

The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE Societies.

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Notes and Comments.

The Government's Position.

The *Nation* for March 15th contains two letters about Women's Suffrage—one from Mr. Zangwill, who believes that "the battle is over and the field won," although "the lumbering necessities of the Parliamentary machine, complicated by the unfortunate accident of Asquith's conservatism, impose a certain delay," the other from a gentleman who comforts himself with the illusion that the Suffrage movement is "*militants contra mundum*," and that the world which he interprets as "our country" will of course be the stronger. By the simple process of leaving out the larger and weightier body of Suffragists, he finds it possible to present a small minority ranged against a great majority. But of course the Suffrage agitation is not "the militants." The militants are a comparatively small band of irreconcilables, who, while their policy is that of the main army, pursue very different methods in seeking to carry it out. The main Suffrage body is one that works peacefully and within the law and that has lately entered upon a political campaign of which, if the *Nation's* correspondent does not understand the significance, the Liberal party organisers assuredly do. While the National Union of Suffrage Societies continues to add members at the rate of a thousand a month, while outside the Union itself it is possible to enrol at a single meeting over 270 Friends of Women's Suffrage—as was done the other day in St. Pancras—it is ridiculous to speak of the Suffrage movement as one of *militants contra mundum*. To do so is merely to display ignorance.

Islington Ratepayers' Association.

The Ratepayers' Association of Islington has drawn up a set of questions to be addressed to candidates at the approaching election of Guardians. Among them appears the following query:—"Will you oppose increases in salaries or wages of servants of the Board unless under the most exceptional circumstances?" It is earnestly to be hoped that every candidate who offers himself or herself for election as a Guardian of the Poor in Islington will have sufficient self-respect and respect for the duties of a Guardian to refuse any reply to this question. It is the duty of a public representative to consider not only the proper saving, but also the proper spending of public funds. Every proposed increase of salary or wages ought to be decided on its merits, and the person who would consent to enter upon such a question bound beforehand to a refusal would be

unworthy to fulfil the duties of a Guardian of the Poor. That any Association of citizens, in Islington or elsewhere, should agree to such a question and publish it unblushingly in the local newspaper, from which we have extracted it, speaks ill for the public spirit of London.

The Non-responsibility of Mothers.

A correspondent sends us a long letter from Ireland giving details of a case in which she is interested and of the way in which her efforts to befriend a child have been frustrated owing, as she considers, to the state of the law. The child, it seems, is constantly treated cruelly by her mother, who drinks. The father, who is described as being "just a degree above feeble-mindedness," lives in terror of his violent wife. He is reported to drink heavily every Saturday night, but to keep sober enough during the week to retain his employment. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was asked to intervene, but decided that the evidence was not conclusive and did nothing. The child was brought before the local Children's Court in the last week in February, and in the words of the letter: "The Corporation opposed the committal of the child with all their power." The magistrate decided that there was no case against the father—against whom no charge had been brought—and, apparently regarding the mother as merely a subordinate of the father, handed the child over to him, "warning him to look after her well and not to let the mother ill-treat her." As the man was admittedly away all day at work, it was obviously impossible that he could protect the girl from her mother. An attempt was made to deny the truth of the child's statements; but since she was "filthy, nearly naked, and at twelve years old could neither read nor write," there must, at least, have been culpable negligence on the part of her parents. Our correspondent urges that the law ought to hold the mother responsible equally with the father, and not to leave with the father the responsibility for the fulfilment of the mother's duties towards her own child.

A Hostel for Educated Women.

A meeting was held on March 14th, at 53, Grosvenor Street, W., by invitation of Lady Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, to discuss the building in London of a hostel for educated women workers. A site on the Portman estate is open to purchase on favourable terms, and it is calculated that for £20,000 a hostel could be built that should supply for 17s. a week private bedrooms, the use in common of drawing, sitting, and work rooms, two meals a day on week-days, and full board on Sundays. A committee which reported upon the matter expressed an opinion—which is certainly well founded—that at this rate there would be no difficulty in keeping the hostel full. They also believe that there would be an adequate return to capital. A quarter of the amount required had, it was announced, already been promised. One hopeful feature of the project is the statement that "the extent of communal life would rest with the residents themselves." The promoters of the various homes already established for women have too often been unable to rid themselves of the idea that women must be governed. Fixed hours of home-coming at night, the refusal of latch-keys, supplemented by their loan at a fee on special occasions, the enquiry of referees whether the "table manners" of an applicant are good, and similar trivial but irritating impertinences have often driven women from abodes professedly erected for their comfort; and the proprietors of such abodes—who would never have dreamed

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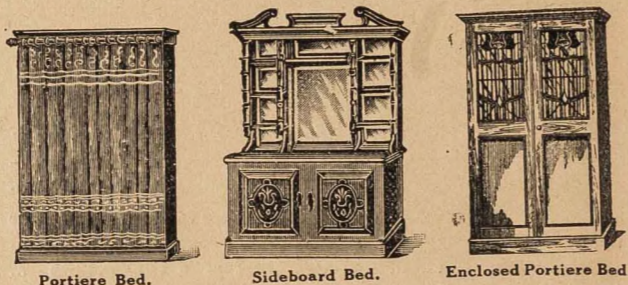
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LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. The Editor, however, accepts no responsibility for unsolicited matter, and no manuscripts will be returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT THE LATEST TIME FOR RECEIVING NEWS, NOTICE AND REPORTS FOR THE WEEK'S ISSUE IS THE FIRST POST ON TUESDAY. News should be sent in as long beforehand as possible.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS to be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

ADVERTISEMENTS (Societies, Miscellaneous, etc.) must reach the Office (2, Robert Street) not later than first post on Tuesday.

ADVERTISEMENTS (Trade), S. R. Le Mare, Advertisement Agent, 21, Paternoster Square, London, E.C.

NOTICE.—This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mail day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, communication should be made to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, London, London, W.C.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

Suffrage Missionaries.

Last Spring many members of the National Union turned even their brief Easter holiday to splendid account in various ways, and the reports of their activity on behalf of the Cause which reached headquarters were, we have been told, the greatest possible encouragement to the officers of the Union who, always face to face at such close quarters with the difficulties and complexities of a great political campaign, must often sorely need some such practical cheer from us. Now that the return of spring is again filling us with fresh vigour and hopefulness after the political gloom and storminess of the "winter of our discontent," it may be an opportune moment for each of us to decide what special piece of work she can best do, and then to begin without delay her own personal campaign. There are many different ways in which individuals may utilise their opportunities, and perhaps a few suggestions, with special reference to holiday work, may be of use.

First, it would be an excellent plan if every member made it a rule when going to a new place, even for a very short time, to find out whether there is a Society of the National Union there. A post-card to the Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, will elicit the name and address of the local secretary, who should then be called on at once. Any work that one proposes to do should then, of course, be arranged in consultation with her. There may be pressing need for helpers in some local scheme of work already being carried out. If there is no local secretary, the solitary missionary's task is harder to begin but may be even more needed.

I. DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE.—Much very useful work can be done by those who can face the dullness and discomfort of standing at street corners, by theatre queues, etc., and giving away leaflets, or who in a country district can go from house to house with them, having in this case a little talk with the persons visited, and, perhaps, finally enrolling them as "Friends of Suffrage." For this latter purpose Lady Chance's pamphlet, "A Word to Working Women," is especially useful. Half-a-crown, or three or four shillings' worth of leaflets will go a long way—they can be had probably from the secretary of one's own Society, or can be ordered from the Literature Department of the N.U.W.S.S. When ordering, the purpose for which the leaflets are required and the class of persons to whom it is intended to give them should be stated—i.e., whether to people in a small country town or village, to working men and women in a manufacturing town, and so on.

II. THE SALE OF "COMMON CAUSE."—This is not nearly so encouraging as the distribution of leaflets, if the worker judges by the number of copies disposed of. People who will seize a leaflet and pass on eagerly perusing it, are not generally so willing to stand still to buy. But the value of the work consists

of such interferences in the case of men—go about complaining that women are always dissatisfied. The promoters of the present scheme appear to be more sensible and their declaration that there is no charity in supplying dwellings for women at a reasonable profit, is quite refreshing.

Women and the Royal Geographical Society.

The following list of ladies just elected Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society appeared in the "Woman's Platform" of the Standard on March 15th:—Mrs. Ames-Lyde, the Duchess of Aosta (who has travelled largely in the Upper Nile regions), Miss Clara Buxton, Miss Georgette E. Christian, Mrs. Mary Inman, Miss Annette Meakin (the well-known writer on Morocco and the Near East), Miss Bessie Pullen-Bury (president of the Geographical Society of the Lyceum Club), Mrs. Elsie V. Rainey, Mrs. Genevieve Ruxton, the Countess of Sefton, Miss Mary C. F. Stuart, Mrs. Agnes Weinberg, and Mrs. Fanny Bullock Workman (the distinguished explorer of the Himalayas).

Inaccurate "Antis".

The New York Times of March 7th reports an Anti-Suffrage meeting at which, among other groundless statements, Mrs. A. H. Parker, of Dover, Mass., described the late Freewoman as the English organ of the Suffragists, and attributing to that paper a statement that permanent marriage was a mistake, drew, apparently, the conclusion that English Suffragists desired the abolition of marriage. Now the fact is that the Freewoman was at no time the organ of any Suffrage society, and towards the close of its brief career announced itself as definitely Anti-Suffrage in its policy. But Suffragists do not, therefore, go about saying that the "Antis" want to abolish marriage.

The same lady seems to have given a lurid interpretation to Miss Beatrice Harraden's innocent observation that women do very well without marriage. Some of them unquestionably do. History sparkles with the names of illustrious spinsters. But to say this is not to say that women do not also do very well with marriage, nor in any sense to attack the institution.

Girls in Court.

The Child's Guardian, the organ of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, called attention in its current number to the position of young girls who are called upon to give evidence in Court on questions affecting morality. "Not many people," it is truly observed, "have any idea of what happens under such circumstances. A girl in the witness box has to tell of incidents that are an outrage on modesty, and to give details. Even if the provisions of Section 114 of the Children Act are taken advantage of, and the public excluded from the Court (and this is not always done), the girl is still surrounded by officials who are men. She is often subjected to cross-examination by an expert whose object is to break down her evidence. . . . She should always be accompanied by a woman, one who has had a wide experience of human nature and is possessed of much human sympathy." The Central Executive Committee of the Society, we are glad to hear, have been discussing the desirability of making representations to the authorities on the subject of securing womanly protection for girls in Courts of Law.

The Triumph of Women.

A photograph of a curious and interesting picture has been forwarded to Mrs. Fawcett by its owner, who offers to supply the National Union with copies for sale. The original is considered to be the work of Van Thulden, a well-known pupil of Rubens. It represents a background of temple and palm tree, in front of which advances a two-horsed chariot. A young woman with an axe leads it, the reins are held by an angel, and the seat is occupied by a rose-crowned woman who bears in one hand a beehive, the symbol of industry, and in the other a palm branch, the symbol of triumph. Her wheels pass over the bodies of two men who apparently typify vice and cruelty, since one of them grasps a snake, while the hand of the other is upon a dead child. The chariot is followed by a procession of women and children, headed by a woman armed, with spear, buckler and helmet. An angel, trumpeting, flies ahead and little angels sprinkle flowers from above. On the farther side of the chariot stands a woman pouring gold into it at the feet of its occupant. Far in the foreground shadowy enemies are in flight. The original destination and occasion of the picture do not appear to be known, but is certainly singularly apposite as a representation of Suffrage ideals.

Editorship of "The Common Cause."

The temporary engagement of Miss Clementina Black as acting Editor of THE COMMON CAUSE will come to an end with the issue of April 4th, after which date Miss A. Maude Royden will become Editor.

very largely in its excellency as advertisement, and it is by this that it ought to be measured. The required number of copies can be obtained on sale or return from the Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, London, W.C. When writing, ask for a COMMON CAUSE poster, which should be pinned to the front of the seller's coat or fastened on her left arm. Take with you a supply of change, call out the name of the paper and the price, keep the copies you cannot hold out in your hand in a waterproof bag slung over the shoulder. The best pitches for selling are generally the same as for distributing literature. In a country town, choose market-day if possible for both purposes.

III. ENROLLING OF "FRIENDS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE."—No member should be at any time without a supply of the cards to be signed by "Friends." These, again, can be obtained through one's local secretary, or from the Head Office. A holiday often affords special opportunities for enrolment. The present writer has had very good luck in meeting persons in trains, hotels and restaurants who seemed quite eager to sign at the first very hesitating and tentative invitation! In villages people often do not in the least resent an utter stranger calling on them and asking them to sign, and when this is the case, the good done by a few hours' visiting is often incalculable. One feels it to be the ideal of every member to gain as many "Friends" per week as possible; but one must remember that mere numbers are not everything; over-persuasion is not good, since friendship for a cause, like real personal friendship, cannot be forced.

IV. INCREASING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNION.—Some members persuade two or three or more "Friends" to join us each year. Can we not make it an aim each to win at least one? This would speedily double the membership.

V. OPEN-AIR MEETINGS.—As the weather becomes more favourable, open-air campaigns will be a necessary and most effective branch of activity. To hold an open-air meeting is a very simple proceeding indeed, for the preparations are so slight, and the audience nearly everywhere springs up in the most remarkable fashion, is invariably friendly and has a strong sense of humour and fair play. In a country place, where counter-attractions are few, the humblest and most nervous speaker, who considers herself anything but "great shakes," can often keep a crowd drinking in and discussing our propaganda for hours at a stretch. An inexperienced, would-be speaker often feels able to face an open-air audience in some remote village where she is quite unknown, while it would be agony to make one's first attempts in a place where one would be listened to with a most disconcerting personal interest and curiosity, because one was known to the audience.

A van can generally be hired from a greengrocer or carrier for about 2s. 6d. per time, and a prominent, though, if possible, not too noisy pitch should be selected. On a village green, or any equally safe spot, a chair will do instead of a van, and it can be borrowed from a friendly cottage or inn. At least two speakers are required, so that turns can be taken. It is always quite easy to keep things going well, especially if questions are taken between the speeches, so that the speakers realise the attitude and point of view of the crowd. Plenty of leaflets should be given away and the COMMON CAUSE should be in evidence, as well as "Friends" cards.

VI. ORGANISATION OF PUBLIC MEETINGS.—The holding of a public meeting entails greater trouble and expense, but isolated suffragists have sometimes arranged small meetings with excellent results. As there is a good deal of detail to be mastered (though it is perfectly simple) in connection with this work, anybody who sees a good opening for holding a public propaganda meeting should consult Miss Maude Royden's "Hints on the Organisation of Suffrage Work" (N.U.W.S.S. 6d.), where she will find most valuable and exhaustive information.

VII. FORMATION OF A SOCIETY.—If suffrage interest has been stimulated by any of the above means, the best possible way of completing the work is by forming a new Society to carry it on. Application should be made to the Head Office for the rules of the Union; one of the best-known local members should be asked to hold a meeting at her house, to which all the other members should be personally invited, with the explanation of the object of the conference.

An agenda paper should be carefully drawn up and a copy given to everyone present. One member should be chosen by the meeting to preside, and the following business should be proceeded with:—(1) The object, policy and rules of the N.U.W.S.S. should be carefully explained to and discussed by the members; (2) a resolution that a local Society be formed should be proposed, seconded and voted upon; (3) Resolution: "that the Honorary Officers and Committee of the Society be now elected"; (4) Resolution: "that the Committee consist of Honorary Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and (some convenient number) ordinary members"; (5) The Chairman should ask the members to propose (or nominate) and second names of

suitable members of Committee. As the meeting will probably be a small one, it will be possible to give each member a slip of paper on which she may write down as many of the proposed names as there are to be members elected. The number of times each name appears on the papers can then be counted, and the persons whose names appear most often will be those elected. From these, the Chairman, the Honorary Treasurer, and Secretary must be chosen—if necessary in the same way.

The Society will be now fairly launched, and the Hon. Secretary should write to the N.U. stating the number of members enrolled, and sending in the requisite affiliation fee of 3d. per head. A membership of not less than 20 is required before a Society can be affiliated, but there is no reason why fewer members in any area should not form a private Society for a time, and make it their chief aim to gain, as early as possible, a large enough membership to secure their recognition as a Branch of the National Union.

For advice as to further work of local Committees and Secretaries reference should again be made to "Hints on the Organisation of Suffrage Work," which should be in the hands of Secretaries of all young Societies. M. G.

The Masque of Learning.

Nobody who failed to see the wonderful performances given last week in the great Hall of the University of London knows the full possibilities of the pageant. That divorce between the eye and the mind of which we are apt to be uncomfortably conscious in witnessing symbolical representations was wholly absent; through the successive episodes of the Masque of Learning ran a living, unifying thought which gave to onlookers a sense of beholding the actual flow of life's stream. Even the little roughnesses, the touches of amateur hurry and awkwardness had a charm, as of hand-made, not machine-made, art.

The opening scene, which was, perhaps, the most difficult and hazardous, was one in which barbarians were seen pursuing and slaying Roman citizens. The screams and struggles were so remote from daily modern life, the space of the stage so confined that an uneducated audience might conceivably have tittered; and for a minute or two the atmosphere of the hall was chill. But the darkness that had enveloped the battle scene melted away. A solitary man moved slowly across the stage; it was the barbarian chieftain, grown old and wearing now a Roman mantle and a Roman name; and as he passed he said:

"When I was young, I thought only of destroying Rome, and blotting out her very name from the earth. But now that I am old, I seek to do justice according to her laws." With his words the historical significance seized his hearers. The conquest of the world by Rome, in the very process of her defeat, stood before us in that single figure. Next came an Oriental group, presented mainly by Eastern students. The great Haroun-al-Raschid, seated amid his viziers and attendants, received ambassadors from the sovereigns of China, Persia, India, Byzantium, Spain and France—the last-named sent by Charlemagne. To this scene again there was, as it were, an epilogue; Omar Khayyam, plucking to pieces a rose, passed over, repeating to himself verses upon the transitoriness of all things human. King Alfred, peaceful among his court and children and visited by embassies and artificers, made a Saxon pendant to the glories of the Sultan. To the courts of kings succeeded pictures of monastic life, among which the dubbing of a Templar stands out in peculiar impressiveness. Secular life took the form of a great fair with buyers, sellers, dice-players, and children; a party of Benedictine nuns passed through the turmoil; a barber-surgeon and a herbalist fell to disputing; Moorish merchants brought for sale a manuscript in which Michael Scot, the fortunate buyer, recognised with a cry of delight the original work of Aristotle. The noise, crowd and movement of the fair gave place to a symbolical scene of stately dignity in which the founding of colleges was set forth. Bishop Merton, with his banner bearer, established the first Oxford College, still known by his name. The Scotch princess, Devorgilla de Baliol, brought in her hands the charter by which Balliol was founded. Robert Bruce established the Scots College in Paris, and three Scottish prelates did the same for the universities of St. Andrews, Glasgow, and Aberdeen. Finally the scenes of mediæval learning closed with a group that cried out to be immortalised by some modern Paul Veronese. The seven subjects of the Mediæval University curriculum—grammar, rhetoric and logic, music, astronomy, geometry and arithmetic were each represented by a female figure, and at the foot of each sat a disciple.

Precursors of the Renaissance were Friar Bacon in prison; Father Schwartz pounding his newly invented gunpowder and starting to see it flame; Faust as the necromancer

raising visions of Helen and of Mephistopheles, and Faust again as the traditional inventor of printing. The Renaissance, opened with the court of Lorenzo the Magnificent, filled with faces and figures from Florentine pictures; a fugitive Greek scholar was made welcome and the printing of the classics indicated. Another court, as splendid, but not so picturesque, was that of Ferdinand and Isabella, where Columbus, begging in vain for assistance from the king and the clergy, received it from the queen. An English sovereign was shown in Henry the Eighth, to whom More presented Erasmus and Holbein—all three surprisingly like their originals; and a Scottish one in Mary Queen of Scots, to whom, as she sat amid her Maries, John Knox entered demanding and obtaining the application of ecclesiastical funds to the endowment of the Parish Schools.

A gathering at the Mermaid Tavern brought before us the great circle of the Elizabethans; Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Raleigh, Dekker, Heywood, Drayton, Chapman, Beaumont and Fletcher, North, Florio, and the nameless editor of Holinshed made up the party, many of whom were recognisable from portraits. Shakespeare, however, was not the Shakespeare who looks down bland, human and more than a little portly, from the Stratford monument. Shakespeare, indeed, appeared a second time, being presented by a young Francis Bacon to His Majesty, James I., between a deputation of Oxford scholars and a deputation of translators of the Bible. The literature of the Renaissance having been thus amply honoured, the Masque turned towards science. We beheld Napier of Merchiston, the inventor of logarithms, busy at his calculations and attended by a page in the costume of Rostand's "Chanteclair," whose function it was to keep off and alarm visitors. One visitor, however, was admitted, Henry Briggs, the young scholar from Cambridge, who was to carry on Napier's work. Somewhat of the same spirit marked the next group—Galileo, old and nearly blind, unable to see through his telescope, was visited by the young Milton, to whom he exhibited the glories now hidden from himself. With the interval of less than half a century we seemed to spring suddenly to modern times. Charles II. testing the science of the new Royal Society by his fiction of the fish that did not cause water to spill when slipped into a full bowl, spoke and thought like a contemporary and his little lecture upon the need and the virtue of experiment might have been uttered but yesterday.

The educational scene which marked the close and decline of the Renaissance had the quaint prettiness of a Greenaway drawing—we beheld the schoolmaster horrified at outdoor games, whose rod was employed as much as his book; the schoolmistress with her *Mangnall's Questions*, and Use of the Globes; and the University Professor who brushed away the living spray proffered by his pupil and kept his eyes on his book.

The Encyclopedists furnished us with scenes from Sweden; Linnaeus thanking God for the bush which Dr. Dryasdust despised; from France, David Hume and Adam Smith received amid a party of distinguished Frenchmen—Voltaire, Rousseau, D'Alembert, Buffon, Diderot, etc., in the salon of Mlle. de Lespinasse, on the occasion of the Encyclopédie's completion; from Scotland—the historic meeting of the boy Walter Scott with Burns, the company including Watt with a model of his steam-engine, and Robert Adam with a model of the Edinburgh University Building; and from Germany, but none from England. Some of us would have liked to see Dr. Johnson—who surely was an encyclopedist—and his brilliant circle. Germany gave us pictures of Kant, Goethe and Schiller, and the brothers Humboldt, the brothers Grimm, Pestalozzi and Froebel. A dance of green-clad children representing the Spirit of Grimm's Fairy Tales made a contrast to the stately pavane danced in the drawing-room of Mlle. de Lespinasse.

Last of all came a scene representing the Learning and Life of the present and future. The City and the University, attended on the one hand by Mayor, Alderman, and Mace-bearer, on the other by the various arts and sciences, entered in stately procession. At a sign from Alma Mater, the University, Memory recalled the Past. Veiled figures from all periods came slowly in, passing from hand to hand the torch of learning until it reached that of Musica—or Harmony. At a sign from the City, the Present ushered in figures of actual activities led by the angel of St. Paul's carrying a model of the Cathedral. Craftsmen and craftsmen followed, students of business, artists in health, artists of beauty—including a town-planner. The Future, running in, took from the hands of the Present the torch, and as darkness swallowed the stage the torch died last from sight.

A more beautiful or a more educative performance has never in our day been seen in London, and those who witnessed it have but one cry to the rich imagination that conceived it: "Do it again, Professor Geddes! Do it again!"

The Stead Memorial.

Proposed Hostels for Women.

Earl Grey, Mrs. Fawcett, Mr. Norman Angell, Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, Mrs. Victor Branford, Mrs. Stanton Coit, Mrs. Mary Higgs, the Duchess of Marlborough, Miss Elizabeth Robins, the Bishops of Hereford and Birmingham are among the numerous signatures to an appeal we have received for funds for a memorial to Mr. W. T. Stead. The appeal says:—"Believing that the best memorial to a man is one that carries out the spirit of his life, it has been decided by a group of friends and admirers of Mr. W. T. Stead to perpetuate the memory of his work by the erection of homes for women-workers, to be called "The Stead Hostels."

Throughout England "Rowton Houses" are now familiar as a provision for housing working men, but in many towns in England, and also in other countries, there are no such properly supervised hostels for women and girls. Mr. Stead, whose chivalrous interest in and noble fight for the cause of womanhood is so well known, deeply sympathised with every effort to supply this lack, and twice summoned a conference on the subject at his own house.

The proposition has so far been mooted at private meetings, but has received immediate support, Her Majesty Queen Alexandra responding by a donation of £100. It has now been decided to seek the approval and financial support of a wider public for the foundation of such lodging homes for women. The need is pressing, for increasing numbers of women seek employment in large towns. Those in charge of Labour Exchanges testify that they often do not know of suitable lodgings for women for whom work is waiting.

We are desirous of raising a substantial fund, to be supplied in grants or on loan, till no large town shall be without at least one such hostel. These loans or grants will not be given until careful inquiry has been made as to the local needs for hostels, and assurances of local support and effective supervision in the future are forthcoming. The first hostel is being arranged for in London, but as Mr. Stead's work was international, and the need is also international, it is hoped that "Stead Hostels" will be erected to his memory in many countries. We ask for whole-hearted support in raising this memorial from all the friends and admirers throughout the world of Mr. Stead's work.

Donations towards the fund will be gratefully received by the hon. treasurer, Bouchier F. Hawksley, Esq., 30, Mincing Lane, London, E.C."

Mrs. Philip Snowden's American Tour.

The following is an extract from a letter received by Mrs. Fawcett from Mrs. Philip Snowden, who is at present making a tour in the United States:—

"Often I have regretted my absence from home and then I have wondered if it were intended that I should be here, for the acts of violence done in England threaten to break the wave of progress here, partly because certain foolish American women are openly and impudently defending sabotage.

"I am going from State to State as fast as I can, in each to tell the true story of British women, and I have been privileged to see some gratifying results. In Columbus, the legislature extended a unanimous invitation to me to address it for an hour, and I spoke from the Speaker's chair, with the Speaker on one side and the Governor on the other. They were amazed to hear that there were suffragists in England in any number who do not believe in crime and violence for the furtherance of their cause. Michigan is to re-submit the question in April. Our friends are very hopeful. Nevada, they say, is sure to win this year. I am to do a great deal of work in Texas in April."

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Some New Books.

THE ODD FARMHOUSE. By the Odd Farmwife. (Macmillan.) 6s. After one has recovered from the disappointment experienced at the beginning of this volume that "The Odd Farmhouse" does not deal with life on a genuine farm, and that "the Odd Farmwife" is not of the true breed at all, but an American lady who was determined to live in England in "none but an old house," the book can be appraised at its true valuation.

Possibly it will take the reader a few chapters to find his bearings in an English homestead, where the characteristic rural atmosphere is entirely omitted, and he, or she, will probably find it hard to pardon a farmwife for her attitude of scorn towards "the putting up of her own jams" and the filling of her spacious store-cupboards with home-made jellies, pickles, and preserves. But after the point of view of this new type of farmwife has been assimilated, forgiveness will assuredly be granted her on account of her naive comment on life in general, and her wise hints on gardens and gardening, dictated by a love of Nature and growing things. The Farmwife is also free from the grip of English conventionalities, which leads to many a refreshing episode, such, for instance, as her attack on Spring Cleaning:—

... I refuse to have the most divine days of the year dedicated to dirt. I know a charming old lady in America who invited a friend to spend several days with her in the country, and the friend wrote excusing herself regretfully by saying she was having spring cleaning done and couldn't come. Whereupon the old lady wired:—"Dirt will keep. Violets won't."

Altogether, this is a bright little book, which can be heartily recommended.

A TURKISH WOMAN'S EUROPEAN IMPRESSIONS. By Zeyneb Hanoum. Edited by Grace Ellison. With 23 illustrations. (Seeley, Service.) 6s. net.

The writer of the letters which make up this volume is one of the two ladies whose escape from Turkey excited such attention some six or seven years ago, and of whom Pierre Loti wrote in *Les Désenchantés*. It is clear enough that what these sisters found intolerable was not their life as Turkish women but the horrible tyranny and oppression weighing upon the whole population of Turkey under the rule of Abdul Hamid. As granddaughters of a Frenchman, they were objects of peculiar suspicion; and—probably for the same reason—they dreamed of Western life as perfect. But acquaintance with the world of their dreamland disillusioned them. They met with snobbery, vulgarity and frivolity; they were horrified to find European women making so little use of the great gift of freedom; nay, they were obviously somewhat shocked by the publicity, the playing of outdoor games, the speaking in the open air, the mixed dancing, which are the sign of that freedom. Finally, about a year ago, Zeyneb Hanoum went back. "Désenchantée I left Turkey, désenchantée I have left Europe," she says in the last words of her book; and the reader is left convinced that even as she cannot live happy in Europe, so she will find herself unable to live happy in Turkey. In all states of violent transition some persons of fine nervous organisation will be, like Falkland, out of touch with each side.

She met in England with two reminders of Turkish arrangements. The ladies' club, of which she became a member, seemed to her, after all, "another kind of harem," but one which had "none of the mystery and charm of the Harem of the East." She was taken one day to the House of Commons where she found "the performance . . . boring enough." "But, my dear," she exclaims, "why have you never told me that the Ladies' Gallery is a harem? A harem with its latticed windows! The harem of the Government! No wonder the women cried through the window of that harem that they wanted to be free!"

NEW WINE AND OLD BOTTLES. By Constance Smedley. (Fisher Unwin.) 6s.

This is another of those country town studies in which Miss Smedley provides a setting so agreeably different from that of

the average novel. On this occasion a pageant serves as a sort of touchstone, contact with which brings out the essential character both of "county" people and townspeople. The narrative is so deft, so lightly touched and so good-humoured as almost to conceal the originality and truthfulness with which many of the personages are drawn. Best of all, perhaps, is the scowling young man bent upon social reform and suspected by his neighbours and by the girl in love with him, of manufacturing bombs when he is but preparing to open a high-art shop. His sister, the enterprising, managing, kind-hearted heroine, whose foibles Miss Smedley sees so plainly, is equally real, and the scene in which her pageant is altered in every point by judicious elders, while her own adherents applaud, is a bit of delicate comedy almost French in its neatness. A little carelessness in the actual writing and just a dash too much of *couleur de rose* in the view of life are the sole defects in this agreeable story.

THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS. By Josephine Butler. Translated by Dr. Osmund Airy, with introduction by the Right Hon. James Stuart. (Arrowsmith, Bristol.) 6d.

This little book gives to the British public for the first time the cream of the speeches made by Mrs. Josephine Butler during her European tour in the year 1874, being the first translation to appear after all these years of "Une Voix dans le Desert." It is a fragrant reminiscence of the memorable crusade of hers which gave birth to the great continental revolt against the old and evil policy, then and still pursued by European States, of licensing and regulating vice. The regulation system, based upon the twin fallacy of the "necessary evil" and a different moral standard for the sexes is by no means a thing of the past, even in our own dominions; therefore the publication is not superfluous.

"The systematic and legal organisation of sexual vice contains a germ destructive of virtue, a principle corrosive of social progress, in comparison with which the irregularities caused by passion are of but minor importance." With such stinging words did Mrs. Butler passionately appeal to her sisters everywhere to see that the detestable system was swept away. It took, as we know, over twenty years' strenuous agitation in this country, to get our statute book cleansed of the C.D. Acts. The block in the path of the Abolitionist was precisely the same obstacle which women are fighting to-day, that is, political incapacity. "Men alone take charge of public morality," exclaimed this leader of women, "and they are resolved that we shall at least affect a discreet and absolute ignorance upon all which concerns it." We have certainly moved a little in advance of that idea to-day and may be thankful therefor. But woman has still to cope with the paralysis of common sense which denies to her a voice as to how that morality is to be enforced and shaped into law! To her comes this memento of a noble soul, like a waft of pure air from the mountain-tops of faith; it will revive the drooping spirit of those who are still waging in this day of grace the dreary war of the Suffrage.

G. H. D.

Books Received.

DEVELOPMENT AND PURPOSE. By L. T. Hobhouse. (Macmillan.) 10s.

THE CELIBACY OF MAURICE KANE. By V. Conway Gordon. (Hodden and Hardingham.) 6s.

MARGARET HOLROYD. By Annie S. Swan. (Hodder and Stoughton.) 3s. 6d.

THE BANNER WITH THE NEW DEVICE. By William W. Hicks. (Sanctuary Publishing Co., Boston.)

THE COMBINED MAZE. By May Sinclair. (Hutchinson.) 6s.

THE DIAL, March. (Simpkin and Marshall.) 3d.

THE PLOUGHSHARE, No. 2. (Socialist Quaker Society.) 3d.

Houghton-le-Spring By-Election.

CANDIDATES.
T. W. Richardson (Unionist).
Tom Wing (Liberal).
Alderman W. House (Labour).

OFFICE.
31, The Avenue, Sunderland.

COMMITTEE ROOMS.

Houghton—55, Sunderland Street; Mrs. Streeter in charge.
Hetton Downs—35, Market Street; Mrs. Tozer in charge.
Ryhope—86, Ryhope Street; Miss Beaver in charge.
Seaham Colliery: Miners' Hall.

ORGANISERS IN CHARGE.
Miss C. M. Gordon (North-Eastern Federation).
Miss Margaret Robertson (E.F.F.).

Before this goes to press the result of the Houghton-le-Spring election will be known. Prophecy is therefore vain. But however the voting may go, there can be no doubt that the Houghton-le-Spring division is converted to enthusiastic support of Women's Suffrage: and it is equally certain that next time, if not this, the seat will be captured for Labour. Suffragists and Labourists alike have had to begin from the beginning—the response has been magnificent, and the only question has been—is the time long enough to win a majority of the electorate not only to new ideals, but to the determination to express those ideals through the ballot-box?

We have had another grand week of meetings, culminating in two on Friday night addressed by Mr. Philip Snowden—at Old Penshaw and Philadelphia. The reception accorded him by the miners was such as he should have. The halls were packed, and his speeches were greeted with boundless enthusiasm. On Saturday he spoke at three Labour meetings, the last being a demonstration in the Gaiety Theatre Houghton, at which Miss Robertson was invited to speak for the Suffragists. This Hall, which holds 1,500, was crowded out, and a fine greeting was given both to Mr. Snowden and to the candidate. Every one of the speakers paid high tribute to the work of the women in the election, and the audience received every allusion to them with enthusiasm. On Monday night, the eve of the poll, 26 Labour meetings will be held, at every one of which women Suffragists are speaking.

The women grow more ardent in support of Suffrage and House day by day. We have got out a leaflet, "House and Housing" (Mrs. Annot Robinson's idea), which we find immensely effective in our work amongst the women, for Alderman House has done fine work as Chairman of the Health Committee of the Durham County Council. One good fruit of the women's advocacy is that in the cottage windows portraits of House far out-number those of either of the other candidates. When the election is over, we shall have to form societies in several of the large mining villages in this division.

We cannot close without thanking once again all those who have helped us with work, money, or contributions in kind. Miss Milbanke has been most generous in sending us almost daily parcels of the good things which seldom find their way into lodgings—whilst Mrs. Jacques and Mrs. Vause have supplied us with delicious cakes and fresh eggs. Indeed, this campaign has been remarkably without hardships, though, from the immense number of important meetings held, it has been even more tiring than usual.

The following is the leaflet circulated by the National Union during the election:—

HOUSE AND HOUSING.

In the last quarter of 1911, 44 babies out of every 100 born in Houghton-le-Spring died. In spite of all the love and care of their mothers, they were murdered by the insanitary and inconvenient homes into which they were born.

In this constituency great numbers of the houses provided by the Coal Company have no wash-houses and no scullery. None of them have baths. Families of five and six persons live in two-roomed houses. Sometimes they live in one-roomed dwellings. In many of the rows of Miners' cottages the conveniences stand within a few feet of the doors and windows of the living room. No wonder the babies die!

But the return of Labour Members to the Durham County Council was the beginning of better things for the women and children. The Labour Members on the Council, Alderman House amongst them, fought both Conservatives and Liberals to secure better homes for the people, and during the last five years thousands of insanitary houses have been destroyed and good ones built in their place. The work of Alderman House in particular was recognised when he was appointed Chairman of the Health Committee. To his efforts, more perhaps than any man's, you owe the blocks of healthy houses in Usworth and Washington, in Silksworth and Ryhope, where the babies are not murdered by evil conditions, and the bloom is not taken from the modesty of young girls by overcrowding.

Housing and kindred problems arise in the House of Commons as they arise on the County Council. Don't you want men there, too, who know and understand—who have suffered like yourselves, and have proved how much they care by years of unpaid work on your behalf?

What House has done in the County Council he will do in Parliament. He will fight unceasingly for better housing conditions for the people. Support the Labour Party and Vote for HOUSE and Healthy Homes.

Treasurer's Statement.

By the time this number is published the Houghton by-election will be over, but, whatever the result, there is no doubt that the work done has been of enormous value to the suffrage cause, both directly and indirectly.

We still need £50 to cover the cost of the election, and I shall be grateful if any friend, or friends, will help us with this sum.

Election Fighting Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	489	2	9
Received since March 10th:—			
The Misses Wilks (2nd donation)	0	5	0
Miss Sylvia Drew (3rd donation)	3	0	0
Lady Emily Wyndham Quin (2nd donation)	5	0	0
Miss E. C. McKee (3rd donation)	3	3	0
Miss T. Gosse (2nd donation)	2	0	0
Mrs. Hewitt (2nd donation)	1	0	0
Mrs. Talbot (2nd donation)	1	0	0
Nurse Mabel Durand (2nd donation)	0	10	0
Mrs. L. C. Rose-Innes (2nd donation)	0	2	6
Mrs. L. C. Rose-Innes (2nd donation)	0	2	6
Mr. Col. Linley Blathwayt (2nd donation)	1	1	0
Mrs. Slack (2nd donation)	5	0	0
Mrs. Alice Gates (2nd donation)	0	10	6
Miss D. Macdonald (3rd donation)	1	0	0
Miss Byas	1	1	0
Miss Margaret Legge	2	2	0
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brown (2nd donation)	2	2	0
Mrs. Gillett (3rd donation)	15	0	0
Miss Hermione Ramsden (2nd donation)	25	0	0
Mrs. W. E. Paine (2nd donation)	1	0	0
Miss E. J. Charlesworth (2nd donation)	0	2	6
Miss E. M. Tanner (2nd donation)	1	1	0
Miss M. Crofton (2nd donation)	0	10	0
Miss E. Newbiggin (2nd donation)	0	5	0
Mr. G. E. S. Streatfield (2nd donation)	5	0	0
Mrs. R. Norton Taylor (2nd donation)	1	1	0
The Misses C. M. and E. G. Forster (2nd donation)	0	2	0
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (3rd donation)	1	1	0
Miss A. F. Dimock (2nd donation)	1	1	0
Mrs. Tomlinson	2	0	0
Miss M. A. Evans (2nd donation)	0	10	0
Lady Onslow (2nd donation)	0	10	0
Mrs. J. Ward	1	1	0
Miss A. M. Kemp (2nd donation)	2	2	0
Mrs. Le Lacheur (2nd donation)	10	0	0
Miss A. M. Allen (2nd donation)	1	0	0
Miss R. G. Falkiner	0	10	0
Miss A. T. Hertz (2nd donation)	5	0	0
Miss E. M. Julian (2nd donation)	10	0	0
Miss B. Lowe (2nd donation)	2	2	0
Mrs. Jefferd (2nd donation)	0	5	0
Mrs. H. Weston Eve (2nd donation)	5	0	0
Miss Celia Wray (3rd donation)	2	2	0
E. M. (2nd donation)	5	5	0
Mrs. Bernheim (2nd donation)	1	1	0
Mr. E. H. Smith (3rd donation)	1	0	0
Miss M. F. A. Stedman (2nd instalment, profits on sale of home-made jam and marmalade)	0	14	8
Miss R. M. Paul (2nd donation)	1	4	0
Miss D. F. Cholmeley (2nd donation)	0	6	0
Mrs. Lake (2nd donation)	0	7	6

Special Donations.
Houghton-le-Spring By-Election.

Mrs. Raffles Bulley	2	2	0
Rochdale W.S.S. (per Mrs. Toyne)	1	0	0
Mrs. R. Talbot	0	10	0
Mr. F. E. Marshall	25	0	0
Mrs. F. E. Marshall	10	0	0

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A WOMAN'S INCOME.

How to Increase it now: How to make sure of it in the future.

The great increase in living expenses during the last few years has sorely perplexed and greatly inconvenienced many of those whose incomes are principally derived from interest or dividends, and seem, therefore, more or less fixed. It has occurred to comparatively few that there is a convenient and eminently safe way of enlarging the income to keep pace with the constantly growing expenditure.

By the purchase of an annuity in some strong and wealthy company, a fixed amount of capital may be made to produce an income several times greater than the dividends obtainable on any ordinary investment.

For example, £1,000 invested in the ordinary way in gilt-edged securities will yield, perhaps, £35 per annum. Invested in an annuity, a lady aged 40 would draw annually £60 16s.; at age 50, £70 13s.; at age 60, £88 5s.; and at age 80, £196 9s.

An annuity with a sound life assurance company has the supreme advantage of absolute safety. Professor de Morgan, the great mathematician, affirmed: "There is nothing in the commercial world which approaches even remotely the security of a well-established life office." Why, then, pinch yourself on a mere 3 per cent., or, worse still, risk both capital and income, and involve yourself in worry and anxiety, in an attempt to obtain 4½ to 5 per cent. by investing in stocks or second grade bonds, when you may with the best security obtain 6, 10, 15, or 20 per cent. on the amount of your capital annually for the rest of your life?

If you have not considered the matter you naturally ask how it is possible to give such large returns. It is the result of co-operation. If you knew when your life would end, you could spend part of your capital and all of your interest each year, so that at your death your capital would be exhausted. For lack of such foreknowledge you cannot safely adopt this method. You can, however, obtain the equivalent result by co-operation with others through the medium of a well-established life assurance company, thus getting the benefit of average duration of life, with the certainty that should you live to extreme old age your income will never decrease.

Probably the best way to show how annuities are being made use of at the present time by ladies possessing capital is to give a few actual examples.

Mrs. M. H.—, a lady living in Sussex, had been left about £8,000 by her husband, who died in 1908. This, on the advice of her solicitor, she invested in mortgages producing an income of some £320 a year. Towards the close of the last year and in accordance with her husband's wish, she was desirous of removing her son from a private to a public school, entailing an additional annual expenditure of £60 a year, which would have strained her resources very severely. She therefore realised £2,000 of her capital and placed it in an annuity yielding £140 a year—£60 more than the same capital had yielded when invested in mortgages—and now has the satisfaction of having her son educated as his father desired without in any way upsetting the income necessary for the quiet upkeep of her own home.

Miss B. L.—, a St. Leonards lady, had the misfortune to suffer the loss of £2,000 in a bank failure still fresh in the public mind. This cut her income square in half, and, being somewhat advanced in years (she was 67 at the time of the loss referred to) there was no ordinary channel by which she might supplement the income that still remained to her—about a hundred a year. A friend, however, who had already made an annuity investment and was enjoying the proceeds, pointed out this as the safest and best means of making good the loss. The lady thereupon invested her remaining capital, £1,900, and was granted an annuity of £228 a year, thus placing her in an even better position from the income standpoint than she had been before her loss occurred.

Two sisters, aged 70 and 71, had a small capital of £5,000 between them. This was producing £200 a year, which would have been sufficient for their needs had not one of them fallen ill with a lingering complaint necessitating careful nursing and the constant attention of a medical man. To provide these things a larger income was necessary, so the sisters applied for a "Joint Life" annuity, and the company, taking into account the state of health of the one who was ill, improved on its ordinary terms and granted

an annuity of £525 p.a., payable until the death of the last survivor.

Another lady, aged 45, suffering from ill health, proposed to invest £1,000 in an annuity producing £62 a year. Here, again, the company, in accordance with its custom in such cases, offered a better annuity, and the bond actually issued provided an income of £80 a year instead of the £62 which the applicant had anticipated she would receive.

A further case is that of a widow who, though anxious to avail herself of an annuity income, had to consider the future of her small son, aged 5. The company, in return for £3,000, guaranteed an income of £180 a year, and also undertook that in the event of the lady's death before her son reached manhood, the income would be continued to her executors for the benefit of her son until the latter reached 25 years of age, and could provide for himself. The minimum sum which the company will have to pay is thus £3,600, so that the investment is bound to prove a profitable one in any case.

The foregoing are all examples of various types of "Immediate" annuities, i.e., annuities where the purchaser immediately enters upon the income secured by her investment. There are, however, another large class called "Deferred" annuities, which are looked upon with much favour by those engaged in a profession or business, and which embody about the best means of provision it is possible to make for old age.

En passant it may be remarked that a very large number of women do not make any provision for old age, even though they are well able to afford it. This forbodes great hardship for them in the future, because we can only reap where we have sown, and if we do not lay aside some part of our earnings for the evening of our lives we shall only have ourselves to thank if that seemingly distant date finds us with an empty grate and little provision in the cupboard.

For those who have the strength of mind and the good sense to look ahead and are determined to lay aside some sum, however small, every year, "Deferred" annuities are both a sensible and effective investment. A teacher, for instance, or a lady journalist, earning say, £120 a year, ought not to find it impossible to save £10 a year or so for this purpose. Seven pounds a year laid aside from age 25, or £12 a year laid aside from age 35, will, if invested in a "Deferred" annuity, produce an income of £50 a year from age 60. Slightly larger annual savings will produce a similar income commencing at age 55, or slightly smaller ones a similar income coming at 65.

To take an extreme case, that of a woman earning only £25 a year at age 25, the annual saving of two pounds out of this amount will produce an income of £25 a year from age 65. Surely every woman ought to be able to save, ought to determine to save at least two pounds a year if, by so doing, she can keep the wolf from the door when she is no longer able to earn?

It may be said, with full justification, that there are hundreds of thousands of wage-earning and salary-earning women in this country at the present time who ought to make use of "Deferred" annuities, and any reader of these notes who may, by virtue of birth or position, possess the power to influence others, can do good public service by explaining the nature and utility of these investments as the best means of providing for old age.

Brief reference may now be made to the formalities required in connection with annuities. These are, happily, extremely simple. All the applicant is required to do is to apply for the desired annuity on a form which the companies furnish, produce birth or baptismal certificate if available (if not available most companies will undertake to secure a copy from Somerset House) and deposit the sum that may have been agreed upon. In all ordinary cases no medical examination or doctor's certificate is necessary, the exception being in the case of those whose lives are impaired by ill health, and who on that account, wish to have their cases specially considered. No investments call for less trouble than these, and it may be added that no investments give less trouble afterwards.

The illustrations of annuities used in the foregoing article have been furnished by permission of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada. This company is well and favourably known in England, and transacts a larger annuity business than any other life office in the British Empire. Its popularity in this country may be gauged from the fact that during the past two years over six hundred thousand pounds has been invested in its annuities by residents in the United Kingdom. Readers who are interested will therefore find it advantageous to apply to the Manager (Mr. J. F. Junkin, Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, 144, Canada House, Norfolk Street, W.C.) for any information that may be required.—[ADVT.]

Extracts from the Press.

The Speaker's Ruling.

"THE ENGLISHWOMAN," March, 1913:—

To say that a reasonable defence may be offered for the Speaker's ruling is to increase, not to lessen, the responsibility of the Government. Mr. Asquith gave a pledge that a Reform Bill should be framed in such a way that the House of Commons, if it so desired, could incorporate in it a woman Suffrage amendment, and he further pledged himself that if such amendment was passed by the Commons, it should be considered part of the Government's Bill. He admits that he failed to introduce such a Bill. All that he did, according to the Speaker, was to introduce not a Reform Bill, but a Registration Bill. The able lawyers who advised Mr. Asquith drew up a Bill unlike former Reform Bills and omitted to consult the Speaker on its meaning. To say that this could not be done before the Committee stage is absurd. Mr. Lloyd George consulted the Speaker as to the possibility of moving "democratic amendments" to the Conciliation Bill of 1910 at the second reading stage and obtained a ruling. The Government is responsible; it cannot escape its responsibilities by offering facilities for a Private Member's Bill, since the offer is, in the opinion of those who know most about the matter, no equivalent for the lost opportunity.

"The Speaker's Ruling." By J. A. Price.

The New Policy.

"THE CHRISTIAN COMMONWEALTH," March 12th, 1913:—

The new Suffrage policy, it is believed, is the one best calculated to force the Liberals to take up the Suffrage as a party question. To add to the confusion and interest, Mr. Massingham, in "The Nation," has put forward the extraordinary suggestion that Woman Suffrage should be settled by a local option plebiscite. The Woman Suffragists are certainly making politics exciting.

The Electioneering Arena.

"THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN," March 12th, 1913:—

An active agency working on behalf of Mr. House is the National Union of Woman's Suffrage Societies, which, in pursuit of its new policy of supporting Labour candidates, is holding as many meetings each night as any of the candidates. The women's meetings are strikingly successful and rival the Liberal candidates in enthusiasm. An evident impression is being made on the opinions of the women of the division as well as on a great many of the voters, and for its educational value the campaign promises to do the Suffrage Cause lasting good. The women of the division are learning that politics enter the home, and for good or evil affect those concerns which are peculiarly in the woman's sphere of activity.

"THE DAILY CITIZEN," March 13th, 1913:—

"The Manchester Guardian" pays a high tribute to the work of the women in the Houghton by-election. It is deserved, for the organisers and speakers of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies are rendering splendid service, and their meetings are amongst the largest and most enthusiastic that are being held.

A profound impression is being made on the wives of the miners, who are beginning to see politics in a new light. . . . Any party might well be proud to have at its service this vast energy and superb organising ability.

"THE DAILY CITIZEN," March 17th, 1913:—

As might be expected, the feminine element brings a new personality into the electioneering arena. What manner of woman is she who deals in such apparently thankless work? I have seen her getting into the motor-car en route for the village meeting, and she is invariably a bright, smart creature, talking cheerfully, but with a certain severity of face and dress that provide an index of her thoughts. She feels strongly, even bitterly, about those hardships she has looked into, and it is her steady aim to make other people feel strongly and bitterly, too. She is not bodily stronger than her less sober-minded sisters, this electioneering woman, and the village meeting can be a physical strain. I have seen her come into the lamp-lit waiting-room of the country station very late at night, as time goes in rural parts, and there has still been the severity—but relieved, shall I say, by a wistful tiredness—in her eyes. Gone from her manner is the fire of the early evening; like the enthusiast she is, she spends her energies with a reckless hand. She is desperately in earnest, and she soon creates her public in any given district. She attracts the men, and their women follow them. She arouses such feelings of revolt in the women as they never felt before. A miner's wife said to one of these suffrage women: "What you bin sayin' Ah bin thinkin' long enough, but Ah never gotten t' words reet."

It is not too much to say that with the coming of the women into electioneering work—I mean the suffrage women; there has always been that eternally amiable creature, the member's wife or the candidate's wife, as the case might be—with the coming of the new type, an agency is revealed which no organiser dare disregard. Whatever electioneering of the future may be like, the women are sure to have an increasingly big say in it. They are now gaining experience for all they are worth.

The Labour Party and the Suffrage.

"THE DAILY HERALD," March 8th, 1913:—

The Agenda Committee of the Independent Labour Party states that some important resolutions will be laid before the Conference. . . . One of these condemns both the Government and the Speaker for their action in regard to Women's Suffrage, and calls for a Government Women's Suffrage Bill, advising the Labour Party to oppose any franchise measure which does not extend the vote to women.

NON-MILITANT

A GREAT JOINT

Women's Suffrage DEMONSTRATION

OF THE

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies

(MANCHESTER BRANCH) AND THE

INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY

(MANCHESTER CENTRAL BRANCH)

In PLATT FIELDS, Rusholme, Manchester

ON

EASTER SUNDAY, Mar. 23,

at 3 p.m.

SPEAKERS:

J. KEIR HARDIE, Esq., M.P. TOM RICHARDSON, Esq., M.P.
Councillor EGERTON P. WAKE. W. STEWART, Esq.
Councillor TOM FOX. FENNER BROCKWAY, Esq.
Councillor MARGARET ASHTON, M.A.
Miss I. O. FORD. Mrs. MITCHELL.
Miss MARGARET ROBERTSON, B.A.
Mrs. ANNOT ROBINSON, L.L.A.

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DEMONSTRATION

IN

HYDE PARK (near Marble Arch) SUNDAY, March 30th, at NOON.

Speakers—Miss MUNRO, Miss ANDREWS, Miss HUSBAND, Mrs. WHETTON, Miss JACK, Miss HARE, Miss MURRAY, Miss E. J. READ, and others.

In Parliament.

MATERNITY BENEFIT.—A question from Mr. MacCallum Scott drew a clear statement from Mr. Masterman of a curious position of affairs under the Insurance Act. An insured woman married to an uninsured man receives at the birth of a child maternity benefit and an allowance of 7s. 6d. per week for four weeks. An insured woman married to an insured man whose card does not show twenty-six paid contributions gets only 7s. 6d. per week without maternity benefit. An unmarried mother, if insured, gets both benefits. The explanation of this discrepancy is that where there is an insured husband maternity benefit comes out of the men's fund and the 7s. 6d. allowance out of the women's fund. If either contributor is in arrear that contributor's benefit lapses. But the House of Commons, considering the hard case of mothers who have not an insured husband to provide maternity benefit, decided that such women, when insured, should receive not only the 7s. 6d. allowance but also the maternity benefit, all paid out of the women's fund. Of course, such women do not receive these benefits if their contributions are in arrear. The fact that in the one case two contributors must have paid up, and in the other only one, looks unjust on the face of it. On the other hand, the State cannot well declare that an insured man shall receive maternity benefit for his wife even if his arrears are not paid. Nor can it revoke the deliberate enactment of the House of Commons. Under Section 18 of the Insurance Act, therefore, a woman without an insured husband is more favoured by the law in the matter of benefits at child birth than a woman with an insured husband. It was considered—with truth—that she would generally be a person in greater need—and a point was stretched to help her.

FORCIBLE FEEDING.—We are greatly surprised to find the Home Secretary declaring, in answer to a question, that food was not passed into the lung of Miss Lenton in the course of forcible feeding. He admitted that she was found to be suffering from pleurisy, but not that the pleurisy was thus caused.

Mr. Remnant hereupon enquired whether, in the event of this or any other lady suffering permanent injury from treatment she receives in prison, Mr. McKenna or the doctor administering the treatment would be responsible?

Mr. McKenna replied that he must wait until a case arises in which a person has suffered any injury from her treatment in prison—an answer that was obviously misleading. Persons have been injured already; there exists the report of three medical practitioners of repute which declares that every prisoner forcibly fed has received injury to health, and which reports a previous instance in which food was certainly injected into the lung. In several cases (that of Miss Billingshurst for one) the teeth of prisoners have been broken in the course of forcing open their mouths. Most people would consider the breaking of one of their own teeth as a permanent injury. No doubt, Mr. McKenna, when he gave the reply, had forgotten the case of Mr. Ball, who lost his senses after being forcibly fed and is still, we believe, in a lunatic asylum. What has to be waited for is not injury to a prisoner, but the taking of proceedings by an injured prisoner, or by the relatives of a dead one. Sooner or later a prisoner will pretty surely die under the tormentors' hands; and when that happens the public, whose apathy has encouraged Mr. McKenna to go on, will turn upon him in fury because he had not desisted.

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ADDRESS.—Mr. Snowden, on Thursday, March 13th, moved an amendment, or rather a rider, to the Address, regretting that the King's Speech contained "no specific mention of legislation securing a minimum living wage." It is not possible, in the space available, to give any sufficient account of the debate, the tone of which was unusually sincere and serious; but we extract from Mr. Snowden's speech some observations upon Parliament which are no less true in regard to Women's Suffrage than they are in regard to social reforms.

"I think it is perfectly obvious to everybody that the present Parliamentary machinery is not competent to deal with the work which the country expects Parliament to do.

The failure of Parliament to meet those demands is, I am afraid, bringing representative government and representative institutions into disrepute, and that can only have one result. If the people lose faith in Parliament, they will turn to other methods to try to remedy their grievances and to improve their conditions, and if Parliament fails, then the country will be given over to a condition of anarchy.

I should regret far more deeply than I can say if the working classes of this country should lose their faith in Parliament. I believe there are no other means by which they can bring about a real and permanent improvement in their condition.

Strikes are only an alternative to Parliamentary action. Therefore, in refusing to attend to the needs of the people, you are driving them back upon that last resort."

The amendment was lost by a large majority, but Mr. Sydney Buxton, in the course of the debate, announced that he proposed, this session, to extend the Trade Boards Act to the trades of shirtmaking, linen embroidery, sheet-steel and iron hollow-ware, sugar confectionery, and fruit preserving.

In all these trades women are largely employed at very low wages and the establishment, in them, of Trade Boards will doubtless prove—as it did in the chainmaking industry—of the greatest benefit to these various groups of underpaid workers.

THE CASE OF MISS JESSIE BROWN.

On Monday, March 17th, Mr. Wedgwood enquired what compensation it was proposed to make to Miss Jessie Brown, who, it may be remembered, was arrested on a charge of solicitation, which charge was proved, beyond all question, to be false, while the two policemen who arrested her are actually in prison for having brought another such charge falsely. Mr. McKinnon Wood's answer: that the Glasgow magistrates had made further enquiry, but adhered to their original decision, means apparently that it is not intended to make any compensation to Miss Brown. We wonder whether the decision would have been the same if Miss Brown had been a young man instead of a young woman, and if the charge had been one of theft.

LIABILITY OF DAUGHTERS FOR THE SUPPORT OF PARENTS.

Certain Anti-Suffragists have lately been declaring that daughters were not liable under the Poor Law for the support of their parents. Guardians from all over the country have contradicted the unfounded statement, and a question asked by Mr. Wedgwood on Monday, March 17th, drew from a representative of the Local Government Board the answer that: "The enactment which renders children liable for the maintenance of their parents, if of sufficient ability, contains no limitation as to age or sex." Therefore that peculiar favourableness of the law to women, of which so much is heard from some Anti-Suffragists, does not extend to an exemption from supporting parents.

Foreign News.

Denmark.

In Denmark it appears likely that Women's Suffrage may be wrecked for the present on one of the favourite pitfalls to which this reform is liable. The proposal is part of an amendment of the constitution, and therefore does not stand or fall on its own merits. The Reform Bill passed the Lower House by a good majority, and was sent to the Upper House for its first reading in January. There the Moderates, Radicals and Socialists approved it, while the Conservatives insisted on amendments connected with the electoral rights for the Upper House. They, however, expressed their willingness to discuss it and it was referred to a committee of fifteen, made up of members of the different parties, under the presidency of a Conservative. This was done on January 10th and progress was so slow that only on February 20th was the third meeting held. On March 1st the Conservatives announced the amendments they wished to propose to the Reform Bill. The one point on which they propose no alteration is Women's Suffrage. On this all parties seem agreed, yet the prospect of its passing is very remote, as being placed in a contentious Bill, it has little chance of becoming law.

However, Suffrage continues to make way in Denmark. A Men's League has been formed with the famous philosopher, Harald Höfding, as President, and Dr. Munch-Petersen, who acted as Danish delegate to the Congress of the International Men's League in London, as Vice-President. It was thought that the life of the League would be of short duration since the cause seemed on the eve of victory in Denmark, but now it is probable that there will be postponement owing to the complication which combines such various objects in one Bill. The municipal elections are now in full swing, the second since the franchise and eligibility were conferred on women, and it will be interesting to hear the result, which should soon be known.

Belgium.

The Belgian Federation of Suffrage societies was definitely formed on February 10th. The constituent societies are: La Ligue Belge du Droit des Femmes, founded in 1892, La Société pour l'Amélioration du Sort de la Femme (1897), La Ligue Catholique du Suffrage féminin filiale du Féminisme Chrétien de Belgique (1902), L'Union Belge pour le Suffrage des Femmes (1902), L'Union des Femmes Gantoises (1906), De Vrouwen-Vereeniging van Antwerpen (1910), De Liberale Vrouwenbond (1913).

Notes from Headquarters

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss K. D. COURTNEY
Miss C. E. MARSHALL (Parliamentary)
Miss EMILY M. LEAP (Press)
Miss I. B. O'MALLEY (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
MRS. AUERBACH.

Secretary:
MISS GERALDINE COOKE.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

New Societies.

Spalding (Eastern Counties) Ledwater, Spennymoor (North-Eastern Federation), Middleton (North-Eastern Federation).

Holiday Arrangements.

The office will be closed for Easter holidays from Thursday, March 20th, to Tuesday, the 25th. After that time we shall open as usual, but there will be a reduced staff working. We seem to have been living in a perpetual "crisis" for a very long time, and honorary officers and paid staff alike are needing rest, a not unusual state of affairs; the fact which calls for comment is that they are intending to take it!

A Change of Work.

After the holidays the Secretaryship will be taken over by Miss Mabel Crookenden, who has been Assistant-Secretary for more than a year and is already well known to the Societies. The Executive Committee felt that speakers are urgently needed, and have therefore decided to set Miss Geraldine Cooke free for speaking. Applications for her services should be made through the office. This change was the more necessary since Miss Maude Royden, so well-beloved of our Societies, has been obliged to cancel her engagements. She has given herself so freely and so ardently to her work that her strength has been seriously over-taxed. No one who knows her could imagine she has retired into idleness. She has laid down one burden in order to take up another, and the announcement that she has undertaken to edit THE COMMON CAUSE, will, perhaps, go a long way towards consoling our Societies for her loss as a speaker. She will begin her new responsibilities the second week in April.

New Literature.

The new Annual Report will shortly be issued. It will be obtainable at the National Union office as usual. It contains matter of very considerable interest, and we believe it will prove very useful for propaganda.

Mrs. A. Hibert-Ware (23, Fladgate Road, Leytonstone, Essex), has kindly condensed and adapted the letter-press of the lantern lecture on Hungary which we described some time ago. She is prepared to deliver this lecture in London and the suburbs. Mrs. Hibert-Ware has also other lectures of her own which should prove useful and interesting to Suffragists. Societies wishing to have the lectures should apply to Mrs. Hibert-Ware.

Treasurer's Notes.

MRS. AUERBACH'S MESSAGE.—Our treasurer, Mrs. Auerbach, sends us a greeting this week from Port Elizabeth.

Seeing in COMMON CAUSE the appeal for an Emergency Fund (which has now blossomed into our 1913 Campaign Fund) she sends us a generous gift of £50, saying:—

"I feel sure that such a fund will be of the greatest value, and is the one thing needed for the immediate development of our work at the present moment. I see vast possibilities for successful advance in all directions, wanting only the fertilising stream of money (which I hope will flow in response to your appeal) in order to see these possibilities mature into achievement and realities.

"I have been stirred, as you may well imagine, by the news from home. Out of the wreck and the muddle, the National Union and the whole constitutional movement alone emerges with increased strength and honour. 'M.P.'s may come and go, but our cause goes on for ever.' These and other words of Mrs. Fawcett's and the inspiring vigour that I find in the pages of THE COMMON CAUSE give me great joy and comfort in my exile and separation from you all at such a time as this."

Mrs. Auerbach is just starting homeward. I hope that by the time she reaches these shores the "fertilising stream" she speaks of may be a strongly flowing river.

F. M. STERLING,
Hon. Treasurer (pro. tem.).

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Received March 11th to 17th:—

Table with columns for Subscriptions and Donations, listing names and amounts in pounds, shillings, and pence.

Affiliation Fees.

Table listing affiliation fees for various societies such as Newton Abbot W.S.S., Middleton-in-Teesdale W.S.S., etc.

Associate Society.

Table listing the Irish W.S. and Local Government Association with a fee of 1 1 0.

1913 Campaign Fund.

Table listing names and amounts for the 1913 Campaign Fund, including Mrs. Meyerstein, Mrs. H. S. Rawlings, etc.

£1,540 0 6

"Those Suburbans."

On the afternoon of Monday, March 17th, the Play Actors gave at the Court Theatre a remarkably finished performance of "Those Suburbans," by Cecil Clifton, a play described as "a Family Comedy for Young People."

Madame Schmah, the founder and first President of l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes, is now in London carrying on some literary work, for which she is making use of material in the library of the British Museum.

The ridiculous and shameful argument that strength is the basis of authority—which has never had standing save among the uninstructed and the superficial.

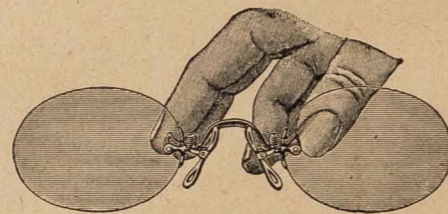
Hilaire Belloc. The French Revolution.

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News from the Societies and Federations.

The Federations.

GENERAL NEWS.—The Annual Report is in the hands of the printers, and will, we hope, prove interesting reading. New Societies have been formed at Holt Woodbridge, Spalding, and the Sheringham Society has been re-organised.

CAMBRIDGE.—On February 13th a meeting was held at Christchurch Institute, with the Rev. F. Gwynn in the Chair; Mrs. Bethune-Baker and Mrs. Rackham spoke on the White Slave Traffic and the legal position of working women.

NORTH AND EAST ESSEX.—A meeting was held at Miss Smoothy's, Bocking, on February 18th. Mrs. Marriott was in the Chair, and an address was given by Mrs. Rackham; five new members joined.

EAST HERTS.—On February 26th a crowded meeting was held in the Assembly Hall, Sawbridgeworth. Mr. W. J. Mirrlees was in the Chair, and Mrs. Rackham was the chief speaker.

FELIXSTOWE.—On March 7th the first Annual Meeting of this Society was held in the Music Room of Hoeliff; the President, Mr. D. J. Cowles, took the Chair.

HITCHIN AND STEVENAGE.—On February 24th a meeting was held in the Public Hall, Hitchin. Mrs. Rackham, of Cambridge, spoke. A novel attraction was an array of refreshments in afternoon-tea fashion.

HOLT.—A crowded meeting was held in the Assembly Hall on March 10th, and the speeches were listened to with the greatest attention.

HUNTS.—The Oorn Exchange at St. Neots was crowded on March 3rd, when a Suffrage meeting was held, at which Miss C. Cochrane presided.

NORWICH.—On February 20th Dr. Mary Bell spoke on an interesting meeting at Pritton Rectory, and on February 27th to a meeting at Lowestoft, arranged by the Suffrage Society there.

SAFFRON WALDEN.—On March 13th there was a gathering of members to meet Mrs. Rackham. Twenty members have now joined, and as Mrs. Nunn, 4, Market Row, has consented to act as Secretary.

SHERINGHAM.—A drawing-room meeting was held at White Lodge on March 10th by invitation of Miss Baker. Mrs. Rackham gave an address.

SOUTHWOLD.—On March 5th a Public Meeting was held at the Constitutional Club, Miss Silcox was in the Chair; the speakers were Miss Eva Ward, Mrs. Hagar and Mr. W. J. Mirrlees.

ST. ALBANS.—The St. Albans Society held a meeting in St. Peter's Hall on March 5th. Mrs. Corbett Ashby was the greatly appreciated speaker.

T. WELWYN.—Under the auspices of the Hitchin, Stevenage and District Society a well-attended meeting was held at the Rectory. The Rev. P. M. Wathen presided.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—On March 11th a meeting of the Great Yarmouth Women's Suffrage Society was held to consider the advisability of an amalgamation with the local Branch of the National Union.

Oxon, Berks and Bucks.

OXFORD.—A successful meeting was held on March 4th in the Assembly Rooms. Canon Scott Holland was in the Chair, and the speakers were Professor Gilbert Murray and Miss I. O. Ford.

READING.—The fortnightly meetings at the Office took place on February 14th and 28th, when Miss Violet Eustace and Miss Axford spoke.

WOKINGHAM.—A meeting held on February 12th in the annexe to the large Town Hall was well attended. Miss Violet Eustace took the Chair, and the speaker was Mrs. Robin Unioke.

West of England.

BRISTOL.—REPORT.—During the past month Miss Tanner addressed the Bedminster Women's Co-operative Guild on February 24th, the Hanham Adult School on March 11th, and the Barton Hill Adult School on March 18th.

At a Drawing-room Meeting given by the kind invitation of the Bristol Society on the 12th, Mrs. Usher spoke at East Bristol on March 11th, and Mrs. W. C. H. Cross gave an address to the Winscombe Suffrage Society on the same day.

On March 12th we were invited by the Constitutional Club at Knowle to take part in a Debate against the Anti-Suffragists. The speaker for the Union was Miss Price, and Miss Helen Sturge opened the Debate for our side in an extremely able and well-reasoned speech.

SHERINGHAM.—In view of the large district covered by the work of the Bristol Society it has been decided to organise sub-committees to develop the work in the various parts of Bristol.

CHELTENHAM.—On March 6th we had a splendidly successful debate, a return challenge from us to the "Anti" challenge of last December.

STROUD.—The first meeting of this newly-formed Branch was held on February 15th, at Upland House, by permission of Mrs. Wilkins.

mittee.—The Rev. H. A. Hawkins (Hon. President), Mrs. Gwynne Evans (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs. Mills (Hon. Secretary), Mrs. Fisher, Mr. Gardiner, Miss Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. Rowe, Miss Seymour-Key, Mrs. Thompson.

FOREST OF DEAN.—It will be remembered that a branch of the National Union was organised in the Forest in June, 1912, since when the movement has grown rapidly. As the area is both large and scattered it was thought advisable to reorganise.

ORGANISER'S REPORT.—I arrived at Newnham-on-Severn on March 6th, to prepare for Miss Fraser's Meeting on the 7th. I found the ground had also been well worked by Miss Harvey and the meeting was a great success.

SWINDON.—A meeting was held in Swindon on the "White Slave Traffic," on February 28th, under the auspices of the local branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

At a Drawing-room Meeting given by the kind invitation of the Bristol Society on the 12th, Mrs. Usher spoke at East Bristol on March 11th, and Mrs. W. C. H. Cross gave an address to the Winscombe Suffrage Society on the same day.

West Lancashire, Cheshire, and North Wales.

BIRKENHEAD.—The Church of England School-room at Little Sutton, Cheshire, was filled by an attentive audience on February 15th, when the first Public Meeting for Women's Suffrage at that village was held.

PRESTON.—The Preston Society and the Conservative and Unionist Franchise Association held a Joint Meeting on March 3rd. About 300 people were present.

WALLASEY AND WIRRAL.—A well-attended meeting of members was held on February 21st, by the kindness of Mrs. Raffles Bailey at Brock Hey, Liscard.

Yorks, N. and E. Ridings.

ORGANISER'S REPORT.—During February I visited Ripon, Harrogate, Grimsby and Louth. Ripon is now forming a Society of its own, and when the arrangements are complete, and a full committee formed, they hope to stimulate interest in Women's Suffrage in Ripon, and do much good work. In Harrogate they are preparing for their Annual Meeting, when they intend to plan a vigorous campaign for the coming months. Here there is plenty of scope for activity. I found the Grimsby Society making excellent progress, and with to give a good account of itself. While there, I met the members of the committee, gave addresses to the members of the W.L.F. in two of the Wards, and also to a large gathering of the Women's Adult School.

MARGARET DUTTON.

GILEY.—The Annual Meeting was held on January 28th, in the Crompton Cafe, in the absence of Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Dutton kindly came and spoke. Her speech, touching on the political situation, sweated labour, etc., was listened to with interest. The Secretary's Annual Report, and the Treasurer's Balance-sheet were read, and at the business meeting, which was held after the tea interval, the Officers and Committee were re-elected for the ensuing year, with the addition of two new members to the Committee.

GRIMSBY.—On Friday, January 21st, a meeting was held in the Hainton Street Schoolroom, when Mrs. Corbett Ashby was the speaker. The Rev. W. E. Bott, who from the first has done all he could to help the Society, spoke of the present disappointing situation. Mrs. Corbett Ashby spoke on the Parliamentary situation, and reviewed the events which had led up to the Franchise Bill, then proceeded to discuss the Speaker's Private Member's Bill, and said a Government Measure was the only solution to the problem. The audience of about 200 listened attentively, and after the Resolution was an animated discussion, many questions being asked. Finally, a hearty vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Corbett Ashby and to the Rev. W. E. Bott. On February 11th, Miss Dutton came to Grimsby for a week. On February 12th, she addressed the Adult School Yote. On February 13th she spoke to a gathering of the Welthome Ward Women Liberals, who appreciated having the facts so sympathetically put before them. On February 15th, Miss Dutton discussed with the Committee of the Grimsby Branch of the National Union, the advisability of forming a Lincolnshire Federation. The Committee were of the opinion that the time was not yet ripe when the Lines, W.S. Societies could unite in one Federation. On February 17th, Miss Dutton spoke to the Wellow Ward Liberals, and a keen discussion followed.

WHITBY AND DISTRICT.—A good audience assembled in the Lecture Hall, Whitby, to listen to Miss Helen Fraser. After an able address from the Chairman, the Rev. J. Groves, of Ruswarp, Miss Fraser made an excellent speech. Miss Wiseman, P.L.G., seconded the Resolution. Several new members joined the Society after the meeting.

Yorks: West Riding.

BARNESLEY.—An "At Home" was held in the Arcade Hall on February 14th, there was a large audience. Mr. Councillor Cretney presided, and Mr. Baillie Weaver in an interesting speech moved the following Resolution:—"That this meeting strongly emphasises the urgency of granting the Parliamentary franchise to Women and insists that nothing short of a Government measure for Women's Suffrage can now fully redeem the pledge given by Mr. Asquith to the National Union in November, 1911." Miss Abadam seconded, and it was carried unanimously. Two of the members, Miss Etheridge and Miss McArdle, gave "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky." The points of the dialogue were cleverly brought out and it was much enjoyed. The collection amounted to £2 15s. 8d. Five new members were enrolled.

BRADFORD.—The Bradford Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. held a large Public Meeting in the Mechanics' Institute on February 20th. The speakers were Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., and Mrs. Renton; Chairman, the Rev. Vivian T. Pomeroy, B.A. In his opening remarks, Mr. Pomeroy said there was no depression in the Society owing to the Speaker's ruling. The mistakes made by some women were nothing compared to the very big mistakes made by the Government. Whatever difficulties might stand in the way of the Women's Suffrage cause, the fact remained that the question stood to-day as the supreme and dominating question of British politics. The following Resolution was moved by Mrs. Renton:—"That nothing short of a Government measure for Women's Suffrage can now redeem Mr. Asquith's pledge to the women." Miss Robertson, who seconded the Resolution, explained that Mr. Asquith had not kept his word to women, and that his offer of a Private Member's Bill was worthless. Following her speech, many questions were asked, and answered by Miss Robertson. The Resolution was carried with one dissentient.

HUDDERSFIELD.—The first of a series of meetings arranged by the Huddersfield Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and addressed by Mrs. Renton (Organising Secretary of the West Riding Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies), was held on March 5 by invitation of Mrs. Emmet, Home, at Glenhouse, Gledholt. Miss Siddon (President) was in the Chair, and gave an address. Mrs. Renton then moved the Resolution:—"That the N.U.W.S.S. does not regard the offer of facilities for a Private Member's Bill as an equivalent of the Prime Minister's pledges with respect to an amendment to the Franchise Bill, and calls upon the Government to redeem its pledge in the only way now possible, by immediately introducing a Government measure giving votes to women." Referring to the recent decision of the National Union not to work for a Private Member's Bill, she said that they had spent £4,000 in working for the amendments promised in the Franchise Bill, besides what was worth infinitely more than money. They were not prepared either to spend money or to ask their members to spend health and strength in working for a Bill that was doomed before it was born. The resolution was carried unanimously. In the evening Mrs. Renton addressed a meeting of the Women's Co-operative Guild, when the same resolution was passed unanimously. On March 6th the Mayoress (Mrs. Joseph Blamires)

invited the members of the Society and other "Friends" to Bradley Lodge, Miss Siddon presided, and Mrs. Renton gave an address. In the evening a meeting was held in Collinson's Cafe, when Mr. John Sugden was the host. Miss Siddon took the Chair, and Mrs. Renton moved the Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. John Sugden, who said he was a friend and admirer of Miss Lydia Becker, and had been a suffragist ever since he first saw her. He urged the members to press forward on the same lines upon which they had worked hitherto, and to believe in the righteousness of their cause. The Resolution was passed unanimously. Several new members were made.

LEEDS.—The Wednesday "At Homes" held at the office have been very interesting. On February 26th a good discussion followed an address by the Rev. W. H. Draper, and on March 12th the members present indulged in an instructive talk on the industrial and moral aspects of the women's question. During the month of April Miss L. O. Ford has kindly offered to conduct a speakers' training class each Wednesday afternoon, and it is hoped that as many members as possible will avail themselves of the opportunity afforded them and attend regularly. It is believed that a good deal of latent talent for public speaking exists which only needs training and encouragement to make it of use.

SHEFFIELD.—Mrs. Gill (Hon. Secretary), Mrs. Earp and Mrs. Smith attended the Council meeting as delegates, and Mrs. Gill presented the message to Mrs. Fawcett at the reception on February 28th. We are hoping to have a visit from Mrs. Renton.

WAKEFIELD.—Our membership now stands at 183. The Annual Meeting will be held on April 9th, when Mrs. Renton will be the speaker. The Secretary attended the Council meeting as a delegate from this Society, and presented the Wakefield message to Mrs. Fawcett at the reception at the Graton Galleries on February 28th. Miss Meikle (W.R.F. Organiser) attended our Committee on March 6th, and addressed two small Trade Union Committees on the 6th and 7th.

Owing to pressure on our space the news from Kent is held over until next issue.

Irish Women's Suffrage Federation.

BELFAST SOCIETY.—The first annual meeting of the Belfast Society was held on March 4th by invitation of Miss Montgomery, 26, College Green, Belfast.

The report of the year's work was read by Mrs. MacCarthy, B.A., and the statement of accounts by Mrs. Arbutnot, the Treasurer. The committee and officials were unanimously re-elected.

Interesting addresses were then given by Mrs. Holmes (Belfast) and Miss Mellone (Rosstrevor, Co. Down). The former dealt with the History of the Women's Suffrage Movement and the latter with its present aspect, and with the work of the Irish Women's Suffrage Federation, which has only been in existence for 15 months, and has already 16 federated societies in different parts of the country. A general discussion followed, and a number of literature was sold.

NORTHERN COMMITTEE.—This Committee was informally constituted in October of last year. It had long been felt that some organisation was needed which would bring together the different Suffrage Societies in the North, and render more easy the interchange of speakers and organisers. In February of 1913 the Committee was formally constituted with officials and the power to form sub-committees. It includes nine societies—Armagh, Belfast, Coleraine, Bushmills, Lisburn, Newry, Ballymoney, Warrenpoint, and Portrush. The Chairman is the Hon. Ethel Macnaghten, the Treasurer, Mrs. Metge, and the Secretary, Miss Mellone.

This local organisation has been rendered necessary by the growth of the Federation. With an organisation extending from Cork to Bushmills, it is clearly quite impossible to control the entire working of the societies from Dublin. A provincial organisation was therefore suggested by the President, Mrs. Spring Rice, at the Council meeting in January last, and the Northern Committee adapted their constitution to the model suggested. Five meetings of the Committee have been held, and an active propaganda work has been carried on, including meetings held in new centres, and visits of organisers to other centres in preparation for such meetings. In this way one new Society has already been formed at Portadown, and there is a prospect of the formation of three others shortly. The Committee further undertakes correspondence with local M.P.'s and would-be M.P.'s, with a view to pledges for the support of suffrage measures. Mr. Backer Quinn, Unionist candidate for West Belfast, has consented to receive a deputation from the committee, and other candidates will probably find it to their interest to adopt the same course. The Committee meets once a month, and has so far been able to dispense with an office owing to the great kindness of Miss Montgomery in placing her drawing room at its disposal.

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Joint Suffrage Demonstration at York.

The first meeting of the campaign to demand a Government measure was held at York on March 3rd in the Exhibition, under the auspices of the local branches of the N.U.W.S.S., the Fabian Society, I.L.P., the Church League for Women's Suffrage and the Labour Party. The Hon. Mrs. Wilkinson presided over a crowded meeting. She was supported on the platform by Rev. C. C. Bell, Rev. D. Steward, Mrs. Gulland, Mrs. Jalland, Mrs. K. E. T. Wilkinson and Mr. Snowden, the principal speaker.

The Chairman, in an interesting speech, alluded to the present voteless condition of women, and compared it with the position of women in Norway and Australia. She explained the presence of Mr. Snowden with them that evening, stating that though several of the political parties were nominally in favour of women's suffrage, the Labour Party was the only one that had definitely placed it on its programme. The Rev. D. Steward then moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting, believing that a private Member's Bill can have little chance of becoming law in the lifetime of this Parliament demands that the Government, in order to redeem its pledges, shall bring in a Government measure."

Mr. Philip Snowden then attempted to address the meeting, but for some time an uproar caused by a few members of the W.S.P.U. prevented him. After every persuasion had been used by the Chairman to induce the W.S. and P.U. to desist from interruption, they were removed from the Hall. Mr. Snowden then continued his speech, and explained the present position of women's suffrage in the House of Commons. In a clear and lucid address he showed the reason for demanding a Government measure.

The Rev. C. C. Bell supported the resolution, and said he considered the Church, had of necessity an affinity with the Labour Party. He believed in women's suffrage and longed for the time when women would secure self-realisation. The meeting was a great success, the W.S.P.U. interruption only served to emphasize the different methods of the constitutional and militant societies. Over £10 worth of tickets were sold, more than half of which were sold through the local N.U.W.S.S. office. Mrs. Meyer acted as Secretary to the Joint Demonstration.

The Weston-super-Mare Society has opened a Suffrage shop at 13, West Street, where its organisers will be glad to welcome teachers and others attending the Conference of the National Union of Teachers which is being held in the town. A meeting of the Society at the Albert Hall is announced in another column.

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Forthcoming Meetings.

(ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION.)

MARCH 23. Manchester—Joint Women's Suffrage Demonstration—N.U.W.S.S. (Manchester Branch) and the I.L.P. Manchester Central Branch—Pitt Fields, Rusholme—Speakers, Mr. J. Keir Hardie, M.P., Mr. Tom Richardson, M.P., Councillor Egerton P. Wake, Mr. W. Stewart, Councillor Tom Fox, Mr. Fenner Brockway, Councillor Margaret Ashton, Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., Mrs. Annot Robinson, L.L.A.

MARCH 25. Weston-super-Mare—Albert Hall—Speakers, Mrs. Swanwick, Miss McMillan 8.0

MARCH 26. Ipswich—Annual Meeting—Ipswich and County W.S.S.—Mrs. Rackham, "Women's Suffrage: The Present Situation" 8.0 High Wycombe—Guildhall—Lantern Lecture, "Lands Where Women Have the Vote"—Mrs. R. H. Berney 8.0

MARCH 27. Mayfield—Parish Hall—Chair, Mrs. Dempster—Speaker, Mr. H. Baillie Weaver 3.0 Rotherfield—Council Schools—Chair, Mrs. Dempster—Speaker, Mr. H. Baillie Weaver 8.15 Tunbridge Wells—Town Hall—Lantern Lecture (C.U.W.P.A. slides)—Chair, Lady Matthews—Speaker, Miss Moseley 8.0

MARCH 28. Malton—Adult School—Public Meeting—Speaker, Miss I. O. Ford—Chair, Mrs. Edwin Gray 7.30 Bournemouth—Princes Hall, Grand Hotel—Mrs. Bonwick—Chair, The Rev. A. Clegg—Tea 4.0 Meeting 4.30

LONDON. Walworth Co-operative Guild—Browning Hall, 187, Walworth Road—Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Rogers 8.15

MARCH 27. Rotherhithe—95, Lower Road, Rotherhithe—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Richmond—Speaker, Miss Anna Martin, B.A. 7.30 Rotherhithe—Memorial Hall, Paradise Street—B.W.T.A. Meeting—Speaker, Miss Hay Cooper 8.0

SCOTLAND. MARCH 26. Carnoustie—Meeting—Dr. Inglis 7.45 Aberdeen—Music Hall, West Front Room—Annual Meeting and "At Home"—Chair, Miss L. I. Lumsden, L.L.D.—Address—Dr. Agnes Thomson 7.15 Edinburgh—Conservative Club, 22, Nicholson Street—Speaker, Miss Alice Low 8.30

MARCH 27. Leven—Meeting—Dr. Inglis 8.0 Oban—Fancy Dress Ball

MARCH 28. Glasgow—202, Hope Street—Dr. Jane Robertson, "Women in Medicine"—Hostess, Mrs. Solly 4.0 Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home" Reception of Delegates to Annual Meeting of Scottish Federation 8.30-10.30

Meeting at North St. Pancras.

It may be remembered that the members of the North St. Pancras Women's Liberal Association, with the Highgate and N. St. Pancras Branch of the London Society for Women's Suffrage, organised a canvass of adult women resident in the North St. Pancras constituency, at the end of last year, to ascertain what amount of support existed among them for Women's Suffrage. The two Societies decided to follow this by a public meeting for all those who had declared themselves in favour of Woman's Suffrage. This meeting was held on March 11th, at the St. Pancras Baths, in the district, took the chair, and Mrs. Richardson and Miss Janet Thomson spoke. A number of larkrings and working men of the rougher cast were present, who, by their interruptions, endeavoured to make a disturbance; but Mrs. Richardson's vigorous and able speech directed from the working woman's point of view straight to the heart of the question really swept all opposition away before it. She concluded with an appeal to her audience to become Friends of Women's Suffrage, unless they were prepared to take the further step of becoming members; and a band of stewards immediately enrolled 274 "Friends." Mr. Dickinson, who was much pleased with the meeting, said, in conclusion, that the audience had had a great deal given them to think about; and he was sure that such a meeting would do far more good than if the promoters had been breaking windows. Propaganda work was further helped by the sale of 86 copies of COMMON CAUSE to members of the audience.

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Coming Events.

We shall be glad to announce Meetings of Societies, Lectures, etc., in this column, and a charge of 2s. per insertion of 24 words will be made. To ensure insertion in our next issue all advertisements must be received not later than Wednesday morning.

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