. The influence of "women cannot enforce their will and so they women, directed to a solution of the problem, will not conciliate the bad men, but it will rouse the indifferent, and suffragists have sufficient faith in

# DECENCY OF THE AVERAGE MAN

to believe that he will stand beside the women (as if left alone, he would never bestir himself.

We believe that the different point of view of men and women, where it exists, is largely the product of the political and social

# SUBJECTION OF WOMEN

which has been as demoralising for the one sex as for the other. And we believe that with the fuller knowledge and better understanding of each other which will come to men and women when they stand politically and socially equal will come peace

## SEX WAR

which suffragists are out not to foster but TO END.

# WHAT NORMAN ANGELL SAYS,

It may be interesting, in this connection, to see what a man who has considered the place of physical force in the modern state without any reference to the woman question, has to say about it. Mr. Norman Angell, in his book, "The Great Illusion," which has been translated into almost every European language and circulated by hundreds of thousands, is dealing with the question of peace and war, and does not mention women's suffrage once. But he says :-

'The force which we shall use for our needs will be the force diverted into the steady stream of rationally-directed effort.

'Is it not somewhat childish and elementary to conceive of force only as the firing off of guns and the launching of Dreadnoughts, of struggle as the physical struggle between men, instead of the application of man's energies to his contest with the planet? . . . Force is, indeed, the master, but it is force of intelligence, character and rationalism. . . . In this domain, as in all others, intellectual force is replacing sheer physical force. . . . Our respect and admiration goes in the long run, despite momentary set-backs, to those qualities which achieve the results at which we are all in common aiming. If those qualities are mainly intellectual, it is the intellectual qualities which will receive the tribute of our admiration. We do not make a man Prime Minister because he holds the light-weight boxing championship, and nobody knows or cares whether Mr. Balfour or Mr. Asquith would be the better man at polo. But in a condition of society in which physical force was still the determining factor it would matter all in the world,"

# MOTTO:

Ideas, not force, rule the world.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager,
THE COMMON CAUSE, s, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.
ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the Office by first post on Tuesday.

JUNE 6, 1912.

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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 day possible, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and book-ntalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, The Common Cause, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., giving the name and address of the news-agent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

# The I.L.P. Conference and Women's Suffrage.

By PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P.

The Conference of the Independent Labour Party has been held this Whitsuntide at Merthyr Tydvil. The Independent Labour Party is in a sense a separate organisation from the Labour Party. It was formed nineteen years ago for the purpose of advocating Socialism and independent Labour repreentation in Parliament and on public bodies. Mainly as the outcome of its efforts, the larger Labour Party was formed twelve years ago, which consists of federated trade unions and socialistic societies. While a part of the Labour Party, the I.L.P. (as the Independent Labour Party is familiarly known) has its own organisation and carries on its propaganda work quite independently of the larger body, with which, however, t works closely in all electoral matters.

The I.L.P. has from its inception taken a sympathetic attitude on the women's question. Votes for women figured in its earliest programmes. For some years there were very acute divisions of opinion in the party as to whether support ought to be given to a limited form of women's suffrage. From ten to five years back the Conference debates on this issue were the most exciting and vigorous of all the discussions. But the result was invariably the the same. The I.L.P., while affirming its demand for a full democratic franchise, has favoured and supported the immediate extension of the franchise to women on the same terms as it is given to men. In recent years the minority which opposed what they called the "limited Bill" has quietened down, and practical unanimity has prevailed in support of any proposal which would remove the sex disability

The Prime Minister's promise of a Reform Bill, made last November, aroused great interest in the I.L.P. The interest was evoked mainly by the prospect which was now opened up of securing the enfranchisement of women. The Executive of the party met and passed the following resolution which is sufficiently important to print in full:-

"That, in view of the Prime Minister's statement in regard to proposed franchise reform, the National Council of the Independent Labour Party insists strongly that no measure will be acceptable which does not include both men and women, and urges that proposals for franchise extension which do not confer citizenship upon women should be definitely opposed. The Council, therefore, calls upon the Government to introduce, not a Manhood Suffrage Bill, but a genuine measure of Adult Suffrage establishing political equality between the sexes."

The branches of the party, which number about 800, were

The branches of the party, which number about 800, were urged to inaugurate a vigorous campaign in favour of the enfranchisement of women, and to make it clear that no Reform Bill would be acceptable which left out the women. About 200 demonstrations, apart from ordinary meetings, were held at which such a resolution was passed.

In view of the record of the I.L.P. on this question of women's franchise it was quite to be expected that the Merthyr Conference would show itself to be enthusiastically with the women. But I was not prepared to find such remarkable and genuine enthusiasm and devotion as were evident. For the first time the woman's question dominated the gathering. For

the Sunday afternoon before the Conference, the National Union had arranged a meeting to be held in the beautiful park which is situated on the hill above the town. Mrs. Annot Robinson had been in Merthyr for a day or two making arrangements for the meeting, and had received sympathetic help from the local people. The success of the demonstration was beyond all expectations. Before the time for the meeting to begin thousand people were waiting on the crest, and when the chairman rose to open the proceedings twice that number were gathered round. Miss Ashton, who had come on from Bath, specially for the meeting, Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Despard, with myself thrown in, addressed this great meeting, which was wholly sympathetic and approving.

In the Conference Hall were mottoes and banners, many of which made reference to the women's cause. The first opportunity of raising the question in the Conference arose on the Executive's report, which made a reference to the resolution quoted above. On this I pointed out that the acceptance of this paragraph by the Conference would make that resolution the resolution of the party as a whole. The tone of the debate which followed was remarkable for its sympathy and quiet determination. Although this resolution committed the party to reject an extension of the male franchise which, it might reasonably be argued, would be of great help to the Labour Party, yet in that Conference of 312 votes only four hands were held up against that policy of self-sacrifice. The firm determination of the Conference not to take some advantage for the men while the claims of the women were ignored was as magnificent an act of chivalry and devotion to a fixed purpose as one could ever wish to see.

The I.L.P. is now as a party committed to the rejection of any extension of the male franchise which leaves out the women. The I.L.P. is the active and influential section of the bigger Labour Party. The I.L.P. policy will have an influence in stiffening up the trade unions on this matter. The main discussion of the Conference was upon a resolution in favour of the Labour Party in Parliament voting on all questions on the merits of the question, even if doing so involved the overthrow, of the Government. The Conference decided against such a policy; but it was heartily agreed that the women's franchise question was of such outstanding importance that whatever happened to the Government the I.L.P. members must stand by the policy expressed in the resolution passed by the Conference.

# The Present Condition of the Suffragist Movement in Italy.

By Mrs. Macfadyen.

The feminist movement in Italy, or at any rate in Rome, has come to a critical moment. For some time there has been a good deal of disorganisation, partly in consequence of the war, and partly owing to differences of opinion among the advanced section of women. The masterly hand that guided and united all sections for a time has for many months been practically helpless, and now has been removed by death.

On March oth there passed away the most notable figure in Roman feminist society-Donna Giacinta Martini. During ten years she has been a pioneer, and although for years she has been an invalid, it was felt that while she lived no other leader, was possible. For the cause she loved with all the passion of her ardent southern temperament, she spared neither time, effort nor money. In high social station, both by birth and by her husband's position in Parliament, she was able to use influence in political circles and other powerful quarters; and it is chiefly owing to her that the subject receives the measure of respect and attention accorded to it. It will be remembered that the Parliament sitting in Rome in 1909 passed a vote of approbation of the principle of Women's Suffrage, and although by bitter experience we know how little such votes are worth in practical politics, still such a vote shows that the propaganda has entered on a stage beyond mere ridicule (itself a step further than utter

When I returned to Rome in November last I had the privilege of being taken to see Donna Martini, by Signora Nathan, the energetic wife of the Mayor of Rome, herself a devoted feminist. I shall never forget the few moments I spent by that sick bed. The Contessa could only gasp a few enquiries to me as I knelt by her side, and I felt it a cruelty even to call forth those few words which she spoke with such effort, that after every few syllables, she had to breathe the oxygen which alone kept her alive. She sent her greetings-when I should return to England-to English suffragists. My delayed return makes

these into a precious posthumous expression of fellowship from Italy's greatest woman leader in modern times. Her heart was wrapped up in the International Alliance, and her last message to me was to ask where she could send a greeting to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the International Alliance.

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She directed her nurse to give me some of the cards she had had printed so that a message from her should always speak first of the cause to which she was devoted. As an intimate friend of hers, the Baronessa Irene de Bonis de Nobili, said 'Nothing of her seemed to live but her eyes, the rest was a frail body of death. In her spirit-like fragility, as in the ardent life which burned to the last in her dark, piercing eyes, she always seemed to me closely to resemble the late Pope Leo XIII."

The day after her death the following tribute to her memory was written by the same friend quoted above, who is the author of the only Italian book on "Votes for Women." She wrote, "With Giacinta Martini Marescotti, one of the most significant figures among Italian women of our time disappears from Italian and Roman life. This casts a deep shadow—for the moment only let us hope—over one of the most living and active aspects of the march forward of women's political liberation.

Long before there was talk in Italy of "feminism" or "votes for women," Donna Giacinta had gathered around her a nucleus of elect persons. A woman of fine and profound genius, she added to the delicacy of a varied and exact culture, the most exquisite tact. She was truly a "politician" in the best sense of the term, and had the power of diffusing the harmonious unity of her spirit, amidst all varieties of temperament and opinion, so that without everyone agreeing, those around her were drawn towards the highest aspiration of this public spirited and patriotic Italian woman, the participation of her sex in public life. Born of a family of patriots, wife of one of our most noted public men. . . . Donna Giacinta was able to form a political salon, lifted above the ordinary political coteries by er genius of perception, and largeness of ideas; knowing thoroughly the power of women as "backstairs" politicians, even when working only to satisfy their vanity and love of power, she began in this liberal coterie to suggest the ideas of the open participation of Italian women in political life by means of the vote, as a solemn official recognition of woman as an intelligent human being, and an integral part of the nation. It was principally on her initiative . . . that the Committee for "The Votes for Women" came into existence; and naturally she was the first and well-loved President. None who did not know Donna Giacinta Martini intimately during the past eight or nine years can form the least idea of the force of will sustained by a high ideal, which was necessary to sustain her under the failing of the material organism. No longer young, the Contessa suffered from the terribly malady of asthma in its worst form so that she was often confined to her house and even to her bed. But she was never too ill to aid or advise any who were interested in the cause to which she was completely dedicated without distinction of class or party. It was enough for anyone to be a suffragist to be welcomed to the large hospitality of her salon, truly "aristocratic," a circle of high thinkers. There foregathered people of most contrary tendencies-opinionated socialists, ardent republicans and democrats mixed with sincere and religious clericalists. Amidst them moved the Contessa Martini, seeking by her sweet manner, and by the finesse of her words-always profound though at times not without the suspicion of a delicate irony—to draw together around the single idea of women's suffrage many diverse activities and persons holding gravely divergent opinions on other subjects, and to hold in leash personal antipathies and jealous self-seeking. And in that great saloon of the Piazza della Pilotta all bitterness sank away before the grand spirit, struggling with the infirmity of the body, which lifted itself above the spasms of suffering to beckon them ever forward. Before her idealism the most bellicose ardour was stilled, the most unreasonable impatience tempered, and we worked on with such faith that every day seemed to see us make some step in advance. I was among that early band, and later acted as Secretary of the National Committee for Votes for Women; so that I was constantly with our great leader, frequently difficult times, and from personal experience I can testify to her marvellous capacity for organisation, to the very apostle she was, to the subtlety of her intelligence and especially to her extraordinary knowledge of the psychology both of men and of women, and how well she knew how to turn this knowledge to account for her ultimate end.

By a sad and curious coincidence this noble and great woman passed away on the very same day that the Hon. Bartolini made his speech in Parliament on the new Bill for electoral reform (which is practically universal male suffrage) and found no

better argument against the extension of the vote to women than the stale old chestnut of her divinely appointed mission of darning stockings; and the notice of her death appeared in the same journals which reported his time-worn libels on the intelligence of the wives, mothers, and daughters of our people. In her closing days, Donna Giacinta suffered the grief of seeing the coterie she had been able to hold together by her authority and sympathy in large measure dissolve, each section going a different way; a state of affairs which does not seem likely to produce such rapid or satisfactory results as the single-hearted

It seemed as if the disappearance from the scene of Roman feminism of this beautiful example of an Italian gentlewoman, who united the genius, delicacy and womanly sentiment which most adorn contemporary Italian feminine society, with a true sense of democracy, were the sunset of the most beautiful ideals of those of our Italian women who desire to attain the highest sign of civil dignity. As certain of our sweetest hopes must perish with the one who most completely expressed them . . the realisation of our ideal seems by so much to be

The scission of the cord of union caused by the illness of Donna Giacinta, cannot but be aggravated by her death-it will be more difficult than ever to return to the concord of intention, and fervour of united faith, which she alone seemed to know how to preserve. The death of our illustrious President is therefore a grave loss to all Italian women, even to those who took less account of her aims and aspirations than the most unconscious and ignorant peasant women."

The Baronessa has described to me the moving spectacle formed by this wonderful woman, when, gasping and suffering she was carried in her invalid chair to take part in the Women's Congress held in Rome in 1908. Two thousand women were gathered in the great hall of the newly-built Palace of Justice. Nothing, she says, could be more moving than to see this truly great lady and leader rising above her suffering and weakness to lend the fire of her enthusiasm and faith to this review of her "line of battle." During election campaigns, even when she could not move from her bed, she would receive all day long, scarcely taking time for refreshment. She would see deputies upon difficult points and persuade the most hardened antis to lend an ear to her arguments. She never thought of herself except how she might best spend herself for the cause. Her leadership is indeed an incomparable loss, especially at this moment when a vigorous and united campaign might have succeeded in introducing a women's suffrage clause into the new electoral law which at the time I write is passing the Italian Parliament.

This gives the vote practically to all men, to the literate at twenty-one, to the illiterate after they are thirty. On May 15th the Leader of the Opposition proposed an amendment in favour of giving the vote to women which, while it received grave and full attention, gained only 48 votes, 208 being against and 6

The suffragists have not been altogether silent. A Memorial Meeting for the Contessa Martini was convened, and on May 8th a well-attended public meeting was held on the women's aspect of the electoral proposals of the Government. This was addressed by the Marchesa Lucifero, an able and earnest suffragist, Professoressa Labriola, and others. At the hearing of the proposal to give the vote to women, in the Chamber, many ladies were in evidence in the galleries; Marchesa Lucifero in the gallery devoted to the families of the deputies, as her husband is in Parliament. But there has been nothing like an active campaign, with a united front of womanhood of every description, which alone could win the day in Italy. The possibilities of dissension in Italy are very complicated. Differences of party politics are all interwoven with religious differences, not as in England between sect and sect but between absolutely opposing ideals. It was a tremendous achievement to unite them even for a short time, and the great hope was that in that moment the vote might have been won with a rush, as it were; as indeed seemed within the bounds of possibility in 1909 when the resolution mentioned above was passed in Parliament. Patient work must now take the place of such gallant assault of the position until another great leader shall arise, working to "know nothing but women, and her disfranchised," and able to inspire her forces with the same single aim. From my own observation I can say that the Roman women who have awakened at all are extremely public spirited, and all sorts of activities are being carried on, of which I will write a separate account. It seems likely that they will shortly be given the municipal vote, of which they are sure to make good use, judging by the influence they already exert in the commune on matters of

hygiene, education, etc. The Prime Minister, Gioletti, in opposing the suffrage amendment in Parliament on the 15th, spoke of the necessity of giving women a more assured position in the family by the reform of certain laws affecting them, and of giving them the communal vote as a preliminary to the Parliamentary vote; and though of course to the instructed suffragist this is like putting the cart before the horse, the serious mention of these pressing matters in the Chamber makes it evident that the Italian woman is exercising a real force in public life, and gives hope that the struggle for her political liberty may not be as long and bitter as in England. Italy, though the oldest of European countries, is the newest of nations, and has something of the enthusiastic spirit of progress that has carried the day for women's enfranchisement in the Colonies and in the smaller and more compact European states.

Rome, May 19th, 1912.

JUNE 6, 1912.

# The Swedish Riksdag and Votes for Women.

Interest in political matters is not particularly general or lively in Sweden, not even in the capital, during the session of Parliament, but Saturday, May 18th, was an exception to the rule, for the question of Suffrage was before the Houses, and the stately chambers of the imposing new Riksdag were thronged both with members and visitors.

Last year a much-extended franchise came into force, with the result that the Liberal and Social Democrat parties gained many seats in the Second Chamber, where they have an overwhelming majority; while the First Chamber, elected on less democratic lines, is still the stronghold of the Conservatives. The Social Democrats have now introduced in the Second Chamber a motion for universal man (and woman) hood suffrage; and as the extension of the franchise to women was among the measures recommended in the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament, interest naturally was concentrated on

It was not altogether without difficulty that I obtained a ticket of admission to the visitors' gallery in the Second Chamber, for the member to whom application was made, on hearing that it was an Englishwoman and a Suffragist who wished to be present at the debate, professed his uncertainty as to the advisability of admitting a person who might prove herself so dangerous to the public peace as an English Suffragist. A pledge for my good conduct was however given, and the Swedish charming national trait of kindness to foreigners prevailed over prudence, and I was admitted. The debate was closely followed by a deeply interested public, among whom were to be noticed the leaders of the Women's Suffrage partythose women who, by their untiring efforts, favoured doubtless by a happy conjunction of political circumstances, have succeeded in an incredibly short time in raising the question from mere theorising to the plane of practical politics-women who devote their time and talents not merely to this, but to social reform in many other directions. Interest was at first chiefly concentrated in the First Chamber, where the debate was ppened by a well-known temperance reformer, a former advocate f votes for women. The latter circumstance placed the speaker under the disagreeable necessity of eating his own words-a feat which, it must be confessed, he as well as other Conservative speakers performed rather deftly. The arguments in general, in both Houses, were such as we have heard thrashed out time and again in England: the supporters basing their easoning on grounds of justice and the welfare of the State the opponents on party grounds and expediency, showing that touching solicitude for the "true welfare" of their victims, which those who refuse simple justice often so lavishly bestow. But Swedish suffragists are not taken in by this, as is shown by the following quotation from the Government organ the day after the debate:—"The Conservative party, which likes so much to play towards woman the part of Providence guiding all hings for the best, even when they seem worst, has once more ried to slam the door in the face of the women who are waiting to be admitted among their fellow-citizens. But we have got our foot between." The debate lasted for several hours in both chambers, and the result of the voting was: in the First Chamber, 58 for and 86 against, a gain of 35 votes over last year; in the Second Chamber, 140 votes for and 74 against, a gain of 20 since last year. This is a result which suffragists have every reason to regard as satisfactory; even the most Parliament (and very ill-made) is ignored. An Anti-Suffragi hopeful did not expect the motion to pass the First Chamber, to whom I pointed out this somewhat elementary fact, replied

but with the democratising tendency which for a considerable time has characterised legislation in social questions in the three Scandinavian countries, the time is within measurable distance when Sweden will follow the example set by Finland on the one side, and Norway on the other, when party politics will give way to simple justice, and Swedish women will be accorded the position in the political world which they have won, and shown themselves capable of maintaining, in the fields of social work, education, literature, art and industry. LILLIE ROWLETTE.

# The Anti-Suffrage Handbook.

The final sections of the Handbook are devoted to "Countries Having Woman Suffrage" and "Women in Local Government.

The assertion that "no real comparison is possible." is perhaps intended to cover the unreal comparisons which are made immediately afterwards. But we hardly find it a sufficient excuse for the worst of them. Our author points out that the population and revenues of the American Suffrage in the proportion of municipal affairs over here. He implies by this that the women only vote for their own State Legislature, and is careful to omit the fact that they also vote for the Legislature of the United States and (by an indirect method as the men do) for the President-a fact which has prevented any of the candidates now in the field for the Presidential office from daring to say that he is an Anti-Suffragist. To have the full political franchise in a great country whose population numbers over 92,000,000, can hardly be compared with the municipal franchise over here; and I consider the attempt made by the author of the Handbook to suggest such a comparison is one of the most discreditable passages in a

discreditable little book.

The statement that "in every instance the percentage of female voters is very far below that of the males is not substantiated by any figures. I happen to have by me those for New Zealand, which show a slight variation at different times between men and women voters. For example:-

		Men.		Women.
1893	 	 69.61	 	85.18
1896	 	 75.90	 	76.44
1899	 	 79.06	 	75.70
1902	 	 78.44	 	74.52
1905	 	 84.07	 	82.22
1908	 	 81.11	 	78.26

The section on "Women in Local Government" states the qualifications necessary for voting and sitting on the various Councils and Boards. Not a word is said about the history of women in Local Government, with its astonishing record of powers taken away, sometimes after noble use, and restored, after long agitation, only in part or not at all. No explanation is given of the fact that the late Lord James of Hereford fought tooth and nail against the Act of 1907 which gave women the right to sit on City and County Councils, and then became Vice-President of the Anti-Suffrage League, whose second (professed) object is to extend the sphere of women's work in Local Government; nor of the enthusiasm with which the same League supports Mr. Austen Chamberlain, who spoke and voted against the inclusion of women in the London Borough Councils Act. But we must be excused if we find it difficult to take that second object" seriously. It is evident that the N.L.O.W.S. itself does not, or it would not put forward with such complacency the fact that a Bill for remedying some of the worst defects in the Act of 1907 is "in existence." Lots of Bills—excellent Bills—are "in existence," and will continue to be. Their transformation into Acts depends on the number of votes behind them.

The purpose of this particular Bill is to alter the qualification for election to City and County Councils in such a way as to enable more women (especially married women) to stand. Were it to pass, Anti-Suffragists would probably have to modify their silly taunt that women don't rush in large numbers on to these

bodies. Can this be why they are so unenthusiastic about it?
We are next informed that "the work of Town and County Councils includes" a long and imposing list of duties. The implication is that "Education," "Housing," etc., fall entirely within the sphere of women in Local Government. The fact that the laws on these subjects, as on all others, are made in Parliament (and very ill-made) is ignored. An Anti-Suffragist

TUNE 6, 1912.

"Ah! but a bad law well administered is better than a good law badly administered." The possibility of good laws well administered did not seem to have occurred to her.

The Handbook concludes with the figures of the "Canvass of Municipal Women Voters." The canvass was taken:—

(a) By members of the League or paid canvassers.

Apparently the public was expected to be impressed by the figures obtained by paid canvassers. As they were not, the canvassers proceeded:—

(b) By reply-paid postcards.

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No one knows who filled in the replies, and the questions were quite outrageously misleading. Our author, recognising this, is careful to suppress them, and merely observes that "the general form of question used was" a form which, after a ong and patient investigation, I have never found used once. Even this question, however, carefully selected or composed for the pages of the Handbook, would undoubtedly suggest the idea of Adult Suffrage to the canvassed person. If she decided against it, her reply was then used as evidence against the Conciliation Bill.

The Anti-Suffrage Handbook is altogether a sufficiently nauseating little publication, and soon ceases to be amusing. But probably every losing cause produces a certain amount of this kind of thing, and when facts fail one, misrepresentation is the easiest weapon—for those who can stoop to pick it up. (Concluded.)

# Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

(159, St. Stephen's House, Westminster.)

Demonstration in Trafalgar Square, Saturday, June 15th, at 3 o'clock.

Every suffragist in London will do her or his best to be present at the demonstration organised by the Men's League for Saturday, June 15th, at 3 o'clock, in Trafalgar Square. In response to invitations from the League, the following societies have signified their intention of being present officially:-Women's Freedom League, Irish League for Women's Suffrage, Men's Political Union, New Constitutional Society, Women Writers' League, Tax Resistance League. Many other societies have signified their approval of the demonstra-

tion, though they are not able to be officially represented.

A resolution will be submitted demanding the enfranchisement of women, and protesting against the treatment of political prisoners as common law-breakers. Mrs. Fawcett has shown very clearly that it is possible to hold strong opinions upon the stupidity of confusing the two kinds of offence, without in any way approving of the policy of breaking laws.

All suffragists are earnestly asked to make a special point of helping to fill the Square, and obtaining a conclusive and overwhelming majority for the resolution. The near approach of the Government's Reform Bill calls for immediate and con-

Helpers of all kinds will be welcome. All societies are asked to bring banners and to send them by two o'clock to the Square.

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

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:

President:

MISS GERALDINE COOKE.

MRS. AUGRBACH.

MRS. AUGRBACH.

MISS K. D. COURTNEY. MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. MISS GERALDINE COOKE. MRS. AUERBACH.

MISS EDITH PALLISER (Parliamentary).

Telegrams: "Voiceless, London." Hon. Sec. to Literature Committee: MISS I. B. O'Malley. Telephone: 1960 Victoria.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

# From Headquarters.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY OF THE NATIONAL UNION.

The development in the election policy of the National Union has been very keenly taken up in nearly all parts of the country; there has been an immense demand for leaflets explaining the policy, and many societies are arranging special meetings for members with the object of having the policy explained. Signs are not wanting that the mere announcement of the intention of the National Union to promote the success of Labour candidates in the constituencies of unsatisfactory Liberals is already having its effect; and we believe that even those societies which were doubtful of the wisdom of adopting the policy immediately will be convinced by it's results. It is obvious, of course, that an enormous number of constituencies, and especially those in the south of England, will be entirely unaffected by the decision of the Council Meeting on May 14th. Where no Labour candidate is standing, the National Union will pursue the policy of supporting that candidate whom it considers the best friend Women's Suffrage. In this respect, the policy of the National Union differs from that outlined in the "Standard" of May 31st by the secretary of the Freedom League; it is to be noted however that, like the National Union, the League intends to leave tried friends unopposed, so that in constituencies where a Labour candidate is standing, policy of the Freedom League will be identical with that of the National Union. This is a very encouraging fact, and we hope it points to a possible approximation between the election policies of the various Suffrage societies.

of the Special Committee, it has not yet been possible to arrange for a meeting. The Committee consists of the following members of the National Union Executive:—The officers, Miss Ashton, Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Catherine Marshall, Mrs. Stanbury; others are being invited, and so far the following have kindly consented to join the Committee:—Mr. Brailsford, Miss Lees (of Oldham), Lord Lytton, Miss Julia Reckett, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mr. G. E. Streatfeild.

RULES AND POLICY. The National Union is publishing a new edition of the Rules and Policy, which will be ready at the end of the week.

K. D. COURTNEY.

The following account of Press work is sent to us from Miss.

Press Department.

Baretti, from the West of England Federation:—
"The Press work of the West of England Federation shows much to encourage us. In particular, the Cheltenham papers are being most enterprising. The Chronicle gives a column once a month to both Suffragists and "Antis." The Looker-on and Examiner give a monthly column each to Suffrage news only, and the Citizen is friendly and gives good reports of all local activities of the Bristol papers. The Western Daily Press and the Clifton Chronicle are favourable and always ready to take insertions, while the Times and Mirror, though ' temperament and careful not to associate itself with the Cause in any way, will publish correspondence of any length and

occasional short paragraphs. Of the Somerset papers, the Wellington Weekly News, the Burnham Gazette, the Clevedon Mercury, and the Bridgwater Independent, can always be depended on for insertion, and have Owing to the absence from London of most of the members proved themselves very good friends, while the W. Somerset

LONDON SOCIETY OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES, NON-MILITANT. 58, Victoria Street, S.W. NON-PARTY.

# PUBLIC RECEPTION TUESDAY, JUNE 11,

EMPRESS ROOMS, Kensington (High Street), 3.30 to 6.15 p.m.

Chair:—The Honble. Mrs. SPENCER GRAVES. Speakers:—The LADY FRANCES BALFOUR, The COUNTESS OF SELBORNE, rs. STANBURY, Miss FRANCES STERLING. DISCUSSION INVITED. SALE OF ORIENTAL CHINA AND ANTIQUES.

Gazette does not hesitate to insert Suffrage news when space permits. The Bridgwater Mercury is, I believe, "Anti" in policy, but will publish our news occasionally, and the effect of ocal effort is evident.

The Bath Press is still somewhat obstinate on the whole, The

THE COMMON CAUSE.

Herald only being favourable. The Somerset County Gazette will give good reports of local meetings but, judging by its leaders, is "Anti" in policy.

Of the Wiltshire papers, the Salisbury Times is friendly, but on the Witshire papers, the Sansbury Tames is friendly, but cannot accept regular paragraphs, but the Wiltshire Times and Devizes Gazette will do so. The Wiltshire Press work suffers from the fact that much of the ground is as yet unbroken by our organisers. It is difficult to get an editor to pay any attention to us unless there is a local demand for Suffrage news in the area in which his paper is read, or unless we have been undertaking election or campaign work in the district. Local pressure is required; in the Forest of Dean Press work has been stimulated by Miss Waring, and will be carried on by Miss Morrison, and we are therefore hoping for an improvement in

From Mrs. Finlay we hear that the Scottish Federation at present has 45 societies in its area, either fully formed or in ourse of formation, and these are so distributed that with efficient organisation about 200 papers should be supervised by the Federation, and it is hoped that eventually the entire general press of the country will be watched. Organisation of this work was begun at the end of January last, and Press secretaries or readers in 28 societies are already dealing with 66 papers, including all the big Scottish dailies. In most cases the secretary of the society undertakes the work, and the more important exceptions which from choice or necessity have attempted a more elaborate organisation for influencing and affording assistance to their Press are Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Greenock, Bridge of Allan, Kircaldy, Dundee and the Orcadian societies. In all these more than one person devotes time and attention to the work, and reports show that in Edinburgh and Glasgow the subject is about to receive much further and fuller consideration than hitherto. Since the organisation was started, the attitude of the Press towards Women's Suffrage has come under review and a fair amount of information is at hand; in Glasgow the papers without exception are very cold towards Women's Suffrage. In Dundee the Advertiser favours the Referendum. The People's Journal is Anti and tends to identify the whole Suffrage movement with militant disorders. The Courier, on the other hand, is favourable. It lies, therefore, with the Dundee Society to bring this paper more prominently forward.

paper more prominently forward.

The editor of the Glasgow Daily Record," a Radical paper, is strongly in favour of Women's Suffrage, and is willing to print short and pithy paragraphs giving Suffrage news from all over Scotland. This is a halfpenny paper with a sale extending over the country as far north as Wick. The Edinburgh Society was the ball of the strong and which include come in Lith. undertakes to look after 12 papers, which include some in Leith, Balkeith, Linlithgo, Boness, and Midlothian, and the work of Miss Crompton in Aberdeen has been most successful.

E. M. LEAF.

A CORRECTION. We much regret a misprint on p. 121 in our last issue. The quotation from the letter of the Master of Elibank should have been "if the women's vote is to come at all, it will come through the Liberal (not Labour) Party."

# Literature Department.

N.U.W.S.S., 14, GREAT SMITH STREET, WESTMINSTER.

ANOTHER NEW PAMPHLET BY MISS ROYDEN.

Miss Royden's new pamphlet has been a little delayed by the holiday, which we are glad to know our printers give to their employees at Whitsuntide; but it is now ready, and I hope everybody will buy it and not be deceived by the resemblance



of its cover to that of "Physical Force and Democracy" into the belief that they have it already. Those who look closely will see that even the cover is really different, and I hope they will notice that we have now got a much more satisfactory reproduction of Miss Lowndes's beautiful unicorn design. The inside is quite different, for whereas in "Physical Force and Democracy" Miss Royden dealt with the absolute maxims on which Anti-Suffragists find pasture, in this she writes of the hard facts which are the food of Suffragists. She gives lists of laws passed in countries where women vote, and shows how the trend of legislation in suffrage States is always towards the better protection of the child and the home. She shows also how the result of the experience of women's suffrage in one State leads to the desire for it among the women and the men of neighbouring States. Anti-Suffragists in the British Isles may terrify each other with vague prophecies of what will happen when women vote, but our Colonies and the American States which see what does happen are one by one enfranchising their women. It is the "logic of experience."

# HOME AND STATE.

I regret that, owing to an error, the translation of Miss Selma Lagerlöf's "Home and State" has been spoken of as by Miss M. C. Gittins. As a matter of fact, it is by Mrs. Holmstedt, formerly Miss Ursula Gittins.

THE "ENGLISHWOMAN."

As it is the beginning of the month, may I remind members that the "Englishwoman," as well as the Common Cause, can be obtained from the National Union Literature Department,

14, Great Smith Street, Westminster?
The "Englishwoman" has one directly "Suffrage" article in each number (this month the article is by Mrs. Fawcett), but besides this it is "inspired from the first page to the last by a desire for the enfranchisement of women," and probably no better tool for propaganda among educated people could be

R. CROMBLEHOLME, Trade Manager.

TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS,

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on social subjects which Suffragists can hardly afford to miss. As it is always reviewed in the COMMON CAUSE, I need not dwell on the varied and delightful contents of the June number, but I should like to call special attention to the articles on the life of a working woman, which I think every Suffragist (and Anti-I. B. O'MALLEY. Suffragist!) ought to read.

# "The Friends of Women's Suffrage."

The Sub-Committee appointed to consider the organisation of the scheme for enrolling "Friends of Women's Suffrage" met last week, and already many Societies are taking the matter We hope very much that, although a certain degree of elasticity must necessarily exist in order that every Society may adapt its methods to the peculiar difficulties and advantages of its own area, the scheme will on the whole be worked on lines sufficiently similar to make the whole organic.

Various useful suggestions were sent in by workers from different parts of the country, and no doubt more will come. Some of the Societies had already started work on similar lines, and had met, as we believe all will meet, with the most encouraging response. The London Society began enrolling Friends during the Hackney by-election, and hundreds of names were given readily. It is certain that a very widespread opinion in favour of Women's Suffrage exists, and only requires to be elicited and organised.

We wish especially to impress upon all who are setting to work that while it is clearly impossible (at present) to organise the entire country, and completeness must be the work of time, one kind of "incompleteness" will not damage the scheme in any important way; another will render it useless.

(1) It does not matter how small an area can, at first, be undertaken. If only a few workers begin in each Society, and each worker only undertakes to canvass part of one streeteven two or three houses—the work they do is of value by

(2) But it does matter if the work is not kept up. Merely enrolling lists of names may be useful, or it may not. Past experience of petitions seems to show that it will probably effect nothing at all. But, in any case, such lists of names do not constitute the organisation known as "Friends of Women's Friends must be canvassed and visited at regular intervals, made really interested, got to public meetings when possible, some, eventually, brought into the National Union as regular members—all made to feel that they are part of a living movement. We count with confidence on some of the Friends becoming missionaries themselves. Much of the work will be among the working classes, and no one can do it better than working women themselves, who understand many of the aspects of the Suffrage question with

a more intimate knowledge than richer women can.

It will, of course, be difficult for many workers to canvass at an hour when they are likely to find workingmen at home, and, in any case, canvassing must be done with discretion. Working women will canvass their own menfolk, and leaflets left at their houses will be talked over between them.

Roughly outlined, the work should be done as follows:-(a) The visitor should canvass the houses she has undertaken, with a book of canvass-cards supplied by the National Union (or by her own Society, if preferred). These cards will contain a statement that the "Friend" is in favour of Women's Suffrage, and believes it can be obtained by law-abiding methods

(b) If he or she prefers to make any conditions as to the kind of Suffrage desired, or wishes not to make any distinction as to methods, the visitor should make a note of these things.

(c) At a later date (say, a month later), she should visit the "Friend," taking with her the card he is to keep. This card is being specially designed for the Friends of Women's Suffrage, and will be printed and sold to the Societies as soon as possible. We feel that it should not be given when the signature is obtained, but on the second visit, as the Friend will then have had time to think the question over more carefully. If he does not feel ready to join, after all, his signature should of course, be cancelled. We want those who are really, from conviction, in favour of Women's Suffrage.

(d) The visiting should then be kept up at regular intervals. Once more, we cannot too strongly emphasise the importance of this: Let a visitor undertake only two or three houses, if that is all she can do, but let the work be continuous.

found. It is always full of delightful things, and has articles of their Society, or to some "leader" appointed to undertake the work of this special organisation. These returns, showing the progress of the work, should be collected and sent up to the National Union headquarters, either direct or through the Federation Secretary.

This work will be one of the most important developments ever undertaken by the National Union. It will appeal especially to those who cannot do political work, for any reason, but who are longing to do something for a cause that arouses enthusiasm as no other cause to-day can do. These will feel that upon them lies the responsibility of generating the steam that alone can work the machine. We needed—and have adopted-a forward movement politically. But nothing can be done by the political machine, however perfectly organised and financed, without the throbbing force of the steam we are all generating or wasting. This appeal is to every member of our great Union, for it is work that every member can do.

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

# Treasurer's Notes.

We have received the annual report of the Scottish Federation, and those who are responsible for this most interesting and business-like production are to be heartily congratulated. It contains complete information, very clearly tabulated, as to size, number, and activity of all the societies comprised in that Federation, and the information dealing with the finances of the Federation is particularly exhaustive. I give below the extracts showing the receipts of all their constituent societies, which will no doubt be of interest to a very wide public. It would be a very great help if all Federations could tabulate the receipts and expenditure of their societies in a similar way. I believe that most other Suffrage organisations concentrate all money collected by local effort in their central funds. This is not the method of the National Union, which leaves to local societies the entire control of all money raised for local work, and only centralises those funds which are specially raised and collected for the National campaign and for those branches of the work which are controlled and administered from head-Owing to this system of decentralisation, we have no way of obtaining complete records of the total amount which is being spent and raised within the Union, unless our Societies and Federations will supply us periodically with full information.

We have this week received several new and entirely spontaneous subscriptions at Headquarters, which is always a gratifying sign. Meanwhile also the new special fund continues One lady sends as a donation the amount which she has hitherto subscribed to the political party to which by conviction she belongs, and adds that she is "unwillingly compelled to believe that a woman's politics must now be Votes for Women." Many other women are being driven to the same

Owing to an oversight, the leaflet which has been reprinted explaining the new development of our policy contains an error in the last paragraph, in reply to question 7, which I should like to correct. The last sentence should run as follows: "We want money so as to commence work immediately, and shall need £20,000 before the next General Election."

The sooner we can get this £20,000 the better, but we can hardly expect to have collected the whole of it by next October, which was the date mentioned in the leaflet.

HELENA AUERBACH.

# Demonstrations at Merthyr.

The demonstration arranged by the National Union took place on the afternoon of Whit-Sunday at Merthyr. The annual Conference of the I.L.P. was on the Monday and Tuesday of Whitweek. Most of the delegates to the Conference arrived in Merthyr on Saturday night or Sunday morning, and great numbers of the members of the I.L.P. who were not delegates were also in the town when our meeting was held in Thomastown Park on Sunday afternoon and, judging by the numbers of badges seen in the huge crowd, they must have all come to hear Miss Ashton and Mr. Philip Snowden speak on Suffrage.

The meeting was a huge success, and in view of the closer co-operation between the National Union and the Labour Party which the future promises, it was a most significant demonstration of sympathy with the new development of policy. Mrs. Annot Robinson, L.L.A., was in the chair, and Mrs. Cooper, of (e) Visitors should at intervals make returns to the Secretary Nelson, was one of the speakers. Mrs. Despard was in the

crowd, and came on the platform and spoke for a few minutes. The audience was so large that it was impossible to sell as many Common Causes as the people were willing to buy.

In the Conference the enthusiasm in support of the women's uestion was great, and the vote on the Parliamentary report, which urges that proposals for franchise extension which do not confer citizenship upon women should be definitely opposed," was practically unanimous. On every hand I have eard from delegates how much they enjoyed our meeting, and how the speeches helped to a true appreciation of the Women's Movement.

On Monday night we had again a fine meeting. The Drill Hall was well filled, and a number of the delegates stayed part of the time, although the reception held by Mr. and Mrs. Hardie naturally kept many away from the meeting. The speakers were Alderman Lloyd, Mrs. Cooper, Miss Baretti, Mrs. amieson Williams (from Treorchy), and Mrs. Annot Robinson. There also Common Causes sold well, and much good was done. The Suffrage meetings have been a feature of this week-end in Merthyr, and on every hand one meets with sympathy and support for our claim.

ANNOT E. ROBINSON.

TUNE 6, 1912.

-		SV CO	Of Land			MALI		E AMERICA	
AMOUN	TS RA	ISED	IN	THE	SCOT	TISH :	FED.	ERATION	Clarke and I spoke. Mr. Blatchford was in the
DU	RING	THE	I EA.	R EN	DIMA	MAR	UH,	1912.	audience. At Hunstanton Miss St. John had
Aberdeen	NAME OF	1				.1.		9 15 9	worked up a meeting in the Town Hall for which
Aberneth	***							9 5 0	Mrs. Heitland, president of the Cambridge
Ardrossa	n n							2 10 0	Society, and Mr. Mirrlees, also from Cambridge
Ayr								1 13 0	
Berwicks	hire				N			70 12 11	came down to address. The chair was taken by
Crieff								2 13 3	Mr. Page, J.P., and in spite of difficulties the
Dunbar								22 13 0	meeting went off well.
Dundee								156 2 8	On Saturday we held three meetings, at
Edinburg								844 14 6	
Glasgow								224 6 9	Sculthorpe, Docking and Syderston.
Glenfarg								30 18 0	
Gourock								20 16 2	The last few days of the by-election consisted
Greenock		***			***	***		34 12 4	of concentrated open-air activities. A very
Hadding		***	***	***	***	***	***	30 0 0	auccessful indeen meeting among lb. Min. For
Hawick			***	***	***	***		9 4 0	successful indoor meeting, arranged by Miss Far-
Innerleit	hen							12 4 0	nell, was held in the Corn Hall, Fakenham on
		***	***	***	***			20 9 0	Tuesday, 28th, at which Miss Eva Ward spoke.
Kilmacol		***	***	***			***	32 0 0	The chair was taken by Mr. Frederick Hastings,
Kilmarne		***	***	***	***	***		44 13 7	and Mrs. Manchlin, of the Liberal Women's
Kirkcald		***	***	***	***	****		8 1 9	and Mis. Manchin, of the Liberal Women's
Lenzie Leven		***	***	***	***	***	***	9 1 5	Federation, kindly sang some charming songs,
Melrose					***	***	1	3 10 10	which added greatly to the attraction of the meet-
Montrose		***	***		***	***	***	5 3 4	ing. Councillor Edwardes, the proposed Labour
Oban				***	***	***	***	1 17 0	candidate was also on the platform and made
Oreadian	***	100		***	***	***		13 14 6	candidate, was also on the platform, and made
Paisley				***		***		25 6 4 8 13 6	a stirring speech.
Peebles				***	***	***		19 1 8	On the same day I addressed meetings in the
Perth				1	***	***	***	45 3 11	Market Place, King's Lynn, at West Rudham,
Port Gla						***		17 19 3	Massingham and Syderston.
Selkirk						***		2 5 6	
Shetland						***	***	13 6 6	On Wednesday Miss St. John canvassed Hun-
St. And						***	***	21 16 10	stanton and I spoke at Walpole, Terrington and
Stirling								6 2 7	Walsoken, and canvassed as far as Wisbech.
Tain								2 4 1	On Thursday on ones on marting had her
Tayside								7 19 1	On Thursday an open-air meeting had been
Wick								1 14 0	specially organised in Hunstanton for Mrs. Rack-
Scottish	Fede	ration				111		AOT	ham, who broke her journey to Cromer, at great
					ALC: NO		***	001 19 1	inconvenience in a late to late

# By-Election.

N.-W. NORFOLK.

Mr. E. G. Hemmerde (L.) ... 5,613 Mr. N. P. Jodrell (U.) ... 4,965

Hunstanton.

On Wednesday Miss Rushbrooke and I canvassed the villages between Lynn and Fakenham.

On Thursday Miss Farnell and Miss Clarke worked and spoke at Castle Acre. Miss Rushbrooke and I worked in Fakenham and Ryburgh but owing to a very wet evening we failed to get open-air audiences.

On Friday Miss Farnell and Miss Clarke worked up Heacham. Miss Clarke was lucky enough to come across the head master of the Ruskin School, Heacham, who graciously offered to take the chair at the evening meeting and was also instrumental in providing for us the use of the Public Hall at 8.30, just after it had been vacated by a children's feetival. We had a crowded and most enthusiastic meeting and Miss

candidate, was also on the platform, and made a stirring speech.

On the same day I addressed meetings in the Market Place, King's Lynn, at West Rudham, Massingham and Syderston.

On Wednesday Miss St. John canvassed Hunstanton and I spoke at Walpole, Terrington and Walsoken, and canvassed as far as Wisbech.

On Thursday an open-air meeting had been specially organised in Hunstanton for Mrs. Rackham, who broke her journey to Cromer, at great inconvenience, in order to help us. Unfortunately a violent thunderstorm intervened, and just as the weather cleared she was obliged to leave in order to catch her train to Cromer. Miss St. John, however, very bravely tackled the crowd which gathered in the appointed place as soon as the sun appeared. Meanwhile, I had a good meeting at Ingoldesthorpe, and later on in the evening Miss St. John spoke at Old Hunstanton, and I spoke at Thornham. On polling day Miss. Willis kindly came all the way from Cromer to help at Fakenham, where she and Miss Farnell kept our National Union colours in evidence and distributed literature, and sold "Common Causes." Miss St. John and I did the same sort of work in the villages round Hunstanton, and the National Union car, with its colours and supporting Mr. Hemmerde, the Liberal candidate, went through pretty nearly all the villages in the constituency, where we received a veritable ovation whenever we passed the various polling stations.

The poll was not declared until 1.20 p.m. on Candidate, was also on the platform, and made a stirring speech.

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The poll was not declared until 1.20 p.m. on Saturday, and again we kept our car and colours to the fore; it was the first thing which caught the eye of Mr. Hemmerde when, after his victory had been declared, he arrived to address a meeting in the Public Institute. Let us hope it served to remind him of his pledge to the women.

Finally, I wish to convey my hearry thanks on behalf of the National Union and Eastern Counties Federation to all those who helped with the by-election work, more especially to Mrs. Cooper, who came all the way from Nelson, and the fermination of the meeting on the continuation of the meeting on the continuation of the mee

K. COYLE.

# Federation Notes.

West Midland.

Clarke and I spoke. Mr. Blatchford was in the audience. At Hunstanton Miss St. John had worked up a meeting in the Town Hall for which Mrs. Heitland, president of the Cambridge came down to address. The chair was taken by Mr. Page, J.P., and in spite of difficulties the meeting went off well.

On Saturday we held three meetings, at Sculthorpe, Docking and Syderston.

The last few days of the by-election consisted of concentrated open-air activities. A very successful indoor meeting, arranged by Miss Farnell, was held in the Corn Hall, Fakenham on Tuesday, 28th, at which Miss Eva Ward spoke. The chair was taken by Mr. Frederick Hastings, and Mrs. Manchlin, of the Liberal Women's Federation, kindly sang some charming songs, which added greatly to the attraction of the meeting. Councillor Edwardes, the proposed Labour candidate, was also on the platform, and made a stirring speech.

On the same day I addressed meetings in the Market Place, King's Lynn, at West Rudham, Massingham and Syderston.

KIDDERMINSTER AND DISTRICT.—A public meeting was held at the Kingsley Hall, Kidderminster, on Wednesday, May 15th. The Rev. L. R. L. Donaldson took the chair, and Miss Muriel Matters gave an excellent address. Two resolutions were passed:—I. That the Government enfranchise women this session. 2. That the Government entake steps to secure the immediate release of Miss Malecka.

Rughr.—A public meeting was held on May 8th in the Small Co-operative Hall. The chair was taken by Mr. West, of Bilton, and the speakers were Mrs. Swanwick and Miss Maude Royden. The former gave a very able account of the difficulties experienced by voteless women in the past, not only in opening out new channels for advancement, but also in re-opening those which had been arbitrarily closed against them; the latter gave an extremely convincing description of the results of equal suffrage in the Colonies and the States. A vote of thanks to the speakers was proposed by Mrs. Bagley, of Dublin, and seconded by Mrs. Cobb, the wife of a former M.P. for Rugby.

BIRMINGHAM.—Miss Matters stayed a week with this

JUNE 6, 1912.

ceeded in forming societies they will prove firmer and more vigorous remains to be seen.

One week was spent, however, in Doldelly, which up to then had not succeeded in floating a fully constituted local society. We had a well-attended meeting on May 8th, addressed by Mrs. F. A. Steel, Miss Rathbone, and Mr. Roland Williams, and presided over by Rev. Ivan Davies. As a result of this meeting and the energy of Mrs. Dr. John Jones, there seems every prospect now of the society getting properly on to its feet.

Ormskrik is just one of those constituencies where it seems so difficult to overcome the spirit of distrust with which our movement is viewed. We held an afternoon meeting in the Church House on April 30th, when Miss Evelyn Deakin and Miss Pope presented our case moderately and winningly with the result that ten of these present joined the Liverpool society, and even those who would not go this length showed sufficient interest to justify us in continuing work in this constituency, which is represented by a member who was at one time in sympathy but is now opposed to women's suffrage.

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Mrs. Wallace, Lytham, most kindly allowed me to address a drawing-room meeting in her house on May 16th. Nearly all present gave their names as sympathisers, and I received such encouragement that we decided to hold another afternoon meeting on a larger scale in Lytham' soon and I have been busy the last

address and avenue work. Mass Bernard took that solders as of avenue grown meeting in her house on May 16th. Nearly all present gave their names as sympathieses, and I received such encouragement that we scale in Lytham socal and I have been busy the last few days in canvassing the town. This district, full of comfortable, retired people, on the whole very content of their content of their social responsibilities. Short visit shows the property of the content of their social responsibilities. Short was been to the town of the company of the content of their social responsibilities. Short was the been taken over by our Federation, and offers us a great field for work, as there has neverly vellegation of the content of

At the Beighton and Hove Committee's third reception in Y.M.C.A. Hall on April 26th, Dr. May Thom? Mrs. More spoke on the "Opening of Professions to Women" to an appreciative audience. On May 3rd, Mrs. Ashton presided when Mrs. Timpany spoke on the Women's Movement in Mrs. Schofield's drawing-room, arousing much interest. On May 7th, Miss Sterling addressed a public meeting organised by Miss d'Albide in Kemp Town, several new members sensiting. On May 10th at Mrs. Dagg's meeting, Mrs. Timpany spoke on "Women in Sewented Indutries" to an earnest audience, replacing Miss Verrall who could not come. On May 15th, the local Committee held their last reception at the Hove Town Hall, Mrs. Rackham speaking on "Women in Poor Law Administration."

Miss Abadam debated with Miss Gladys Pott at Miss Abadam debated with Mis

dministration."
Miss Abadam debated with Miss Gladys Pott at
ALISBURY on May 2nd; the Suffrage resolution was
set by 23 votes among 500 people. Numerous "anti"
rimrose Leaguers and Anti-Suffragists from long

Primrose Leaguers and Anti-Suffragists from long distances were present.

On the 7th the Countess de la Warr presided at the Ravenscroft Ladies' College, Szavorn, when Miss Sterling spoke, and Mrs. Dempster proposed a Suffrage resolution which was carried. The same day Mrs. Dempster addressed a good pioneer meeting at Newhavn, organised by the Worthing Secretary, at Mrs. McGlashun's, the host and hostess giving invaluable help. The nucleus of a society was formed, and a public meeting was arranged for the end of May.

On the 13th Dr. Ethel Iredell, residing in her house at an Ekstrouten's meeting, moved a resolution pledging those present to work for women's enfranchisement. Mrs. Dempster seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously. On the 3rd Dr. and Mrs. Habgood held a members' meeting to hear a report of the National

ceeded in forming societies they will prove firmer and more vigorous remains to be seen.

One week was spent, however, in Dolgelly, which up to then had not succeeded in floating a fully constituted local society. We had a well-attended meeting on May 8th, addressed by Mrs. F. A. Steel, Miss Rathbone, and Mr. Roland Williams, and presided over by Rev.

Mrs. Roland Williams, and presided over by Rev.

Organising Secretary suggested forming a Suffrage on the 13th. The report mentioned the appointment of an Organising Secretary, owing to great increase of work. The membership was over 200; a branch had been formed at BROCKHAM. The Worthern Times are constituted to a petition re Miss Malecka's release, or the mitigation of the meetings at Helmsdale, Brora, and Golspie, which are in Mr. Morton's constituency, a resolution was passed, urging him to vote for any women's suffrage annual meeting at Reigate on the 13th. The report mentioned the appointment of an Organising Secretary.

Mr. Munro, for his past support of Women's Suffrage on the House of Commons.

Mr. Munro, for his pase suppose in the House of Commons.

Suffrage has a good friend in the Northern Times. A paragraph on the National Union, a personal note on Mrs. Abbott, and good long reports of each of our meetings have appeared in that paper. We are very grateful to the editor, and to Mrs. Macdonald for her kind help with the report of the Golspie meeting.

ELENOR SHEARD.

CLENOR SHEARD, CANDEL SHEARD, CLENOR SHEARD, CLEOR SHEARD, CLEOR SHEARD, CLEOR SHEARD, CLEOR SHEARD, CLEOR SHEA

FORMATION OF NEW SOCIETY AT BRECHIN, FORFARSHIRE. On Thursday, May 23rd, a meeting of Brechin members was held in the Corona Hall to consider the formation of a local branch. Miss Foggo was in the chair It was then unanimously decided that the Brechin branch should become affiliated to the National Union and the Scottish Federation, and office-bearers

Union and the Scottish Federation, and office-bearers were appointed.

On May 27th a public meeting was held in the Mechanics' Hall, the speaker was Mrs. Abbott, and the chairman, David Duke, Esq., J.P. Mrs. Abbott's able speech was warmly applauded by an interested and appreciative audience. The following resolution was put to the meeting and unanimously carried:—"That the Brechin Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. calls upon the Government to introduce their promised Reform Bill and carry it through all its stages during the present session, and further declares that no bill can be accepted which does not include the Parliamentary Enfranchisement of Women."

ment of Women."

A good sale of literature was made, a good collection taken, and several new members joined at the close of

taken, and several works the meeting.

The new branch begins with a membership of 41, and the officials hope that the splendid effort of Mrs. Abbott and Miss Foggo will act as a stimulus to the young society.

During the alternoon of Mrs. Abbott's visit, Mrs.

During the alternoon of Mrs. Abbott's visit, Mrs.

Hacon—to whom we also over many thanks for ber kind hospitality—gave a successful drawing-room meeting in the Women's Liberal Association, of which she is president with expart to Women's Liberal Association, of which she is president of the society with the society, welcomed Mrs. Abbott cother in Royal Boyle. Mrs. Arthur, the president of the society and the society, welcomed Mrs. Abbott and the publisher of the society with the society welcomed Mrs. Abbott and the publisher of the society with the society welcomed Mrs. Abbott and the publisher of the society with the society welcomed Mrs. Abbott and the publisher of the society with the society with the society welcomed Mrs. Abbott and the publisher of the society with the society will be society will be society will be society with the society will be society with the society will be society will be society with the society will be society wi

for the ceremony. Lady Frances Balfour, who was enthusiastically welcomed, in her most interesting address said that the large attendance proved there was no discouragement in the Suffrage ranks though the Conciliation Bill had been defeated, and for the first time in its history Parliament had negatived the principle of Women's Suffrage. As everybody knew, there was no Cause worth fighting for which had not—at some time—its set-back. In urging the women of Glasgow to work more strenuously for their Suffrage, and to take a more prominent part than hitherto, Lady Frances referred to the fact that Glasgow was soon to have an experience organiser sent by the National Union. A strong appear to the women of Sooland to interest themselves more intimately in directing the legislation needed not only for the purity of their stretchs but for the purity of the sale was the tea-room, managed by Miss Munco Kerr, where "home-made teas" were served during the afternoon by dainty waitresses in white.

\*\*North Western.\*\*

On Saturday, May 18th, the annual meeting of the N.W. Federation was held in Carlisle, and the local sound organisers the evening before at an "At Home," at which the Mayoress, Mrs. Scott Steele, took the chair, and diss Knipht (of Keswick) and Miss Norma Smith spoke. Our members were so inspired by the meeting in the econders, are as follows:—

1. "That this Conference Calls as follows:—

2. "That this Conference as souffled over by the seconders, are as follows:—

1. "That this Conference Suffrage to be scorners the evening help that women and democratic solution of the electoral problem, and then the manage of by Mrs. W. C. ANDERSON (Chairman, Independent Labour Party). Seconded by Mr. W. C. ANDERSON (Chairman, Independent Labour Party). Seconded by Mr

in our work and its results.

C. E. COWMEADOW.

C. E. COMMEADOW.

A Committee Meeting of the East Midland Federation was held on May 24th at the office of the Nottingham Society. Representatives were present from Burton, Derby, Kettering, Leicester, Mansfield and Nottingham and Mrs. Stanbury represented the National Union Executive. The new policy of the National Union was discussed, and it was felt desirable that further explanations should be given to some of the societies. Plans of future work were considered, and it was decided that a Fete should be held in the autumn in aid of the funds of the Federation and the societies. The Nottingham Society kindly promised to arrange this, unless some other society felt able to do so. The beautiful new banner of the Federation was shown to the Committee and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the designers and to the members and friends of the Burton Society, who had carried out the work.

and to the members and friends of the Burton Society, who had carried out the work.

Legester.—The annual meeting of the Leicester Society took place in the Foresters' Institute on May 17th. An explanation of the new policy of the National Union, given by Mrs. Stanbury, was received with general approval. The Committee were able to report a considerable increase in the activity of the local Society since the opening of the office at 20, Granby Street, under the management first of Miss Ashby and afterwards of Miss Elgood, B.A. After accepting the report and re-electing the officers, the meeting unanimously passed a resolution in favour of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, proposed by Miss' Gittins, and seconded by Mr. H. T. Durrad.

After the meeting, the Committee were "At Home" to their Suffragist and Anti-Suffragist friends, who had been invited to a debate on the Suffrage question, in which the principal speakers were Mrs. Stanbury for the Suffrage, and Miss Sinclair against. The speeches were followed by a very good discussion, in which a considerable number of members of the audience took part. Hearty votes of thanks were accorded to the speakers and to Dr. Millard, the Chairman.

Sice the annual meeting Mr. J. M. Gimson, J.P., has found himself unable to continue in office as President. The society are most grateful for the able and zealous help which he has given for many years and are confident that in an unofficial capacity he will still work for the Suffrage cause.

The Actresser's Franches Leaguety he will still work for the Suffrage cause.

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South Wales and Monmouthshire.

South Wales and Monmouthshire.

On May 22nd the annual meeting of the Federation was held in Cardiff. In the afternoon a small delegate's meeting took place, followed by a well-attended member's meeting in the evening. It was originally intended to make this a public meeting, but owing to the present critical stage in the evolution of the policy of the National Union, it was felt to be more desirable to confine the meeting to members. Mrs. Rackham kindly consented to come down and expound the latest policy, which she did very clearly. The meeting was afterwards open to a free discussion on the merits of the policy, and the members availed themselves of this opportunity eagerly. Mrs. Rackham met the points raised frankly, and we felt that the meeting had been exceedingly helpful. ber's meeting in the evening. It was originally intended to make this a public meeting, but owing to the present critical stage in the evolution of the policy of the National Union, it was felt to be more desirable to confine the meeting to members. Mrs. Rackham kindly consented to come down and expound the latest policy, which she did very clearly. The meeting was afterwards open to a free discussion on the merits of the policy, and the members availed themselves of this Federation at the Essex Hall, Strand, London, on the afternoon of Saturday, March 30th, to demand the vote for all adult men and women, and the Executive of the Federation have decided to follow up this conference by a conference of delegates from men's associations—Liberal, Radical, Labour, Socialists, Trade Union, etc.—to be held at the same hall on the afternoon of Saturday, June 8th, at 3.30 p.m.

The resolutions which will be submitted to the Conference for consideration and discussion,

On Saturday, May 18th, the annual meeting of the N.W. Federation was held in Carlisle, and the local society entertained the members of committee, delegates and organisers the evening before at an "At Home," at which the Mayoress, Mrs. Scott Steele, took the chair, and Miss Knight (of Keswick) and Miss Norma Smith spoke. Our members were so inspired by the meetings that a few have already started some house to house canvassing which, we hope, may bring us excellent results.

\*\*Krswick\*\*—On May 23nd in the Battersby Lecture\*

\*\*Mome-made teas\*\* were served during the arternoon by dainty waitresses in white.

\*\*East Midland.\*\*

After a fortnight of very strenuous preparation, the first organised public meeting of the Northampton Society was held on Friday, May 31st. We were fortunate in getting a most influential and representative platform, the speakers being the Lady Frances Balfour and Mr. Lees Smith, junior M.P. for the city, while the chair was taken by the Lady Knightley, of Fawsley. The supporters were representative of the Town Council, Lady Guardians, Education Committee, etc., and were also of every shade of party opinion, and the same could be said of the audience.

Lady Frances Balfour was in her happiest vein, and her delicate humour was much appreciated by her audience, one shaft directed at the delinquencies of M.P.s being especially well received, Mr. Lees Smith joining heartily in the laughter. Mr. Lees Smith spoke mainly on the Parliamentary position, and said that he should support women's suffrage in the House in the future, as he had done in the past. Three open-air meetings in the Market Place held on previous days were quite unusually encouraging. As the report of one who went to spy out the land only a year ago was, "The outlook in Northampton is very black," I feel, with the enthus siastic members of the local society, great satisfaction in our work and its results.

C. E. COMMEADOW.

Eastern Counties.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—In preparation for Lady Frances Balfour's meeting on May 16th I spent a week in Bury St. Edmunds, and held three open-air meetings on the Comhill. These meetings were attended by large audiences, who followed the speeches most carefully and sympathetically. Invaluable assistance was given by Mr. Stork, the Rev. G. Ward, and Mr Mirrlees, from Cambridge, who took the chair at the Athenaeum meeting. As a result of the campaign the membership of the society has been greatly increased, and the members have elected a strong and very representative committee, with Mrs. Hervey, of Thurston, as president, and Mrs. Salmon as secretary.

with Mrs. Hervey, of Thurston, as president, and Mrs. Salmon as secretary.

Suddens,—The evening meeting, addressed by Lady F. Balfour in the Corn Exchange on the 16th, was well attended and was sympathetic, and I addressed a large open-air meeting on the Market Hill on May 23rd. We have gained some new members, and Miss Orbell, Louth Villa, is acting as local correspondent pending the formation of a Sudbury branch Our cause has good friends in the town and district, but removals have taken some of the keenest spirits away and the organisation is slow in its formation

in its formation
Mr Edward Oliver, C.C., gives us his valuable support,

Mr Edward Oliver, C.C., gives us his valuable support, and he presided at the meeting on the 16th.

Dovergouer.—On May 28th I visited Fakenham, and on the 29th Mrs. Coysh, of Dovercourt, gave a drawing-room meeting to sympathisers. After I had given an account of our policy and methods of work, discussion followed, and it was decided to form a society in Harwich and Dovercourt. A temporary committee with Mrs. Coysh as secretary was nominated, and members were enrolled. The society is fortunate in having an excellent nucleus, and it can confidently anticipate a vigorous career.

career.

Miss Fanny Johnson, Common Cause correspondent will be much obliged if secretaries of societies in the Eastern Counties Federation will send reports of their work to her by the third Tuesday in each month, not the fourth as stated in our last issue.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

At the annual meeting of the Cambridge University Women's Society for Women's Suffrage the following were elected officers for the coming year:—President, B. M. Power, Girton College; Secretary, M. Curwen, Newnham College; Treasurer, M. Knaggs, Girton College,

# People's Suffrage Federation.

CONFERENCE ON ADULT SUFFRAGE.

A large and successful Conference of delegates from self-governing organisations of working women in London and the neighbourhood was

2. "That this Conference calls upon the Government to introduce, with as little delay as possible, the Reform Bill promised for this Session by the Prime Minister on November 7th, in order that opportunity may be given for effective legislation and to enable the House of Commons to extend the Suffrage to women during the present Parliament."

Moved by Mr. W. H. DICKINSON, M.P. Seconded by Mr. PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P.

Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., has consented to

Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.F., has consented to preside over the conference and a number of prominent Liberal and Labour Members of Parliament are being invited to attend.

The gallery of the Essex Hall will be free to the public. The women's meeting on March 30th was an exceedingly interesting and encouraging one. Good luck to the men's!

# Women's Suffrage at a Party Meeting.

On May 22nd a meeting was held under the auspices of the Barnsley Division Liberal Association in the Public Hall, Barnsley, which was in some ways remarkable. It was described in the local press as being "one of the largest gatherings of its kind ever held in the constituency," over 1,500 being present, and there were two resolutions, one for Home Rule and cane for Women's Suffrage. Mr. John Dillon. were two resolutions, one for Home Rule and one for Women's Suffrage. Mr. John Dillon made an eloquent speech, and the resolution to which he spoke was passed with enthusiasm, but scarcely a word of what he said might not have been applied to the second resolution, moved by Miss Celia Wray, of Barnsley, and seconded by Miss Broadhurst, of the National Political Reform League. Mr. John Dillon is said to be opposed to the enfranchisement of women and that for "religious" reasons; one must believe that in a man who can speak as he did of so-called "religious strife" in Ireland as being truly the brute struggle for "ascendancy," the love of domination, with hate and contempt for its basis, the change of heart with regard to the enfranchisement of women must come when once he has truly given his mind to it.

The Suffrage resolution ran as follows:-

"That this meeting of electors of the Barnsley Division of Yorkshire expresses regret at the rejection by the House of Commons of a measure for the enfranchisement of women, and calls upon all members who are pledged to women's suffrage to secure the adoption of an amendment to the Reform Bill to be introduced by the Government this session, giving the franchise to women."

Sir Joseph Walton, M.P., stated that his name was on the back of the Conciliation Bill, and he greatly regretted that it did not pass its second reading a few weeks ago. He knew why it did not pass its second reading. It was because of the senseless conduct of a small winter that it of military suffragrists, who destroyed

was because of the senseless conduct of a small minority of militant suffragists, who destroyed in the most ruthless fashion the private property of citizens. He condemned that conduct in the strongest possible manner.

"I hold," he said, "that women who obey the laws and pay taxes equally with men have equal right to have a voice in the making of those laws and the levying of those taxes. But far beyond that, I believe that their influence in helping to solve the burning questions which are before us would be of infinite value to us and improve our political life."

The resolution was put and carried with less than a dozen dissentients. We hold this to be a

than a dozen dissentients. We hold this to be a truly remarkable vote at a party meeting on a non-party question, and again we must congratulate the local Liberals for having so well and truly done their work of education

# Irish Notes.

On Saturday, June 1st, Suffragists from all parts of Ireland met together in the Ancient Concert Rooms, Dublin, to demand that women should be represented in any constitution for Ireland. It was a thoroughly representative gathering of women and of men divided in party politics, but united in love of liberty. Both the national and international aspects of the women's movement were strongly emphasised. We were reminded that in asking for citizen rights we are joined with women all over the world, and

at the same time the thought was suggested that Ireland will never be true to her best traditions until she stands for the political equality of

the sexes.

The hall was decorated with the banners of The hall was decorated with the banners of various suffrage societies and shields bearing the names of the counties and cities of Ireland. The suffrage societies and other bodies represented were: The Irishwomen's Franchise League; the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation, which includes The Irishwomen's Keform League and Societies in Belfast, Armagh, Lisburn, Newry and Warrenpoint, and the Munster Women's Franchise League; the Irish Women's Suffrage Society; the Irish League for Women's Suffrage; the Irish Drapers' Assistants Union (Womens' Committee); the Irish Women Workers' Union and the Daughters of Erin. On the platform where representatives of women suffragists in Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Derry, Sligo, Birr, Dublin University, and the National University of Ireland, and of the Irish in London.

The proceedings were opened by the reading

University of Ireland, and of the Irish in London.

The proceedings were opened by the reading of numerous messages of sympathy from Irish Suffragists unable to be present, including the Rev. J. O. Hannay (George A. Birmingham), Mr. George Russell, editor of "The Irish Homestead," Mr. James Connelly, secretary of the Independent Labour Party for Ireland, Madame Maud Gonne and many others. Messages were also read from Miss Vida Goldstein and from women in New York.

The chair was occupied by Miss Mary Hayden.

The chair was occupied by Miss Mary Hayden,
A., Senator of the National University of M.A., Senator of the National University of Ireland, who put the present situation clearly before the meeting. The Home Rule Bill, as it now stands, proposes to base the Irish Franchise on the existing Parliamentary Register of Great Britain and Ireland. We desire to substitute the Local Government Register. The women thus enfranchised would be women already experienced in voting. Any scheme of government for Ireland which is to be a success must enlist the wisdom and special gifts of each class in the

The first resolution was as follows :-

"That while expressing no opinion on the general question of Home Rule, this Mass Meeting of Irish Delegates from the Irish Suffrage Societies and other Irish Women's organisations representing all shades of political and relatious opinion, profoundly regrets the proposal to establish a new Constitution in Ireland on a purely male franchise, and calls upon the Government to amend the Home Rule Bill in Committee by adopting the Local Government Register (which includes women) as the basis of the new Parliamentary franchise."

This resolution was proposed by Mrs. Chambers, of Belfast, seconded by Mrs. Crichton, of Sligo, and supported by Mrs. Eheehy Skeffington, M.A., and Mrs. Gibson, of Limerick.

It was then proposed by Miss Day, P.L.G., and seconded by Mrs. Wyse Power:—

"That copies of this resolution be sent to each member of the Cabinet, and to all the Irish Members of Parliament with the demand from the women of all parts of Ireland that they shall insist on the embodiment of this amendment in the Bill."

All the speeches were marked by deep earnestness and a strong sense of the urgency of the present situation. Again and again we were reminded that now is a time of crisis when Irish reminded that now is a time of crisis when Irish women must unite in a persistent demand for the rights of citizenship. The dominant thought of the meeting might be expressed in the words of Abraham Lincoln, quoted by one of the speakers—"No nation can exist half bond, half free."

H. S. CHENEVIX.

# A Dane's Note on W. T. Stead.

When Mr. Stead some years ago was here in Copenhagen, I had the pleasure of speaking to him. He was bringing me a greeting from Lady Aberdeen, president of the International Council of Women. I shall never forget the impression which his lovable personality made on everyone, his splendid, expressive face, his conversation, cheerful, witty and deeply serious at the same time.

He was not a special friend of women, he said, He was not a special friend of women, he said, nor a special friend of men. 'Women and men both constituted humanity. Deeply as he loved his mother-tongue he could not but complain of the want of an English word signifying both men and women (ein Mensch). This has been the cause of more harm than one thought. He was glad that all Scandinavian languages had that word, and when I told him that in Swedish

menniska was feminine, he was much amused.

The eager Esperantist, who was present, asked him to take an interest in this international

For if it has not, I will have nothing to do with

It was a firm principle with him, he declared, It was a firm principle with him, he declared, never to speak to an audience, in which the one sex was excluded. This he had maintained even when he led the campaign against the White Slave Traffic and for the women victims in the "modern Babylon." Once he came to a town, where he was to give a lecture on this his important topic. The committee, who received him, told him that his auditors would be very numerous. "And women auditors too?" he asked. No, admittance had only been given to men, it "And women auditors too?" he asked. No, admittance had only been given to men; it was known, certainly, that he did not like it, but the excuse was given that there would not be room enough! "Yes, you see, one place more there will be at all events," Mr. Stead answered, "For I shall not come!" The committee was in despair; what was to be done? There were placards at all the street corners announcing the lecture, and in large type was put, "For men only." Still the imperturbable lecturer declared "Women must be admitted!"

There was nothing to be done but this: To paste another placard below the first with the words "Women also admitted." In this way the poster bore this funny information:

"FOR MEN ONLY! Women Also Admitted!"

Mr. Stead laughed most heartily remembering this funny placard. "A Monument," he called it. Certainly it became a memorial of what a firm and calm conviction may attain. But is it not at the same time a wonderfully symbolic expression of the progress of society, which is originally made "only for men," but by and by it is forced to declare "Women also admitted." And, more than all others it is men of the type of Mr. Stead, who have achieved this.

IDA FALBE HANSEN.

# National Insurance and Local Government.

We have received a leaflet from the Women's Local Government Society (19, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W.) on National Insurance and Local Government, which all our readers ought to

Westminster, S.W.) on National Insurance and Local Government, which all our readers ought to obtain as it points out how important it is for women to take part in the administration of the Act, owing especially to the valuable opportunities it gives for local government work in connection with the promotion of public health. The administration of the Act will be largely in the hands of the local Insurance Committees, to which great responsibilities are entrusted. The Insurance Committees will have to report on the health of insured persons, and furnish the Insurance Commissioners with statistical and other returns, and may in addition make other reports on the health of such persons and the conditions affecting the same. The Committees will also see to the giving of lectures, and in the case of excessive sickness they will be empowered to claim repayment from the party deemed by them to be in default, if such excess is due to bad housing or sanitary conditions or to any neglect in observing public health precautions.

On every Insurance Committee there will be at least four women members. In every district

On every Insurance Committee there will be at least four women members. In every district the names and special qualifications of the most experienced and competent women, who have stated their willingness to serve, should be sent to the Insurance Commissioners, at the National Health Insurance Commission Offices, Buckingham Gate, S.W.; well-considered recommendations should also be made to the Council for the County the

should also be made to the Council for the County or the County Borough (as the case may be). There is no time to be lost in taking these steps.

As it is estimated that the women will form more than 30 per cent. of the members of the approved societies, it is important that a fair proportion of the representatives of insured persons should be women. Public opinion in the county approved society and in every approved society. every locality and in every approved society should demand such representation.

# White Slave Traffic Bill.

We have received an appeal for funds from the "Pass the Bill Committee." As we stated in our issue of May 23rd, this committee him to take an interest in this international language because it was especially adapted to break the worst hindrances which severed the nations from one another. Mr. Stead asked ammediately, "Has Esperanto a word for Mensch?" taked in our issue or may 20rd, this committee the object of securing the passage of the White Slave Traffic Bill as a memorial to the late Mr. W. T. Stead. Donations and contributions should be sent to Lady Bunting, 9, Torrington, Place, W.C. Domestic Servants and the Insurance Act.

No doubt the subject of the Insurance Act which is shortly to come into force is in the minds of most of your readers whether they be

minds of most of your readers whether they be employers or workers.

Our union took great interest in the Bill when it was first introduced, and has always maintained this interest. Our position at first was one of opposition, as when the Bill was first drafted domestics had to pay contributions, but were practically debarred from receiving the benefits they needed; these may now be received by a domestic wherever she may be, or if not by her by her nearest dependent. This is very much better; for many domestics have partly to keep, say a mother, or a child. I have heard it said that butlers were paid more as they were usually married men and had to keep a family; I have asked why the same thing did not apply to widows, many of whom are in service and have one or more children dependent on them, needless to state no answer has been forth. them, needless to state no answer has been forth

them, needless to state no answer has been forthcoming.

Since the amendments in the Bill our Union
has spent all its efforts in trying to induce
domestics to join an Approved Society and not
become Post Office depositors, whose conditions
are most unfavourable as they can only receive
benefits to the amount standing to their credit
in the Post Office, while if they are members of
an Approved Society they receive full benefits as
well as additional benefits which can be given
by a well-managed society.

well as additional benefits which can be given by a well-managed society.

An article which appeared in the Globe implies that Mr. Lloyd George is responsible for domestics not joining an approved society; I would like to say at once that the worker alone is to blame if she does not join a society. When we buy anything we see that we get good value for our money; it is also necessary to see that we get the best possible returns for money paid into a society.

As to the Act being hard on the employer—not a bit of it! Most servants are not looked after in illness by the employer, but in almost every case they are sent to a hospital. I well remember being told once that if I did not soon lose a cough I must go, as it annoyed my employers to hear me coughing about the house. This statement is a plain fact and not an exceptional case. exceptional case.

This statement is a plain fact and not an exceptional case.

Another reason why domestic workers should make this Union their Approved Society is that we have for our objects the compulsory character note, regulation of hours, fair payment for services rendered, and proper and healthy sleeping accommodation. It was stated by Mr. Lloyd George himself, that there was a greater percentage of domestics in the hospitals yearly than any other worker; we have not far to look for the cause: our hours on duty (as I stated once before in the COMMON CAUSE) are frequently 112 weekly, these hours often without proper or sufficient nourishment and then sleep in badly ventilated, underground rooms. Only five days ago I had a bedroom reported to me in which six men slept, and the place is so verminous that 2d. a head is given for every rat caught. I could give you many more instances, but time and space will not admit. I appeal to all domestics to make the Union that is fighting to better their conditions their Approved Society.

We have a separate section for Insurance and no entrance fee is needed, and as it is not necessary to state on the card to what society contributions are paid, if employers object to a trade union, this need not be known by navment

contributions are paid, if employers object to a trade union, this need not be known by payment of contributions. As to the resistance that is talked of, I earnestly hope that nothing so foolish will be attempted.

them; Government has recognised us in this; it is our object to make them recognise us still further, and grant us a Compulsory Character Note, regular hours, minimum wage, and last but not least the vote, so that we domestics can also take our place in making laws which are to our interest.

GRACE NEAL. (General Secretary, Domestic Workers' Union.)

# The Health Society.

On May 23, at Grosvenor House, was held a crowded meeting and presentation of certificates of the National Health Society, when the resolution was unanimously carried "that the work of the National Health Society is deserving of all support; its object being the diffusion of the

JUNE 6, 1912.

knowledge of the laws of health among all classes of the community, especially among women who are responsible for the hygiene of the home and the rearing of healthy children." In days long past, in their desire for health, men worshipped the Goddess Hygeia with all the pathos of that misty yearning faith which deemed that sound health and straight limbs should be theirs by virtue of bowed knees and outstretched hands. But this was not enough. Disillusion and disappointment creent with the should be theirs by virtue of bowed knees and outstretched hands. But this was not enough. Disilusion and disappointment crept with the passing centuries over this child faith, the thorn and the thistle came on the altars of Hygeia, her statues got relagated to Continental museums, her devotees—for the world never has ceased and never can cease to worship Hygeia—sought the goddess anew, this time by means of study and patient research and experiment. But this is not enough. And now though the goddess is more gracious and comes nearer than of old, the devotees or doctors as we name them now, are calling out for help. Their time, they tell us, is filled and over filled by dealing with their special cases—they have no spare time or strength to stand in the highways to teach, and preach, and combat all the ignorance and apathy that everywhere throws open doors to pestilence and pain.

What the nation needs they tell us insistently is Health teachers and lecturers, to advise, develop and foster a National Sanitary Conscience.

It was in response to this need that in 1873.

It was in response to this need that in 1873.

It was in response to this need that in 1873, at the instigation of certain influential people of the day, notably the woman doctor and pioneer, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the Health Society came into being which has now become that one of the training bodies recognised by Government, which is responsible for the output of a larger number of trained women health workers, tested by Government examination, than any other similar institution. Each year the training courses organised at the offices in 53, Berners Street, on sanitation, hygiene, physiology, nursing and first aid, its demonstrations on sanitary apparatus, drain testing, inspection of houses.

nursing and first aid, its demonstrations on sanitary apparatus, drain testing, inspection of houses, disinfecting stations, sanitary areas, common lodging houses, factory and workshops, send out more qualified women to fill such posts, under the Home Office, and County and Borough Councils, as sanitary inspectors, inspectors under the Infant Life Protection Act, and health lecturers. These latter teach the laws of health to the people generally, to fashionable drawing-room audiences—to mixed audiences of working people, and to that valuable section of the community so audiences—to mixed audiences of working people, and to that valuable section of the community so unrecognised sometimes by impassioned platform speakers on the apathy of other people—the voluntary health workers, and all those engaged in social work among the poor. It is the aim of these teachers, as Bishop Boyd Carpenter said in his speech, not only to dispel the old dida "that evil things are infectious and good things have no chance, but to demonstrate that health may be infectious, to radiate an atmosphere of light and sanity, and by persuasion and reason, inculcate right rules of conduct and habit among those who are suffering from ignorance, and it is of such workers as these, that future generations will say that they so instructed the people that ignorance and evil were banished from our midst.

Sir James Crichton Browne struck much the Sir James Crichton Browne struck much the same note when he claimed for this society that 40 years ago it had the modern eye in detecting the dangers with which the country was threatened, from the neglect of our national health, and began the work of stiring up public opinion to obtain pressure behind these questions. It is this society moreover, he declared that holds the balance between those two dangerous classes in the country—the fossilists who cling tenaciously to the older knowledge and look with suspicion on every new hygienic departure,

borough council candidate, however sound and energetic a medical man, if professedly a "drainer," had no chance against the candidature of the weakest medical practitioner to be found in the neighbourhood, and an undischarged bankrupt to boot.

Gracious royal approbation and much high praise was given that afternoon to the ever growing band of workers, trained and disciplined in the laws of health, keepers of the National Sanitary Conscience, stirrers up of public opinion on the long neglected questions of housing and sanitary reform. But whether doctors, inspectors or teachers, the fact that so many of these best friends of the nation should still to-day share the political status of the criminal and the idiot, was a reflection left unexpressed at this meeting. But in the minds of many present, the thought But in the minds of many present, the thought must have occurred that so long as England metes lout this treatment to so many of her most valuable and most serviceable citizens, so long is there, in the trenchant words of Marcellus, "something rotten in the State."

# Foreign News.

Egypt.

The following extract from Mrs. Chapman Catt's letter to the Women's Journal is of special interest to British readers. It is preceded by a short account of the Young Egyptian movement and an explanation of the racial and religious antagonism between the Arabs and Copts, Mohammedans and Christians, which creates such great diculty. She goes on to say:—

What, then, will happen to the women? Among the upper classes rebellion is already fomenting. Women are daring to refuse marriage, as a protest against its humiliations. Many openly expressed their sympathy with the aims of Western women and speak loudly against the laws which restrain the liberty of women in their own country. The women of Egypt are as wide awake as its men. Their sympathy with the rationalist movement was sympathy with the rationalist movement was well known, and much of the propaganda passed

well known, and much of the propaganda passed through the harems.

It would be incorrect to say that all women of the educated classes desire a broader sphere of life. They are dividing, as with us, into progressives and conservatives, those who seek education for women, less seclusion and more liberty to assist public causes, and those who are bitterly opposed to all these changes. These opponents express their pity for Western women, who are forced to go into the streets alone, and enjoy none of the careful protection of the East. Western and Eastern Antis differ only in degree. only in degree. Great Britain has created a New Egypt. It

Great Britain has created a New Egypt. It has awakened a sleeping race and held before it the dazzling achievements of Western progress. Pride and ambition, if nothing more, have been aroused. The movement for the "rights of women" is as truly begun as the much-advertised one for the "rights of man." Both are unorganised, incoherent, confused. Men have newspapers, the women none. The government now censors the press and the orators, and occasionally suppresses a paper and silences a occasionally suppresses a paper and silences a speaker. The men in their turn effectively restrict the efforts of women. A few women have broken through the bonds. One, a Moslem, has given a lecture at the Egyptian University on "Woman's Rights," and it is my hope and expectation that delegates from this Eastern land will join as in the Next International Sufland will join us in the Next International Suf-

rage Congress at Budapest.

I contribute these comments for the benefit of those who may be interested in the Westernising developments of the East.

Cairo, Egypt.

classes in the country—the fossilists who cling tenaciously to the older knowledge and look with suspicion on every new hygienic departure, and the faddists—more prevalent, sadly added the speaker, among the cultured and leisured of our race, than in the ranks of the poor and unlettered; an evil largely traceable to the apathy and physiological ignorance tolerated to-day in our costly public schools and other educational establishments.

Professor Kenwood raised a vision of Ibsen when he spoke of the need for more and more of these workers and their influence in certain towns and other Councils he had known. He did not mention the case of the lady artist who could not get the consent of her borough council to adding another window to her studio because in their opinion "it would take too much light from the street." But he did show that a local health reformer still too often finds himself an "enemy of the people." and it might have been Dr. Stockmann himself come to life, who said so forcibly, "People will still fight you tooth and nail, if you go for bad water," and he did tell of some insanitary locality in his ken, in which were to be seen at election time posters inscribed "Vote for J— and no drainage," in which a

most curious experience, however, to discover that the women of Rangoon, the metropolis of Burmah, have had a municipal vote for years. Parsee, Hindoo, Mohammedan, Chinese and Buddhist women are on the electors' rolls, and actually vote. The leader of the women is an ardent and orthodox Buddhist, who gives her whole life and fortune to social work, and has voted for a quarter of a century! Now what do you think of that, you poor disfranchised American? . . . Two dear little Chinese ladies were sympathising listeners in our audience of last night. Will it not be queer if the American suffrage have should be out-distanced by the oriental tortoise?"

# Reviews.

HOME AND STATE. By Selma Lagerlöf.
Translated into English by C. Ursula
Holmstedt. (International Woman Suffrage
Alliance, 1d.)

Alliance, 1d.)

We are very glad indeed to welcome in an English dress the speech which so profoundly moved the audience at Stockholm last summer. Different motives move different people and the claim for liberty is one susceptible of as many arguments as there are individuals. Miss Lagerlöf's appeal is one which might pierce the density even of a Harold Owen, so penetrating is it in its still intensity. She takes the two great pieces of social work, the home and the State: one which man and woman together have made, the other which man alone is responsible made, the other which man alone is responsible

Look on this picture:-

Is is not worthy of admiration, this little home of freedom? It welcomes us with joy as weak, helpless, troublesome babes. It has an honoured place for the frail old people. It gives the husband joy and refreshment when he returns home tired with the day's work. It cares for him just as warmly when the world is against him as when it favours him. There are no laws, only customs, which are kept because they arouseful and serviceable. Punishment is not for the sake of revenge, but for training and education. There is a use for all talents, but he who is without can make himself as much loved as the cleverest. It can receive young girls within its doors and keep them for life. It loses sight of no one, and slays the fatted calf when the prodigal son returns. It is a storehouse for the songs and legends of our forefathers, it has its own ritual for days of feasts and ceremonies, it preserves the memory of ancestors unknown to history. There everyone may be himself so long as he does not disturb the harmony of the whole. There is nothing more mobile, more merciful amongst the creations of mankind. There is nothing so beloved, so highly valued as woman's creation, the home.

And on this:—

Where is the State where there are no homeless children, where no youthful human powers are wasted, where each little one is brought up in the joy and gentleness that are the birthright of the child? Where the State that gives all its aged poor a safe and honoured old age, the privilege of those who are drawing near life's close? Where the State that punishes not for revenge, but solely to train and educate? Where the State that can foster every talent, where the unfortunate are cared for as much as the successful? Where is the State that has not some class of people to whom it cannot give happiness? Where the State that gives each one the chance to live his own life as long as he does not disturb the harmony of the whole? Where the State in which none of the members waste their lives in laziness, drunkenness and shameful living?

And the conclusion, these searching questions to man who has tried to do his work alone:—

Has he been successful? What does the hatred between the different classes of society bear witness to? What do the nuffied cries and threats of revolution say? What say the complaints of the workless? What says emigration? Does all this show that he has succeeded—that he ever will succeed?

We strongly recommend suffragists to stock and distribute this wise, gentle and authoritative plea from a "womanly woman."

# THE ENGLISHWOMAN.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN.

Besides a short article by Mrs. Fawcett on the 
"Election Policy of the National Union," there 
is a suggestive article on the "Social Service of 
the Rich," showing what pioneer work they 
can do in experimenting. Such experiment is 
admirably illustrated by another article in 
"Pioneer Tenement Houses" in New York, a 
wonderful experiment called the "East River 
Homes," established by Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt. 
It sounds little short of miraculous that such 
homes should show a prospect of paying four per homes should show a prospect of paying four per cent. and if indeed they do so, they will have justified their founder's description of them as "a humane and philanthropic investment."

Mr. James Haslam's article on Working-class
Movements is full of hope, showing the gradual
awakening of women to the need for organisation, and emphasising the further need that

working women should not only join unions, but should fit themselves for administrative work in them and insist on having their share. Women are terribly handicapped in this matter, not only by tradition, but by their own lack of time. So many cotton operatives, for instance, have to do a man's work at the mill and a woman's work in the home afterwards. So far, as Mr. Haslam shows, the women have had little help from the men; but we believe this is changing. Madame Schmahl contributes a historic article on the "Rights of Women and the Origin of Feminism in France," and the second instalment of "A Working Woman's Life" is quite as enthralling and harrowing as the first.

# THE WOMAN WITH THE PACK. By Gertrude Vaughan. (W. J. Ham-Smith,

"The Woman with the Pack," probably plays well (we have not seen it on the stage), if care fully acted, the part of the "Woman" requiring, as the author suggests, rather an impressive personality to hold the play together. The earlier part is well imagined, and the scene later in the part is well imagined, and the scene later in the home of the sweated workers, makes a good suffrage "point." The close, however, which should be a climax, afflicts one with a sense of "non sequitur," which is positively painful. No doubt the case for militant action is so clear no doubt the case for miniant action is so clear in the minds of the militant that they find it otiose to put it into words; but the dramatic sense of the author should surely have taught her that such knowledge should be expressed in a way that might carry, if not conviction, at least understanding, to an unconverted audience. But perhaps the fact of conversation also is assumed.

A. M. R.

# Suggestions for a Literature Campaign.

Propaganda work by means of literature is a valuable form of Suffrage work and should commend itself to those who for various reasons

commend itself to those who for various reasons cannot come forward as speakers or as officials. It should also appeal to those who have little money to spend, for 1,000 leaflets can be obtained for 2s. 6d., and the successful, effective distribution of 1,000 leaflets will occupy the most energetic worker for a considerable time and will accomplish a vast amount of good. Schemes for the distribution of literature should be based upon the fact that the people whom it is important to reach, and on whose account this form of propaganda is most valuable

whom it is important to reach, and on whose account this form of propaganda is most valuable are people who do not particularly want to read about the Suffrage question. There is a type of person who does call at the Suffrage shops for literature and stops the suffragist in the street with a request for information, but he may be trusted to look after himself, and the worker need not trouble about him. not trouble about him. The average person needs to be tactfully persuaded to read, and it is the duty of the propagandist to discover means

of persuasion.

A house-to-house visitation, or standing at a street corner giving leaflets to passers-by are obvious methods and are extremely valuable in country obvious methods and are extremely valuable in working-class districts, more especially in country place and in towns where there is no good Free Library. To leave leaflets at houses where three or four papers are delivered daily, or to press them into the hand of the merchant who has already provided himself with the *Times* for a five minutes journey, is a waste of time and money.

For street distribution leaflets with the coloured corners should be chosen and the worker should wear her badge prominently displayed and a sash in the colours such as stewards wear at meetings, is advisable. The shopping streets afford the best field and market-day will provide a large number of clients who can often be drawn into conversation and interested

Better than street distribution at busy times to busy people is to provide people with literature when they want to read and can get nothing. Let the worker visit the factories at the dinner hour especially factories where the hands live so four especially factories where the hands live so far away that they do not go home at dinner time. She will find her leaflets greedily demanded and thoroughly read and discussed. Matinée theatre-goers will generally be grateful for something to while away the time of standing, after dark when it is impossible to read out-of-doors the theatre queues are not so easer but doors, the theatre queues are not so eager, but leaflets presented shortly before the doors are open stand a good chance of being studied before the curtain goes up. Political and missionary meetings together with lectures of all kinds are better for this purpose than theatres. The leaflets selected should bear, if possible, on the subject of

the meeting. People are in a more serious mood at such meetings than at theatres and more ready to study the leaflets intelligently.

Every member of the National Union should see Every member of the National Union should see that the waiting-rooms of her local station are kept well supplied with literature. Members of a society might take it in turn to look after this, and each might make herself responsible for a small country station in the area of the society. How far advanced the cause of Women's Suffrage How far advanced the cause of Women's Surrage might be if all the people whom we see whiling away the hours of waiting by reading time tables or the regulations of the Girls Friendly Society, had good Suffrage arguments at hand to study instead! The COMMON CAUSE should find a place on the waiting room table—any news in it about the local society being marked in red ink. Leaflets left in railway services are usually thoroughly read, and if all being marked in red ink. Leaflets left in railway carriages are usually thoroughly read, and if all our members would take a few with them when they travel to be left in the carriage a large number of people would be reached. The same applies to all manner of conveyances—tramcars, steamers, taxis. There will always be some travellers who have nothing to read who will pick

There are other waiting rooms besides those in There are other waiting rooms besides those in stations. We pass many an hour in those of the dentist, the doctor, the dressmaker. With the exercise of a little tact the local society can generally persuade these people to let the COMMON CAUSE or literature lie on their tables. I know of one dressmaker who, in addition, sends a leaflet with every piece of work she turns out to her clients, another member supplying her with

Public Libraries, Institutes, Working Men's Clubs and similar institutions can generally be persuaded to allow literature to be placed on their tables. More especially is this the case in country towns and villages where the committees will generally accept anything gladly that is

Then there remain special classes of people to be reached. The enthusiastic literature secretary will scan the lists of new literature published in the COMMON CAUSE and when she sees a leaflet the COMMON CAUSE and when she sees a leaner or "Teachers" she will at once circulate it among the teachers of the town. Does she notice something about the legal disabilities of women? That must go at once to all the lawyers in her district. One on some question of the moment—e.g., "Broken Windows—and after," should be sent to the local press.

In conclusion it might be a good thing if literature secretaries met in the Council as the Press secretaries do, for the exchange of ideas and useful information. Any suggestions thus learned the secretary could pass on to her

E. J. D. Morrison.

# Letters to the Editor.

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 SIDS OF THE PAPER ONLY.

# VILLAGE MEETINGS.

WILLAGE MEETINGS.

May I, having just returned from North-West Norfolk, suggest to some of your members who, like myself up till now, have thought the only thing they could do for the Society was to help keep the rather deadalive branch they belong to going, the really splendid work there is to be done in the villages and little towns? If any two members, armed with a dinner bell, a couple of National Union flags, and a good supply of leaflets, would drop down in any place where there is no branch, end after spending the morning house-to-house visiting hold a meeting on the village green or at the town pump, I think they would be astonished at their own success.

It is not necessary to be a good speaker, the work should not wait till there are enough of them to go round. Any woman with a fairly good voice, and a fairly clear mind should be able to plead our cause.

I believe it is better to go where they are not known, because the villager will speak his mind to a stranger in a way he will not to the squire's lady, or any possible employer.

employer.

Of course sometimes splendid help is given from the bigger houses. In Heacham, waen I arrived at 1.30, I met a very strong advocate of suffrage, who most kindly hired me a hall, took my chair, had the whole town billed for me, and gathered me an audience of three or four hundred men by 8.30 for a meeting.

"THE ANTI-SUFFRAGE STALL AT SHAKE-SPEARE'S ENGLAND."

Seeing your few remarks in "Notes and Comments" on above in COMMON CAUSE, of May 23rd, it has occurred to me that the following may interest your readers. One day recently a friend of mine (Swiss went to the Earl's Court Exhibition. When going round the building she was approached by a "very nicelooking, pleasant lady," who asked if she would not sign a petition against woman suffrage. She hesitated a little and then said, "But I am a foreigner." The answer given was, "Oh, that is no consequence; all signatures are welcome," or something to that effect. The pleasant-spoken lady did not get the signature of the foreigner, but if she had she would no doubt have been counted as among the English women who do not want the vote.

Comment is needless.
May 24.

MEMORIAL TO W. T. STEAD.

MEMORIAL TO W. T. STEAD.

MISS WATKINS (Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Newton-leWillows W.S.S.) writes in reference to Mrs. Cobb's
article on the late W. T. Stead, that if it is desired to
commemorate his work by saving a poor girl, this might
be done by endowing a bed in one of the Church of
England Homes for Waifs and Strays, and she suggests
the Girls' Home at Wavertree. If anyone wishes to take
up the matter, she should write direct to Miss Watking
Liverpool Diocesan Branch of the Church of England
Homes for Waifs and Strays, Newton-le-Willows.

## THE GENTLE ART OF PETITIONING.

THE GENTLE ART OF PETITIONING.

I was staying lately with some friends, all strong Suffragists, and heard a story that is worth recording. My friend and hostess was in her laundry one day talking to her gardener's wife—who is the head-laundress; the conversation turned on Woman-Suffrage. A village woman who comes in to help was present; she listened attentively, and then said: "Well, now, Mrs. —" (mentioning a lady very active with anti-suffrage petitions) "called at mine the other day with a paper about this; I signed it 'cos she's a kind lady;—be she for or be she against?"

ENNIS RICHMOND.

ENNIS RICHMOND.

# DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE.

I would like to suggest that societies which embark on the task of distributing literature should be very careful how they set about it. I know that an idea exists that this sort of work is just the kind suitable for young and inexperienced workers—and that these youthful enthusiasts exist in large numbers and are thirsting to do work. My own experience is that though large numbers of such Suffragists abound, they are wise enough not to wish to be employed in such a way just because of their inexperience. Nothing daunts a believer or a would-be convert more than to be unable to answer or obtain a satisfactory answer to a question.

because of their inexperience. Nothing daunts a believer or a would-be convert more than to be unable to answer or obtain a satisfactory answer to a question. Countless Suffragists of both sexes are quite unable to give chapter and verse on innumerable important points connected with our cause, though they are none the less firm supporters of the movement for perhaps one or two reasons which do not embrace the rest.

To get the full value out of a leaflet it should be personally given into the hands of some immate of the house at which the distributor leaves it. Conversation (amiable on both sides, let us hope!) usually follows. Therefore I do most earnestly hope that local committees will not send any worker out, whether young or elderly, who is not able to give a sound answer to any question likely to be put to such a worker arising out of some statement made in the leaflet. Secretaries are terribly overburdened with work as it is, but to buy any quantity of leaflets and use up a considerable amount of worker's strength and time without making sure that it is work likely to warrant the said expenditure is indifferent, not to say bad policy. I would suggest that when volunteers have come forward that the secretary should invite them, either singly or en bloc, to meet her and discuss the subject matter of the leaflets to be distributed. Half-a-dozen distributors armed with knowledge as worth a dozen well-meaning but ignorant workers, whose ignorance about the very points touched on in the literature they are giving away brings discredit on the cause and disheartens the worker.

DOROTHY EDWARDS (Hon. Organiser, Surrey, Sussez, and Hunts Federation).

(Hon. Organiser, Surrey, Sussex, and Hants Federation).

fone imagines it would not be difficult for anyone who was distributing literature and who was stumped by a question to suggest that the questioner should come with her question to the next suffrage meeting, or, if this were impossible, to write her question to the local secretary or to headquarters. It seems a rather disconcerting check on education to suggest that no one may recommend the reading of a book or a pamphlet unless she is qualified to pass an examination in it.

# EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

As a member of the N.U.W.S.S., I feel sure there As a member of the N.U.W.S.S., I feet sure their must be a convincing answer to the following question, which has been asked me more than once, and to which I have found it very difficult to give a satisfactory reply. If, ultimately, women domestic servants are to be paid the same as men domestic servants, won't it mean that widdle class months will be deprived of middle-class people will of necessity be deprived of help, not being able to pay a maid as much as a man-servant now receives, and, as a consequence, great

numbers of women domestic servants will be thrown out of work?

May 26th, 1912.

5, Carlton Terrace, Low Fell.
[As a member of the N.U.W.S.S., our correspondent would be quite at liberty to hold any doctrine she pleased about "equal wage for jequal work." It is a complicated economic question upon which Suffragists hold divergent views. Many people believe that the only equitable method of payment is according to work done, not according to sex, but few would advocate arriving at this result by any means lother than by raising the status of women and by collective bargaining. In a matter like this of domestic servants, it is curious, but true that in luxurious houses it is precisely the relative expensiveness of the man which secures him employment in preference to a woman; in less luxurious houses, we find that the men and the women are not really doing the "same work"; men either do different work (such as gardeners and coachmen) or by reason of their greater strength and more suitable clothes they do more and heavier work, or they are engaged because there are great advantages in employing a married do more and heavier work, or they are engaged because there are great advantages in employing a married couple, or because the protection of a man in the house is desired. It would, we think, be foolishness for a parlourmaid to compare herself with a footman, because those who like to pay for silk stockings and powdered hair like to pay for them and like it to be known they pay for them. Even here it is not "the same work."—
ED. "C. C."]

LEGISLATION FOR THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

[Will you allow me to remonstrate against the tone of your leader-note concerning the proposed legislation for the care of the feeble-minded? It could only have been written by one who knows nothing about the question from experience. From personal knowledge of thousands of cases and intimate acquaintance from week to week and year to year with hundreds, I have learned that great mistakes have been made in the past about the treatment of women and men of weak intellect. Everything has been done to help the women and nothing to help the men. Yet there are many more feeble-minded men than women. The new Act (Mr. McKema's) makes provision for both sexes equally, nor is there any likelihood that the law will be unfairly administered, if one may judge from the much greater number of applications for places for boys and men than for women and girls. Again, you speak of sex-mad men. It is not without grave significance that of the adults under our care at Sandlebridge, 43 men and 44 women, not one of the men betrays any difficult tendencies at all with regard to sex, whilst of the young women there are a considerable number who have to be most carefully watched in that respect. We have very many more boys than girls, and of these younger ones there are several girls who would be most dangerous to themselves and any boys they came across; there are no boys similarly afflicted. No one knows better than I the danger that feeble-minded men are when at large—nor the sad suffering through which they go. But it has been a great enlightemment to me to find that they can below easily guided when under proper care—far more easily than the girls and women in the one respect of which you speak.

With regard to the general principles of the Bill—the

of which you speak.

With regard to the general principles of the Bill—the segregation and protection of the mentally weak—it is a matter of real concern to me that you should suggest that nothing should be done until women have the vote. that nothing should be done until women have the vote. I think it unworthy of women to try to persuade people that so useful and humane a measure can be made a weapon for sex war. It seems to me a grievous thing that a paper like The Common Cause should lend itself as a tool to those who would rather let any suffering and evil exist than have it remedied by methods other than their own

The feeble-minded are a source of distress and misery that has not yet been measured. Gradual and careful restraint, such as is now advocated, can only result in great amelioration of the suffering of individuals and much lessening of evil in the future.

MARY DENDY.
Incorporated Lancashire and Cheshire Society for the
Permanent Care of the Feeble-Minded.

As a regular reader of THE COMMON CAUSE, I much regret the paragraph headed "Dangerous Powers" in this week's number on the proposed legislation for the

I feel it must have been written by someone who has

I feel it must have been written by someone who has not had practical experience in dealing with the mentally defective, or the writer would not have spoken of the Bills [as legislation which might be used "against women." I believe that all women who have served as Poor Law Guardians, as School Managers where there are special classes for the feeble-minded, or on Committees of Rescue Homes, are agreed as to the urgent need for legislation giving powers of detention, not only for the sake of tuture generations, but for the sake of those poor feeble-minded men and women themselves.

Certainly as regards the future the segregation of the feeble-minded potential father is as important as that of the mother, as both equally hand on their defects to their offspring. But as regards themselves the fate of the feeble-minded girl is the more tragic, and entails perpetual suffering and degradation for herself and her children. Utterly incapable of supporting herself by honest work or of earning a living wage, owing to no fault of her own, but to an innate brain defect, she drifts from one casual employment to another. She usually spends, the winter in the workhouse, and goes out per haps in summer only to return to the Matemity Ward or to serve a short sentence in prison. Some of her numerous children do not inherit her mental deficiency,

yet what chance in life can they have? The is utterly incapable of supporting or training them, providing a roof over their heads, or often even of washing and dressing them. The proposed legislation instead of being used "against women," will enable these poor creatures to be kept innocent and happy in homes and farm colonies doing the simple work of which they are capable, and shielded from harm. May I beg all who doubt this to visit Miss Dendy's Colony at Sandlebridge near Manchester, or the Princess Christian's Farm Colony, at Hildenborough, Kent, which is under the National Association for the Feeble-minded.

Both these provide for men as well as women, yet the good work done by those admirable Homes is seriously handicapped by the lack of legal powers of detention, for unscrupulous relations may tempt a girl away, fatal though this will probably prove to her, and the number provided for in these Homes is quite inadequate owing to lack of funds, but if the Government Bill is passed allotting a grant of public money to this work, one may hope for a large increase of Homes and Colonies.

As to the "sex-mad men" alluded to in the article, many of these will no doubt be certified under the Government Bill as morally deficient, and so for the first time it will be possible to detain them permanently where they can do no harm.

It is the present state of the law, allowing this misery to go on, which is cruel, not the two Bills now before Parliament which provide a better alternative than prison and the workhouse, namely, confort and safety, with safeguards against the otherwise inevitable increase in the numbers of the mentally deficient.

The delay in carrying out the Recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Feeble-minded has already been too long,—possibly if women had had the vote it would have been pressed on sooner. As it is, it is largely owing to the strenuous efforts of a small number of women interested in the question that these Bills are now before Parliament—among them are Miss Dendy and Mrs. P

Angela M. James.

(Hon. Mrs. Bernard James).

Fingest Grove, High Wycombe.
June 2nd, 1912.

[These two letters are referred to in "Notes and Comments."—ED. "C.C."]

# Other Societies.

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND WOMEN VOTERS'
ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting, held on May 29th, the following resolution was passed unanimously, and sent to Mr. Asquith and Mr. McKenna:—"That this meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Women Voters' Association (London) desires to record its protest against the sentence recently passed on certain of the suffrage leaders, and urges that in the interests of the Empire, political offenders shall not be treated as criminals."

Harriet C. Newcomb, Hon. Sec.

ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

The next "At Home" will be held in the Grand Hall of the Oriterion Restaurant on Friday, June 7th, at 3 p.m., when the speakers will be Lady Selborne, Professor Bickerton and Miss Horiman. Mrs. Saba Raleigh will take the Chair and the Hostess will be Mrs. J. B. Fagan.

Professor Bickerton and Miss Horiman. Mrs. Saba Raleigh will take the Chair and the Hostess will be Mrs. J. B. Fagan.

CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION.

A very enjoyable and successful dinner was held on Tuesday, May 21st, at the Princes Hall, Hotel Cecil, at which there was a large and distinguished gathering. The guests, who numbered over 140, were received on entering the hall by the Countess of Selborne (president of the Association) and afterwards proceeded to their different tables, which were decorated in blue and white—the colours of the association. Amongst those present were Catherine, Lady Decies, Lady Emily Wyndham Quin, the Hon. Bobert Palmer, the Hon. Robert and Lady Hilda Strutt, the Hon. Mrs. John Bailey, Sir Edward and Lady Busk, Sir Colin and Lady Scott-Monerieff, the Hon. Mrs. Paley, the Master of the Temple and Mrs. Woods, Mr. Ronald Monseill, M.P., and Mrs. Ronald Monseill, the Archéaceon of Ely and Miss Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. John Buchan, Mrs. Arthur Fakenham, Mr. Agg-Gardner, M.P., Mr. Amery, M.P., Mrs. H. Percy Boulnois (chairman of the Executive Committee), Mrs. Gilbert Samuel (hon. secretary), and Mrs. Rabian Ware (hon. treasurer). Others who wrote expressing their sympathy and regret at not being able to attend were:—Winifred, Countess of Arran, the Countess of Ancaster, Visconntess Castlereagh, Viscountess Wolmer, Viscountess Castlereagh, Viscountess Wolmer, Viscountess Castlereagh, Derby Balfour, the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton and many others. The health of His Majesty the King having been drunk, Mr. John Buchan (Unionist candidate for Peebles and Selkirk) rose to propose the health of the "Association" in a brilliant and humorous speech, dwelling much on the moral strength of women's conservatism, which would have a beneficial influence on the Unionist party. Lady Selborne, who responded, said that they all felt that this particular suffrage association appealed very much to the ordinary woman who would become the average voter.

# "Thinking Women

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

JUNE 19.

Birmingham—Town Hall—White Slave Traffic—Mrs.
Cecil Chapman, J. Cameron Grant,
Esq., Mrs. George Cadbury (chair)
Oxford—The Principal's Garden, Jesus College—
Committee "At Home"
Cuckfield—annual meeting—if fine, in grounds of
Hatchlands, if wet in Queen's Hall—
The Lady Frances Balfour, Rev. E.
Cresswell Gee (chair)

LONDON.

JUNE 6.
ambeth—Somerset Temperance Hotel, York Road
—Miss Lamb's "At Home"—Miss
Walshe
Walshe
Molesey—The Fountain—open-air meeting—Mrs.
Rackham, Mr. Kennedy

8.30

(chair)
(chair)
Esher and E. Molesey—The Green, Claygate—openair meeting—Miss Corbett, M.A. 8.30

SCOTLAND.

JUNE 7.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—public meeting
Banchory—Town Hall—Miss L. I. Lumsden, LL.D.,
Miss Alice Crompton, M.A.

4.30

JUNE 14.
Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—public meeting—
"Women on Public Boards"—Mrs.
Leslie Mackenzie (Edinburgh School
Board)
4.30

JUNE 15.
Bo'ness—Blackness House—Miss Watson's Garden
Party—Miss Alice Low afternoon

JUNE 6, 1912.

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# Forthcoming Meetings.

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JUNE 6.
Leamington—Birch's Music Rooms, Parade—Warwick and Leamington Franchise Club
Whitby—Crown Hotel—Invitation meeting—Miss
Helen Fraser
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Office, 27, Ridley Place—Miss
M. Weddell's and Miss M. Catnach's meeting for teachers—Miss Abadam
Miss Moberley (chair)
Camberley—Portesberry Hill—"The present policy of the N.U.W.S.S."—Mrs. Robie
Uniacke
Crick—Rectory Club Room—Mrs. Ring, Rev. W. C.
Roberts
Millom—Co-operative Hall—Miss M. Norma-Smith,
Mrs. Aldersley, Mr. Marshall (chair) evening
JUNE 7.

JUNE 7.

Weston-super-Mare—Miss Pady's drawing-room meeting—Mrs. Clothier (Street)
Grantham—Westgate Hall—Miss I. O. Ford, J. Malcolm Mitchell, Esq. Christopher Turner, Esq. (chair)
Birmingham—10, Easy Row—Franchise Club
Newcastle-on-Tyne—4, Osborne Terrace—Mrs. Louis' drawing-room meeting—Miss Abadam
Miss Buchanon (chair
Lytham—County Hotel—Miss C. Leadley Brown, Miss Eskrigge, Councillor Cockshutt (chair)

S, ter-Mrs. Hiller's Garden Party and Sale of Work-Conncillor Margaret Ashton, Miss A. Maude Royden, Councillor Jane Redford (chair) Tickets 1s. 3-6

JUNE 10.
Croydon—The Arcade, High Street—"Women's disabilities under the law "—Miss Amy Miller

Manchester—Withington Hall (by kind permission of Mr. Paul Schill)—Garden Party and Sale of Work—Miss Margaret Ashton, Miss A. Maude Royden
Salford—Oldfield Hall—Working men and women's Suffrage Association—Mrs. Bayfield
Chester-le-Street—Church Institute—Annual meeting—Miss I. S. A. Beaver
Birmingham—Mrs. Priestman's Jumble Sale—Address by Mrs. Ring

3.30

JUNE 11.

Weston-super-Mare — Open-air meeting — Miss Robertson, B.A. 7.30
Oxford—Cowley Road—Open-air meeting 7.30
Huddersfield — Newhouse Hall — Mrs. Fletcher's meeting—Miss Siddon (chair) Afternoon Newcastle-on-Tyne—Mrs. A. Emley's and Mrs. Newcombe's drawing-room cafe—Miss Abadam (Miss Mein (chair))
Clevedon—Mrs. Henry's Garden Meeting—Miss Helen Faser, Mr. W. C. H. Cross, LL.B. (chair)
Blackburn—Co-operative Hall—For members of Societies in Manchester and District Federation—"The election policy of the N.U.W.S.S.—Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A. 8.0

JUNE 12.
Street—Overleigh (by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Clark)—Garden fête and Sale of Work
Oxford—Principal's Garden, Jesus College—The Committee "At Home"
Crowthorne—Mrs. Reid's Garden meeting—Miss A. Maude Royden, Mrs. Robie Uniacke (chair) (chair)

Bracknell—The Temperance Hall—Miss A. Maude
Royden, Mrs. Robie Uniacke (chair)

Bristol Society—Westbury-on-Trym—open-air meeting—Miss M. Robertson, Professor Skemp (chair)
Seaton Delavel—Miner's Hall—Miss Abadam 7.30
Clevedon—open-air meeting—Miss Helen Fraser 8.0
Leeds—9, Park Lane—West Riding Federation
Bazaar—Café chantant 3—9.30
Lancaster—Carus Lodge, Halton (by kind permission of Mrs. Davis)—Garden Party
—Miss Norma-Smith afternoon

JUNE 13, anchester—The Lecture Room, Albert Hall—members' meeting—"The election policy of the N.U.W.S.S.—Miss M. Ashton 7.30

Kidderminster—Kingsley Hall—West Midland
Federation annual meeting—Lady
Frances Balfour
Gosforth—Northmoor Lodge—Miss Goode-Davies'
Garden meeting—Miss Abadam 3.30
Leeds—9, Park Lane-West Riding Federation
Bazaar—Café Chantant
Guildford—Judge's Room, Borough Halls—Mrs.
(Chair)
(Chair) Ristol—Queen's Hall, Clifton—Miss M. Robertson,
Mrs. Randall Vickers (chair)
Maidenhead—Miss Duncan's garden meeting—Miss
A. Maude Royden, Mrs. Robie
Uniacke (chair)
3.0

JUNE 14. Solihull-Mrs. Edwin Reynolds' "At Home"-Solihull—Mrs. Edwin Reynolds' "At Home"—
"Woman and her responsibility to
the State"—Miss M. Martineau, Rev.
3.30
Lichfield—St. James' Hall—The Lady Frances
Balfour, Mrs. Cooper (Nelson)
8.0
Morpeth—Mrs. Renwick's drawing-room meeting—
Miss Abadam, Mrs. Ormsby (chair)
Arundel—Town Hall—Sir Harry Johnston, K.O.B.,
Miss C. Corbett, B.A., The Lady
Maud Parry (chair)
Wolverhampton—St. Peter's
Institute—Annual
meeting—The Lady Frances Balfour
3.30 JUNE 15.

Birmingham—Tyburn—Mrs. Watson's open-air meeting—Mrs. Ring
Chelmsford—Great Baddow—Mrs. Aylmer Maude's
"At Home"—Miss Murphy

JUNE 17.
Wallasey and Wirral-New Brighton-members only-Miss Margaret Ashton, M.A. 8.0



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MEETINGS ADDRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE UNION.

JUNE 18. Idham—Music Room, Werneth Park (by kind per-mission of Mrs. Lees)—"At Home" to meet members of Manchester and District Federation, tea4—6.30, public UNE 10. reastle-on-Tyne—Lovaine Hall—Newcastle and Gateshead National Vigilance Associa-tion—Miss Abadam District Federation, teas—0.39, public meeting Oxford—Summertown Tram Terminus—open-air meeting Cambridge—20, Green Street—"At Home"—"Suffrage in its relation to the home"—Mrs. Stevenson, P.L.G., Miss Fanny Johnson 7.30 JUNE 13.
Blackburn — Market Ground — I.L.P.—"Women's Suffrage and the labour movement"—Mrs. Chew

JUNE 18.
Birmingham—Foundry Road Adult School—Mrs.
Ring 8.0

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## SUFFRAGE NOTICES.

JUNE 7.

\*Hampstead—Studio, Oaktree House (by permission of Mr. Henry Holiday)—Paper by Mrs. Humphrey Ward to be read—Reply: Miss Frances Sterling
Fulham—Bishop Creighton House, 376, Lillie Road—drawing-room meeting—Mrs. Robie Uniacke, Mrs. Temple (chair) EXCELLENT ROOM for Meetings, etc. Inexpensive, cool. Seats over 100. Apply, Strand Lecture Room, 15, Adam Street, Strand. Gerrard 5202.

LOST, A DONATION.—Mr. and Mrs. Osler gave a donation to Surrey Sussex Hants Federation, and announced it on a slip put into the Albert Hall collection. Would they kindly communicate with Miss O'Shea, Cosham Hants. The donation has not been received.

√ ANTED, Organising Secretary for Country Suffrage Society. Must bicycle. Apply, M.D., "Common Cause" Office.

## EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL.

Uniacke, Mrs. Temple (chair)

JUNE 10.
Esher and East Molesey—Littleworth, Esher—Annual meeting—White Elephant Sale—Speaker, Miss Corbett, M.A., Mrs. C. W. Earle (chair)
East Dulwich—Willoughby Hall, West Norwood—Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. G. F. Abbott
Rotherhithe—Town Hall—Public Demonstration—Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Miss Helen Fraser, Dr. Scott Lidgett
Tottenham—Bunhill Women's Meeting, Memorial Buildings, Roscoe Street, E.C.—Miss Mr. C. Strachey
Esher and E. Molesey—The Green, Esher—open-air meeting—Miss Corbett, M.A.
N. Kensington—corner of Portobello Road and Elenheim Crescent—open-air meeting—Miss Cockle Malcolm Mitchell, Esq.

JUNE 11. A DVERTISING EXPERT and PRESS AGENT. Advertisements artistically designed for all purposes. Frances L. Fuller, Advertisement Office, 20, Brook Street, Bond Street, W. JUNE 11.

Kensington—Empress Rooms, Royal Palace Hotel
—London Society's Reception—Lady
Frances Balfour, The Countess of
Selborne, Mrs. Stanbury, Miss Frances
Sterling, Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves
3.30

CONDUCTED TOURS. June 18th, Rhone Valley; Luceme (and) Interlaken; Normandy (and) Touraine Chateaux. July 25th, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Russia, 3 weeks, 25 guineas; particulars; stamp, Women's International League, 199, Victoria Street, London.

South Kensington—Garden Meeting—Hostess, Miss Holland, 1a, Holland Park—Mrs. Swanwick, MA. Mrs. Charles Hanocek (chair)

Hackney, N.—Garden Meeting, Hostess Mrs. Eve, 195, Albion Road—Miss Frances Sterling, Mrs. Gimingham, M.A. (chair)

N. Kensington—Archer Street Fountain—open.air meeting—Mrs. Rackham, Mr. Kennedy Blackheath—corner of Stockwell Street and London Street—open-air meeting—Mrs. Stanbury, Miss J. Thomson, M.A.

Esher and E. Molesey—The Fountain, E. Molesey—open-air meeting—Miss Corbett, M.A.

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JUNE 13.
Y.M.C.A. Rooms, 17, Camden Road, N.—North
London "At Home"—Mrs. Auerbach,
Miss K. D. Courtney, Hon. Mrs.
Spencer Graves (chair)
Camberwell—All Saints' Parochial Hall—Debate—
Miss Emily Hill, P.L.G.
8.30 P. N.E U. SCHOOL, Burgess Hill, Sussex (near Brighton and South Downs). Principals: Miss B. U. Goode and Miss K. U. Glendinnen (1st class certificates, House of Education). Resident pupils received. Prospectus on application. JUNE 18.
Norwood—Suffrage Offices—"Nature's Salic Law"
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# EMPLOYMENT.

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SPEAKERS: Dr. LETITIA FAIRFIELD, Rev. F. M. GREEN, Rev. G. D. ROSENTHAL, Rev. C. HINSCLIFF.

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