

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. I.—No. 17.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

## NOTICE.

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

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

## EDITORIAL.

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

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## WHAT WE THINK.

### Mr. Asquith's Choice.

Mr. Asquith has made the first of the many decisions called for by the present crisis—he has decided to hold office. This means much, for a man of his type does not undertake a post of such difficulty as that of Prime Minister at the present time unless he believes that he can make it a profitable investment for the future. Mr. Asquith has decided to make a bid for wider support by compromise. This is a good sign so far as it goes. It indicates a change from the unbending personal stubbornness of the last Administration. But it remains yet to be seen in what direction compromise will lead the Prime Minister. Unless Women's Suffrage is included in the scope of his yielding it cannot satisfy us.

### The Political Choir.

Any man of average will power can control a party with a big majority, but it will take a statesman to make progress with the new materials. The discordant elements in the expectant governmental choir are already quite noticeable. While the unmusical, practical person regards the prevalent discord as the necessary accompaniment of "tuning up," the preliminary scrapings and tootings already presage unspeakable things to the sensitive ear. Matters are not improved by the knowledge that the principal performers have not yet decided upon their company. The final choice cannot be made until the King's Speech is made, and whatever it is, there is not much hope of much Liberal-Irish-Labour harmony.

### The Meaning of the Mandate.

Remembering the hunger and thirst after a mandate displayed during the last Parliament by the party of the greatest majority of modern times, there is much matter for amusement in the present Liberal position. Having a mandate then to do anything Liberal up to the full strength of their majority, they declared themselves absolutely unable to give Votes to Women; having a mandate now to do nothing at all, they are going to make a new heaven and a new earth—if the Liberal daily Press has its way. Evidently the meaning of a mandate is but slowly becoming clear to us, or to them. It is to be hoped that the new interpretation, which is strong where ours was mild, will be sufficiently strong to include

the doing of tardy justice to the women of the country. There has long been mandate enough for this.

### The Way of Wisdom.

In spite of the Labour and Irish declarations in favour of a drastic programme, the silence of the Ministry makes it still possible that the mandateless Government will not attempt too much. To the non-partisan the counsel of perfection seems to lie in settling the financial difficulty by a compromise Budget and then carrying by arrangement with other parties a new franchise measure, necessarily including Women's Suffrage. We have said this before; we repeat it now. A Government without a mandate to do anything can only hope to legislate by agreement, and a Franchise Bill agreed on by the House (which could not be very drastic or extensive) is in the clear line of legitimate progress. All parties are clamouring for electoral reform. It is urgently needed, as our agitation has sufficiently proved, and a satisfactory Bill could be carried through by mutual arrangement as the prelude to another General Election. This is the way of wisdom; but will wise counsels prevail?

### A Multitude of Conferences.

Following upon the heels of our own Conference, there have been many similar gatherings. The Irish Nationalists have met in Dublin and the Labour Party in Newport, but the most interesting gathering, from the woman's point of view, has been that of the Women's Labour League. We noted first that almost every resolution considered by the Conference made a demand for legislation, often sweeping and far-reaching legislation; and second that the necessary preliminary of the immediate enfranchisement did not receive the prominence it deserved. The Labour women appear to be still quite contented to talk at great length about details of work for the doing of which they have not yet got the tool. Perhaps the brightest promise of the Conference, because an earnest of sincerity, was its refusal to affiliate to the People's Suffrage Federation, the latest engine for the postponement of women's enfranchisement.

### The Boycott.

We have often felt tempted to ask the reason why when we have been met by fresh evidence of the boycott which has been engineered against the Women's Freedom League, but the repeated decision of our Annual Conferences, which commits us to refrain from public criticism of other suffrage societies, has intervened. But this counsel of perfection, carefully as it has been observed, may have to be temporarily abandoned while we state a few plain facts to our readers. The last flagrant example of the deliberate boycott is to be seen in the new issue of the "Englishwoman's Year Book," where all mention of the League as a militant body is suppressed, and its deeds during the last year are either omitted altogether or placed to the credit of other societies. We ask every member who usually takes the "Year Book" to write to the editor and enter a protest against the exclusion of the League in this unfair manner. The best form for such a protest to take would be abstention from the purchase of the "Year Book" on the ground of its inaccuracy. It would be interesting to know who compiled the Suffrage information for this issue.

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## AT CAXTON HALL.

### ARREST AND IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF PRISONERS.

The most exciting "At Home" of the season took place at Caxton Hall last Thursday. It seemed like one of Fate's ironies that on that very afternoon a magistrate—Mr. Cecil Chapman—should come and fearlessly speak from the platform of a militant society and explain, as only a practical lawyer could, whose duty lay in giving effect to man-made law, the peculiar cruelty of such law when women, and particularly women of the poorer classes, come in contact with it. With wisdom, with pity, with humanity, and with rare justice he reasoned and summed up in a strong indictment of the present legal system. It was one of the finest and most stirring arguments that have been recently made in favour of the franchise, and was all the more convincing from the fact that practical illustrations were drawn from cases occurring in his own court. He had not long left the hall when word passed round that Inspector Jarvis was present bearing warrants issued by Mr. Curtis Bennett at Bow Street for the arrest of those suffragists whose appeal had been recently heard before the Lord Chief Justice. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Cobden Sanderson were both on the platform at the time.

#### Mrs. Despard's Comments.

Mrs. Despard, speaking under strong emotion and with great indignation, said that the fines of three of those who had been concerned in the picketing of Downing Street—Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mrs. Hicks, and herself—had been paid, and paid without their knowledge and without their consent. No personal friend would have dared to do this, knowing her strong feeling on the subject of fines. It was a significant fact that the fines of all three had been paid on the same day, and before it was generally known that warrants were about to be issued. They could draw their own conclusions as to who paid the fines, whilst also bearing in mind the fact that it would not have suited the Government at the present moment to have certain members of the League in prison. They had no animosity against the inspectors who were then in the hall about to make the arrests; the police always did their disagreeable duty as courteously and with as much consideration as was humanly possible.

#### Mrs. Cobden Sanderson.

Speaking also under strong emotion Mrs. Cobden Sanderson protested against her fine having been paid. It was no friend's intervention; it was done by an enemy and for a political purpose. When she had been arrested and condemned to two months' imprisonment previously, she was released from prison after one month because the Labour Party in Huddersfield had placarded the town during an election, to the effect that the daughter of Richard Cobden, who had given Free Trade to England, was imprisoned by a Liberal Government. She protested against the motives which led to the setting free of those women whose imprisonment might weaken the Government's power and the punishment of those whose names were not as well known.

#### The Arrests.

In the midst of tense excitement, those in the hall waited for the moment of arrest. It became known that Inspector Jarvis had only three warrants, for Mrs. Hyde, Miss Boileau, and Miss Bunten, and that two more fines had been paid, to the great indignation of the victims. As Miss Bunten was in Scotland, Mr. Jarvis, who was in plain clothes, having questioned the two women as to the possibility of inducing them to pay their fines, arrested them and brought them in a cab to Holloway. This happened about 5.30, and they drove off amidst cheers and cries of encouragement from the large audience which had assembled.

#### The Great Farce.

Before 8 o'clock both ladies were free. On their arrival the usual proceedings were gone through, and Mrs. Hyde and Miss Boileau were put in the reception cells. After being detained for an hour and a half, they were set free. No reason was given for the ridiculous procedure of the afternoon, but it was suggested that the King's pardon could only be exercised after the arrest of the "criminal." For the reason that the pardon was brought into operation, we must look in the political leaders of our dailies, in the flatulence of the Liberal boastings, and in the new courage of the Tory party cries; and more than all, in the fact that both parties agree that another General Election is threatening.

#### Mr. Cecil Chapman's Speech.

Mrs. Borrmann-Wells was in the chair at the afternoon meeting, and introduced the speakers of the afternoon in very pleasant fashion. The Rev. Dr. Cobb was the first speaker. With the prophetic eye of the Church of England, he said that he made bold to declare that they would not have long to wait for the suffrage! When they had obtained the vote, he urged them to do their best to elevate civic life, to endeavour to eliminate party from politics, and to insist that whatever bills were for the good of the country must be got through without considering which party had introduced them. Mr. Cecil Chapman then gave an address on the law in reference to women. He had been attracted, he said, by the title of their society. Freedom was necessary for every individual in the state, and no state could be really free whilst one half the population was denied the freedom necessary for its development. Proceeding, he observed that it was a well-known fact that men were five times as criminal as women. Perhaps that was why they had the vote. Magistrates were constantly reminded that all crime was due to the personal, social, and moral surroundings of the individual charged before them. There was a tendency to exaggerate this point, particularly on the part of the criminal. But once it had been accepted by the community that personal, social, and moral surroundings really were the cause of crime, then it was foolish of the community not to get the opinion of half the population on the subject. His own opinion was that the character of a home for the most part depended on the character of the woman who looked after it. There was, he had heard, a strange species of the human race called "Antis," who said they did not want a vote. He did not care whether they desired it or not as long as the State required that they should have it. Men, when legislating for women, were always bungling in legislation that affected the home. Some people said that the more a country was civilised, the more its legislation controlled the lives of the citizens. For his part he thought the less legislation there was the better.

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#### Legislation Affecting Women.

A large number of crimes had been created through the bungling of men. Under the Fires Prevention Act, if Mrs. Jones's chimney caught fire while she was out doing a bit of marketing, she was a criminal. This would be all right if the same applied to, say, the Duchess of Westminster. Again, a poor woman may not have her baby in the same bed with her. All these acts dealing with the lives of the citizens dealt with the lives of the poor only, and, regulating as they did the liberty of women, were an impertinence from any point of view.

How many stupid errors arose from the legal assumption that on marriage a woman's individuality became merged in that of her husband, and that she became as "unanimous" with him as Jonah was with the whale! The folly of this he argued from one instance amongst many. A certain man was being sued for debt. The only good piece of furniture he possessed was a piano, and the bailiff's man who was put in possession was ordered to concentrate his attention on the piano. On his arrival the tenant withdrew to a neighbouring public-house. Hardly had he gone, when, to the astonishment of the man in possession, the tenant's wife threw up the window and yelled for the police. On the appearance of a constable, in spite of the protestations of the bailiff's man, she charged him with assault, and the whole party had to go to the station, which happened to be some distance off. Meantime, one "Bill," whose other name never transpired, and who was a friend of the tenant, happened to be passing with a van which exactly fitted the piano, and which he consequently removed. The charge brought by the wife was dismissed as trivial at the station, but on their return there was no piano. The tenant denied all knowledge of "Bill's" whereabouts, but the coincidence of his providential passing was too much for the debtor, and he brought an action against the husband and wife for conspiracy. But inasmuch as in the eyes of the law the wife is the man, and a man cannot conspire with himself, they escaped scot free.

In cases of bigamy the second "wife" cannot give evidence until she has satisfactorily proved that she is not the man's wife, while the first wife cannot give evidence for the reason that she is! This assumption of lost individuality is, said Mr. Chapman, ridiculous nonsense. The man's wife according to the law is "himself." The man does assume it and knocks "himself" about, deprives "himself" of his wages, and indulges in many forms of "self" denial. This is all wrong, and leads to the utmost misery and unhappiness in the home. One half the crimes of violence was due to the wrong attitude of man towards woman, and more particularly towards his wife. Some writers on legal matters had described women as the "spoil darlings of the law!" He had not found that this was so in the law he administered, and he ventured to declare that where there was any distinction in dealing with men and women, whether it favoured the woman or was against her, it was wrong.

Speaking of the law as regards women of the "unfortunate" class, Mr. Chapman said that he looked forward to the day when the treatment of men and women would be similar, and the common fault should be expiated equally. Of the present condition of the Bastardy Laws he could not speak too strongly. A young woman had taken out a summons in his court against a soldier stationed at Aldershot; as was usual, it was sent to the colonel of the regiment to be served on the man. Presently it was returned with the intimation that under the Army Act of 1888, which was annually passed, as the regiment was ordered abroad there could be no proceedings in bastardy. This meant that any private who undertook

foreign service for our great country had, as his reward, the privilege of ruining any girl he could without fear of consequences. In the case in question, influence was brought to bear at headquarters, and the man was transferred to the home battalion. All the blows for the evils of the streets fall on the woman, the weaker of the two partners in guilt. The punishment should fit the criminal, he thought, and not the crime, and it was impossible that this could ever be done until women had a voice in legislation affecting their sex—until they had the vote.

#### NINETY MINUTES IN HOLLOWAY.

I had often wondered what I should feel when my time came (as come it does to every militant Suffragette) to hear the sound of the closing prison gates. As they clanged behind me on Thursday last I felt no shrinking of heart, for I knew my detention would be short. Even the jingling of the wardress's keys as she closed the cell door failed to move me. When I had examined my strange surroundings I sat down to think, and through my mind passed the memory of those brave women who had willingly spent weeks in solitude and gloom to win freedom, and I thought of all the suffering and sinful women those walls had seen. Then my thoughts flew back to the hall I had just left and the noble words so recently spoken there, and I remembered the men who had stood round as we were arrested, waiting for a word to strike a blow in our defence. Waiting for the sound of footsteps I thought of our hopes and ideals. Then I heard again the sound of the keys and the grim wardress stood before me saying, "Follow me." And back through those dreary passages we went till I stood once more before the Deputy-Governor, and he informed me the sentence being of such long standing, the Home Secretary had decided to release me. I made due acknowledgment of the Home Secretary's graciousness, and found myself once again in the dripping evening streets. The ninety minutes' farce was over, and I was free! M. CLARENDON HYDE.

#### HOW TO HELP.

Under this heading from time to time brief articles dealing with good ideas for assisting the work of the League or increasing the sale of THE VOTE will appear.

We want more street-sellers for pitches and theatres. Remember special effort week begins February 21st. Anyone with some hours to spare should apply to Mrs. Snow, THE VOTE, 148, Holborn Bars, E.C.

#### Our Competitions.

As the advertising is the mainstay of the paper, we have decided to encourage the keeping of receipts on the part of our readers by offering monthly prizes for the largest number sent in.

(1) The first prize for the largest number of receipts will be 10s., or two fully paid-up shares in the Minerva Publishing Co.

(2) The second, for the largest total amount spent, will be 6s. 6d., or a year's subscription to THE VOTE, post free.

Entries for the first competition must be sent in before Saturday, March 5th. The results will be announced in the issue dated March 12th.

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## CONCERNING MURIEL MATTERS.

By MARION HOLMES.

It was in the very earliest days of the Women's Freedom League that Muriel Matters cast in her lot with us. She made her first speech at one of the "At Homes" held then in the offices in Buckingham Street, and I remember how eagerly we discussed her afterwards. Who was she? She had told us in her speech that she was an Australian, but for the rest we knew nothing. Then, in the usual cold-blooded fashion of N.E.C. members we debated how we could best use her gifts—her enthusiasm, her eloquence, her wonderful, magical voice—for the cause. Some months later that voice rang out with startling effect from behind the "grille," in the first speech given by a woman in the House of Commons. It was that adventure that made her name known throughout the country, and it was that that proved to us we had found a recruit of rare courage and initiative, one who could be trusted never to falter, never to turn back, whatever the issue.

Miss Matters had just returned from conducting a campaign in Wales when I saw her the other day. Day by day we had read of huge crowds standing for hours in snow and slush caught by her spell, of whole townships that had been converted by her logic to Votes for Women. Later we were told how party feeling was running high, and finally how the house where the Suffragettes were staying had been surrounded by an infuriated Liberal mob at midnight. How they had tried to batter down the door, how the police had had to disperse them with drawn truncheons.

But Muriel Matters bears no malice.

"The Welsh are a wonderful people," she said, enthusiastically. "I want to tell you about them."

"But I want you to tell me about yourself," I interrupted. "Have you always been a reformer; have you always yearned to break down symbolic 'grilles'? I remember hearing you say once that you 'remembered your youth very well!' and I find no difficulty in believing that statement, so tell me about it please."

"Well, yes, I did dream, even in my really young youth, of reforming many things, but art was to be my magic weapon—the power of beauty—beauty of thought beautifully expressed. I read Ibsen's 'Doll's House' when I was fourteen, and I shall never forget my joy in finding that the sentiments I had always vaguely but keenly felt had been put into words, forcible, majestic, dignified. Then I took up the study of Browning and Whitman, and I felt sure that all I had to do was to take all their beautiful, inspiring messages, and everyone would be straightway uplifted and reformed. So I determined to be an elocutionist, and I started studying

at once, and by the time I was seventeen I was lecturing on literature and the poets at the High School, Adelaide—the town where I was born, by the way. A year or two after I went to Sydney and gave a recital there. I was then approached by a firm of theatrical managers and offered a part in 'The Sign of the Cross.' That was the beginning of my theatrical career. I toured through Australia and New Zealand with Robert Brough's company for a couple of years, but I found the condition of stage life for women so repugnant to me that I returned to my old work of teaching elocution. Then I came to this country, and now you know all there is to know."

"Had we started our militant agitation then?" I asked.

"Yes, it had just begun, and within six weeks of my landing I was attending the meetings in Caxton Hall, drinking in all your rebellious sentiments, applauding you, longing with all my heart to be with you."

"Had Art lost its fascination then?"

"No, but my views on Art as a revolutionary force had changed. When I came here I brought with me an introduction to Prince Kropotkin, and it was at his house I met an earnest group of people—Socialists and Russian refugees. Many of them were artists of great ability, but I saw that they looked upon Art as a medium for the expression of the needs of the people—as Tolstoy and other reformers have used it—not merely as one through which to express beauty or beautiful ideas. They showed me quite unconsciously that too great a devotion to Art makes for selfishness, not for self-sacrifice. And so—" Miss Matters paused.

"And so," I said, "you followed the advice you gave to us when you came out of prison: 'When you see the Light, follow it.'"

"I know the power of the vote. I know how, in Australia, the status of women went up immediately they had it. And they used it well too. In a certain constituency of South Australia two candidates were refused by the women because of their notorious immorality, and they themselves nominated another and put him at the head of the poll. You know I am going back there on a lecturing tour in a little while. I want to tell them the truth of the movement over here; how Englishwomen are suffering and fighting for what they won so much more easily."

But the many friends of Muriel Matters will be glad to know that she is only going to be lent to Australia for a little while. Our movement is too greatly in need of her special gifts of inspiring oratory and winning personality to give her a long leave of absence.



MISS MURIEL MATTERS.

Photo by Lena Connell.

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## SUFFRAGE SHEARINGS.

### Disgraceful Treatment!

The sorrows of the man voter deprived for the lengthy space of a year of his right to express himself find a powerful advocate in the *Daily Telegraph*. The temptation to improve the occasion is so obvious that we refrain from succumbing to it:

In such a case as is here set forth a man is absolutely disfranchised for a whole year. He may have changed his residence from Clapham to Brixton—moved, in fact, from one street to the next, or, in some constituencies, he would only have to go to a house on the other side of the road to become entitled to record a vote on the political problems of the day. The duty of the overseers is to see that his name does not get on to the register until the qualifying period has been completed. Although the household has lost his political rights, he is not compensated by being relieved of any of his responsibilities. He pays rates and taxes immediately he gets into his new home, but he is completely denied the right for twelve months of having a voice in the expenditure of the sums exacted from him.—*Daily Telegraph*.

### Mr. Keir Hardie's Views.

Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., addressing a meeting at Newport (Mon.), under the auspices of the Women's Labour League, said when a Woman's Franchise Bill was before the House of Commons a great deal was heard about a woman's proper place being home. Some big man, who had grown rich out of women's unpaid labour, stood up, and pompously declared that women's proper place was home. If that were so, what were they doing in factories, behind shop-counters, and in brick-fields? Why was it that an Act of Parliament was required to liberate them from the darkness of the pit. If woman was fit to take her place in the various spheres of industry in which they were now engaged, surely that was prima-facie evidence that they were fit to take part in politics on terms of equality with men. "So I hope," he went on, "that when the new Reform Bill comes to be introduced those members of the Government who have more sense than the Prime Minister—(hear, hear)—will take their courage in both hands, and will insist that whatever the franchise is to be for men the same franchise qualifications shall apply to women. If it is done it will stand the Liberal party in good stead. The fight with the Lords is only begun. It is a fight that people do not seem to

realise. We have only got through the first stage, and we have not come very well through it. In the future it is doubly imperative that all those forces which make for progress should not be forced into fighting each other, as will be case if women are again left out of account when the Reform Bill passes the House of Commons." (Cheers.)—*Daily Telegraph*.

### Married Women Teachers.

In spite of the strong opposition in Manchester to the decision of the Education Committee against employing married women as teachers, it was endorsed in the Manchester City Council by a majority of twenty-nine, after an animated discussion, in which Miss Ashton eloquently defended the liberties of married women. She contended that the question of what a married woman was to do or not to do was one to be settled between husband and wife. "We have no right to dictate to any woman, and say that she shall stay at home whether her husband and she agree to it or not." One important concession was made as a result of the debate; it was agreed that if a married woman was in necessitous circumstances owing to her husband's illness she should be treated as a widow and allowed to teach. The *Manchester Guardian* points out that the Education Committee in attempting to regulate the household arrangements between husband and wife have failed to establish their principle. They say to a married woman "We have such concern for your home that we insist on your staying there," but they say to widows "You may teach, yet widows have children—all the more in need of a mother's care it may be, because they have no father."—*Christian Commonwealth*.

### American Women's Suffrage.

In the New York State Assembly last week Senator Brackett introduced a Bill to provide for a referendum to the women of the State on the female suffrage question to be taken the day before the next election. The proposal is quite unique, and its supporters claim that as the machinery for the election would all be ready it would entail little extra expense to the State. The women suffragists are naturally backing his suggestion heartily, and in the event of its being passed it is believed that the women would give an affirmative vote with such emphasis that legislation removing the sex barrier would inevitably follow.—*Oldham Chronicle*.

While Parliament was sitting on Tuesday our street-sellers were selling THE VOTE in Westminster. When Mr. Winston Churchill, the new Home Secretary, was leaving the House with Mr. Lloyd-George, he saw them and stopped to buy a copy.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1910.

### WHITE FLAG OF TRUCE.

While the Cabinet is meeting in council and making its plans for the series of compromises, great and small, by means of which it will retain office, our agitation and demand must be passed under review. The list of enemies to be placated, of opponents to be won will not be complete without the militant Suffragettes. The future Government attitude towards Votes for Women must be decided during this time of preliminary conferences and consultations. A decision will have to be made now, a line of conduct laid down and endorsed. A matter of such moment as the Government intentions with regard to Women's Suffrage has now become cannot be delayed or left undetermined.

A Government backed by the greatest majority of modern times may bear itself insolently and indifferently before all comers. It may even dare to laugh at the suppliants who seek its good offices, to taunt them also, and to oppress them. In the security of its power it may find an easily-salved conscience and a sufficient guarantee of protection from reprisals. But for a Government without a majority all this is changed. It can only live by the most delicate manipulation of the contending forces by which it is supported. It must show willingness to meet all its suppliants half-way, and to satisfy them of its good intentions. Out of its narrow margin of existence it must make shift to give more, and that more generously, than it ever gave in the days of its abundance.

The Liberal Government is in this position to-day. It is facing a period of power by permission. Only masterly statecraft can carry it through this time of compromise with the chance of return to place and power. Its position is so insecure that it can afford to have no enemies except the conventional one, that it must remove every breath of justifiable complaint, and take the sting out of every charge that it conjured up against itself during its period of powerful insolence. It knows this as well as we know it—perhaps better. Every body of malcontents knows it, and has become active because of the knowledge. Every body of cranks and fanatics is already making its plans for attack upon the weakened Executive. We do not stand alone in our present appeal to the newly returned Ministry; we are but one among many claimants for immediate attention.

We believe that we have a prior claim because of the nature of the reform we ask, and because of the urgency of our need. We know, and the country and the Government know, that we have a stronger claim than any others because we have paid the price of a hearing, because we have paid the price of sacrifice and protest. It is impossible for the Cabinet to work up a case against us. It is too dangerous for the Cabinet to risk the further spread of disaffection. The woman's claim is one that only madness now would refuse to attend to. Unless the Liberal Party is to be buried beneath the shadow of Mr. Asquith it must grant Votes for Women now.

We are holding our hands to give those in authority every chance of dignified yielding. We have definitely promised to refrain from militant action until the declared intention of the Government is known, and until the two strongest allies on whom the Government will depend have been won to declare themselves also. Pressure from the Irish and Labour Parties may complete the change which our own activity and the dread of the future have already tended to work in the Liberal Party. We wait to see whether the women of the country are to be given liberty without further sacrifice. We wait to see if the Labour and Irish Parties will refuse to shoulder the responsibilities of oppression and brutality towards women which

the Liberal Cabinet accumulated for itself during the last Parliament. We have held out the flag of truce, and we hold it out still, in the hope that our past efforts and our present consideration are soon to be rewarded.

We have approached already the Irish and the Labour leaders. On the day when Parliament reassembles, the fifteenth of the month, we shall peaceably approach the Liberal Leader. We shall gather at Westminster in a great peaceful rally, and our President will carry an Open Letter to Mr. Asquith to the Commons entrance. This will be our last plea to the Prime Minister directly. It will give him six days in which to act without external or internal pressure. It will give him full opportunity to put Women's Suffrage into the King's Speech. Our appeal to him is as follows:—

“AN OPEN LETTER TO THE RIGHT HON.  
 H. H. ASQUITH.

“SIR,—The responsibilities of Government have again been entrusted to you, and the political fate of the women of the country is in your hands. During your last term of office, having behind you the greatest majority of modern times, you followed a course which was the primary cause of much disturbance and discontent, and which brought upon the Government widespread opposition.

“Present circumstances are very different from those under which you last held office. In making your plans to meet the new conditions, we desire to point out to you that it would be in the interests of your party and of the country to make concessions to those who, in demanding Women's Suffrage, are asking for a measure of Liberal legislation.

“At the opening of the new Parliament we of the Women's Freedom League, as well as our sister society, have taken the first step towards a truce. We have decided to refrain from militant protest until your Government has had a fair opportunity of stating its intentions. We have called this truce in the honest endeavour to give you every opportunity to settle this great question. We do not desire to resume our militant tactics, but in the event of your refusal our duty is clear.

“Now is your opportunity. If you take it, you will be responsible for the carrying into law of a great act of justice and for bringing to a conclusion a struggle which may otherwise have much graver consequences. If you do not take it, the responsibility for the rebellion of women will be yours.

“We require that a Government declaration shall be made at once to the effect that Women's Suffrage legislation shall be undertaken by the Government itself in this opening session of Parliament. A clear and explicit statement to this effect is necessary. We ask this promise of you as a right. We wait peaceably to see if you are great enough to do a great deed, to rise above prejudice and personal considerations, to put on one side lesser things, and to do this act of national justice. We wait, and hope that the issue may be peace.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) “C. DESPARD.

“S. BENETT.

“TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

“EDITH HOW MARTYN.”

A fair answer to this appeal is Mr. Asquith's last opportunity for a truly dignified and statesmanlike solution of the Women's Suffrage problem.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

### “AT HOMES.”

On Thursday, the 17th inst., at 3 p.m., at Caxton Hall, Westminster, the speakers will be Mrs. KINNETON PARKES, who will deal with an interesting phase of the Suffrage Movement, passive resistance as complementary to the methods of active resistance; and Mr. BART KENNEDY, whose strong and original views of life are bound to add special interest to his speech; Miss BRINETTA BROWNE has also most kindly promised to contribute a recitation.

The speakers on the following Thursday will be Mrs. NEVINSON and Miss MURIEL MATTERS.



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### BRANCH NOTES.

#### Swinton.

The week has been a full one, and tells, I think, for progress, although the Branch Meeting of Monday was far too small. On Tuesday we had a short but encouraging dinner-hour meeting in the dining hall of the Dean's Mill (by kind permission of the managers), when the large room filled rapidly with women, girls, and men. Wednesday was inauguration night for a new branch of the Women's Liberal Association. The speakers little knew there lurked among their quiet audience a few (I quote one of the speakers) of “those abominable creatures the militant suffragettes,” until we rose to make our protest. But in spite of our efforts the branch was formed. It remains for us to turn it into a recruiting ground for “Special Effort Week” and afterwards. Thursday and Friday have been devoted to bill distributing and goods collecting for the jumble sale, which is still a thing of the future. Next week I hope to report “and the result was very good.” The next Branch Meeting will be held on Friday, the 18th, at 7.45 p.m., in St. Peter's Old School, when Mrs. Hyde, Miss Kipps, and Miss Beckett, our delegates to the Workers' Meeting called by Miss Manning, will submit their report.—JANET HEYES.

#### Clapham.

The members of the Clapham Branch held a meeting on Thursday evening last at Mrs. Sutcliffe's house. Miss Spencer gave an interesting account of what might be done to raise money during special effort week. It was decided that a general meeting should be held in the Lecture Room, Battersea Free Library, Tuesday evening, February 22nd, which will be addressed by Mrs. Despard. It is hoped that all members residing in the district will either bring or send their contributions to that meeting, so that our President may take back with her a substantial sum towards the funds of the League.—F. A. U.

#### Eastbourne.

A Branch meeting for members and friends was held at the Geisha Tea Rooms on Thursday evening, February 10th. Owing to the General Election and various reasons this was the first meeting this year. To make us all feel a little more sociable and draw us together we began with tea and coffee. After this had been partaken, the Hon. Sec. gave us last year's financial statement and a report of the year's work.

The next item on the agenda was the report from the delegate

of the Annual Conference of January 29th. Mrs. Dilks said she returned with renewed zeal and energy for the cause, and anxious to inspire all the members with the same amount of enthusiasm she felt. She also gave an account of Miss Neilans' reception, and further urged on the members the great necessity there is of each individual supporting THE VOTE.

The recommendations and suggestions re General Election policy and the present political situation were fully dealt with. Plans for future work were also discussed, and we hope to arrange a drawing-room meeting and a debate on “Are Militant Methods Justifiable?” in the near future. We also hope to contribute to the special effort week.—J. DILKS.

#### Manchester.

The Election work in Manchester gave us many exciting and interesting meetings; now we are looking forward to a gathering of another type. Our “At Home” on Wednesday, February 23rd, should prove an intellectual treat. Mr. B. Iden Payne, of the Gaiety Theatre, will pay us his long-deferred visit. Miss Janet Heyes will speak on the fight in South Salford, and Miss Sidley on the present political situation. Music will be provided by Miss Dearlove and friends. It is incumbent on all members to make this “At Home” as widely known as possible, because it is special effort week, and everyone is wanted to carry out the programme of work we have in view, and which will be announced at the “At Home.”

Mr. Asquith's new “masters” are being approached, and on Thursday last the Council of the Manchester and Salford I.L.P. passed a resolution, calling upon the members of the Labour Party to bring pressure to bear on the Government, without a dissentient voice. The Council represents twenty-three branches, with a membership of 1,500.

Thursday also was the occasion of carrying the cause into a new district, and by the arrangement of the Misses Hordern I was able to address a pleasant gathering of the Literary Society of the Congregational Church, Levenshulme.—M. E. MANNING.

#### Stroud, Gloucester.

A meeting was held in Stroud last Saturday evening at the Trades and Labour Hall. Dr. Earengy, of Cheltenham, took the chair, and Mrs. Manson and I spoke. A collection was taken and literature sold by members of the Cheltenham Branch, W.F.L., who rendered valuable help, and many questions satisfactorily answered. This meeting was well reported in the local Press. Open-air meetings have been held at Cirencester, Gloucester, Nailsworth, and Chalford, at all of which places we have had orderly and sympathetic crowds. Cirencester and Gloucester were particularly successful. At Gloucester four women gave in their names, and at both literature was sold and a collection taken. An indoor meeting was arranged for Painswick on Tuesday, February 15th, Miss Kirkland, a member of the W.F.L., kindly defraying the cost of advertising. A dinner hour meeting for Gloucester on market day and meetings at Nailsworth and Cirencester are arranged for next week. Mrs. Manson is the principal speaker at every meeting, and Miss How, of the Cheltenham Branch, has given much assistance in selling literature, taking collections, &c. An encouraging feature is the outspoken interest of the women who attend our open-air meetings.—MADGE TURNER.

### N.E.C. VISIT TO SUNDERLAND.

The preparations go forward apace for the N.E.C. meeting here on March 5th. Under the able directorship and energy of Miss Clarke, the secretary, Mrs. Storey, the president, and other members of committee, Sunderland will ring with “Votes for Women!” in the near future. Already a start has been made. Two open-air meetings have been held. At both the rowdy element, composed for the most part of the small boy and youth, made their presence undesirably known by shouting, pushing, and throwing of mud, stones, and filth. Presently we hope to have them as enthusiastically in our favour as they now are against. Dinner-hour meetings are also held especially for the women workers. At one factory, although some of the girls wished to, and did, hear us, we were almost overwhelmed by the noise and missiles. Our second visit more than compensated, however; the girls themselves kept order, and summary justice was done to our opponents, the meeting closing with cheers for Votes for Women and many invitations to come back again.

We hope to hold meetings afternoon and evening in South Shields, where Mrs. Binks has kindly promised the use of her drawing-room and help with an evening meeting. Middlesbrough, Stockton, and Hartlepool, we hope, will be worked by the local members and Miss Osborne, while in Huddersfield, Wakefield, and Halifax Miss Gordon and Miss Nelson are arousing the people. Any helpers or sympathisers in any part of this campaign will be able to assist in many ways if they send their names and addresses to me at 3, Havelock Terrace, Sunderland.

ANNA MUNRO.

### A LETTER TO MR. ASQUITH.

Among the many methods, constitutional and unconstitutional, recently adopted by Suffragists to comply with Mr. Asquith's request that "the women of this country should show that they really want the vote" is the writing of a personal letter to the Prime Minister by many hundreds of women from all parts of the United Kingdom. So far it has not yet been recorded that Mr. Asquith has done anything more than send, through his secretary, a lithographed acknowledgment of the receipt of these representations. The following is a copy of a letter recently forwarded to 10, Downing Street by one who has worked many years on constitutional lines in the cause of Women's Suffrage.

The Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, K.C., M.P.

Sir,—Since you have required that a demand for the Suffrage should be shown by women, I am writing to express my earnest desire for enfranchisement.

To support my contention that the Suffrage is at least of equal importance to all other reforms likely to be dealt with by an energetic, united, and healthy-minded Liberal Government, I venture to answer some of the objections made to granting us this elementary act of justice. I feel I must ask you to bear with me patiently while I put before you briefly one or two reasons why I have, since reading Mill's speech of 1867, so many years worked in this cause.

I should like to remind you that the granting of the Suffrage to women is not a fad taken up by a few advanced women, but seriously regarded as a reform much to be desired by a large and increasing number of the leading men of our time. I will not quote the opinions of more than one of them, but I think the words of such a man as the late Lord Chief Justice Coleridge will be enough to prove that the demand does not spring from any sentimental idea of fancied wrongs. He said in 1891:—

"I can scarcely believe that if the House of Commons was as much aware as every lawyer is aware of the state of the law of England as regards women, even still after the very recent humane improvements in it, it would hesitate to say it was more worthy of a barbarian than of a civilised State. If that be so, I do not think the wisdom of Parliament will be darkened, nor the justice of Parliament slackened, because those who appeal to that wisdom are entitled to be heard by reason of the possession of something like political power, when they ask for justice. I believe fully that after a certain number of years the law, which I regard in many respects as wholly indefensible, will be altered. As it is, I believe the sense of justice on the part of men, if they are once aroused to it and convinced of the injustice, will in time bring about the reform needed; but I believe this reform will not be brought about so fast as it would be if we put into the hands of those who suffer from this injustice some share of political power. Therefore, Sir, while I admit I do not question the justice of Parliament, or the right intentions of honourable members, I submit that the constitutional means of remedying injustice is by influencing Members of Parliament in a constitutional way."

When we are told that the time is not ripe for the discussion and passing of this reform, I would point out to you that we have waited now very patiently for very many years—since, in fact, John Stuart Mill made his famous speech in 1867.

This is not said when our legislators see fit to open out further the franchise to men. This was never said when the agricultural labourer was given his vote, or when England was plunged into a terrible and costly war, when one of the great reasons of the necessity for it, *we were told*, was the unfair representation of our fellow-countrymen in South Africa.

When we look round and see the haphazard way in which laws are framed it is time that we entered our protest, feeble though it must be until we have the vote to back it. Robert Louis Stevenson once said: "It is

better to emit a scream in the shape of a theory than to be entirely insensible to the jars and incongruities of life, and take everything as it comes in a forlorn stupidity. Some people swallow the universe like a pill; they travel on through the world like smiling images pushed from behind."

Our opponents, among other objections, say, first, that we are not sufficiently well-educated to be trusted to make the right use of the power to vote.

Now, as to education, it must not be forgotten that women have done far more for each other in the question than men have done. To Mrs. William Grey and her sister, Miss Shireff, is mainly due the praise for the movement which gave to the middle-class girl of thirty years ago the chance of a good education through the Public Girls' Day School Company. It was again a woman, Miss Emily Davies, who was the foundress of Girton College.

I will not now mention the difficulties with which women have had to contend in their struggle for educational advantages, but I will just say that I feel sure that if women had been able to vote on the question it would not be possible for the present anomalous position of women with regard to the taking of degrees to exist for a minute. Since 1879 the University of London has opened its examinations to women, and there women and men students alike can enter, among other universities, for any of the degree courses in arts, law, or science. Women can take degrees without residence at St. Andrews, in Scotland, or with residence at Trinity College, in Ireland; but we find that at our own Universities women may not lay claim to the degree that their sister women may have, though they may have passed their Degree Examinations, and in Honours, simply because a large number of non-resident voters at Cambridge are whipped up each time the subject is discussed to vote against granting the giving of degrees.

I will just enumerate a few of the laws which, as they at present stand, are in my opinion a lasting injustice to women.

First, the Divorce Laws, in which I should claim for women absolute and uncompromising equality.

In November, 1909, there was a question of change and expansion of our Divorce Laws. In this particular instance my blood boiled to think that women, who have had such scant justice meted out to them by the present Law of Divorce, should have had no voice in the matter of any proposed change. Lord Gorell once said on the subject of the unequal treatment of men and women on this question: "The petition for divorce in this case must be dismissed, for the wife has only proved misconduct, and that is not sufficient to enable her to obtain a decree of divorce; and it will not be any satisfaction to her to know that if her case had arisen and her suit could have been brought in Scotland or most other civilised countries she would have succeeded."

Secondly, the Bastardy Laws, which I would bring into line with those of Scotland.

Women's position in the labour market is another serious and most needed reform. It will be remembered, Sir, by you that no restrictive legislation was passed affecting married women's labour until after they, by the Married Women's Property Act of 1870, had the right to their own separate earnings.—Yours faithfully,

MADELEINE GREENWOOD.

A judgment debtor told Judge Smyly, K.C., at the Shoreditch County Court last week that he had been out of work for eight months, and when not looking for work he stopped at home doing the house work and minding the babies while his wife made cigarettes to support them all.

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### SCOTTISH NOTES.

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Office Secretary: MISS KIRBY.  
Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas.

#### Glasgow.

At the last business meeting of the Central Branch, Mrs. Scrimgeour gave an interesting and minute report of her visit to the Annual Conference, dwelling specially on the immediate and pressing necessity for increasing the sale of THE VOTE. Eight members volunteered to become regular sellers of the paper, both in the streets and at theatre queues, whilst others promised to do their utmost to persuade friends to become regular subscribers.

The branch decided to have a "cake and candy sale" to aid the funds of the Suffrage Centre, this function to be held in the "shop" on Saturday, March 5th.

As the Glasgow and District Council has also appealed for help, a jumble sale is to be held by the Branch in the month of April.—T. S.

APPEAL FOR LIBRARY.—We have a small number of books which we lend out to members at a charge of 2d. per week. We should be very grateful for any books, either novels or otherwise. If any readers of this paper have any to spare, they should be addressed to Miss Kirby, 302, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow.

#### The £1,000 Fund.

| £ s. d.                   |        | £ s. d.                |            |
|---------------------------|--------|------------------------|------------|
| Miss L. Stewart .....     | 1 4 0  | Per Miss Sherman ..... | 0 7 6      |
| Miss E. Stewart .....     | 1 4 0  |                        |            |
| Miss J. Scrimgeour .....  | 1 4 0  |                        |            |
| A. C. Wood, Esq. ....     | 5 0 0  | Amount previously      | £17 12 2   |
| Mrs. Gordon .....         | 0 8 8  | acknowledged .....     | 234 4 8    |
| Miss E. Scrimgeour .....  | 1 4 0  |                        | £251 16 10 |
| Miss Penman .....         | 0 2 6  | <b>Election Fund</b>   |            |
| Per Miss Kirby .....      | 0 5 0  | Miss Steven .....      | 0 2 6      |
| Miss E. S. Hamilton ..... | 1 1 0  | Miss McNaught .....    | 0 5 0      |
| Miss Steven .....         | 1 1 0  | Miss Barrowman .....   | 0 10 0     |
| Mrs. Scrimgeour .....     | 0 10 6 |                        |            |
| Miss K. O. Carswell ..... | 0 10 6 |                        | £0 17 6    |
| Mrs. Wilson .....         | 1 1 0  | Previously acknow-     |            |
| Mrs. Murray .....         | 2 0 0  | ledged .....           | 5 8 0      |
| Miss Wallace .....        | 0 2 6  |                        |            |
| Per Miss Semple .....     | 0 6 0  |                        | £6 5 6     |

#### Edinburgh.

There was a good attendance at the afternoon "At Home" on Tuesday, February 8th, when Mrs. Fyfe was hostess. After tea the chair was taken by Mrs. Thomson, and an excellent address on some of the fundamental principles of the movement was given by Miss Sarah Munro, Vice-President of the Branch.

In the evening Mrs. Bell, President, was in the chair, and Miss Marshall read a paper dealing very fully with Poor Law reform. The main points of the Majority and Minority Reports were dealt with, and those present felt that such papers were a valuable preparation for the adoption of a programme, as advocated at the Conference by Mrs. Despard. A hearty vote of thanks was awarded Miss Marshall, who had spared no pains in getting up her subject.—HELEN MCLACHLAN, Asst. Sec.

#### Dundee.

A Branch Meeting was held on Tuesday last, Miss Husband presiding. Miss Clunas's resignation of the office of Secretary was received with great regret by the members. Reference was made to the invaluable services of Miss Clunas to the Branch. Mrs. Owen Clark accepted the post *pro tem*. The delegate to the London Conference, Miss Kate Husband, then gave a report on the proceedings there. Those present were keenly interested in the matters that had been up for discussion, and the hope was expressed that the woman's cause might be won without having to resort to militant methods against the new Government. Miss Husband also gave a very graphic account of the Sunday meeting, and was cordially thanked for her interesting presentation of the League's deliberations. Correspondence from headquarters was also discussed. As the Branch has given up the shop that was taken for the election time it was agreed to resume the weekly stall in the Flower Market.—J. A. SMART, Secretary.

#### SPECIAL EFFORT WEEK.

We want more volunteers for the coming work. The following arrangements have been made:—

Sunday, February 20th, a meeting in Trafalgar Square at three o'clock. We have good speakers, including Mrs. Despard. This meeting is of great importance, as it comes on the eve of the opening of Parliament.

Monday, February 21st, eight o'clock, a Recital of "Enoch Arden" by Miss Muriel Matters at 60, Onslow

Gardens, with the Richard Strauss accompaniment by Mrs. E. H. Railton.

A concert party has been formed for drawing-room entertainments. All applications for performances to be made to R. Snow, Esq., 3, Buckingham Gate, S.W.

All boys and girls who are willing to join the "Young Suffragist Corps," for stewarding and Vote selling, are asked to communicate with Miss Olive Ibbotson, New Reform Club, Adelphi.

We need more workers for street collecting. This branch of the work is in the capable hands of Miss Dorothy Spencer; all offers to be made direct to her.

Dr. Octavia Lewin has placed her drawing-room at our disposal for February 25th at 2.30, when we intend holding a meeting for nurses. As we are anxious to attract all sections of the public to our movement, we intend to specialise, so we invite all members of the nursing profession, and shall be glad to have the names of matrons of hospitals so that we may send them invitations.

On March 4th, at eight p.m., a concert will be given by Mrs. Cope at the Kensington Town Hall. Miss Muriel Matters has kindly promised to speak and also to recite. The artists are Miss Margaret Stone, Mrs. E. H. Railton, Miss Ivy Middleton, Mrs. Cope, and others. It is hoped that the members of the League will be there in numbers, as Kensington is a district hitherto little worked by the League, and the opportunity should not be lost of advertising the Cause in this neighbourhood.

#### Wright's Patent.

We all know that there is nothing like earthenware for making good tea, but earthenware looks bad and is soon broken. Wright's Patent has given such teapots a new life. It is a hand-pierced, detachable silver casement, which is fitted on to the old brown teapot, transforming it into a handsome piece of tea-table furniture. The casements are made in a great variety of most artistic embossed patterns, and can be instantly removed from a broken teapot and put on a new one. But it should be noted that the brown teapot, usually so susceptible to breakage, is, when fitted with this casement, proof against most possible damage. Teapots thus encased make excellent presents. Ladies who love the artistic will be interested to study the illustrated list and booklet, "The True Story of a Teapot," which can be had post free by sending a post card to Miss Frances Wright, 49, Old Bond Street, W.

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When we are told that the time is not ripe for the discussion and passing of this reform, I would point out to you that we have waited now very patiently for very many years—since, in fact, John Stuart Mill made his famous speech in 1867.

This is not said when our legislators see fit to open out further the franchise to men. This was never said when the agricultural labourer was given his vote, or when England was plunged into a terrible and costly war, when one of the great reasons of the necessity for it, *we were told*, was the unfair representation of our fellow-countrymen in South Africa.

When we look round and see the haphazard way in which laws are framed it is time that we entered our protest, feeble though it must be until we have the vote to back it. Robert Louis Stevenson once said: "It is

better to emit a scream in the shape of a theory than to be entirely insensible to the jars and incongruities of life, and take everything as it comes in a forlorn stupidity. Some people swallow the universe like a pill; they travel on through the world like smiling images pushed from behind."

Our opponents, among other objections, say, first, that we are not sufficiently well-educated to be trusted to make the right use of the power to vote.

Now, as to education, it must not be forgotten that women have done far more for each other in the question than men have done. To Mrs. William Grey and her sister, Miss Shireff, is mainly due the praise for the movement which gave to the middle-class girl of thirty years ago the chance of a good education through the Public Girls' Day School Company. It was again a woman, Miss Emily Davies, who was the foundress of Girton College.

I will not now mention the difficulties with which women have had to contend in their struggle for educational advantages, but I will just say that I feel sure that if women had been able to vote on the question it would not be possible for the present anomalous position of women with regard to the taking of degrees to exist for a minute. Since 1879 the University of London has opened its examinations to women, and there women and men students alike can enter, among other universities, for any of the degree courses in arts, law, or science. Women can take degrees without residence at St. Andrews, in Scotland, or with residence at Trinity College, in Ireland; but we find that at our own Universities women may not lay claim to the degree that their sister women may have, though they may have passed their Degree Examinations, and in Honours, simply because a large number of non-resident voters at Cambridge are whipped up each time the subject is discussed to vote against granting the giving of degrees.

I will just enumerate a few of the laws which, as they at present stand, are in my opinion a lasting injustice to women.

First, the Divorce Laws, in which I should claim for women absolute and uncompromising equality.

In November, 1909, there was a question of change and expansion of our Divorce Laws. In this particular instance my blood boiled to think that women, who have had such scant justice meted out to them by the present Law of Divorce, should have had no voice in the matter of any proposed change. Lord Gorell once said on the subject of the unequal treatment of men and women on this question: "The petition for divorce in this case must be dismissed, for the wife has only proved misconduct, and that is not sufficient to enable her to obtain a decree of divorce; and it will not be any satisfaction to her to know that if her case had arisen and her suit could have been brought in Scotland or most other civilised countries she would have succeeded."

Secondly, the Bastardy Laws, which I would bring into line with those of Scotland.

Women's position in the labour market is another serious and most needed reform. It will be remembered, Sir, by you that no restrictive legislation was passed affecting married women's labour until after they, by the Married Women's Property Act of 1870, had the right to their own separate earnings.—Yours faithfully,

MADELEINE GREENWOOD.

A judgment debtor told Judge Smyly, K.C., at the Shoreditch County Court last week that he had been out of work for eight months, and when not looking for work he stopped at home doing the house work and minding the babies while his wife made cigarettes to support them all.

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## SCOTTISH NOTES.

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## Glasgow.

At the last business meeting of the Central Branch, Mrs. Scrimgeour gave an interesting and minute report of her visit to the Annual Conference, dwelling specially on the immediate and pressing necessity for increasing the sale of THE VOTE. Eight members volunteered to become regular sellers of the paper, both in the streets and at theatre queues, whilst others promised to do their utmost to persuade friends to become regular subscribers.

The branch decided to have a "cake and candy sale" to aid the funds of the Suffrage Centre, this function to be held in the "shop" on Saturday, March 5th.

As the Glasgow and District Council has also appealed for help, a jumble sale is to be held by the Branch in the month of April.—T. S.

APPEAL FOR LIBRARY.—We have a small number of books which we lend out to members at a charge of 2d. per week. We should be very grateful for any books, either novels or otherwise. If any readers of this paper have any to spare, they should be addressed to Miss Kirby, 302, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow.

## The £1,000 Fund.

|                     | £ | s. | d. |                      | £   | s. | d. |
|---------------------|---|----|----|----------------------|-----|----|----|
| Miss L. Stewart     | 1 | 4  | 0  | Per Miss Sherman     | 0   | 7  | 6  |
| Miss E. Stewart     | 1 | 4  | 0  |                      |     |    |    |
| Miss J. Scrimgeour  | 1 | 4  | 0  |                      |     |    |    |
| A. C. Wood, Esq.    | 5 | 0  | 0  | Amount previously    | 17  | 12 | 2  |
| Mrs. Gordon         | 0 | 8  | 8  | acknowledged         | 234 | 4  | 8  |
| Miss E. Scrimgeour  | 1 | 4  | 0  |                      |     |    |    |
| Miss Penman         | 0 | 2  | 6  |                      |     |    |    |
| Per Miss Kirby      | 0 | 5  | 0  | <b>Election Fund</b> | 251 | 16 | 10 |
| Miss E. S. Hamilton | 1 | 1  | 0  | Miss Steven          | 0   | 2  | 6  |
| Miss Steven         | 1 | 1  | 0  | Miss McNaught        | 0   | 5  | 0  |
| Mrs. Scrimgeour     | 0 | 10 | 6  | Miss Barrowman       | 0   | 10 | 0  |
| Miss K. O. Carswell | 0 | 10 | 6  |                      |     |    |    |
| Mrs. Wilson         | 1 | 1  | 0  | Previously acknow-   | 0   | 17 | 6  |
| Mrs. Murray         | 2 | 0  | 0  | ledged               | 5   | 8  | 0  |
| Mrs. Wallace        | 0 | 2  | 6  |                      |     |    |    |
| Per Miss Sample     | 0 | 6  | 0  |                      |     |    |    |
|                     |   |    |    |                      | 6   | 5  | 6  |

## Edinburgh.

There was a good attendance at the afternoon "At Home" on Tuesday, February 8th, when Mrs. Fyfe was hostess. After tea the chair was taken by Mrs. Thomson, and an excellent address on some of the fundamental principles of the movement was given by Miss Sarah Munro, Vice-President of the Branch.

In the evening Mrs. Bell, President, was in the chair, and Miss Marshall read a paper dealing very fully with Poor Law reform. The main points of the Majority and Minority Reports were dealt with, and those present felt that such papers were a valuable preparation for the adoption of a programme, as advocated at the Conference by Mrs. Despard. A hearty vote of thanks was awarded Miss Marshall, who had spared no pains in getting up her subject.—HELEN MCLACHLAN, Asst. Sec.

## Dundee.

A Branch Meeting was held on Tuesday last, Miss Husband presiding. Miss Clunas's resignation of the office of Secretary was received with great regret by the members. Reference was made to the invaluable services of Miss Clunas to the Branch. Mrs. Owen Clark accepted the post *pro tem*. The delegate to the London Conference, Miss Kate Husband, then gave a report on the proceedings there. Those present were keenly interested in the matters that had been up for discussion, and the hope was expressed that the woman's cause might be won without having to resort to militant methods against the new Government. Miss Husband also gave a very graphic account of the Sunday meeting, and was cordially thanked for her interesting presentation of the League's deliberations. Correspondence from headquarters was also discussed. As the Branch has given up the shop that was taken for the election time it was agreed to resume the weekly stall in the Flower Market.—J. A. SMART, Secretary.

## SPECIAL EFFORT WEEK.

We want more volunteers for the coming work. The following arrangements have been made:—

Sunday, February 20th, a meeting in Trafalgar Square at three o'clock. We have good speakers, including Mrs. Despard. This meeting is of great importance, as it comes on the eve of the opening of Parliament.

Monday, February 21st, eight o'clock, a Recital of "Enoch Arden" by Miss Muriel Matters at 60, Onslow

Gardens, with the Richard Strauss accompaniment by Mrs. E. H. Railton.

A concert party has been formed for drawing-room entertainments. All applications for performances to be made to R. Snow, Esq., 3, Buckingham Gate, S.W.

All boys and girls who are willing to join the "Young Suffragist Corps," for stewarding and VOTE selling, are asked to communicate with Miss Olive Ibbotson, New Reform Club, Adelphi.

We need more workers for street collecting. This branch of the work is in the capable hands of Miss Dorothy Spencer; all offers to be made direct to her.

Dr. Octavia Lewin has placed her drawing-room at our disposal for February 25th at 2.30, when we intend holding a meeting for nurses. As we are anxious to attract all sections of the public to our movement, we intend to specialise, so we invite all members of the nursing profession, and shall be glad to have the names of matrons of hospitals so that we may send them invitations.

On March 4th, at eight p.m., a concert will be given by Mrs. Cope at the Kensington Town Hall. Miss Muriel Matters has kindly promised to speak and also to recite. The artists are Miss Margaret Stone, Mrs. E. H. Railton, Miss Ivy Middleton, Mrs. Cope, and others. It is hoped that the members of the League will be there in numbers, as Kensington is a district hitherto little worked by the League, and the opportunity should not be lost of advertising the Cause in this neighbourhood.

## Wright's Patent.

We all know that there is nothing like earthenware for making good tea, but earthenware looks bad and is soon broken. Wright's Patent has given such teapots a new life. It is a hand-pierced, detachable silver casement, which is fitted on to the old brown teapot, transforming it into a handsome piece of tea-table furniture. The casements are made in a great variety of most artistic embossed patterns, and can be instantly removed from a broken teapot and put on a new one. But it should be noted that the brown teapot, usually so susceptible to breakage, is, when fitted with this casement, proof against most possible damage. Teapots thus encased make excellent presents. Ladies who love the artistic will be interested to study the illustrated list and booklet, "The True Story of a Teapot," which can be had post free by sending a post card to Miss Frances Wright, 49, Old Bond Street, W.

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## LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF IRELAND ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE



LORD O'BRIEN OF KILFENORA.  
[Lord Chief Justice of Ireland.]

Lord O'Brien, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, has authorised us to use the following speech made by him at a meeting held under the auspices of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association in Dublin, when Mrs. Fawcett was the guest of the afternoon. His Lordship's daughter, the Hon. Georgina O'Brien, is a well-known member of the Women's Freedom League.

Lord O'Brien, who was accorded a hearty reception,

after complimenting Mrs. Fawcett on her address, said:—

"Perhaps you may consider that I am not the less qualified impartially to appreciate the great merits of that address because I belong to no party, to no society, to no association, whether for or against the Suffrage. I am merely a listener, though undoubtedly a very interested one. Well, what is the immediate impression left upon our minds? What is the object-lesson we have learned? Is it not this—that there is no sanction, in justice or expediency, that a woman should remain unfranchised simply because she is a woman?—(applause)—that the objection based upon the ground of sex rests upon no solid foundation? Of course, a woman cannot transmute herself into a man, nor can a man transmute himself into a woman; we all rejoice, both men and women, that such a metamorphosis is impossible. No doubt you have heard the expression "He is an old woman of a fellow"—(laughter)—that is to say, he is so imbecile that he is really a negligible quantity. But the male old woman, if I may illustrate the position by a contradiction in terms, no matter how senile and incompetent he may be, provided he be neither a sheer idiot, lunatic, nor alien, if he can fulfil those conditions as to the occupation of property and payment of taxes, which women as well as men can fulfil, is entitled to the franchise; whereas a woman, did she possess all the wisdom of Minerva and all the wealth of Croesus, did she pay all the taxes assessable in respect of vast possessions, both in land and money, and were she endowed with all the political capacity of Mr. Gladstone, Lord Beaconsfield, Mr. Arthur Balfour, and Mr. Asquith rolled into one, nevertheless must stand outside the franchise because she is a woman. (Applause.) This is certainly anomalous. Well, how did this disability, arising from sex, originate? When did it originate? It had its origin in a semi-barbarous age. It was not the creation of statute, but came into being when mere physical force, mere physical prowess, was everything; and when man, the representative of physical force, had it all his own way. At a time when men rushed heedlessly to the arbitrament of the spear or the sword, and when women, by reason of their inferiority as regards physical prowess, were in a state, I might say, of domestic slavery. There was an action at law some few years ago in this country which created a great deal of interest at the time. It involved the question whether women were entitled to vote at the election of Town Commissioners. The negative, that is to say that women were incompetent to vote, was established by a narrow, by a somewhat fortuitous majority, of one in a Court of Appeal, the primary Court having been unanimously in favour of

women. Lord Chief Justice Lefroy, Chief Baron Pigot, and Chief Justice Monahan, three of our greatest judges, were in favour of affirming the right of women to vote. Chief Baron Pigot said he could not attach such a disability to women, as the monarch who wears a crown might be a woman. His words were:—

"The reign of that Queen (i.e., Queen Mary) was followed by that of Queen Elizabeth, of whom Lord Plunket said that no monarch ever better knew the royal art of reigning. The intervening reigns of Queen Mary (Consort of William III.) and of Queen Anne have been now followed by that of another female Sovereign, not less illustrious than any of her predecessors—her present Majesty. I cannot hold that in this realm, in which a female not only may reign, but does reign, in her own right, there is in women a common law disability arising out of mental incapacity."

This is the language of Chief Baron Pigot. Well, if you want a thing done, and you are in earnest about it, what are you to do? This, in my opinion—do it yourself, if you can, and if you cannot do it yourself, get others whom you consider best qualified to do it. But what is the position of women? She cannot of herself compass the end she desires, nor can she vote for others whom she considers best qualified to achieve her object. To illustrate the anomalous character of the present state of things, I might refer to the position of Miss Purser—(applause)—a very distinguished young lady. She obtained two gold medals and a studentship in Trinity College. She could achieve no greater distinction. At the present moment she lectures in the place of that eminent scholar Professor Dowden, who, I regret to say, is unwell. Several scholars of the University, who are entitled to vote, attend her lectures, yet she who lectures them has no vote, is not competent to vote in the University, because she is a woman. I think you will all agree that there can be no greater anomaly than this. (Loud applause.) But what was the ground of decision in the case I referred to? This—that women were, in the eye of the law, subordinate to men; that they were inferior in judgment, discretion, and physical capacity. As regards the latter, as regards physical capacity, they are, no doubt, inferior to men; they are not as physically strong as men; they could not endure the physical sufferings of war as well as men. The general body of women are not so many Joans of Arc; they do not profess to be either warriors or saints. They claim no title to the special interposition of heaven on their behalf; they merely say that they belong to the great human family, and that, if the one portion of that family is entitled to any privilege, then, if the conditions be identical, so is the other portion, too. As far as judgment, discretion, and mental capacity are concerned, I think most women are quite on a par with most men. Their intuition is quicker, their instinct is truer, and their tact is greater than that of most men. (Applause.) Women are more self-sacrificing than men; and from the time of Adam to the present hour their moral intrepidity has been quite equal, if not superior, to that of men. (Applause.) Our great male progenitor, when reproached for his disobedience in eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, exhibiting a degree of poltroonery that can never be forgotten, said, pointing to Eve: "The woman tempted me, and I did eat." (Laughter and applause.) In the field of education, as regards the capacity to acquire and impart knowledge, women have undoubtedly achieved great distinction. On this part of the argument I might appeal to the annals of Girton College and its long list of literary distinctions. A daughter of Mrs. Fawcett qualified, so far as related to examination, for a Senior Wranglership in Mathematics at Cambridge, beating all male competitors in the subject which tries the intellect most, and in which great success involves the possession of the highest intellectual capacity. (Applause.) And I have in my hand here a list of the names of other daughters of this University renowned for their many scholarly distinctions. But now let me turn to a more practical aspect of the question, and ask what in

this practical age are the conditions which entitle, which ought to entitle, a person to the franchise? Contribution to the public purse, and capacity to assist the State, by promoting the public weal. Well, do not women contribute to the public purse? Are they not qualified to assist in promoting the public weal? What women who support female suffrage complain of is that there has been, so to speak, an illogical halt in the matter; that every consideration which made the Legislature go as far as it did go ought to have brought it further. Mrs. Fawcett has dealt with this most elaborately. She has pointed out with much detail the several positions which women were considered and made competent by statutory enactment to fill. So great is the change in the law that, having regard to the Women's Separate Property Acts, a woman, who, in relation to her husband, was formerly considered a mere nonentity, can now sue him. A wife can now be a plaintiff, and make her husband defendant. Not only can she hold property independently of her husband, but she can, as a sole plaintiff, sue him in our Courts of Law in respect of that property. Well, what measure of support has the object advocated to-night received? I need not refer to John Stuart Mill; but I am desirous, very desirous, to show that the subject has not been treated on mere party lines. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman supported it; Mr. Haldane, a distinguished lawyer and politician, is in favour of it; and Mr. Arthur Balfour, last, but certainly not least, spoke and voted for the same object. (Applause.) Mr. Justice Madden, distinguished in law and letters, voted for it, and informed me that the Bill on the subject of female suffrage introduced in the House of Commons was dealt with on non-party lines. I am myself a sort of cross-benchman; I hear what both sides say, but I belong to neither. Perhaps I may tell you of an experience I had a few days ago. I met a very charming militant Suffragist—she looked meekness itself—and, encouraged by her gentle demeanour, in my most suave tone I said, "Take care that your drastic operations do not create a revolt in the public mind against your movement." Immediately her expression hardened, and, with a look of scorn, she exclaimed, "Don't be affected." (Laughter and applause.) I replied, "I am not affected." Thereupon she said, with much acerbity, "Don't you know that it was the action of us militants which brought our movement to the prominent position that it at present occupies—that but for us it would have ever remained in the languid atmosphere of unavailing argument? Where would the movement be but for the energy of the militants? Why, in a back seat in some obscure corner." (Applause.) Before I had time to reply the young lady added, "Did you know Mr. Gladstone?" "I knew him," I said, "to be a pre-eminently great Liberal statesman; a man of surpassing intellectuality, of stainless moral character, and of great refinement." "Well," said my young lady friend, "with all his refinement, with all his intellectuality, with all his stainlessness of moral character, he said that the Clerkenwell explosion, the attempt to blow up the Clerkenwell prison, brought the question of the disestablishment of the Church within the range of practical politics." Then, with a lofty wave of the hand, the young lady added: "You were not born to be a statesman; you are a mere judge." (Laughter.) "Well," I replied, "statesman or no statesman, mere judge or no mere judge, if you are brought before me for a criminal offence I will sentence you to imprisonment." (Laughter.) "Sentence me," she cried, "if you will; gladly will I go to gaol to attest by my sufferings the sincerity of my convictions." (Applause.) But I must pass away from this enthusiastic young lady and her militant propaganda. For myself, had I to decide the main issue in the case before me, I might find it necessary to reserve judgment. But one point at least requires no lengthened deliberation, and that is that Mrs. Fawcett is entitled to our fullest meed of admiration.

A great Suffrage rally was held in Parliament Square on Tuesday night, the 15th inst. A full account will appear next week.

## MEN'S LEAGUE AT THE QUEEN'S HALL.

This annual demonstration, which takes place on February 22nd, and particulars of which will be found on the next page, is one of considerable importance, not only by reason of the speakers, but also because it coincides with the opening of the debate on the King's Speech. Besides the Earl of Lytton, three members of the new Parliament will speak, and as we evidently must depend, for this session at least, on the initiative of private members, their utterances should be specially significant. Readers are aware that there existed within the last Parliament at least two Women's Suffrage Committees. The strengthening of these Committees is one great desideratum, and it is, therefore, specially important that the Parliamentarians should realise by seeing a crowded and enthusiastic meeting that they are definitely expected to represent our cause with vigour.

A meeting convened by men, and addressed solely by men on our question has with certain people considerable weight, and it is highly desirable that every seat should be filled.

Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M.P. (Haggerston), and Joint Hon. Treasurer of the League, put Women's Suffrage in the forefront of his electoral campaign. He is an old and tried friend. Mr. Housman, Mr. Hugh Law, M.P., Mr. Langdon, K.C., and Mr. George Elliott, K.C., are similarly sound in their support.

## MRS. CHAPIN'S RELEASE.

Mrs. Chapin, who was sentenced concurrently to three and four months' imprisonment—the heaviest Suffrage sentence on record—has secured her release after three months in Holloway by adopting a new method of hunger strike. It has resulted unfortunately in some injury to Mrs. Chapin's health, and we were therefore compelled to postpone a reception to welcome her back to our ranks.

This Reception will be given on the evening of Tuesday, March 1st, at Caxton Hall, 7 p.m., and a specially-interesting feature will be the performance of Mrs. Chapin's play "At the Gates" by members of the Actresses' Franchise League. In addition to Mrs. CHAPIN and Mrs. DESPARD, we are also to have the pleasure of hearing Miss DECIMA MOORE.

Tickets will be 1s. each, and members are advised to make an early application. A most interesting and delightful evening can safely be promised.

## THE SUFFRAGE IN OTHER LANDS.

### Australia.

News from here is of especial interest now that every Australian State has adopted the principle of Women's Suffrage. Miss Goldstein reports to *Ius Suffragii* that "equal pay for equal work has been partially recognised for the first time in Australia under private enterprise by a recent determination of the Drapery Trade Wages Board. It is in force in the federal public service in the junior grade of the State Education Department, and now a beginning has been made in private enterprise. Yet there are still people who argue that woman suffrage would not affect women's economic status!"

That it has proved beneficial to the State as well as to the individual is, indeed, the general view in Australia, and this opinion has now been put on record by a vote of both Houses of the Commonwealth Parliament. This is the wording of the resolution:—

"1. That this House testifies to the facts that after sixteen years' experience of woman suffrage in various parts of Australasia and nine years' experience in the Commonwealth the reform has justified the hopes of its supporters, and falsified all the fears and prophecies of disaster voiced by its opponents.

"2. That, as foreseen by its advocates, its effects have been (a) to gradually educate women to a sense of their responsibility in public affairs; (b) to give more prominence to social and domestic legislation.

"3. That Australasian experience convinces this House that to adopt woman suffrage is simply to apply

to the political sphere that principle of government that secures the best results in the domestic sphere—the mutual co-operation of men and women for the individual and general welfare.”

Miss Goldstein herself, to whose untiring labours the successful issue of the campaign in Victoria is so largely due, has been nominated by the Women's Political Association of Victoria as a candidate for the Senate at the election of the Commonwealth Parliament, which will be held in March or April.

#### South Africa.

On November 1 a Women's Suffrage Bill was introduced into the Natal Legislative Assembly. Mr. Haggard, the introducer, contended that no really valid argument had ever been brought forward against this reform. In his view, citizens should be given equal opportunity of serving the State in proportion to their abilities, and the State should have equal opportunity of securing their services. They needed the instinct, devotion, and self-sacrifice of women to help them to promote reform. Some strong supporters spoke in favour of the Bill, and the debate was adjourned till December 3, when the second reading was negatived by 19 votes to 12. This was a great advance on the reception accorded to a similar Bill in 1904, and it is cheering to note the growth of a favourable public opinion.

The League in South Africa has now been united under a National Committee, on which are six members elected by each colonial society. One of its first decisions was the preparation of a monster South African petition to be presented to the first Union Parliament.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

##### LONDON.

- Thurs., Feb. 17th **Caxton Hall**, 3 to 6: Mrs. K. Parkes and Mr. Bart Kennedy.
- Sun., Feb. 20th **Mass Meeting at Trafalgar Square**, 3.0: Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Fagan, Mrs. Beith, Miss Hicks, and Miss Muriel Matters.
- Mon., Feb. 21st **Recital of "Enoch Arden"**: Miss Muriel Matters (60, Onslow Gardens, S.W.), at 8 p.m.
- Thurs., Feb. 24th **Caxton Hall**, 3 to 6: Miss Matters and Mrs. H. W. Nevinson.
- Thurs., Feb. 24th **Willesden and Maida Vale Branch**: Annual Meeting, at 14, Great Western Road, at 8 p.m. Re-election of Officers, Social Evening.
- Fri., Feb. 25th **Meeting at Dr. Octavia Lewin's** (25, Wimpole Street), 2.30 to 4: Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters; chair, Dr. Marian Thornett. For invitations apply W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.
- Tues., March 1st **Caxton Hall**, at 7 p.m.: Public Reception to Mrs. Chapin.
- Thurs., March 3rd **Caxton Hall**, 3 to 6 p.m.: Mrs. Despard and Mr. Laurence Housman.

##### THE PROVINCES.

- Wed., Feb. 23rd **Manchester**, Memorial Hall, Albert Square, at 7.45 p.m.: "At Home." Speakers, Mr. B. Iden Payne, Miss Janet Hayes, and Miss Sidley.
- Fri., March 4th **South Shields**, at 3.30 p.m.: Drawing-room Meeting.
- Fri., March 4th **Wakefield**, at 8 p.m.: Meeting.
- Sat., March 5th **Sunderland**, National Executive Committee, at 11 a.m.
- Sat., March 5th **Sunderland**, evening: Reception to National Executive Committee.
- Mon., March 7th **Halifax**, at 8 p.m.
- Mon., March 7th **South Shields**, at 8.15.
- Tues., March 8th **Sunderland**, at 8 p.m.: Public Meeting.
- Tues., March 8th **Huddersfield**, at 8 p.m.
- Fri., March 11th **Liverpool**: Miss Matters and Mr. Joseph McCabe.

##### SCOTLAND.

- Tues., Feb. 22nd **Edinburgh**, Café Vegetaria, at 4 p.m.: "At Home." Speaker, Mrs. Bell.
- Tues., Feb. 22nd **Edinburgh**, at 8 p.m.: Meeting. Speaker, Mr. John A. Young.
- Wed., Feb. 23rd **Glasgow Suffrage Centre**, 302, Sauchiehall Street, at 8 p.m.: Meeting. Speaker, the Rev. J. A. Ferguson, St. Martin's Episcopal Church. Subject: "Woman, Religion, and Morality."



**DARE TO BE FREE.**

## MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

GREAT

## DEMONSTRATION

WILL BE HELD IN THE

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ON

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1910,**

**At 8 o'clock.**

Chairman - - - - - **HERBERT JACOBS**

Speakers:

**The Right Hon. THE EARL OF LYTON.**  
**H. G. CHANCELLOR, M.P.**                      **GEORGE ELLIOTT, K.C.**  
**LAURENCE HOUSMAN.**                      **A. M. L. LANGDON, K.C.**  
**HUGH LAW, M.P.**                                **ANEURIN WILLIAMS, M.P.**

**Tickets**—Sofa Stalls (Numbered and Reserved), 5/-, 2/6, 1/-  
 Grand Circle ( " " ), 2/6, 1/-  
 Orchestra ( " " ), 1/-  
 Area and Balcony (Unreserved) .. .. 6d.

Apply to the Hon. Secretary, 40, Museum Street, W.C.

Sat., March 5th **Glasgow Suffrage Centre**, 302, Sauchiehall Street, at 3 p.m.: Central Branch Cake and Candy Sale.

##### WALES.

- Mon., Feb. 28th **Pontardawe**, at 8 p.m.: Meeting. Speakers, Miss Manning, B.A., and Mrs. T. L. Janes.
- Thurs., March 3rd **Swansea**, at Walter's Road Schoolroom, at 7 p.m.: Annual Meeting and Social. Speaker, Miss Manning, B.A.

## 101 POINTS IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

*These points will cover the legal, social, and economic grounds on which women demand the vote, and will call attention to the glaring inconsistencies which demand a change in the present condition of the franchise.*

**7—UNDER THE LAW AS IT AT PRESENT STANDS A MARRIED WOMAN HAS NO SEPARATE EXISTENCE APART FROM HER HUSBAND, AND THOUGH SHE MAY HAVE SEPARATE PROPERTY, THE LAW WILL NOT INTERVENE IF HER HUSBAND EMBEZZLES OR SPENDS THAT PROPERTY.**

Coverture is the old pernicious doctrine which practically suspended the civic existence of a wife during her marriage. Husband and wife were one, and the husband that one. Only by and through him had she any legal existence whatever. Gradually under successive Acts of Parliament the chief disabilities of a wife arising out of coverture have been abolished, but the doctrine of coverture itself has never been formally repudiated.—LADY MCLAREN.

#### The Suffrage Atelier.

The Suffrage Atelier has resumed its usual meetings and demonstrations, and has made arrangements for the following weekly scheme of work:—

Tuesdays.—Decorative painting and stencilling.  
 Wednesdays.—Designers' day. Model posed at 10 a.m.; criticism of designs, 1.30; address, 2.45; committee meeting, 4.30

Thursdays.—Demonstrations of printing processes.  
 Fridays.—Banner-making and embroidery.  
 Any alterations in this plan will be notified. The office and workshop (at which the above meetings are held) will be open every week-day between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Address, Suffrage Atelier Studio, 1, Pembroke Cottages, Edwardes Square, Kensington.