

# The Common Cause

## The Organ of the National Union of WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

### Societies.

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### Notes and Comments.

#### China's Appeal to the Christian Churches.

Our imagination has been deeply stirred by the appeal of the Chinese Republican Government to the Christian West for intercession on their behalf. The response of the churches in Great Britain has been instant and impressive. To us of the Woman's Movement the appeal is specially interesting because it shows a change of feeling in and about the position of women. It is not long ago that we heard confused and astonishing rumours that women had actually won the right to vote for the new Republican Government. It seems that in one province they did vote, and even sit in the Representative House—were seen sitting there by Mrs. Chapman Catt, who confesses she could hardly believe her eyes. The Government, however, did not confirm the right of the women to sit, and to vote, and the struggle has still to be fought out. But the prospect is a hopeful one. The feeling in favour of greater freedom is growing. A *Times* correspondent reports that "Christianity has become associated in the public mind with education, reform, greater freedom for women, good medical treatment, and general progress."

#### Rowdiness in Hyde Park.

We gladly publish elsewhere in our columns a statement by the Men's League about the disorders in Hyde Park, which the police were apparently unable to control. Nothing is more vital to democratic government than the right of free speech, which should at all costs be maintained. Justice compels us, however, to admit that the refusal to hear speakers is not confined to Anti-Suffragist hooligans or to Hyde Park. It has been practised also persistently and with deliberation by Militant Suffragists of both sexes, and retaliation by Militant Anti-Suffragists has been made easy. It has, however, been generally found that to declare oneself a law-abiding Suffragist is to secure a courteous and attentive hearing, and we deeply regret that this was not so on the occasion to which Mr. Malcolm Mitchell refers.

#### Open-air Meetings and Women's Suffrage.

It is often suggested by our opponents, and by the Press in general, that Women's Suffrage is now so odious to the public that it is impossible for Suffragists to get a hearing at all—at least, out of doors. So entirely untrue is this, that as a matter of fact the N.U. holds innumerable street meetings; holds them every day and everywhere; and has no difficulty in getting

a hearing. No doubt this is equally true of the Men's League. We should be greatly interested to hear from our organisers, and theirs, whether it is possible to form even a rough estimate of the number of meetings held in this way all over the country. They must certainly run into hundreds every week. And of these the number at which there is any kind of disturbance is exceedingly small.

#### Refusal of Police Protection to Suffragists.

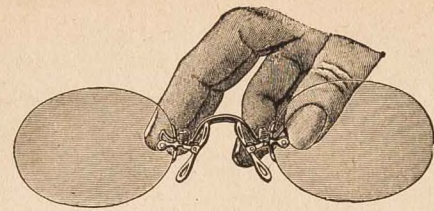
It is, however, impossible too strongly to condemn the view that police protection may be refused to Suffragists, whether militant or otherwise. According to some accounts this refusal was made to several men and women in Hyde Park and no attempt was made to protect those meetings (such, for instance, as that of the Men's League) which were not only not forbidden by the Home Secretary, but for which leave had been specially asked. Again, in Nottingham the police have apparently taken up the position that Suffragists' meetings need not be protected, and in one case, notifying this to the owners of the Hall, these owners—not unnaturally—refused to let it at all. Considering that, as the *Manchester Guardian* points out, the police are bound to protect the most abandoned criminal from the violence of the mob, it is a disgrace, and a very sinister one, that they should calmly neglect this duty when the case is one of protection for those who may hold opinions of which the average hooligan disapproves. We hope the matter will not be left with the "assurances" of Mr. McKenna that nothing is wrong, or has been wrong, in Nottingham. We are inclined to believe, with Lord Robert Cecil and the *Manchester Guardian*, that something has been very wrong indeed.

#### Labour Exchanges

We print to-day a letter about the refusal of the use of Labour Exchanges to domestic servants, which touches the whole question known as the "Servant Problem." Our correspondent in the first place apparently objects to Labour Exchanges altogether, and asks why the nation should be taxed to help people to find servants. On this point it need only be said that "the nation" decided for itself that it was cheaper to pay taxes to help people to find work than to support them in prisons or workhouses after they had become demoralised by long unemployment. We think "the nation" was wise, but it is no part of our business to defend its decision. Our quarrel with the Labour Exchanges is that they have provided facilities to men workers which they refuse to the largest class of women workers. And we hold that this could not have been if women had had to be consulted.

#### And the Servant Problem.

But our correspondent's letter suggests a lack of understanding of the real "servant problem," which is very common among those who employ servants, and as unfortunate as it is common. She is, no doubt, a kind and considerate employer herself, but kind and considerate employers have too long ignored the fact that all employers are not like themselves, and that when this is the case, the domestic servant is at their mercy to an extent which is literally appalling. Employers have to supply no "references." Registry offices are in some cases careless or even fraudulent. The servant—often almost a child—lives in her employer's house, far from her home, in a room which she has not seen before she goes to her "place," under



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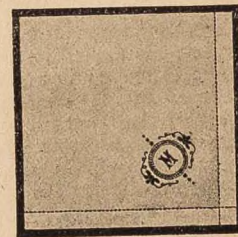
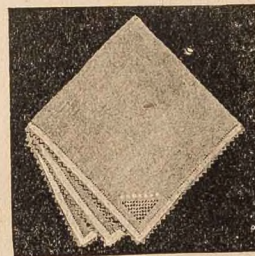
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The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those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

## The National Union and Militancy.

Lord Macaulay, in the House of Commons, Dec. 16th, 1831:—"Half the logic of mis-government lies in this one sophistical dilemma—if the people are turbulent, they are unfit for liberty; if they are quiet, they do not want it."

We have received a letter from a very old and very thorough-going supporter of Women's Suffrage, protesting against the attitude of this paper, and of the President of the N.U.W.S.S. towards militancy. The letter is unfortunately too long to print entire, but its earnestness, and the long services of its writer, demand a reply, and we therefore summarise the points raised in order once more to explain our position.

"A Complete Emancipationist" holds that it is wrong for Mrs. Fawcett to admit "high aims," or other good qualities, in Militants, in view of the fact that their actions are wrong in themselves, and disastrous to our cause. He contends that to refuse to feed forcibly militant prisoners would be to put it in the power of every common criminal to hunger-strike and be set free, as the militants have been. And he asks what "better way" can be suggested by those who protest against forcible feeding.

We reply that the common criminal cannot hunger-strike, for he has neither the self-control nor the incentive. Hunger-striking is not a dark secret from our criminal population. They are aware of it, as everyone else is. If they have not adopted it, it is because they cannot. It was stated in the House of Commons last week that one man—a burglar—had tried it, and the only ill that followed was the indigestion caused by the extremity of the haste with which he subsequently devoured his food.

If, however, the exceptional criminal is found who can and does hunger-strike, we no more approve of his being tortured than any one else. We protest against, and with all our power we repudiate, the application of torture to any one. It is utterly repugnant to British law. If forcible feeding is torture—and opinion seems agreed that it is torture—no one must be forcibly fed. Criminals who will not eat must die. Public opinion would not be at all disturbed by the death of any "murderer, procurer of white slaves, thief, or ravisher" (we quote our correspondent's words) who chose thus to commit suicide. It would, we believe, revolt at the death of a militant Suffragist, because it knows that, in spite of all, these men and women have not deserved death, and that their demand for the vote is in fact a just one.

It is, we repeat, useless to ask Constitutional Suffragists for "a better way." Our reply is that a great injustice is being committed in the refusal of freedom to women; that wherever there is injustice there is resentment; and that for this resentment, "coercion is no remedy." The only remedy is to do justice.

But it is argued even by some of those who support us—"Now is not the time for any concession! To work, to vote for Women's Suffrage now, would be a weak yielding to force, an evil precedent to set in the State to all who are inclined to violence." And let it be admitted frankly that militancy has made the position difficult to some. As there are women who would rather not win at all than win by violence, so there are men who feel quite honestly that to yield now would be to provoke a greater evil than to refuse. But though no doubt this feeling is perfectly honest, it is not based upon a wise or a just statesmanship. All history shows that the long delay of justice causes outbreaks of violence which forcible suppression tends to increase. And both those who admit and those who deny that our cause is just, will admit that the record of the House of Commons on the subject has not been a very creditable one. It has not been the opposition of convinced opponents that has embittered women: it has been the trifling of those who called themselves our friends, the evasions and the manœuvring of those in power for now over a quarter of a

conditions which she cannot know beforehand. Is it a wonder that girls hesitate to go, or parents to send them, into domestic service? The scales have been too heavily weighted against her. True, their position has greatly improved in many ways; but this has been due to the pressure of the demand for their services, which has given them a greater degree of choice and liberty of change. And even for this—the inevitable and, in this case, beneficent—working of economic law, our correspondent proposes that they should "pay a trifle"! We hold, on the contrary, that it is high time that women who employ servants should set their intelligence to work to discover why domestic service is so unpopular, and what they can do to make it less so. The old assumption that if people will not do and be what one wants them to do and be, it is because they are foolish or wicked, is a folly which men have constantly held about women, and which women ought not to hold about each other.

### The Reception on May 7th.

We remind our readers that the Reception to Mrs. Chapman Catt takes place next week, on Wednesday, May 7th. There will be speeches from Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Auerbach, Mrs. Swanwick, and Miss Royden. But the speech, of course, will be that made by the International President. Mrs. Catt will be able to clear up for us the perplexing reports about the Chinese women, who have won and lost the right to vote, for she herself visited China in her tour round the world, and made special enquiries on this point. It may be our last chance of hearing her, for Mrs. Catt has notified her resignation of the Presidency of the International Suffrage Alliance, in view of the increasing need of workers in the United States. All who have followed the trend of events there will sympathise with Mrs. Catt's feeling that work in America is of the first importance now; yet they will be unable even to think of any other International President without a pang. Pressure is being brought to bear on her to reconsider her decision.

Mrs. Catt is also to be entertained by the Women's Freedom League on May 5th, in the afternoon, and by the Spiritual Militancy League on Sunday evening, May 4th.

### A Great Discovery.

Considerable excitement prevails among Suffragists at the discovery of an important fact about which hitherto the most profound secrecy has been observed. It is this:—*Mr. Harold Spender, Liberal candidate for Cambridge, has been a Suffragist for twenty years.* No one knew. No one guessed. With a heroism worthy of Spartan days the gentleman concealed his passion for the enfranchisement of women behind an impenetrable exterior of indifference or hostility. So successful was he, indeed, that the discovery was actually not made until he announced it himself. He complained, too, that no sooner was it known that he was a Suffragist (and had been for twenty years) than "all the Suffragists resigned from the Cambridge Liberal Association." Mr. Spender must forgive them. No doubt it was the effect of the shock.

### The Rev. Dr. Anna Shaw.

There are 7,395 women clergy in America. We do not know if Dr. Shaw was the first, but certainly she is the greatest. She is one of the most brilliant women the Woman's Movement has produced, one of the hardest workers, and far away the wittiest speaker. Dr. Shaw's is a genial and humorous personality, but it seems that her powerful intellect is the quality that strikes her fellow-countrymen most. For a long time, every chairman who had the honour to preside at one of her meetings, used to begin by describing her as "a woman with the brains of a man." At last Dr. Shaw felt it must be stopped, before she had nervous prostration. So, rising to speak, she thoughtfully observed: "I am always being introduced as a woman with the brains of a man. I'm not sure whether I ought to take this as a compliment to myself or an insult to my sex. But before I take it as a compliment, I should like to see the man whose brains I've got."

Englishwomen are proud to know that Dr. Shaw was born in England, though she made such haste to get away that she left us at four years' old. She has been back since then, however, and will be here on her way to Buda-Pesth, very shortly.

### Arrest of Militant Leaders.

News reaches us on the eve of going to press that six militant leaders, including Mrs. Drummond, have been arrested and bail refused. The offices of the W.S.P.U. have been seized, and it is said that their paper, the *Suffragette*, is to be suppressed. Mrs. Pankhurst's licence expired on Monday, but owing to the serious state of her health, she has not been re-arrested.

century. We appeal to those who are aware of this—and who can fail to be aware of it?—to put an end to an intolerable position. It cannot be right to delay justice to the many who have worked so earnestly, and so long, in order to punish the few: it cannot be brave to refuse to act because one is afraid of seeming afraid. It is the proudest boast of British statesmanship that it has not allowed itself to be frightened from the task of reform by the folly of a few extremists (we quote Lord Morley); and again and again this just dealing has justified itself in the restoration of order. Critics there were who prophesied freely that disaster would come if South Africa were given the right of self-government so soon after the war, because it would look like fear; but they were wrong; loyalty and peace have come. And so with us. Let Suffragists act by the best traditions of government, doing justice because they believe it to be just, and be neither coerced into it nor frightened from it by the fear of extremists; and there will come about in Great Britain, as there has in the Suffrage States of America, a feeling of mutual respect and confidence between men and women with which soreness and suspicion cannot live.

Finally, we would reply in all earnestness to the plea, so often and so earnestly urged, that if we repudiate militant methods we should not "go out of our way to testify to their high aims." Our answer is that it would indeed make things much simpler if those with whom we disagreed were always altogether wicked and contemptible. But it does not make things simpler to pretend they are when they are not. It is not just, and therefore it is not wise, to deny the personal courage (for instance) of the hunger-strikers. They are brave. Neither is it good to go to the other extreme and persuade ourselves that courage covers everything. It does not. Militancy has introduced into the Suffrage movement elements of revenge, of contempt for others, of unreason, of deafness to honest and considered criticism, which in a movement that stands for peace and justice and humanity, are tragic. All this we recognise. None the less, we urge our critics to consider that to assume that militant Suffragists have no good qualities is to assume what is simply and demonstrably untrue. And it is our profound conviction that the "better way" in politics, as in everything else, is to be just even to those who are wrecking you, and true even at the expense of an immediate triumph. Men have too long observed the vicious tradition that abuse should be met with abuse, and that to allow good qualities in one's enemies is a sign of weakness. We desire to join with all who seek a better way than this. We hold it more important even than the triumph of the Women's Suffrage movement, that we should be true to the ideals of truth and justice, for which our movement stands. And we believe that, however we may be abused for weakness on the one hand and intolerance on the other, it is this ideal which alone makes it worth while to fight at all.

### The Prospects of the "Dickinson" Bill.

Some of the promoters of the "Dickinson Bill," which is down for Second Reading in the House of Commons on Monday and Tuesday of next week, are seeking to lay the blame of its failure, if it does fail, on the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, because we have not worked for this Bill as we worked for the Conciliation Bill in 1910 and 1911 and the promised amendments to the Government Franchise Bill last year.

But when the Suffragists in the House of Commons decided to accept facilities for a Private Member's Bill as the best equivalent the Prime Minister could be expected to give for the lost opportunity for incorporating Women's Suffrage in a Government measure, they knew that they would not have the support of the National Union. We refused to accept the new offer as payment of the Government's debt to us. Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Lloyd George, Sir John Simon, and other members of the Government had repeatedly pointed out that no Private Member's Bill could give us so good a chance as we had obtained by the Prime Minister's promises with regard to the Franchise Bill.

We urged our friends in the House to reject the new offer unless certain conditions were attached. These conditions were:—

1. It must be a measure agreed upon by all Suffragists in the House of Commons, who will promise to support the Bill as it stands, and to vote against all amendments.
2. Some means must be found of neutralising, if not of winning, the Irish vote.
3. The Bill must be promoted by a Committee of all Parties, including Front Bench men from both sides of the House.
4. This Committee must pledge itself to oppose any Franchise Bill until the women's demand has been fairly met.

Not one of these conditions has been fulfilled. The Suffragists in the House have nevertheless persisted in bringing in a Private Member's Bill. They are naturally anxious as to its fate, for on them lies the responsibility of justifying their acceptance, on our behalf, of an offer which we asked them to reject. They want to show that that offer was not so worthless as we thought it.

Needless to say we shall be the first to rejoice if they are proved to be right. And since the Bill has been brought in, all those Members of Parliament who have ever pledged themselves to support any form of Women's Suffrage are in honour bound to vote for it. They have no choice. It is for this reason that our good friends, Mr. Snowden and Mr. Henderson, have put down their names as supporters of the Bill, though it will be remembered that the Labour Members protested strongly at the time against the Government's refusal to give us anything better than facilities for a Private Member's Bill. As things now stand, this Bill affords the only chance Members of Parliament will have this Session of redeeming their pledges to vote for a Women's Suffrage measure, and they are all the more bound to do their best for it because it is not so good a chance as the one we lost through the mishandling of the Franchise Bill last Session.

But we have been asked: "How can you expect Members of Parliament to support the Bill if you do not support it yourselves?" The reasons why we are not working for this Bill are:—(1) that we cannot, as already stated, accept it as payment of the Government's debt to us, and (2) we could not work for it without deflecting energy and money which we think can better be employed in other and surer methods of advancing our cause. But neither of these reasons applies to Members of Parliament. They did not reject the Prime Minister's offer, therefore they are bound to make the best of it. They can vote and speak for a Women's Suffrage Bill in the House of Commons without abating any of their efforts for the Cause in other directions.

Some Conservative Members are saying that they cannot support the Bill because it is framed on wider lines than they approve. But, like the last Conciliation Bill, it is freely open to amendment, and can be altered in Committee into any form of Women's Suffrage which the House may prefer; only in order to make this possible it must first pass its Second Reading as it stands. It would be no more excusable for Conservative Suffragists to refuse to support the Second Reading of this Bill than it was for Liberal Suffragists to refuse to support the Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill.

We are not greatly concerned with the actual result of the vote on Tuesday, because even if the Bill passes all its stages this Session we do not believe it can ultimately become law. But we are concerned with the voting of individual Members, and the Division List is awaited with keen interest by Suffragists throughout the country. If there is really a "free" vote the Second Reading will be carried by a large majority. Its defeat can only mean that under present conditions—the conditions created by the evasions and delays and machinations of the last three years—the House of Commons is no longer capable of giving a "free" vote on the question. What is at stake is not the fate of the Women's Suffrage Movement, but the credit of the House of Commons.

### Text of the Bill.

On Monday and Tuesday, May 5th and 6th, Mr. Dickinson's Women's Suffrage Bill will be before the House of Commons for Second Reading. The text of the Bill is as follows:—

1. Every woman who—
  - a. If she were a man would be entitled to be registered as a Parliamentary elector in respect of a household qualification within the meaning of the Representation of the People Act, 1884; or
  - b. Is the wife of a man entitled to be registered in respect of a household qualification and has resided in the qualifying premises during the period required by law to enable a person to be so registered;
 shall be entitled to be registered, and when registered to vote as a parliamentary elector in the constituency wherein the qualifying premises are situate.
2. A woman shall not be entitled to be registered unless she has attained the age of twenty-five years.
3. A woman shall not be disqualified by reason of marriage from being registered and voting.
4. This Act may be cited as the Representation of the People (Women) Act, 1913.

The Bill is backed by Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Burt, Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, Mr. Chancellor, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Leif Jones, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Henry M'Laren, Sir Charles Nicholson, Mr. Walter Rea, Sir John Rolleston, and Mr. Snowden.

### Husband and Wife before the Law.

A correspondent sends us the following instance of the curious working of the law about married women:—

"The provision in English law that if a woman commits a felony in the presence of her husband she is assumed to be acting under his coercion, and is not herself responsible to the law, was mentioned at the London Sessions yesterday.

Egerton Philbrick, 40, estate agent, his wife Mary, and George Tofts, 22, labourer, were charged with thefts from Mr. Walter Jones,—Philbrick's uncle—at his house in Marquis Road, Canonbury. Both men were sent to prison.

His Lordship, in directing the jury to find the woman not guilty, explained the above point in English law, remarking that they did not hear much about it, although they heard more about certain provisions said to be against them. The provision in question was not a topic of general conversation at certain meetings which had been prevalent of recent years.

His Lordship no doubt thought that he had scored a point against Women Suffragists when he called attention to a provision of the law which enables a woman guilty of felony to escape the penalty of her crime. Our withers are unwrung. Far from regarding this law as of benefit to women, we believe it to be merely an embodiment of the old idea of women's inferiority and her inability to act independently of her husband. She was supposed to be under his tutelage; his will was her law, and if he ordered her to commit a crime she had no choice; such was her condition of subservience, but to obey.

"I will be master of mine own,

She is my goods, my chattels, she is my house.

My household stuff, my field, my barn,

My ox, my ass, my anything."

As long as this view was held of woman's position as wife, it was only natural that the law should recognise it and make the husband responsible for her acts.

Some nine or ten months ago a man and wife were convicted of terrible cruelty to a child. The man was an educated gentleman and father of the child. The wife was an uneducated woman, who had been a domestic servant and was the child's step-mother, yet in this instance a severer penalty was imposed on the woman, on the ground that she was "the master mind."

Here the wife was regarded as of age; a separate individual responsible for her crime and to some extent for that of her husband also.

Cases are not unknown of men being coerced into committing crime either by menace of death or by personal violence. Under these circumstances, if coercion is proved, the penalty is not enforced. To "assume" that a man is guilty of using coercion to his wife because he happened to be present when she committed felony seems to us grossly unjust in its attitude to the man, and disgusting in its attitude to the woman. The sooner the law recognises that women, whether good or bad, are responsible for their own acts, the better for all of us. We have all to gain and nothing to lose by the disappearance of the nauseous idea that women are *not so responsible as men for their moral lapses* (vide "The Anti-Suffrage Review").

### The Hyde Park Disturbances.

Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, writing from the offices of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, communicates the following:—

As Chairman of the Men's League meeting which was broken up in Hyde Park yesterday, I feel it my duty to lay the following facts before your readers:—

The Men's League, which is a body of constitutional Suffragists, had obtained the usual permit to resume the propagandist meetings which it has held for the past five years. In my opening remarks I made it quite clear that we are a law-abiding body, being quite distinct from other bodies of men suffragists. After my speech, my colleague, Mr. Gugenheim, sought to speak on the economic question, when suddenly a section of the audience initiated a rush towards the lorry. After a short time the crowd began to rush the lorry, but were then stopped by mounted police. I had a discussion with the inspector in charge, who informed me that I had better close the meeting—otherwise he must do so himself. My colleagues and I at once acquiesced, and after walking a hundred yards or so were left quite unmolested. The essential point is the question of freedom of speech. The League is well known as a constitutional body, and has never sought to over-ride or neglect police regulations. Yet in a Royal park a hundred rowdies are able, in spite of a large force of the police, to prevent our being heard, and, so far as I know, not one was arrested for interfering with the police in the discharge of their duty.

### The By-Elections.

#### I.—Whitechapel.

Candidates: Sir Stuart Samuel, Bart., Liberal.

Captain E. Monteagle Browne, Conservative.

Committee Rooms of the London Society: 170, Whitechapel Road, E.

Organisers: Mrs. Foulkes, Miss Rinder,

Writing on the eve of the poll at Whitechapel, our organiser sends the following communication:—

Sir Stuart Samuel has stated in his election address that he is opposed to Women's Suffrage. Captain Monteagle Browne, who answered all the National Union's questions in the negative, and stated that he was a convinced Anti-Suffragist, added that if we could supply him with information as to the grievances from which the women of Whitechapel suffer he would, if elected, do his best to bring them to the notice of the House of Commons. We have addressed the following reply to Captain Browne, signed by our Organising Secretaries, Mrs. Foulkes and Miss Rinder, and copies have been sent to the Press:—

"We beg to thank you for your reply to our inquiries in regard to your attitude towards Women's Suffrage. We greatly regret that in this matter you are uninfluenced by the views of the present and of the three preceding leaders of the Conservative Party—viz., Mr. Bonar Law, Lord Beaconsfield, Lord Salisbury and Mr. Arthur Balfour, all of whom have declared themselves in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to women.

"We have found in our work among the women of Whitechapel, both before and during this Election, that they suffer from many disabilities, among which are wages far below any 'living wage' standard, and bad housing conditions which greatly add to the trials of the home worker. We have, however, noted your inquiry on this head with the utmost surprise, as it would seem to us that those gentlemen who desire to withhold the protection of the vote from women should, above all others, make it their business to inform themselves as to the needs of the women as well as of the men in any constituency they desire to represent. The fact that you have apparently not done so, and that you desire us at this late hour, almost on the eve of the poll, to supply you with the information appears to us an unanswerable argument in favour of the immediate extension of the franchise to women."

Whitechapel people are keenly interested in the economic aspect of the Suffrage Movement. A large number of the women are employed in the tailoring and card-board-making trades, and the general rate of their wages, apart from a few highly skilled tailoresses, is very low indeed.

Open-air meetings have been held twice, and when speakers have been available, three times a day, and in spite of the extreme noisiness of the pitches we have had interested and attentive crowds. A very successful indoor meeting was held at the Commercial Street L.C.C. Schools on April 23rd. We were fortunate in having Miss Mary Hughes, well-known in Whitechapel for many years as a social worker, as our speaker. The other speakers were Mr. Malcolm Mitchell and Mrs. Giningham, who kindly took Miss Courtney's place at very short notice. The Chair was taken by Miss Rinder. Seventy-eight people were enrolled as "Friends" and several copies of THE COMMON CAUSE, and badges were sold. The police told us that there were thirty other meetings in Whitechapel that night, so we feel that our crowded meeting was evidence of a very strong interest in Women's Suffrage in this constituency.

Our campaign in support of the "Friends of Women's Suffrage" scheme has been most successful. Several hundreds of men and women have been enrolled, and many of these have since brought their neighbours to the Committee Rooms to follow their good example.

We are very much indebted to Miss Ward, Miss Cockle, Miss Philippa Fawcett, and Mr. Stanbury for speaking so continually at the open air meetings, as without their help a great number of these meetings could not have been held. W. G. R.

Election Result: Sir Stuart Samuel (L.) ... 1,772  
Capt. M. Browne (U.) ... 1,556

Majority 166

#### II.—East Cambs.

George Nicholls, Liberal.

J. C. Denison-Pender, Conservative.

Organiser: L. F. Waring.

National Union Committee Rooms: Fore Hill, Ely.

The Women's Suffrage opinions of the two candidates are as yet unknown.

### "UNION IS STRENGTH."

JOIN THE

WOMEN CLERKS AND SECRETARIES FRIENDLY SOCIETY

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## Work-a-day Women.

[This is the second article in a series of "Glimpses of Real Life", No. 1 having appeared in our issue of April 11th.]

It was in the month of March, 1913. In a certain village in the south-east of Lancashire, represented in Parliament by a member of the Government who is specially distinguished by his Oriental ideas on the position of women, there is a political club of some local standing where fortnightly debates are held during the winter months. It is usual in this valley to ignore the political position of British women—that having been a subject conveniently regarded as not topical. Owing to circumstances which are of no moment here, the winter just passed is an exception, and it was found impossible to ignore the "woman's question" with any due regard to matters "topical." On this evening, therefore, a crowded audience faced two debaters—one a woman, who claimed political equality for her sex; and the other a young man, who denied her claim. Being of the legal profession, his views on the position of women are naturally much coloured by his study of the law. From his point of view the law always favours the woman, and he made much play with the statement that a woman is well protected by present laws, and instanced that of the law of maintenance—by which a husband is responsible for his wife's keep, no matter what she may do.

It was another evening, a little later in the same month. Over the hills which shut in on one side the valley mentioned above, is a manufacturing town of considerable size. Many of its women are mill-workers, and Mrs. Alice Bates belongs to this class. She and a neighbour, who works in the same mill, were deep in conversation as they wended their way homewards. Said Polly Brookes, the neighbour:

"Tha' may put it off, an' keep puttin' it off, as long as tha' likes, Alice, an' then tha'll hev to do it. Ger it done, and done wi'. What art a' waitin' for?"

Mrs. Bates steps lagged a little, and she heaved a tired sigh. "Nay, Polly, a' dun know," she said. "A' wouldn' cur abeat 'im givin' me little or no wages if he'd nobbut be quiet. But when he's allus kickin' up a reaw abeant summat or other, and acts as if he wur t' boss o' t' show, it does get on me craw. An' then a' say summat as a' shouldn' do, and then th' fat's i' th' fire, and then we go on from year end to year end." Her voice trailed away dejectedly.

"An' he wur never no better, wur he?" asked Polly. "A've known thee nine 'ear, and a' never remember 'im no different."

"Neaw," answered Mrs. Bates. "He wur'n't long before he begun. Before eaur Mary wur born he'd begun wi' his ways. But a' could allus earn a good wage, an' he got used to havin' a handful o' money o' his own. Then eaur Tom come; and it took a lot to pay for boo'ath on um to be narsed, an' a' adn't so much to do on, and he got nastier. Then, when eaur John Willie come, a' wur beaun' to give up my wark, for a' couldn' pay for 'em all to be narsed. An' his mother said a good job mebbe, for neaw a' should hev time to keep him a proper hooame and he'd be better nor he hed been. Bur he wern't, not a bit. An' when a' hedn't enough to keep gooin' wi', a' got mad, an' caw'd a' aw sooart o' things. Ay, we hed an awful time till th' childer wur big enough to be left an' a' could get back to my wark, an' hev a bit brass o' my own again. Then, as th' childer begun to wark he seem't as he didn' think he should gimme nowt. Then th' childer geet wed, an' am left wi' him agen. A' dooan't see as a' should keep him, does't a'?"

"A' should think not!" said Polly, indignantly. "It's him as should keep thee. Here tha' are gettin' on to fifty, an' he's never kept thee, nor never will, if th' doesn't mak' him. Thee mak' up thy mind and hev him up. That'll wakken him up."

"Nay, a' dooan't know as it will," was the reply. "He's been 'ad up twice before for bein' drunk and fightin', an' a' coulda' had him up mony a time for neglectin' to keep th' childer—ay, and for knockin' me abeat, too."

Polly looked round with a shocked expression. "Nay," she said. "A' didn' know as he knocked thee abeat. A' thowt it was nobbut his nasty tongue and him givin' thee no wages. Tha' shoulda' had him up long ago, tha' silly thing. Tha'll stand owt, it seams, just as if tha' didn' wark for thy livin'. The idea o' lettin' him leather thee when tha's keepin' him!"

"Nay," interposed Mrs. Bates, "he doesn't do it neaw—he darrn't. It was when th' childer wur little an' a'd nowt but his wages—as much on 'em as he choose to gi' me, that is. I used to get mad, and then a' said owt as come into my hee'ad, and he couldn' stand it, tha' knows. Men winnat stand nagging

when it's them as earns t' brass. A'm noan grumblin' abeat that."

"Well, see as tha' mek's up thy mind to mek him keep thee," said Polly, as she opened a cottage door at the bottom of the street in which they both lived, and entered.

Mrs. Bates walked up to the top of the street and unlocked and entered another door. There was a banked-up fire, kept in by a friendly neighbour, burning in the grate of the living room. She cleared the dinner pots, and proceeded to set out clean ones for tea. Before she had finished, a man of about her own age entered, and, after washing his hands, proceeded to occupy the armchair by the fire, waiting for his meal to be made ready.

"Tha' can begin," said Mrs. Bates presently, pouring him out a pint pot of tea, and placing before him some slices of bread and butter and potted meat.

He looked at the fare provided with a scowl. "Is this aw there is when a chap's bin workin' 'ard aw day?" he grumbled. "Why cornd we hev summat tasty—a bit o' meat, or 'am an' eggs, or a bit o' fish, or summat woth eit—astid o' this dry stuff?"

"Becos there's no money for nowt better!" answered Mrs. Bates, angrily. "It's many a wik sin' tha' gen me mooar nor 7s., an' it'll noan run to meit and fish, let me tell thee."

"Shut up!" he answered, politely. "Tha' never 'ad no mooar money when th' childer wur at hooam, and tha' allus seed as they 'ad plenty o' summat good. Trust thee for that! But I'm nowt a' peaut, nor never was."

"Th' childer worked for what they got!" she answered, passionately. "Tha' could hev it if tha'd wark for it. Wheer dost a' think it's to come frae, when tha' spends aw tha' gets i' summat else?"

"Thee shut up!" he commanded again. "Tha's too much tongue by the hawf. It's thy business to provide me wi' summat decent to eit, an' then tha's done."

"Well, we'll see if a've done!" she said, raising her voice angrily. "It's thy business to keep me, and tha's never done it yet; but, by gord, a'll see as tha' does! A'll let fooak know what sooart tha' are. I'll summons thee, and see if tha' cornd be med to gimme enough to keep me as well as thee, tha' lazy heard!"

He laughed derisively. By this time he had finished his tea, and proceeded to prepare for an evening out. The personal compliments which were mutually exchanged between them before he finally departed are not fit for repetition in a respectable journal.

After he had gone Mrs. Bates put her shawl round her head and flew down the street to Polly Brookes, whom she discovered enjoying a tea of fish and chips, the while she finished a tale replete with the doings of the nobility, especially represented by a certain Lady Geraldine.

"Come on!" commanded Mrs. Bates, a red spot glowing on each cheek, the light of a bitter resolve in her eye. "Come on! A'm bearn to do it. A' cornd stand it no longer. A'll show him whether a'll be laughed at. He'll laugh o't th' tother side his face when he finds eaut. Come on, an' goo wi' me to th' police station. A'm beaun' to do it."

Polly jumped up with alacrity. Here was a real adventure in which she could play a real part. On the way to the Town Hall she heard all about the further insults which had been heaped upon her friend at tea time.

A few days later Mrs. Bates and her husband, with Polly in attendance on the latter, breathlessly awaited their turn in the police court. Mrs. Bates' married life was laid bare by her solicitor, and Mr. Bates did not shine during the recital. His solicitor made no attempt to deny that his client had not fulfilled his duty as a husband by keeping his wife, except during a short period when she could not earn owing to having three small children to look after. A demand was made for a separation order and an adequate maintenance allowance. The wages of the man were 24s. weekly; of his wife, 20s. weekly.

The magistrates conferred. "Of course, he's a careless, lazy devil," said one. "The woman's had a hard life, and he's never helped her. She's getting on, too."

"But she's getting a pound a week! What has she to complain of—she's able to keep herself!"

"We can't possibly make her an allowance out of his wages, which would give her a larger income than he has!"

"We have decided to grant the separation order," said the chairman to the waiting court, "with 1s. per week maintenance."

ADA NIELD CHEW.

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

The first letter of the Women's Suffrage alphabet must be like the first letter of all Men's Suffrage alphabets; that is, that to those who are voteless, the demand for the vote comes

### Before Every Other Demand.

If you read the history of the franchise, you will find that this has always been the case with men. When they asked for the Vote, they put that demand first, and would not be satisfied with anything else. And they were right. You cannot put any other reform before this one, however important it may be, because

### The Vote is the Instrument of all Reform.

Whatever your party, whatever your political views, and whatever laws you want to see passed, it is the Vote that you want to do the work with, and so the Vote must come first.

It is no use saying "Tariff Reform is more important," or "Free Trade must be assured first," because, whichever party you belong to, you will be far more useful to it when you have a Vote than you can possibly be now. And it is clear that some of the most important questions before Parliament—such as the Housing question, and the question of the White Slave Traffic—interest women even more than men. And the more women want to settle these questions, the harder they should work for Women's Suffrage. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is therefore right in putting Women's Suffrage before all party measures, and saying (as it does)

### He Who's For Us, For Him Are We.

For a long time the National Union supported any candidate for Parliament who declared himself a Suffragist. But although by this means they succeeded in getting a majority of Suffragists in the House of Commons, and these Suffragists voted over and over again (almost every year since 1886) in favour of giving women Votes, yet

### Women's Suffrage Never Became Law,

and the House of Commons contented itself merely with saying they thought it should!

The N.U. then decided to take new action. They saw that the reason of their failure lay in the failure of many men whom they had supported at election-time, to keep the promises they had made. It was clear that these men could not be trusted to vote for Women's Suffrage in Parliament if

### Party Pressure were Against It.

When a man who has promised to support us finds that his party leader does not like his doing so, what is he to do? If he is an honest man he supports us all the same, and some brave men have done this, and deserve the gratitude of all Suffragists. But most Members of Parliament are not so brave; and when they find themselves

opposed to their party, they throw their convictions overboard.

This is why Women's Suffrage has never become law. And this is why the National Union has now determined to consider not only what a man says he believes in, but what his party believes in too. So that though they will still support a Conservative Suffragist against a Liberal Anti-Suffragist, they prefer a Labour Suffragist above all, because his party and his convictions are *both* Suffragist. And they will not support a Liberal at all, even though he is a Suffragist, because

### The Liberal Party Does not Stand for Women's Suffrage.

Some people object to this, and say "The Liberal Government is not *opposed* to Women's Suffrage; it is divided; and there are some Suffragists even in the Cabinet." Our answer is that our friends in the Cabinet have not been able—however hard they may have tried—to prevent the Government from acting in an Anti-Suffrage way. For it is clear that you can only get a law passed in one of two ways, and the Prime Minister has made

### Both these ways Impossible.

The way we tried at first was the way of the private Member's Bill. That Bill was called the Conciliation Bill, and it would probably have become law, if Mr. Asquith had not "torpedoed" it by announcing that he was going to introduce a Franchise Bill himself later on, and members could get the women into that, if they liked. Then reports were put about that it would be very dreadful for the Prime Minister if women got the Vote when he didn't want them to, and perhaps he would resign in a rage, or, at any rate, some of the Cabinet would. And this frightened the Irish Party and some others so much that

### They Voted Against the Women in Sheer Terror.

Then the Prime Minister's Bill offered us another chance. He said it should be drafted in such a way that we might be included. But when it was introduced, the Speaker said it was not so, and we could not be included at all. So the N.U. now

### Asks for a Government Measure,

and the Government refuses to introduce one. As the Prime Minister has thus blocked all the ways by which Women's Suffrage can become law (and our friends in the Cabinet have not been able to prevent this), the N.U. refuses to support any one who supports him. It does this not because it opposes Liberalism, but because

### It Opposes Il-Liberalism.

It is not Liberal but il-Liberal not to believe in Government by the people, and Suffragists are therefore only asking that the Liberal Party should act up to its principles, as the Labour Party has done.

## Correspondence.

## THE LABOUR EXCHANGES AND DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

MADAM,—In THE COMMON CAUSE for April 25th you complain that "the Labour Exchanges definitely refuse to consider domestic servants at all, except in the case of posts in hospitals, hotels or public institutions." Will you kindly explain why you think the nation should be taxed in order to supply hotels—which are profit-making business enterprises—with servants, any more than it should be taxed to supply private employers with such luxuries as cooks and housemaids.

With regard to servants themselves, Labour Exchanges are certainly superfluous—the demand for servants is so great that domestic servants belong to the only class of labour who can, and do, choose not only the sort of situation they will accept, but the locality to which they will go. Clergymen, doctors, officers in the Army and Navy, governesses and all other ordinary mortals, have to go and remain where their work lies, but a domestic servant flits about at her own sweet will. Now, why should not she pay a trifle for this choice, which is a most valuable attribute of domestic service? At any rate, why should the nation be taxed to supply it?

The Labour Exchanges were, of course, an offering to the voters—it would be very interesting to know how many men have been engaged through the Labour Exchanges who would not have been engaged through their own Trade Unions had no Labour Exchanges been in existence.

T. M. FOLEY.  
[We refer to this letter in "Notes and Comments."—Ed. THE COMMON CAUSE.]

## ANTI-VIVISECTION.

MADAM,—Your note to Miss Cox's letter in this week's COMMON CAUSE re Anti-Vivisection is admirably impartial. Will you not, however, deem it to be a just corollary to give access to the educational endeavours on the other side that are made by The Research Defence Society? Mr. Stephen Paget, 21, Ladbroke Square, London, W., is the Hon. Secretary, and would, doubtless, forward educational pamphlets to any inquirer. That Lord Cromer was the President of the Society will not, I trust, prejudice it in the eyes of fair-minded suffragists. Dr. Alice Corthorn, who gave such impressive evidence on behalf of the defendants, at the recent action to which Miss Cox refers, is, I believe, President or Secretary of the Kensington Branch Society. She has done invaluable work in India by means of discoveries arrived at in experiments on animals, during the awful time of plague. She is a staunch suffragist as well as a humane and heroic woman.

Broadways, Worcestershire. ISOBEL FITZROY HECHT.

MADAM,—It was with great pleasure I read Miss Cox's letter in this week's COMMON CAUSE, and I am glad you recognise her fair and, may I say, most obvious deduction from your editorial note. At the same time I do fail to understand why the columns of THE COMMON CAUSE should not be open for discussion on any controversial subject.

Surely our only common bond of unity is a combination for the Suffrage. On all other subjects, whether political, religious, social or moral, we do and can hold diverse opinions. A part of the paper devoted to the discussion of all the questions which interest us as human beings would, I should think, very much improve and vitalise our paper, increase its circulation, make for tolerance among ourselves, and in every way tend to broaden and widen our outlook on life.

To have open discussion among the readers of the paper seems to me to be quite allowable, because the opinions expressed are personal, and, as they are sure to be very diverse, they cannot then be labelled as the opinions of suffragists, and we shall begin to kill that horrible spirit so much in vogue at present of treating Suffragists like flocks of sheep, and supposing because we want a vote we therefore believe in the religious, moral, and social opinion of every other fellow-Suffragist.

Cosham. N. O'SHEA.  
[The case for and against Vivisection is either one of morals, which everyone must judge for himself, or of expert evidence, on which scientists alone can judge, and which would be out of place in THE COMMON CAUSE.—Ed. C.C.]

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## THE MARCH FROM HORSHAM TO BRIGHTON.

MADAM,—May I make an appeal through your columns on behalf of a series of "marches" which the Marchers "Qui Vive" Corps intend to make during the summer months.

The long march from Edinburgh to London proved, without doubt, that "marches" are an attractive form of propaganda; and speaking from first-hand knowledge, I can affirm they are as profitable as attractive.

They are most effective in arousing and educating the countryside, where Suffrage propaganda seldom penetrates; they afford opportunities for coming into close relationship with many phases of life with which women alone can deal; and they provide a wide scope of experience for those who participate, and an education for which I feel sure they will always be grateful.

Every Suffragist should adopt some form of openly showing her sympathy with our cause; and the march from Horsham to Brighton, now advertised in your paper, is an opportunity by which this may be done, at the cost of pleasant companionship and small financial expense.

The cause for which we strive is a worthy one; and must be made to live in the public mind. We must bring it to the doors of those who will not heed. Who will help?

FLORENCE DE FONBLANQUE.

(Hon. Organiser and Leader).

[We gladly print the appeal of Mrs. de Fonblanque, whose "march" attracted so much interest and attention last year. Under "Notes from Headquarters," it will be seen that the N.U. also contemplates organising a march. No doubt we shall be able to co-operate with effect.—Ed. C.C.]

## A SERVICEABLE SECRETARY'S BOOK.

MADAM,—Will you allow me to call attention to the serviceable "Secretary's Book" issued by the West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation? It does not seem to be very widely known or used. The headings are well chosen for the purpose of entering information most wanted for constant use in Societies, whether situated in borough or county divisions. For new Societies these headings would suggest what most needs to be ascertained, and an organiser could leave her work in the hands of an inexperienced secretary with less misgiving if she left with her one of these little books, with entries partially filled in.

Larger Societies find the list of meetings, with its sub-headings, an excellent arrangement for recording the members gained or collection taken at each, and an Annual Report is more easily compiled with the help of these records than out of minutes only. The book can be obtained post free for 1s. from Miss E. F. McPherson, 16, Newland Drive, Liscard, Cheshire.

F. DE G. MERRIFIELD.

(Hon. Sec. Brighton and Hove Women's Franchise Society.)

28th April, 1913.

[We understand that Miss McPherson's admirable little book is commended to the notice of all secretaries in the forthcoming edition of "Hints on the Organisation of Suffrage Work."—Ed. C.C.]

## Protest of Manchester Men's League.

The following Resolution has been passed by the Manchester Men's League for Women's Suffrage:—

"That this League protests against the action of the authorities in prohibiting meetings of a section of women suffragists in London as unnecessary, and setting up an undesirable precedent which will provide a constant menace to freedom of speech and the liberty of the subject. While deprecating all violence, it considers it an unwarrantable and unjust discrimination to punish women for incitement thereto in England, while men in more responsible positions are allowed with impunity to incite to far more serious crime in Ireland; and believing that the present disturbances are the direct outcome of the failure of the Government to deal in a statesmanlike manner with the question of the Suffrage, it is of opinion that the only certain and honourable way to preserve the peace lies in the speedy fulfilment of its promises to the women of the country by the introduction of a Government Bill for the enfranchisement of women."

## In Parliament.

April 23rd.—Mr. Albert Smith introduced a Bill for the abolition of fines in the cotton factories. Readers of last week's COMMON CAUSE who may have marvelled at the incredible meanness of some of the fines inflicted upon women, will be interested to hear that "it is estimated that £20,000 a year is deducted from the weavers alone, in fines."

MIS-DESCRIPTION OF FABRICS BILL.—Under this uninspiring title, Mr. Theodore Taylor introduced a Bill about flannelette! It does not prohibit the sale of anything; it does not require inflammable fabrics being marked 'dangerous'; it is merely a Bill to prevent inflammable fabrics being marked 'safe against fire.' There is, it seems, only one really safe kind of flannelette—"Non-flam"—and the inventors of the process have generously presented the British Patent Rights to the nation.

April 24th.—Mr. King clamours for new Articles in the Code (Education) for the better instruction of children under five. (Women, of course, have no business to be interested in political questions about children under five.)

Mr. Bathurst asked whether the fact that the President of the Board of Trade got £5,000 a year, and the President of the Board of Education £3,000, meant that one was 150 per cent. more important than the other. Mr. Asquith evidently thought this a terribly silly question. If the Education Minister was to be raised, really everybody would have to be raised! Who, it was implied, could find any other excuse for raising the salary of the President of the Board of Education?

On the Post-office estimates: congratulations to Mr. Samuel on having made the Post-office no longer a "blind alley" employment for boys. It is now able to absorb "all who wish to stay and are of good character and physique." Here is a reform worth having.

MOTION TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL THEATRE.—Mr. Mackinder moved to establish a National Theatre in London in a very fine and interesting speech, in which he suggested that the more mechanical forms of labour which engage men and women of to-day, leave them "looking for intellectual interest outside"—and especially in the theatre, music-hall, and picture-palace. Unfortunately, the debate was not maintained at this level. Mr. Ellis Griffiths replied with a painful degree of caution for the Government (see "Gems from the Debate" below), and Mr. Spencer Leigh Hughes made one of the silliest speeches imaginable on whether Shakespeare was Bacon. The motion was talked out. Mr. Mackinder (a prominent Anti-Suffragist) would find a more interested audience in women, who—on the whole—do care a good deal both about the theatre and about education, towards which the theatre might be so fine an instrument.

April 28th.—Lord R. Cecil asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the declaration by the Nottingham police authority that they did not intend to afford police protection for Suffragist meetings, however peaceable, the Government were prepared to take steps to secure the exercise of the right of free speech.

Mr. McKenna: I have made inquiry, and am assured by the Mayor of Nottingham that no such announcement or declaration has been made.

April 30th and May 1st.—Plural Voting Bill.

[As we go to press the debate on the Plural Voting Bill is in progress.]

## Gems from the Debate.

Mr. Ellis Griffiths (on the duties of the Government to a National Theatre).—"The duty of the Government is . . . to crown a project of this kind . . . When the project is matured, when the site is obtained, when the building is erected, when the theatre is equipped, and when it has a reasonable endowment, I think the time for crowning the movement will then very nearly have been reached." (The italics are ours.)

Sir Frederick Banbury (on any subject). "This country has been in existence for nearly 2,000 years without — Would it not be wiser to go on for a little longer in the state in which we have been for so many years?" (Fill up the blank as you like. "Without Women's Suffrage," for instance; or, "without Sir Frederick Banbury.")

Mr. Sandys (who will not do right if the devil bids him, nor be persuaded by an excellent because humble example).—"Are we, the Mother of Parliaments, the fount and origin of great Parliamentary institutions in all parts of the globe, to mould ourselves upon the Finchley Urban District Council?"

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News from America.

The decision has gone against Women's Suffrage in Michigan. Mrs. Forbes-Robertson Hale (sister to Mr. Johnston Forbes-Robertson), who has been working there, writes in the *Woman's Journal*:-

"I campaigned in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan the last week before election. On all sides I was told that large printed notices were hanging in the saloons, reading: 'Vote No to Woman Suffrage on April 7th.' 'It will mean prohibition,' etc.

"In one case I asked my host, a well-known doctor of Pere Marquette, if he had himself seen these notices in the saloons, and he answered 'yes.' No such notices were to be found in any churches, libraries, stores, or other public places, only in the saloons."

British Suffragists will be interested to know how the movement grows in America, in spite of an occasional set-back. We hope to publish next week a map showing the position of the Suffrage States—all significantly close together—and meanwhile give the following interesting list, only reminding our readers that, in the United States Women's Suffrage has first to pass the Legislature and then be submitted to a referendum of voters:

Suffrage States.				
Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington, California, Oregon, Kansas, Arizona, Alaska.				
States Where Amendment is Now Before Voters.				
	Passed Representa- tion House by	Passed Senate by	Goes to Voters in	
Montana ... ..	75-2	15-2	1914	
Nevada ... ..	49-3	19-3	1913 or 14	
North Dakota ... ..			1914	
South Dakota ... ..	70-30	41-2	1914	
States Where Amendment Has Passed One Legislature and Must Pass Another.				
Iowa ... ..	81-26	31-15	1916	
New Jersey ... ..	46-5	14-5	1914	
New York ... ..	125-5	40-2	1915	
Favourable but Not Final Action.				
Pennsylvania, passed in House, 131-70			1915	
Wisconsin, passed in Senate, 17-15				

An attempt is also being made to get Women's Suffrage by the quicker method of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States passed by the Federal Legislature. It is a somewhat moving thought that this amendment has been put into the exact words of that one which enfranchised the negro, only substituting the word "sex" for the word "race." Suffragists will remember that women were asking for the vote so long ago as the abolition of slavery, and consented then to put their claims on one side for a time. The negroes, in consequence, have long had the vote: the women are without it still.

We subjoin the proposed amendment:—

**In the Senate of the United States, April 7, 1913.**

Mr. Chamberlain introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Woman Suffrage.

Joint Resolution

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States extending the right of suffrage to women.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), that the following article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of the said Legislatures, shall be valid as part of said Constitution, namely:—

Article

"Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Sec. 2. The Congress shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce the provisions of this article."

"The Sociological Review."

An article on "French and American Ideals," by Professor J. Mark Baldwin, the well-known American psychologist, has the place of honour in the new number of the *Sociological Review*. The issue also contains an indictment of Western Feminist ideals by Dr. A. K. Coomaraswamy, under the title of "Sati: a Vindication of the Hindu Woman," with a reply by Mrs. H. M. Swanwick; and an article by Sir J. George Scott on "The Position of Women in Burma."

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The Three Arts Club.

The opening of the inaugural exhibition of The Three Arts Club, which will be on view until May 10th, is an event of unique interest to those concerned with the welfare of women artists in London, for it is a culminating point in the realisation of a scheme started some two years ago by Miss Lena Ashwell, Miss Pocock, and Miss C. de C. Parish.

Realising the hard lot of the woman-artist in the metropolis, these three leaders were seeking independently to ameliorate the lives "filled with sordid discomfort, lack of food, and aimless wandering in the streets between lesson and class rehearsal and performance," when Fate brought these pioneers together, with the result that the beautiful meeting-place and residence, "The Three Arts Club," was founded.

The success of this enterprise is realised by any who have seen the accommodation in those premises offered to the woman-artist at a cost commensurate with her means. The scheme does not, however, stop short with material comfort, helpfulness to new-comers into the realms of the Three Arts, Music Drama and Arts and Crafts being a large item in the programme. Advisory Committees have therefore been formed from leading members of the several Arts who place the benefit of their experience within reach of less advanced followers and periodical entertainments for the encouragement of each side of the Club are a feature of the co-operative life. The holding of public exhibitions of their work has, however, always been a desideratum of the organisers, who are entitled to feel a just pride in the most excellent collection of pictures and applied art now displayed at the Baillie Gallery, Bruton Street.

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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

Hon. Treasurer:  
MRS. AUERBACH.

Secretary:  
MISS CROOKENDEN.

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

Monster March of Suffragists.

The National Union is proposing to organise a great demonstration throughout the country in the month of July—a demonstration which will depend for its success upon the devotion and enthusiasm of every Society and every Federation in the Union. The demonstration is to take the form of a number of simultaneous marches from the North, South, East and West of England and Wales, all converging upon London on a given day. Four routes will be selected, following the great main roads to London, and the Federations through which these roads respectively pass will be asked to form joint committees for making all the arrangements along their route.

One object of the march will be to raise a large sum of money, for which preparations should be made immediately. There will be work for every member of the Union to undertake. Those who cannot join the march can offer hospitality to the marchers, or lend horses and conveyances, and all can contribute to the big fund which is to be raised. The marches will end with a great demonstration in London, at which the amount will be announced. The date and all other details will be published later, when arrangements have been completed.

In the meantime, we urge the Federations and Societies to begin making preliminary arrangements at once; members should be asked to plan their holidays as far as possible in July, so that they may take part in the march; a vast amount of hospitality must be secured, and a great scheme of organisation set on foot by the Federation Committees.

At Headquarters a Committee has been formed to which a representative of every Federation and of the London Society has been invited, and which has already appointed a Decorations Sub-Committee, which will draw up suggestions for decorations, which can easily be adopted by everyone taking part in the march.

The fund has already been opened, and donations, which may be ear-marked for use in any Federation or Society, should be sent as soon as possible to Mrs. Auerbach, at the Offices of the National Union.

Press Department.

An interesting report of the Scottish Federation press work has reached us this week from Miss Stuart Paterson, who is undertaking it with much energy. Of the 115 papers on the list for supervision, 54 are reported as favourable, including those of Glasgow, and only 19 as definitely Anti-Suffragist.

During the last week or so, we notice the awakening of the Press to the fact of the International interest of the Women's Suffrage Movement, and there is also a more favourable attitude in many of the religious weekly papers. The *London Budget* publishes widely on Sunday the news of the Women's Movement from other countries, and the *Christian Science Monitor*, a paper with a large circulation in London and abroad, has long supported the Suffrage. The *Church Family Newspaper* has lately given an interesting article by Lady Selborne, and a series of addresses delivered under the auspices of the Church of England Peace League by the Rev. O. Baumgarten, who is an enthusiastic advocate of the peace policy between nations and of Women's Suffrage. The *Methodist Times* has for years been a firm supporter, and the *Baptist Times*, the official organ of the Baptist organisation, considers that the Government has "mishandled the question of Women's Suffrage from the beginning," and that "it was a piece of simple folly for Mr. Asquith to introduce a Suffrage Bill, to extend the vote to the least capable and efficient men under our social system, while he refused it to any woman, however capable."

Long columns giving news of the National Union are constantly being started in the provincial papers. Amongst some of the best may be mentioned the *Dewsbury Reporter*, the *Weekly Scotsman*, *Whitby Gazette*, *Warrington Guardian*, which are doing excellent service.

The *Daily Citizen* this week has a vigorous protest from a working woman against the inanities of the woman's fashion page, and a plea for something better and more practical.

E. M. LEAF.

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"The Common Cause" Competition.

The particulars and rules of THE COMMON CAUSE Competition, announced in our last two issues, will be repeated next week. Meantime, will intending competitors kindly note that Branches of Societies will be reckoned as Societies for competition purposes.

The Summer School for Suffrage Workers, arranged by the National Union, will be held at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, August 11th-25th, 1913, and not, as we announced in the last issue, August 10th-24th.

The Summer Schools.

The deepening interest in the Suffrage movement, and the growing urgency of the call for more work, make the demands heavier upon the workers already engaged in active service and the need for fresh recruits ever greater. Many workers are feeling the need of a wider knowledge of the facts connected with the various sides of the movement, and of further experience in practical organisation; and in many Societies—as most Secretaries will bear witness—there are certain members who "ought to speak, if only they would make a beginning," or who "would canvass, if only they knew what to say." It is for these that the National Union proposes to hold its Summer Schools, at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, and (if enough applications are received) at St. Andrews, Scotland. Any one who attended last year the School organised by the West Midland Federation at Malvern will testify to the value of the fresh knowledge and fresh inspiration imparted to workers already in the field, and to the help and encouragement given to the inexperienced by initiation into practical work under the most favourable conditions: for every one will agree that the ordeal of the first speech or even the first canvass becomes much less formidable when undergone in a strange county and—a very real alleviation—in company with fellow sufferers!

The programme at the Oxford School (August 11th-25th) will include Speakers' classes, lectures on various aspects of women's work, etc., and lectures on practical work in the mornings, and in the afternoons the canvassing and holding of open-air meetings. St. Hugh's College has accommodation for fifty students, and it is earnestly hoped that there will be many applicants, and that Suffragists interested in this very practical piece of work will send donations to help to defray the heavy expenses which will necessarily be incurred.

D. M.

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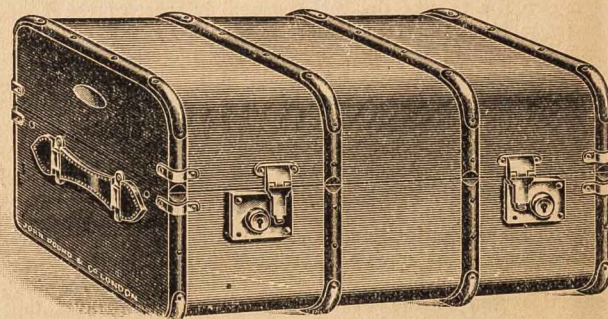
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News from the Societies and Federations.

East Midland.

BELPER.—A meeting was held on March 17th in the Small Public Hall. The Chairman was the Rev. A. Leslie Smith, B.A., and the principal speakers were Mrs. Maunders, P.L.G. (Mansfield), and Mrs. Cowmesdale. The speeches aroused much interest and were followed by a discussion. An excellent report appeared in the local Press.

GRANTHAM.—The Grantham Branch of the National Union held a successful meeting for the Friends of Women's Suffrage in the Victoria Street Hall on April 1st. Mrs. Rawle, the Chairman, in her opening remarks, reviewed briefly the work of the Society since its formation 18 months ago, and introduced Miss Norma Smith, who described the evolution of the scheme, of which the result was the Friends of Women's Suffrage Society. Many new members were enrolled, and the success of the meeting augurs well for the future of the Branch in a part of the town where, hitherto, no meetings have been held. The following day an "At Home" was held for members of the Branch in the Co-operative Hall, which was decorated with the National Union colours and a fine display of posters. After tea and a short concert programme (arranged by Miss Lynn, assisted by Mrs. MacVie, Miss Gladys Monk and Miss E. M. Cooke) Mrs. Arthur Hutchinson, Vice-President and Chairman of the Society, introduced Miss Norma Smith, who again spoke on the Suffrage question from various points of view. The audience, which included members of all shades of political opinion, unanimously passed a vote of thanks to the speaker, proposed by Mrs. H. G. Snowden, seconded by Miss Gladys Williams. Further additions were made to the lists, both of members and "Friends" of the Society. Good accounts of the meetings appeared in the Grantham Journal and the Nottingham Guardian.

LEICESTER.—The Annual Meeting of this Society was held at the Memorial Hall on April 9th. Mrs. T. R. Ryder in the Chair. The Report and Balance Sheet were passed and the officers and Committee re-elected. Notice was given of a Suffrage Demonstration to be held on April 28th, arranged by this Society in conjunction with the Women's Labour League, the Trades' Council and other bodies interested in Women's Suffrage. Attention was also called to the necessity for improving the financial position of the Society. A Resolution calling upon the Government to introduce a Women's Suffrage Bill was passed unanimously. It was moved by Mrs. W. E. Dowson (Hon. Secretary, Nottingham W.S.S.), who gave an interesting address on the present position of the Suffrage movement and the work of the National Union during the past year. A good collection was taken and literature sold, and several new members joined the Society.

NOTTINGHAM.—The monthly "At Home," held on April 16th in the Mechanics' Lecture Hall, was attended by a large audience to hear Mrs. Bolton's address on "The White Slave Traffic and the Need for Women's Suffrage." Lady Maud Rolleston, a Vice-President of the Notts Society, presided. There were questions asked at the end of the meeting and literature was sold. Tea was provided and a good collection was taken, which more than covered all expenses. Seven new members joined. A new system has been inaugurated by which the town has been divided into 22 districts, of from 8 to 18 houses, under charge of one member. She will be responsible for the delivery of all notices to these houses, collection of subscriptions, selling of tickets for meetings, etc., and it is hoped thereby that much expense of postage will be saved and the members more easily reached.

OUNDLE.—The Annual Meeting of this Society was held at the Rectory on April 10th. The accounts and report were read and approved, and a general discussion followed.

SOUTHWELL.—This Society was visited by Miss Norma Smith during the first week in April. Meetings had been arranged as follows:—On April 3rd, a Drawing-room Meeting at Mrs. Pratt's, at 3.30; at 7.30 a Public Meeting in the Assembly Room, Southwell, the Hon. Mrs. Handford in the Chair. On April 4th, a Drawing-room Meeting at Mrs. Gregory's, Tiskerton; on April 5th, Public Meeting at 7.30 in the School-room, Farnfield, the Rev. B. McKee in the Chair. At all four meetings Miss Norma Smith spoke on the need of the vote as a factor in the well-being of women, and through them of the race, and was listened to with attention. Eight new members have been gained and much good seed has been sown. A collection was made at the Southwell meeting when 13s. 8d. was taken.

ORGANISER'S REPORT.—On April 23rd there was an afternoon meeting at Beccles, at which Mrs. Swanwick proposed a Resolution in favour of a Government measure of Women's Suffrage, which was seconded by Miss Colman. Dr. Beverley, of Norwich, kindly took the Chair in the unavoidable absence of the Rev. Burnett Symons. About 170 people were present. The Resolution was carried with three dissentients. The same speakers addressed an evening meeting at Diss Assembly Rooms, the audience numbering about 100. The same Resolution was carried with one dissentient. Mrs. Hazard was in the Chair.

L. F. WARRING.

Manchester and District.  
We are glad to report the formation of a Society at Waterfoot in the Rossendale Division. The Hon. Secretary is Miss Hetty Pickup, 9, Farns, Stacksteads, Bacup. The Society has been organised by Mrs. Alderley, and we hope that the members will soon be taking an active part in the work of the Federation. We wish Waterfoot Society every success.  
The Manchester and District Federation E.F.F. Sub-Committee have organised a series of meetings from April 25th to the 30th. The arrangements are as follows:—April 25th, Rawtenstall, Mrs. Swanwick, Mr. J. H. Hudson, M.A. April 29th, Middleton, Mrs. Swanwick, Councillor Tom Fox. April 30th, Accrington, Mrs. Swanwick, Councillor Egerton P. Wake. These meetings will be over by the time this is in print, but the account will appear in our next month's report.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the Federation Miss Simpson (Lynton, Whiskey Bridge) was appointed THE COMMON CAUSE Correspondent for this area.

BACUP.—On April 17th a meeting was held in the Natural History Rooms, with Mr. Thos. Howarth as Chairman. There was a small attendance, but six new members joined and THE COMMON CAUSE was sold out.

FARNWORTH.—The Lecture Room of the Moor Hall was well filled on April 16th, when the Farnworth Women's Suffrage Society gave a musical and dramatic entertainment. Mrs. H. A. Barnes presided, and the programme included the sketches, "Mrs. Appleyard's Awakening," by the Misses Lissett, M. Cropper, and M. Brown, and "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky," by Misses Cropper and Barnes; a monologue, "The Mothers' Meeting," by Mrs. H. Partington; songs by Miss Grime, and music by a small orchestra.

HASLINGDEN.—On April 17th a well-attended meeting was held in the Weavers' Institute. Mrs. Alderley made a genial Chairman, and Mrs. Mitter Wilson charmed all present with her well-reasoned and thoughtful address. Members of the Society were responsible for several items of entertainment. Seven new members joined and copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

LEIGH.—The Leigh Society gave a dramatic performance on April 2nd in the Parish Institute. The piece selected was "Maid and Suffrage" played by Mrs. James Ward. There was a very fair attendance and the play was well received.

MACCLESFIELD AND DISTRICT.—In connection with the Macclesfield Society a lecture was given in the Town Hall on April 3rd by the Rev. W. E. Ireland, M.A., on "The New Movement in Irish Poetry and Drama." Mr. Forrest Hewison, of Wilmow, presided, and there was a large audience. The lecturer, in an interesting introduction, showed the relation of the literary revival of the last ten years to the great revival of the spirit of Irish Nationality, as distinct from Irish Nationalism. He also drew a parallel between the coherent purpose which underlies what has been called "the Irish Renaissance," and the force which makes the driving power of the women's movement, and showed that in both cases it was the conscious effort for self-expression as well as the realisation of special powers and gifts for ends of social advancement. The lecturer then spoke of the work of Spruce, W. B. Yeats, Lady Gregory, and other modern Irish writers which he illustrated by readings and quotations. At the close of the lecture the Chairman alluded to the influence of literature in the practical life of a people, and Councillor Barclay and Miss A. R. Wright and Councillor J. R. White also addressed the meeting.

MANCHESTER.—The Hulme Suffrage Club have held successful meetings during the past month at which the speakers have been Mrs. Bayfield and Mr. G. G. Armstrong who gave most interesting addresses which were greatly appreciated by the large audiences present. This Club is now firmly established and the membership is increasing. On April 21st Miss Hatton spoke to a crowded meeting of the South Salford members in the Oldfield Hall, and was given a very hearty vote of thanks. The Didsbury Committee have now formed a Suffrage Club and hold their meetings once a month in the room over the Co-operative Stores, Wilmslow Road, Didsbury. Miss Margaret Ashton has kindly consented to be the President of the Club, and they are hoping to hold successful meetings in the near future. The speakers at the meeting held on March 31st were Mrs. Muter Wilson and the Rev. W. Whitaker. Several new members joined the Society. Mrs. Williams has kindly consented to organise the Club meetings.

MARPLE BRIDGE.—On March 31st an interesting gathering took place at "Waxton" on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of members. The Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were read and adopted, and the officers and Committee for the year were elected. Refreshments were served, after which an address on "The Handicap of Woman" was given by Mr. T. A. Leonard and was followed by a discussion. Five "Friends" joined the Society. On April 4th a Public Meeting was arranged at the Secors' Hall, Mellor. It was the first meeting of the kind in that part of the Marple District and was well attended. Miss Ker took the Chair. The speakers were Mrs. Annot Robinson, L.L.A., and Mr. Fenner Brockway. At the close of the meeting five more members were added to our Society.

MIDDLETON.—At the recent Guardians' Election Mrs. Anne Hilton, a member of the Middleton Women's Suffrage Society, was returned by a large majority. Her opponent was an Alderman, who had been on the Board for many years, and Mayor from 1908-1911.

STOCKPORT.—With a view to bringing our members together and stimulating interest in the Cause, an "At Home" was held on the afternoon of April 17th at which 26 members and friends were present. An interesting speech by Mrs. J. B. Tomlinson on "The present political situation" and why we were a Government Bill" was listened to with close attention by the audience.

WATERFOOT.—On March 10th, on the invitation of the League of Young Liberals, Mrs. Chew debated with Mr. Law, a well-known local Liberal, who opposed Women's Suffrage. There was a crowded and extremely good-humoured audience. No vote was taken, but as Mrs. Chew was invited to pay them another visit there was evidently a desire to hear more of the other side of the question than the one shown by their member, Mr. Lewis Harcourt.

WHALEY BRIDGE.—An interesting meeting was held at the Y.W.C.A. Rooms, Whaley Bridge, on April 17th. Mr. G. W. Little presided, and the Rev. W. E. Ireland gave an address on "The New Policy from a Liberal Point of View," with extracts from the speeches of Cabinet Ministers showing that their pledges were not yet fulfilled. The Annual Report and Balance Sheet were adopted and the officers elected for the ensuing year.

South Wales and Monmouth.

MONMOUTH.—Two very successful meetings were held on February 24th, addressed by Miss Abadam. At the afternoon meeting which was for women only, Miss Abadam spoke on the White Slave Traffic and moved everyone by her stirring words. The evening meeting was crowded, numbers being turned away. There has been a small Branch of the National Union in Monmouth for some years, and now it is hoped to make a new beginning on a firmer basis.

PONTYPOOL.—Miss Hilston commenced work on February 4th and found that progress at first was very slow. She addressed the B.W.T.A. at Pontyypool and at Pontnewydd. The Co-operative Women's Guild at Abersychan devoted two meetings to Women's Suffrage and passed a unanimous resolution in its favour, and four members joined, including their President and Secretary. On March 17th an "At Home" was held at the Waverley Hotel, and it was then decided to form the Pontyypool and District Suffrage Society and officers and Committees were at once appointed. On the same day Miss Hilston addressed the members of the Pontyypool Trades Council. On April 2nd a Public Meeting was held in the Pontyypool Town Hall, presided over by Mr. Ivor R. Jones, M.A., Headmaster of the West Monmouth School. Mrs. Swanwick proposed 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 pledges given by Mr. Asquith to the National Union in November, 1911." Mrs. Hackham seconded the Resolution, which was carried with one dissentient. These two speakers produced a profound impression on the audience.

On April 3rd the President, Mrs. Mulligan and the Committee of the Society were "At Home" to Friends at the Waverley Hotel, a large number being present. Mrs. Swanwick spoke most impressively and appealed with great force to her hearers. Eight new members joined. On April 4th a Public Meeting was held in Abersychan. Mrs. Mulligan presided and Mrs. Swanwick again roused much enthusiasm. The above Resolution was carried unanimously. This new Society now numbers 58 members (men and women) and 21 Friends of Women's Suffrage. Some who were enrolled as "Friends" on Wednesday became members on Friday. There are also 21 subscribers to THE COMMON CAUSE. Miss Hilston reports that there has been a band of splendid enthusiastic workers for these meetings.

SWANSEA.—A meeting of the Church League for Women's Suffrage was held on April 9th in the afternoon and evening. Up to this date there had been no Church League in Swansea and the meetings were organised jointly by the National Union and the Women's Freedom League, and were most successful. The Chair was taken in the afternoon by the Rev. Harold Williams, Vicar of the Mumbles, and in the evening by Miss Dillwyn. Miss Muriel Matters and the Rev. Claude Hinescliff addressed the meetings.

South Western.

BARNSTAPLE.—A most encouraging meeting was held at the Parish Church Room, Barnstaple, on April 3rd. There was a good audience and much interest evinced. Mrs. Knight Bruce gave an excellent address from the practical point of view, while Dr. Helen Wedchouse carried the subject on to the highest philosophical plane. The Chair was taken by Mr. W. P. Hiern, J.P., C.A., always a good friend to our Cause, and the vote of thanks to the speakers was moved by Mr. Abel and seconded by Mr. E. D. Fear, both of whom have only lately joined the movement. Seven or eight new members joined the Society, among whom four or five were men, and many "Friends of Suffrage" cards were signed.

BIDEFORD.—A disgraceful scene took place at a Suffrage Meeting in the Town Hall on April 3rd, when Mr. Cameron Grant and Miss Walford were refused a hearing. After an hour's boozing, shouting and singing, interrupted by short remarks from the Chair and speakers, the speakers and the Chairman (the Rev. G. G. Holey) retired from the platform. Thereupon three quarters of the audience rushed from the Hall to be ready to receive their visitors in the street. Many of the orderly members of the audience, however, remained in their seats and someone conceived the idea of asking Mr. Cameron Grant to return and give his address. He did so and the motion "that this meeting believes that the extension of the Franchise to Women is a measure of Justice and will be for the good of the country" after being seconded by Miss Walford, was carried by a large majority. Meantime the crowd outside did their utmost to drown the voices of the speakers within and finally favoured them in the street with a most unwarranted display of hostility before allowing them to drive away.

OTTERY ST. MARY.—On April 13th a Public Meeting was held at which Mrs. Corbett Ashby gave an interesting address on "The Need for Women in Practical Politics." The Rev. J. W. Metcalfe was in the Chair. No questions were asked, but the audience listened with noticeably keen interest and attention.

PLYMOUTH.—A well-attended meeting was held at the Corn Exchange on April 1st, when Dr. Mabel Ramsay took the Chair, and Mr. J. Cameron Grant gave a well-reasoned address on "The Economic Need for Woman Suffrage." Miss Gorrill seconded the Resolution, which was carried with about ten dissentients. The recent militant outbreaks had the effect of bringing many strangers to the meeting. On April 10th Mrs. and Dr. Ramsay gave a whistle drive in aid of the funds of the Federation.

[Owing to pressure on our space news from Exeter and Falmouth has been held over until the next issue.—Ed. C.C.]

W. Lancashire, W. Cheshire and N. Wales.

In the Report of the work of Chorley Society issued in THE COMMON CAUSE, April 15th, it should have been stated that "no Liberals were present" at the Members' Meeting, when arrangements were made to follow up the work of the By-Election.

Forthcoming Meetings.

ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION.

- MAY 2. Sidmouth—Manor Small Hall—At Home. Fru Anker (Norwegian National Council of Women) on "The Effect of the Women's Vote in Norway." Tea and Coffee, 8 p.m. Address: 8.30. Croft (Ambleside)—Sale of Work in aid of Federation Funds 2-6.30. Lincoln—Co-operative Hall—Friends of Women's Suffrage Meeting. Chair, Mr. Neville Noller. Speaker, Miss N. Smith 8.0. MAY 3. Croft (Ambleside)—Annual Meeting 2-6.30. Houghton-le-Spring—White Lion—Open-air meeting—Rev. W. Moll, Miss I. S. A. Beaver 3.0. Houghton-le-Spring—Miner's Hall—Demonstration—Rev. W. Moll, Mrs. Biltcliffe, Miss St. John, Miss I. S. A. Beaver 7.0. Shiney Row—open-air meeting—Rev. W. Moll, Miss I. S. A. Beaver 5.0. MAY 4. Wakefield—Hippodrome—Labour Demonstration—Miss I. O. Ford 4-5.90. Bracknell—Temperance Hall—Annual Meeting—Mrs. Robie Uniacke 5.50. Dewsbury—Trinity Hall—Meeting for Women—White Slave Traffic—Dr. Mary Phillips 3.30. Croft—W.S.S. office. Mr. C. Baker 8.0. Fairford—Bull Inn (Market Room)—Public Meeting. Mr. A. B. Gillett (of Oxford), Chair, Mrs. R. Hobbs, Junr. 8.0. Seaham Harbour—Free Church Hall—Miss Muriel Gateshead—Mrs. Nelson's, 24, Harrow Street—Cottage Meeting—Miss Sheard 2.30. Gateshead—Low Fell—Mrs. Warder's drawing-room Meeting—Miss I. S. A. Beaver—Chair, Mrs. Hutchinson 7.0. Solihull—Sutton Lodge—Annual Meeting—Professor Hughes, Miss Watson 3.0. Cambridge—Victoria Road Schoolroom—Mrs. Rackham, The Rev. John Bevan 7.30. Wakefield—Westgate End House—Speaker: Mrs. Renton—Stock Exchange Tea—Address by N. U. Member 3.0. Wallasey and Wirral—Pennyard House—Mrs. Stanger—American Sale 7.30. Gerrard's Cross—Sale of preserves, sweets and second-hand books 3.0. Wadebridge—Helen Fraser, Mr. Mirrieles 8.0. Bishop Auckland—Drawing-room meeting—Miss Matters 3.0. Barnard Castle—Market Place—open-air meeting—Miss Matters, Miss Dring 7.30. Low Fell—Mrs. Warden "At Home"—Miss I. S. A. Beaver 7.30. MAY 7. Gateshead—115, High West Street—Social Meeting for Women—Mrs. John Watson 2.30. Bershaw—Meeting 7. Stockfield-on-Tyne—The Institute—Debate—Miss Muriel Matters (N.U.W.S.S.) v. Mr. Mundhal (N.L.O.W.S.) 7.30. Roobdale—St. Chad's Fold—Annual Meeting—Chair, Miss Lydia Kemp—Speaker, Miss I. O. Ford—Business 7.0—Social 7.45. Bournemouth—The Assembly Rooms—Speaker, Dr. Stancombe 3.0. Launceston—Miss Helen Fraser, Mr. Mirrieles 8.0. MAY 8. Gateshead—115, High West Street—Social Meeting for Women—Mrs. Howson 7.30. Tunbridge Wells—Town Hall—Mrs. Rackham, P.L.G. Fru Anker (From Norway)—Chair, Madam Sarah Grand 8.0. Pangbourne—Passman's Drawing-room Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Rackham 3.0. Little Wymondley—Adult School—Mrs. Watkin 3.0. Pangbourne—Upper Basildon—Village Green—Mrs. Cowmewood—Miss Hilda Jones 3.0. Waterloo—St. Faith's Hall—Debate: The Suffrage Question—The Rev. S. J. Sykes (St. Mary's, Waterloo Park), Miss Leadley Brown 7.30. Truro—Concert Hall—Public Meeting—Chair, Councilor William Rose, J.P.—Speakers, Miss Helen Fraser, Mr. W. J. Mirrieles 7.30. Houghton-le-Spring—Miner's Hall—Miss Matters, Miss Sheard 7.30. MAY 9. Gosforth—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Philip Spence—Speaker, Miss Muriel Matters—Chair, Miss I. S. A. Beaver 3.0. Tiverton—Miss Helen Fraser and Mr. Mirrieles 8.0. St. Ives—The Lady Betty Balfour, Mr. Baillie Weaver, Miss Walford 8.0. Torquay—The Albert Hall—Mr. J. Cameron Grant—"The White Slave Traffic"—Chair, Colonel Burn, M.P. 8.0. Stockton-on-Tees—Temperance Hall—Miss Matters 7.30. MAY 10. Pangbourne—Meeting in Square—Speakers: Miss Helen Ward, Mrs. Cowmewood, Miss Hilda Jones. 8.0. Budleigh Salterton—Public Rooms—Miss Helen Fraser, Mr. J. Mirrieles 8.0. Saltash—Mr. Baillie Weaver 8.0. Ferryhill—Market Place—open-air meeting—Miss Matters, Miss I. S. A. Beaver 7.30.

MEETING ADDRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE UNION. MAY 8. Gateshead—Miss Tooke's Bible Class—Speaker, Miss Sheard 7.0.

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LONDON.

- MAY 2. Finchley—1, Cavendish Avenue, Church End, Finchley—Drawing-room meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Wood—Chair, Miss K. Smith—Speaker, Mrs. Baker 8.0. MAY 4. Bernonsey—Oakley Place—Wesleyan Men's Own Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Staabury (member of the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S.) 3.15. MAY 5. Highgate—Spear's Memorial Hall, Highgate Hill, near Tube station—Annual Meeting—Mrs. Swanwick, paper, "Meredith's Women," speech "The Present Situation"—Chair, Mr. E. D. Morel—Music, Mr. and Mrs. Hadrill 8.0. West St. Pancras—Park Chapel, Arlington Road (near Camden Town Tube Station)—Public meeting—Chair, Miss Helen Ward—Speaker, Mrs. Rackham, P.L.G. 8.0. Wimbledon—Assembly Rooms—Social evening—Suffrage speech, Miss M. Fielden—Music, acting, refreshments—Chair, Mr. T. Ernst Jackson 8.0. MAY 6. Marylebone—169, Clarence Gate Gardens, N.W.—Drawing-room meeting—Chair, Mrs. Bertram—Speaker, Miss Janet Thomson, M.A. 4.0. Ealing—16, Freeland Road—Drawing-room meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Kennedy 8.15. MAY 7. North Lambeth—The Rectory House, 214, Lambeth Road, S.E.—Drawing-room meeting—Hostesses, The Misses Gardiner—Speaker, Mrs. Not Bower "The Influence of Women on the Criminal Law Amendment" 3.30. East St. Pancras—17, Camden Road—Social gathering at Y.M.C.A.—Speaker, Miss Rinder—Tea 3.0-5.30. MAY 8. Hammersmith—170, The Grove, Hammersmith—Suffragers, Miss Macdonald, Mrs. A. Savory—Tea 4.30. Islington—Copenhagen Street—Open-air meeting—Chair, Mrs. Richardson—Speaker, Mrs. Baker 8.0. Epsom—Annual meeting.

SCOTLAND.

- MAY 2. Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Speaker, Miss Alice Low 4.30. Dairsie—Schoolroom—Chair, The Rev. D. Graham Webster, Miss Lumsden, LL.D. 8.0. St. Monans—Pierhead—Mrs. Aldersley, Miss Crompton, M.A. 6.0. Kilconquhar—Schoolroom—Chair, The Rev. A. Legge, Mrs. Aldersley, Miss Crompton 8.0. Auchtermuchty—Victoria Hall—Chair, Provost Ferlie, Miss M. Matters 8.0. MAY 3. Edinburgh—Jumble Sale—Buccleuch Street Hall 2.30. Springfield—The Cross—Miss Geraldine Cooke 3.30. Kingstrie—The Cross—Miss Geraldine Cooke 5.0. Leven—Shorehead—Miss Geraldine Cooke 6.30. Kingbarns—Miss A. Crompton, M.A. 6.30. MAY 5. Newburgh—Quarry—Miss A. Crompton, M.A. 9.30. Oraigothie—Miss Geraldine Cooke, Miss Crompton 7.0. Ceres—The Green—Miss Geraldine Cooke, Miss Crompton, M.A. 8.0. Newburgh—Town Hall Steps—Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., Mrs. Aldersley 7.30. MAY 6. Cupar—Market Place—Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A. 2.30. Frenchie—The Green—Miss Crompton, M.A., Miss C. Muriel Craigie 7.30. Falkland—The Fountain—Miss Crompton, Miss C. Muriel Craigie 8.30. Leven—Town Hall—Miss Lumsden, LL.D., Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., Miss Geraldine Cooke, Mrs. Aldersley 8. MAY 7. Newport—Blyth Hall—Miss Lumsden, LL.D., Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., Miss Geraldine Cooke, Mrs. Aldersley 8.0.

Suffrage Resolution Carried.

At the annual Conference of the Young Scots Society, held in Glasgow, Mr. Alexander MacLaren, President of the Glasgow South Suburban Branch, moved a resolution in favour of Woman Suffrage in the following terms:—"That this Annual Conference of the Young Scots Society declares itself in favour of granting the Parliamentary Franchise to Women on a democratic basis, and asks the Government to provide all reasonable facilities in order that a measure embracing such reform be passed into law at the earliest possible moment." The resolution was seconded by Mr. Robert Finlay, Glasgow S.S., and was supported by Miss Adam, Glasgow S.S., Mrs. Saunders, Vice-President of Perth N.U.S.S., representing Newburgh; Mr. Wilkie Langbank, Mr. R. J. Bryce, Leven; and Mr. Peter Ross, M.A., Edinburgh.

"A Brief but Suggestive Entry."

The Annual Report (1912) of the Sidmouth and District Women's Suffrage Society re-emphasises the enthusiasm and zeal common to members of the National Union, who in face of unexpected obstacles continue to organise successful campaigns and to enter into periods "of great activity" of Suffrage work in a given district. The Sidmouth Society seems also to have mastered the practical side of the art of enthusiastic propaganda, for it closes the financial statement incorporated with the Annual Report with this brief but suggestive entry:—"Balance in hand of Treasurer, £39 4s. 9d."

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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. All business communications should be addressed to The Manager.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD., 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. Monday, May 5th, at 8 p.m. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD., 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. Tuesday, May 6th, at 8.30 p.m. RECEPTION TO MEET MRS. CHAPMAN CATT. The Right Honourable the Earl of Lytton will receive.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CLUB, LTD., 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. Wednesday, May 7th, CLUB TEA. Speaker, Mrs. Gordon Sanderson. Subject: "The Illegitimate Child." Hostess: Mrs. Corbett.

THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York Street, St. James's Square, S.W., will hold their first MONTHLY CLUB DINNER on Sunday evening, May 18th. For full particulars write Miss Stanley Clark, at above address.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Wednesday, May 7th, at 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Laurence Housman, Esq., and Miss Nina Boyle. Admission free.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. Reception, Caxton Hall, Monday, May 5th, at 3.30 p.m., in honour of Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt. Tickets: 1s. each from W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

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Not exceeding 10 words: 1 insertion, 9d. 2 insertions, 1s. 3d. 3 insertions, 1s. 6d. 6 insertions, 2s. 9d. 13 insertions, 5s. 6d. Every additional ten words, 6d. extra per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, and all payments for Advertisements should be made to The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

GENERAL.

GOD'S WORD TO WOMEN has never been a word of disapproval and suppression. The Bible encourages the development of woman and stands for her perfect equality with man, in spite of the teachings to the contrary. Do you wish to equip yourself for meeting the arguments of those who attempt, with sacrilegious hands, to throw the Bible in the way of woman's progress? Do you wish to know WHERE and HOW they mistranslate and misrepresent it? Send 7d. (15 cents in stamps from America) for "101 Questions Answered," a Woman's Catechism, prepared purposely to solve your perplexities.—Katharine Bushnell, 10a, Drayton Park, Highbury, London, N.

WHEN I ASKED for "nice" books for our Suffrage sale, I only meant saleable ones, not sermons or school books. The address (if sent by rail) is 61, Albion Street, Leeds, not 81.—I. O. Ford.

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Leave BRIGHTON MAY 16th, at 10 a.m.

HALT at SHOREHAM.

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Meeting in CARFAX, HORSHAM, 7 p.m.

Funds urgently needed for the upkeep of the depot and for the organising of the March, which is to be one of many throughout the country if funds permit. Address, Mrs. DE FONBLANQUE, c/o Miss Roff, Easebourne, Midhurst, Sussex.

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Is the great Non-Party, Non-Militant Women's Suffrage Society. If you approve of our methods and objects, please fill in the accompanying Form and send it to the Secretary.

I approve of the objects and methods of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and desire to be enrolled as a member of the affiliated Society in my district.

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To the Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Society for Women's Suffrage

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