

The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

Women's Suffrage

Societies.

VOL. IV. No. 160.

Registered as
a Newspaper.

MAY 2, 1912.

ONE PENNY.



Photo: Fred Hollyer.]

[From the picture by G. F. Watts.

THE MINOTAUR.

NOTE.—In our issue of last week, Mrs. Fawcett alluded to the circumstance that the abuses exposed by Mr. W. T. Stead inspired Mr. G. F. Watts to paint this picture of the Minotaur, the monster to whom Athens had to pay a yearly tribute of seven youths and seven maidens, and who was at last slain by Theseus, with the help of Ariadne.

Notes and Comments.

The "Titanic" Inquiry.

The papers are still full of the "Titanic" disaster, and several rather startling disclosures have been made as to the speed at which the boat was travelling, the nature of the precautions taken, etc. Angry accusations, too, have been levelled against some of the first-class passengers, who were men, because they were saved (apparently) before many of the third-class passengers, who were women. It is all rather terrible, but it is impossible to know how many women refused to leave the ship, preferring death with those they loved to safety without them. As some of the boats obviously left only half full, it seems unjust to blame those who took places which would otherwise have been left empty. In any case, it is perfectly clear that there was nothing in the nature of a panic, or a selfish rush for safety, and of this we may at least be proud, whatever remains to be learned.

A Question for Women.

Suffragists who are Churchwomen—and those who are Non-formists also—must be feeling a little sore at the spectacle presented just now in the House of Commons. That august body is engaged in settling matters of concern to the religious life of Wales, without any help from the sex which is accused by Anti-Suffragists of being the religious one. (It is always put forward as an accusation.) Certain it is that women are in a large majority in all the churches, and "Welsh Disestablishment" would seem to be their business even under the German Emperor's strict limitation of what is their business—children, clothes, cookery, and the Church!

Women and the Industrial Council.

It is small wonder that the working women of the country are getting more and more keen about the vote. Mr. W. Rea asked the other day (April 25th) in the House whether the President of the Board of Trade "was aware of the disappointment which was felt by the bodies representative of women's labour that no woman had been appointed on the Industrial Council, and if he could see his way to remedy this defect by appointing two well qualified women?" The answer was a masterpiece. Mr. Buxton "did not think it practicable at the present time to add to the membership of the Council." The question of admitting women "had received very full consideration." He begged to point out "that in the event of any trade in which women are largely employed being dealt with by the Council, it would be open to the Council to have the assistance of women."

It seems then that their exclusion was part of a deliberate policy. However, it is open to the Council to ask for their assistance when it feels inclined to. It will probably be when they feel least inclined to that the "assistance" of the women would be most necessary.

Comparative Values in New York.

The Court has just given its decision in the case of the great fire in New York, when one hundred and forty-seven employees, mostly young girls, lost their lives by jumping from the windows when it was seen that escape was impossible. The enormous height of many of the buildings in the business part of New York makes the question of proper safeguards in the case of fire one of tremendous importance. But this does not prevent the employment of girls in buildings where there are (practically) no safeguards at all. The doors are in many cases kept locked, and the exits further obstructed in order that only one girl can pass at a time. The justification (?) for this is that the girls have to be scrutinised as they leave. They might secrete a half-yard or so of the cheap machine-made lace with which they are trimming blouses, otherwise. As the high value set on these stealable articles has resulted in great loss of life, and by no means for the first time, the owners were prosecuted. But presumably their defence was considered adequate—the girls must be searched. So they have been held not guilty.

The Women's Trade Union League and the Suffrage Associations have protested again against these dangers, but have been told "always by implication, and once in so many words, to mind their own business." Presumably they ought not to be interested in anything but the home. But perhaps some of those young girls were their daughters?

The Florence Nightingale of America.

Clara Barton died this month. She served both in the American Civil War and in the Franco-Prussian War. But she

was no more convinced by the spectacle of war than our Florence Nightingale, that it is fighting power that qualifies for the vote. Or perhaps she thought she had done her share of fighting in the army hospitals. In any case, she was an ardent Suffragist, and her "message to the soldiers" might be used proudly by any sick nurse—yes, and any mother of sons:—"When you were weak and I was strong, I toiled for you. Now you are strong and I am weak. Because of my work for you, I ask your aid. I ask the ballot for myself and my sex. As I stood by you, I pray you stand by me and mine."

A Sane Imperialism.

Anti-Suffragists who think so very imperially that they regard it as "a heavy argument" against us that we are interested in domestic questions as well, would do well to take a hint from the Archbishop of York. "It is more sensible," he said at the Mansion House last Friday, "to pay serious attention to the health of the nation than to sing 'Rule Britannia.'"

Insurance of Domestic Servants.

Mr. Masterman, in his reply to Mr. Forster's plea for the domestic servants, airily dismissed the notion that they would have any difficulty in getting the kind of benefits they wanted. It is far too readily assumed by our men legislators that working women, unorganised as they are, and domestic servants peculiarly so, can obtain what they need in the same way as men can who have their great and wealthy trade unions and a whole system of insurance already in being to meet their needs. Mr. Masterman said: "Enquiries had been made among servants." By whom? We must not forget that by the Insurance Act, into a system largely dependent upon personal relations, has been introduced the element of legal compulsion, and this is bound to affect those relations very materially. We think that the working of the Act may bring home to domestic servants the need for organisation and for making their own friendly societies. But this will certainly take a long time.

The Widow in Parliament.

In the debate on the Bill for abolishing half-timers, Mr. Walter Rea alluded to the excuse that is often made of the "poor widow," and said she was made use of whenever anyone wanted to abolish an abuse. Mr. Barnes denied that it was the child of the widow who goes half-time; it was "the child of a man who is in a position to keep his child." Mr. Gill, who, like Mr. Barnes, had gone to work as a young child, gave some figures relating to one district where, in 200 mills, there were 717 half-timers; out of these 62 had lost their fathers (between 8 and 9 per cent.). He quoted these to show the widows' need, but it seems remarkable that 90 per cent. of the half-timers should possess a "bread-winner" for parent, and yet have to earn.

The Social Evil.

We hear that the Conference on the Social Evil, which was held at the Caxton Hall last week, was deeply interesting, but as the proceedings were private we are compelled to wait for a report. The object of the conference was how to help girls over sixteen who are in moral danger. Mr. R. H. Bridgewater, a well-known legal authority, spoke on solicitation in relation to the law, and recommended that magistrates should obtain reports from rescue workers on the antecedents of the prisoner. Miss Pickersgill Cunliffe described the disastrous effects of the present system of fines and imprisonment. There were papers by Dr. Jane Walker on the Borstal system, and Mr. Clarke Hall on the age of consent, and discussion upon the limitations of compulsion. Mr. Cecil Chapman presided.

The Men's League.

The Men's League for Women's Suffrage held its annual meeting on April 26th. Lord Lytton was re-elected President, and other officials re-appointed. It was resolved with but two dissentients "that the Committee be instructed with the object of securing the political enfranchisement of women to concentrate in support of Labour candidates standing against Anti-Suffragists, and that the Committee of the Men's League be instructed to co-operate with any society for this purpose."

A Woman Agent.

We see in the *Standard* that Miss Riley, of Bury St. Edmunds, has been appointed assistant Conservative agent for the division of North-West Suffolk. We believe there is only one other woman agent in England.

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POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

British Isles: 6s. 6d., Abroad: 8s. 8d. per annum.

Copies of back numbers 1d. (post free), or 2d. when more than three months old. A few numbers of Vol. I. to be had at 3d. per copy, post free.

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

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

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The Record of the Labour Party on Women's Suffrage.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has always been a non-party organisation in the sense that it has friends and workers in and out of Parliament belonging to all parties. It has been up to the present non-party in another sense, namely, that no party as a party has ever officially adopted the enfranchisement of women as a plank in its platform and an object for which officially it was bound to strive. At the present time however Women's Suffrage cannot be with accuracy regarded as without the official support of any party in Parliament. The Independent Labour Party has from its formation promoted the enfranchisement of women. In a circular issued by the I.L.P. in July, 1906, signed by Ramsay MacDonald, chairman, and Francis Johnson, secretary, instructions were issued to all the branches to increase their efforts to force the question of Women's Suffrage to the front in every constituency, on the distinct ground that the extension of the suffrage to woman was part of the policy of the party. Another circular of a rather later date is virtually a whip in support of the Women's Suffrage Bill before Parliament. It contains the following paragraph:—"The man who votes against the removal of the sex disqualification, on whatever ground he may attempt to justify this action, votes for inequality between the sexes." (The italics are in the original leaflet.) It goes on to describe the long struggle of the workmen to obtain representation, and adds: "If when we claimed that the franchise should be based on humanity, not property, we were willing to apply our own principle to women as well as men, we may fairly say that ours was an unselfish demand for justice; but if we imitate the upper and middle classes, and retain for ourselves alone the powers already secured, it will be impossible for us to deny that we were, after all, only seeking to share a privilege, to break down the monopoly of class while retaining that of sex." This is signed among others by:

Philip Snowden.	J. R. Clynes.	Arthur Henderson
Geo. N. Barnes.	James O'Grady.	Alex. Wilkie.
James Parker.	John Hodge.	G. H. Roberts.
C. Duncan.	Stephen Walsh.	J. Ramsay
John W. Taylor.	D. J. Shackleton.	McDonald.

The circular just quoted concerned, however, the Independent Labour Party, and not the Labour Party as a whole: it will be useful therefore to look at the evidence which has gradually accumulated to show that the views of the I.L.P. on the enfranchisement of women are now shared by the larger organisation.

During the active struggle for Women's Suffrage in the sessions of 1910, 1911, and 1912 not a single member of the Labour Party voted against Women's Suffrage in the divisions upon the second reading of the Conciliation Bill. On November 7th, 1911, when Mr. Asquith announced his attention of introducing during the coming session a Bill to give Manhood Suffrage, sweeping away all other electoral qualifications, and giving no recognition to women, the first comment made by a public man of importance proceeded from Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald, chairman of the Labour Party, who on the very next day said: "We shall take care that the Manhood Suffrage Bill is not used to destroy the success of the women's agitation; because we have to admit that it has been the women's agitation that has brought the question of the franchise both for men and women to the front at the present time. The Labour Party will therefore support both on the platform and in the House the demand for Adult Suffrage, and will at every stage of the Government's Bill vote for amendments to include women in its scope." (*Manchester Guardian*, November 9, 1911.) Mr. MacDonald reiterated his support of the Conciliation Bill. Following this up, at the conference of the Labour Party held at Birmingham on January 27th, Mr. A. Henderson moved, and Mr. W. C. Anderson seconded, the following resolution:—"That this Conference, in harmony with its previous decisions, is of the opinion that the enfranchisement of all adult men and women should be included in the Reform Bill to be introduced by the Government in the coming session of Parliament. It further requests the Labour Party in Parliament to make it clear that no Bill can be acceptable to the Labour and Socialist movement which does not include women." This was adopted by a large majority, such opposition as it received not being directed against the principle of Women's Suffrage, but arising from a doubt on the part of some delegates whether they were justified in refusing Manhood Suffrage even if the Bill did nothing to break down the sex disability.

The next step was taken at the Albert Hall meeting on February 13th, at which Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald presided, and answered in the affirmative an enquiry from the body of the hall whether his party would be prepared to turn the Government out if women were not included in the coming Reform Bill. The resolution moved by Mr. Henderson and supported by Mr. Keir Hardie again affirmed in the strongest and most unqualified terms that no measure of Parliamentary Reform would be acceptable to the organised forces of Labour throughout the kingdom unless it also enfranchised women. I have italicised the word acceptable in both these resolutions because it is generally agreed that "not acceptable" means "will not be accepted." Last, and perhaps most important of all, on March 14th, 1912, at a meeting of the Labour Party in the House of Commons it was decided officially to support the Conciliation Bill. (*Manchester Guardian*, March 15th, 1912.) The special significance of this vote lies obviously in the fact that while the Labour Party stands for the principle of Adult Suffrage, they are prepared to support a much narrower measure which would break down the sex disability. Adultists who will support nothing short of Adult Suffrage might, as far as we are concerned, almost as well be Anti-Suffragists.

In the foregoing sketch of the record of the Labour Party as regards Women's Suffrage, a great many important items have been omitted. If space permitted a full enumeration of them, they would strengthen my argument that the Labour Party stands in a different and better position towards Women's Suffrage than any other political party; and as the National Union principle has always been to support those who support us, we surely should differentiate our position towards them. Writing in the COMMON CAUSE of April 4th, immediately after the defeat of the Conciliation Bill, I appealed to our friends in all the societies in the Union to consider whether we should not do well to modify our existing election policy and give definite support to Labour candidates who are officially approved by their party. In the case of Labour members and candidates pledges in favour of Women's Suffrage are almost certain not to be broken, because they have behind them the authorisation of the party as well as that of the individual.

The whole subject must be carefully thought out and my own feeling most strongly is that we must safeguard the non-party character of the National Union, by making it quite clear that we should not take electoral action against any candidate, Liberal or Conservative, who had given positive proof of the sincerity of his advocacy of Women's Suffrage. The non-party character of the National Union would be further exemplified by the fact that in all constituencies where no official Labour candidate was in the field, our old electoral policy of supporting the best friend of Women's Suffrage could be maintained without change. In supporting the Labour candidates where they

are standing, we should do so on the ground that the backing of the party, in itself, makes the Labour men the best men from the point of view of Women's Suffrage.

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

The Anti-Suffrage Handbook.

II.

(Continued.)

The Anti-Suffragist goes on to deal with industrial legislation and its effect on the economic position of women. He states:

- (1) That it has always had a good effect, and consequently Suffragists are very wicked to oppose it.
- (2) That in the countries where Suffragists have actually won the vote, they have carried such legislation much further than in England.

It is unnecessary for me to slay the slain: these arguments save me any further trouble by slaying each other. If, however, any explanation is required by the duller witted among our opponents, one should perhaps point out that women desire wise industrial legislation, and get it when they can; but are suspicious of it when it comes from those who are competitors with them, very often for the same job. This does not seem either surprising or unreasonable.

There follows a summary of the "reasons" why women's wages are lower than men's. With ineffable effrontery, "the confined field of competition" is put first. It is, however, coupled with the assertion of woman's "physical inability" to enlarge the field. She is, we are to suppose, physically unable to be a barrister or to hold the best-paid medical posts, or to engage in any of the long list of employments quoted from Mr. Pethick Lawrence's little book, in our last number.

But also, she refuses to organise herself into Trades Unions. Is this not monstrous of her? Miss Gertrude Tuckwell says that to organise sweated labour is "absolutely impossible." Sweated workers have neither time, money, skill, nor hope; all of which are necessary for Trade Unions. But we gather from our Anti-Suffragist that there is also an incurable perversity which is the real reason for this "failure," and which may justly be punished by more sweating.

That "women's work is less valuable than men's" is a large statement, but as no one asks equal wages for inferior work, it was hardly worth two pages of "proof" in the Handbook. The pages, however, contain one gem of argument—that women are paid less because they are more frequently "off ill" than men. They are more frequently ill because they are not paid a decent wage, and are expected to do housework at the end of "business hours." So (argues the Anti-Suffragist) they must go on being paid a low wage. Admirable!

Several pages are now devoted to showing that women's wages "could not be affected by legislation"—an argument flatly contradicted on a subsequent page by the admission that four sweated industries have had their wages fixed under the Trades Boards Act of 1909. It is also said that votes are unnecessary, and this is "proved" by:—

- (1) The success of the pit-brow women (who would never have been attacked if they had had votes).
- (2) The extension of benefits to married women under the Insurance Act (which still leaves women in a much worse position than men).
- (3) The textile women workers who are "organised into Trade Unions, together with the men, and by this means have direct representation in Parliament. Hence their wages and conditions are better than in any other trade."

My readers will not believe that this quotation can really be found in an Anti-Suffrage handbook, but it is there—in heavy type. Allowing for the usual inaccuracy (it is true not of the "textile women workers" as a whole, but of the weavers only), it is an admirable statement of the importance of "direct representation in Parliament" to wage-earners. I have to look again and again to be sure that it is really there. But it is—p. 37 of the Anti-Suffrage Handbook!

The elaborate argument about trade-unionism is followed by a little sum in arithmetic, which proves (if it proves anything) that the agricultural labourer's wage has nothing to do with trade-unionism at all. Here it is:—"In the 35 years before the agricultural labourer had a vote, and for nine years after he had a trade union, his average wages rose more than 50 per cent."

I do not know if this is true; but if it is, it shows that wages rose for 26 years before the formation of the union. It is evidently exciting, and is printed in thick type. Why, we

cannot guess. It seems much more exciting to say (on the next page) that "the difference in the salaries of men and women teachers in Colorado, instead of being unusually small is unusually large"—but this is not in thick type. Why? Merely because it is not true? Oh, no. As a matter of fact, it would be crude to call it a lie. For the "difference" is neither large nor small; it simply does not exist. Men and women teachers in Colorado are paid exactly the same. But as men still hold most of the higher posts, they can be made to look as if they got a higher wage, by taking their *average* and omitting to state that you have done so.† Just as, below, an "average" is taken for men and women in New Zealand and Australia, but no information given as to numbers employed, or kind of work done.

Much may be conveyed by suggestion, phrases and meaningless figures. Speaking of the Arbitration Act, which has almost abolished sweating in New Zealand we are told (in heavy type as usual):—"This Act was drafted and introduced into the New Zealand Parliament before women had votes." Truly; but it was not passed till after the first General Election in which women voted. Its decisions were not given binding force till 1900. Many admirable Bills are "drafted and introduced"—Women's Suffrage Bills in England, for example! Or the Bill "to enable married women to serve on County and Borough Councils," of which our Anti-Suffragist says, with a truly exquisite sense of style, that it is "in existence." This appears in a "Note" to p. 67. We beg readers also to "note" the indignation of Mrs. Humphry Ward (expressed in *The Anti-Suffrage Review*) that this Bill does not pass, though it has been "in existence" so long as to be getting quite venerable.

The Handbook improves rapidly as it proceeds. Its next section on "Woman Suffrage and Social Reform" starts off with the assertion that our eager desire for social reform "is itself a heavy argument against us." (The italics are mine.) While still breathless from this blow, we learn that we should be "imperial," and are gravely accused of caring about the reduction of infant mortality. It is not "imperial" then to care for the health of the citizens of the Empire? No wonder then that the Anti-Suffragist can assert without a qualm that infant mortality in the United Kingdom is low, *excepting as compared with Australia and New Zealand*. The general rate is low in these countries also, showing that babies not only live but are healthy. No doubt this is also not an "imperial" consideration. However, in any case, "the natural conditions" are the real causes of the difference. The death-rate used to be as high as in England, it is true. We are obliged, therefore, to conclude that Women's Suffrage has changed the natural conditions.

Oddly enough, the Anti-Suffragist himself takes an interest (to the extent of four pages of his valuable book) in infant mortality. Is not this a "heavy argument" against him? He proves to admiration that the over-work of mothers is bad for their children. Who doubted it? He does not deal with the tiresome question—Is not starvation worse? or explain why Glamorgan, Durham, Northumberland, and Monmouth are higher on the black list than Lancashire and Yorkshire. In Lancashire and Yorkshire there is much married women's work; in the others practically none.

Only one paragraph is given to the question of education, but it is so good as to be in itself enough. *The only difficulty*, we are told, is a religious one. Women are religious. Therefore, they would increase the difficulty. *The only difficulty!* Well, if our Anti-Suffragist showed an undue amount of interest in so un-imperial a question as infant mortality, he sets himself right by his magnificent ignorance of matters educational. And then the shocking charge preferred against us! Already we were interested in social reform: now we are branded as religious also. Who will longer doubt that we are radically unfit to vote?

We submit with diffidence that the entirely secular education of New Zealand and Australia has also been charged against women. If we could *only* know whether we are too religious or too irreligious. . . .

Then there is Prison Reform. Here again the arguments are difficult to follow. It is said (1) that prison reform has already gone too far (2) that where it has been carried further, it has not been by women's votes. Well, then?

And immorality—just one inch of space is given. It is held enough to quote Dr. Helen Wilson as stating that "severe laws against immorality had always failed or worked unjustly." If Dr. Helen Wilson's opinion is of the nature of a revelation, and in itself a final proof, nothing further being possible to add, we submit that Dr. Wilson is a Suffragist. Is this a revelation too? Probably most of us agree with her

about "severe laws," but it seems an odd argument from an Anti-Suffragist, since it is men who have always passed them. But perhaps it is only severe laws against immorality in men that are sure to be ineffective? In that case, he is all right. Men have, to be sure, never passed severe laws against immorality—in men.

"Finally," says our author, "social legislation in Suffrage countries is not much in advance of ours?" *Not much!* We had thought we were to do harm with our votes or at least no good!

And at the end of the section:—"How is it that Canada, which has not got Woman Suffrage, is in no worse case as regards legislative progress and social reform than Australia and New Zealand?" No facts are adduced; not a single one. But heavy, leaded type is used. This does instead.

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

(To be Continued.)

- * See Report of the Select Committee on Home-Work (1907), p. 114, § 2, 333.
- † See Miss A. Martin's letter to the *Standard*, December 1st, 1911.
- ‡ See Pember Reeves, "State Experiments in Australia and New Zealand."

The Criminal Law Amendment (White Slave Traffic) Bill.

The original Bill was the work of a Conjoint Committee composed of delegates from the Jewish Association for the Protection of Women and Girls, the Jewish Board of Deputies, the London Council for the Protection of Public Morality, and the National Vigilance Association. On March 30th, 1909, a deputation, representing these societies, waited on the Home Secretary, and was received by Mr. Herbert Samuel, then Assistant Secretary to the Home Office. Mr. Samuel expressed strong sympathy with the object of the deputation and ended with these words:—"I am not in a position to pledge the time of the Government, but I can express my earnest hope—which I believe is shared by the Home Secretary—that when the British delegates go to the next International Congress on the White Slave Traffic next year, they may be able to carry to their colleagues tidings of the further extension of the English law." Three years have passed and the Bill has never yet been allowed a Second Reading in the House of Commons.

Last session it was in charge of Mr. A. Burgoyne, and it now stands in the name of Mr. Arthur Lee, M.P. for Fareham. When it came up for second reading a few weeks ago it was blocked by Sir Frederick Banbury and Mr. Handel Booth. These gentlemen are known as champion blockers, and their opposition is not directed only against this Bill, but against all private measures introducing legal changes. It is understood that they consider such measures should always be introduced by Government and fully discussed. Very strong representations have recently been made to Sir F. Banbury to get him to withdraw his opposition. We understand particular exception has been taken to a certain clause (Clause 3) of this Bill, and the committee promoting it has given authority to Mr. Lee to negotiate on this point. The Government have promised that if the Bill secures a second reading they will give facilities for later stages. It would seem a simple matter for them to give the couple of hours of Parliamentary time needed to secure second reading. But what has always been required to get this Bill through is a sufficient pressure from the country at large, and that pressure must come from those who have votes. Letters, meetings, resolutions should all be sent up to the Home Office to show that the people are really in earnest in wishing to put an end to this infamous traffic.

A suggestion by Mrs. Archibald Little has been widely welcomed that the passage of this Bill should be a memorial to the late W. T. Stead, to whose efforts and sufferings the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885 was mainly due.

Our opinions may differ or not from those of Mr. Stead in political matters, but all must realise that as a nation we owe him a deep debt of gratitude which might fittingly be repaid by a determined effort to bring about the passage of this Bill without the alteration of a single clause.

The objects of the Bill are:—

To give power to arrest procurers without warrant; to suppress brothels; to determine the tenancy of premises, on conviction for permitting their use as a brothel; and, in certain circumstances, to strengthen the Vagrancy Act in its dealings, especially with "bullies."

A Crying Need for Reform.

"There is no path of change along which women are more particularly concerned to press forward than that which leads them to an official share in judicial procedure and the administration of the penal system."

The information collected by a committee of the Fabian women's group, which Miss Blagg and Mrs. Wilson have drafted into this report* must, like every increase in knowledge of the existing law and its administrations as it affects women, strengthen the conviction of the urgent need for their taking part in it themselves. To this, like all other useful social activities, the franchise is the key. The Norwegian Parliament, it is interesting to note, is now considering a measure qualifying women to exercise judicial functions.

The facts collected in "Women and Prisons" are familiar enough from the annual report of the Prison Commissioners, but a real obligation must be felt to the authors for the clear manner in which they have stated and arranged them.

In 1911 there were in custody in local prisons 194,037 males and 42,581 females: in convict prisons, 4,559 males and 164 females. The number of women prisoners is much smaller than that of men: the average length of sentence in their case is also less. Only 44 out of the 35,880 committed to local prisons from the ordinary courts were sentenced for twelve months or over. On the other hand, no less than 77.2 per cent. of the women had been previously convicted; the proportion in the case of men being 58.8 per cent. This complete failure to reform the prisoner is the most grave condemnation of the existing system. The appallingly high rate of recidivism has, in either case, shown little variation in spite of all endeavours in the direction of prison reform. In 1904, indeed, the rate for women was slightly below that for 1911—73.4 per cent. Only 22.8 per cent. of women prisoners, that is to say, are either deterred or reformed. Truly "le difficile n'est pas d'emprisonner un homme: c'est de la relâcher." This saying applies even more forcibly to women than to men.

Can it be asserted that while fewer women are criminals they are more incorrigibly so? Is this incurability connected with the nature of the crimes to which women are prone, or is it due at all to failure in administration? It is worth while to look for a moment at the crimes for which women are committed to prison. Crimes of violence are rare among women: the proportion is markedly lower than among men. Out of the 1,961 women who fell into this class in 1911, 675 were convicted for cruelty to children (including neglect). The proportion of men committed for the same offence was 870 out of 10,003.

The same applies to offences against property with violence. They are represented by 2,475 men and only 36 women. It is in this class that the skilled criminal, the professional cracksmen, etc., is found. Women criminals fall into three main divisions. They are (1) prostitutes; (2) women convicted of neglecting their children through drink; (3) domestic servants charged with petty larceny; and Miss Blagg and Mrs. Wilson quote the opinion of a barrister (it is unfortunate that they have not been able to obtain statistics on the point) that of these three classes the first represents 89.90 per cent.

In this classification, partly, the explanation of the failure to reclaim women criminals doubtless lies. Even more significant is the statement by the medical inspector (report for 1908-9): "Over one-half of the women and nearly one-third of the men sentenced to imprisonment in this country are committed for drunkenness, and repeated convictions in both cases, and especially in the case of women, constitute one of the saddest and most unprofitable features of prison administration." This statement needs no amplification. The attempt made by the Inebriates Act has proved a failure. Brief terms of imprisonment and fines are alike useless. "Alcoholism can only be checked among the poor as it has been among the rich, by changes in condition and opinion."

10.05 per cent. of the inhabitants of prisons are mentally defective. Comment is unnecessary.

Some explanation of recidivism among women is then afforded by consideration of the nature of the offences punished: a brief examination of the method by which the penal system deals with them will suffice.

That system is characterised by the endeavour to reconcile two objects: reformation of the criminal and deterrence of him and others from crime. Its failure is in the main due to the lack of classification and of individual treatment, by which alone reformatory treatment is possible: classification, that is to say, not merely according to the crime but taking the character and circumstances of the criminal into account.

So far as the sentence itself goes, the facilities given by the

Prisons Act of 1898 are neglected by magistrates. In 1909-10 only 52 persons were placed in the first and 1,475 in the second division, and only 2.56 per cent. of cases without hard labour were placed in the second division. Only in the treatment of some offenders has real progress been made under the Probation of Offenders Act (1907) and the Children Act (1908). With that exception uniformity of treatment is the rule—the system of separate confinement its basis. Complete separation lasts now only one month for first offenders and the intermediate class: three for recidivists. In any case the rule of absolute silence is in force the whole day. This, with the extreme monotony of diet and routine and the long hours of enforced idleness and solitude, compose a system which tends to break the prisoner's will and to depress him to the point of melancholia. There is absolutely no attempt at individual treatment. It is indeed hardly possible with the short sentences given: but without it reform cannot be hoped for.

Thanks to the Suffragists imprisoned in Holloway, a flood of light has been thrown upon prison conditions from which minor reforms have already sprung. The most important is the appointment of a woman medical inspector. Much more needs to be done on these lines. The further classification is carried, and the more stress is laid on individual treatment, the greater is the need for the intelligent co-operation of trained workers and officials. Much of the work is such as only women can do. They only ask to be given the opportunity to do it.

M. A. H.
*“Women and Prisons”: Fabian Tract, No. 168 (price 2d.), by Helen Blagg and Charlotte Wilson.

Liberal Ideas in Japan.

Although the present Government in Japan was hailed last summer with some enthusiasm as being a little more democratic than its bureaucratic predecessor, the twenty-eighth session of the Imperial Japanese Diet has closed without the rumoured Bill for the extension of the franchise materialising, or the Election Law Amendment Bill passing the House of Peers, and it has been marked during its last few days of sitting by the rejection of the Police Law Amendment Bill, which provided for the removal of the barrier prohibiting the attendance at political meetings of boys under age—and women.

Mr. Hino, the Nationalist member who introduced the Bill, while delivering himself of the opinion that Japanese women should not be classed with the “impudent hussies of Europe or America,” ridiculed the Government for its fears that if women were allowed to attend political meetings they would come to disagree with their husbands and disturb the peace of the home. As proof of the docility and obedient temper of Japanese women Mr. Hino instanced the fact that most of the leading Japanese statesmen openly kept concubines, and that their wives submitted quietly to the custom, and he ingeniously remarked that European and American women would never tolerate such practices. During the discussion another Nationalist pointedly asked why boys might read magazines and newspapers freely, and women visit the Diet to hear the debates in the House, if they were not allowed to attend political meetings? In the opinion of the Committee dealing with the Bill “as soon as women were allowed to attend political meetings they would be so immersed in politics that they would be led to neglect their household duties,” so, on the score that the time was not ripe for such a measure, the Committee advised the House to reject the Bill, and on being put to the vote it was lost. It may be noted that the party now in power goes by the style of “Constitutionalist.”

In commenting in a leading article on this edifying exhibition of democratic feeling in the Japanese legislature, the “Japan Chronicle” (whose editor is a good suffragist) remarks:—

“In Japan, where so many of the liberal principles of foreign nations have been more or less closely followed, the continuance of the old-time insistence upon the infallible inferiority of women is remarkable. It is still more extraordinary when it is considered what an important part women take in industry in Japan. According to returns made by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, in 1909, out of 782,000 persons engaged in factories, 65 per cent. were women. In the sericulture and silk-reeling industries women supply 90 per cent. of the labour required; over 80 per cent. of the operatives engaged in weaving, embroidery work, cigar and cigarette making, are women; of those engaged in spinning, mat and braid making, etc., over 70 per cent. are women. But although women are strong and able enough, mentally and physically, to take such an important part in the industrial world, they are not considered capable of taking an intelligent interest in the nation's political affairs. . . . They are therefore forbidden to attend a political meeting, where mayhap a question is being discussed of vital interest to women engaged in factories. . . . With manhood suffrage only a very limited privilege in Japan, it is unlikely that any serious demand will be made for votes for women for many years to come.”

To this we might add that in 1909 the percentage of women

workers in trades and professions above the labouring and artisan classes was ten. According to figures then available, and quoted in the “Anglo-Japanese Review” for August-September, 1910, the Railway Board employed 244 women, the Post Office Savings Bank 793, and the Tokyo Telephone service 1,300, while the Bank of Japan employed 314 women among a staff of 860 persons. The total number employed thus, and in banks, business firms, shops, etc., throughout the country, was estimated at 10,000, while the number of female teachers was given as about 34,000. Nurses, midwives and others unclassified numbered about 16,000, thus making a grand total of 60,000 women workers not counting factory hands. Yet Japanese women (who rule the household when they arrive at the dignity and estate of becoming mothers-in-law!) are not considered—by their own men—sufficiently intelligent to be permitted to attend a political meeting. Other kinds of meetings are apparently on a different footing, for women's charitable and patriotic associations in Japan are legion. What a comment on the much vaunted modern civilisation of a country which is really advanced in many respects! A country, which before it took an alien religion to its bosom, placed its men and women on a perfectly equal footing, whose chief deity was a woman—a country often reigned over by a woman, and whose literature, at least, owes its chief glory to women. The same country which can in the year 1912 reprimand a University professor, through its Parliament, for venturing to express the common-sense view that there was nothing especially admirable in the conduct of a railway employee who recently committed suicide because owing to his carelessness the Emperor's train became derailed, causing an hour or two's delay in the imperial journey—but no actual danger; or in the mistaken patriotism which prompts Japanese schoolmasters and schoolmistresses, in case of fire, to risk their lives in order that the Emperor's picture may not be harmed. Our Japanese friends surely suffer from a lack of the sense of proportion.

VERA C. C. COLLUM.

*Only about 10 per cent. of the population is enfranchised.—V.C.C.C.

Spring-time.

“The Laurels” had once been a country house on the outskirts of London, standing amidst lawns and trees and flowers. Later it had become a suburban house, with small villas packed close against the garden walls. Now that it had grown shabby and the trees were smoke-dried, and the flowers begrimed with soot and motor-dust, some good women had turned it into a laundry and home. The roomy kitchen premises were used for washing and drying, though they were all practically cellars. Here, one afternoon in early spring, a number of women and girls were bending over the ironing tables. The air was close and damp, and smelt of starched linen, hot flannel, and warm irons. The committee of clergymen and benevolent ladies and gentlemen did not “feel themselves justified” in going to the expense of new arrangements for ventilation. A white-faced and rather harassed-looking sister was sorting soiled linen in a smaller room, but she kept an eye on the workers through the open door. She saw that something disturbing had happened; the silence in which the girls worked was indeed unbroken, but the ironing was arrested for a few seconds, eyes were raised and fell again, there was a perceptible pause for a moment. All at once she saw the matron coming through the room, looking sharply at the tables as she passed, and then picking her way among the piles of tumbled sheets, limp collars and shirts, heaps of stale and frowsy garments of every kind and description.

“I want Lizzie Hurst,” the matron said, when she had regained her breath, “her child's dying.”

“Oh, dear,” sighed the sister, hopelessly. “And we're so frightfully pressed for time. And, of course, Lizzie's the one I can least easily spare.”

“Yes,” replied the matron, bitterly, “I know all that. I thought the baby would have gone in the night. But Dr. Millar tried an operation. He's young, and they're all for operating now. I suppose I'm old-fashioned, but I hate these new-fangled ways. Any way, the child's dying now, so there's been all this fuss and worry for nothing. . . . Expense, too. . . . Where is she?”

The sister led the way through the ironing room, and the matron paused to remark: “Are those the Dean's shirts? There have been so many complaints, and he is so particular. And, by the way, one of the sheets belonging to the Temperance Hotel was burned again last week. Do bid them be careful.”

Then she paused half-mechanically to watch the tablecloths come flowing out of a mangle; it was in charge of an older and more experienced worker, who adjusted the linen while a big, strong-looking girl turned the handle. It was fascinating to see the crushed cloths appear smooth and shining from between the hot metal rollers.

“Those new tablecloths of Mrs. Grey's are very poor in quality,” the matron said, “and yet she expects them to come home looking like the best.” The sister preserved a pained silence, and opened the door into the washing room. A cloud of steam drifted across their faces, and then, through the vaporous air, they began to see misty shapes standing upon the dripping stones; their damp garments clung to them and swathed and outlined the strenuous figures. They were washing and scrubbing the wet linen, for the committee prided themselves that this was a hand laundry, and that practically no machinery was used in it.

“Lizzie Hurst,” cried the sister, “you're wanted.” Again there was the momentary surprised arrest of activity, and then one figure detached itself from the rest, and meekly approached the authorities.

“Close that door,” said the matron, sharply. “I want you upstairs, Lizzie Hurst, immediately. Your baby is much worse since the morning. The doctor has sent for you.”

The girl stared in a dull way at her, and murmured: “Yes, matron.”

“She can't go like that,” said the sister. “Go and change your gown, Lizzie.”

“And look sharp,” added the matron.

The girls had always to put on dry clothes when they came out of the washing room for their meals, or for their recreation hours.

The matron had gone when Lizzie came back in her ordinary uniform of dark blue print, apron and cap, and thick shoes. But the sister was waiting for her, and said gently: “I'm afraid baby's dying, Lizzie; go quickly.”

And then she hastened back to her sadly interrupted labours, and also to suppress the subdued thrill of curiosity and excitement in the ironing room. In the washing room one worker remarked: “I guess her kiddy's done for,” and another replied: “And a good job, too.” And then the clouds of steam closed in again about the speakers, who looked like a vision in some dim limbo of lost souls.

Meanwhile Lizzie hurried obediently up the stone steps, and along the corridors. The stately proportions of the rooms, the wide spaces, and the dignity of the polished mahogany doors suggested a far different tenancy for the old house. There was a comfortable and cheerful hospitality about the wide fireplaces, with their beautiful and shapely marble mantelpieces, a sense of leisure hours about the terraced gardens and sheltered, sunny verandahs; one could imagine the echo of gay voices and laughter, or the vanishing round the corner of the fluttering garments of some graceful ghost. Lizzie Hurst, speeding alone down the passages with bent head, seemed to belong to quite a different story.

When she reached the sick room she paused in the doorway, and she always remembered the scene more clearly than anything in her whole life. The air was heavy with ether. The doctor had turned away, and was helping his assistant to wash some instruments and put them back in his bag. The matron was talking to him in low tones. The nurse was giving some instructions to a young attendant, who was tidying up the disordered room. On a table, near the window, lay the central figure, the small, blue-faced creature who had just ceased to breathe. Lizzie looked upon him with a sharp pang, and there was a silence.

“Kiss you child goodbye, Lizzie Hurst,” said the matron in her hard, commanding tones. But the mother only touched the tiny face with her finger; she was dumb, and her face expressed no emotion. The doctor glanced curiously at her. The nurse gently covered the baby's face.

“He's gone to Abraham's bosom,” she sighed. “And it's we all that do be following after him.”

This Irishwoman had a passion for babies and little children, and the matron had quickly realised that such a treasure of devotion must not be wasted on the laundry. She gathered all the waifs, well or illbegotten, to her heart, and they were nursed and tended with a love that perhaps atoned for some ignorance and much superstition. But the nurseries were the brightest spot in the big house, and even the narrow and austere faith of the sisters seemed to soften at this point; and the children's rooms were gay with pictures and sunshine, the infants' coats were decked with dainty muslin, and the children's hair was tied up with knots of ribbon. The old house had seen some tragedies and many a sorrowful scene in its day, but

nothing sadder than the look the sisters wore at times when they entered the nurseries. It is true that the matron was not troubled with any kind of sentiment. She looked upon all young women as the natural prey of Satan and upon all young children as his limbs.

It was tea-time and the bell rang as Lizzie passed downstairs again. She passed the matron's sitting-room, a dreary place with linoleum underfoot, and a large mahogany dining-table where no one ever fed, and a large mahogany dining-table with grasses. She passed the kitchens where three girls were filling up great mugs with tea and cutting and spreading thick slices of bread and treacle. The dining-room was furnished very simply with long tables and benches, the bare floor was scrubbed till the planks were white, every place in the house was scrupulously clean. Lizzie leant her head on her hand, the food sickened her.

“Have you a headache, Lizzie Hurst?” asked the stout, good-natured sister-in-charge.

“Yes, Sister.”

“You can go and sit by the fire. You looked starved. Sip some hot tea, it will do you good.”

After tea the girls had an hour's recreation in a room with no furniture in it at all. They played noisy games. In summer time they played out of doors, on what had once been turf but was now trodden dust. The babel of tongues let loose was astonishing. After the games they had an hour's sewing or a lesson of some kind, and they went to bed at nine. Almost all the girls looked shapeless and awkward, but it was partly owing to their dresses, which were ill-cut and all in stock sizes. Also their clumsy shoes gave them a shuffling gait. Many of them looked feeble and vacant, some looked vicious, and good looks were exceptional. The sister took pity on Lizzie after tea and gave her leave to go to bed.

She was thankful to go up to the dormitory. Her head did ache dreadfully, and she undressed quickly and buried her face in the cold pillow. The big room contained eighteen beds, but absolutely nothing else. The only decoration on the walls was the tortured Image on the Cross. She could not think for the throbbing pain; but the quiet room was a haven of peace. And a sensation of ease crept up her tired limbs, cramped and sore with the long hours of work, with standing and bending over the tubs and tables. After an hour or two she felt the pain slipping away and delicious drowsiness stealing over her, body and soul. She could hear the girls singing at evening prayers. It seemed far away. They sang the laundry sister's favourite hymn. The sound came floating up.

*The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there may I, as vile as he,
Wash all my sins away.*

The cadence was haunting and melancholy. Lizzie fell asleep.

She awoke some hours later to find herself sobbing wildly. One of her companions was shaking her roughly by the shoulder.

“Holler, if you must, Lizzie Hurst,” she was saying, “but for God's sake don't grizzle.”

Lizzie strove with her dream and hushed her weeping, but the vision had been so vivid that for a space she lay rigid and still, like the thrall of some invisible and sinister power. Then she woke up in a sheer, chill, hopeless fashion. She was young and very strong, and the deep sleep into which she had fallen had been restorative. She lay very still, trying to recapture her dream. She had seen her child again, and her first thought had been, as in reality that afternoon, that he looked very cold and was uncovered, for she had always been told that small babies should be kept warm. But in her dream he was lying all alone; and she took him in her arms as she had longed to do that afternoon, when she was stricken shy and stupid and speechless among all those strange people. And she drew a low nursing chair to the fire and cherished her babe and held both his feet in her hand. And as she sat with his cold face against her bare breast, suddenly she felt a soft twitching, and then, as she held her breath, and almost stopped her heart's beating, it came again, and the child sucked, as once before, when they had laid him in her arms some time after that blinding revelation of Nature inexorable which was his birth. And half awake, in her empty bed, Lizzie had cried bitterly.

Now the grey dawn had crept through the unshuttered windows and gradually displaced the shadows. Lizzie saw her companions lying like carved figures, inert and drunk with sleep. She saw, too, the suffering inscrutable face of the Christ on the wall. She wished it was day. She wanted to be at work

again. The laundry sister had praised her and said they would get her a place as laundry-maid in a country house by and by. . . . She kept wishing she had had the courage to thank the doctor that afternoon. He looked like a real gentleman, Lizzie thought, and her standard was high in those matters. . . . She felt very hungry, she had eaten little or nothing the day before. She heard a clock strike four. The girls got up at six and had breakfast at seven. The food provided in the Institution was sufficient in quantity though it was coarse and unappetising even to young and healthy creatures. But this morning Lizzie thought longingly of the hot cocoa and thick bread and butter. She had been brought up in a country home where food was good and plentiful, and where "our Liz" had been a petted child. Her thoughts glanced back to these distant days as she lay awake, and the twittering of the birds recalled the farm eaves. . . . She felt as if she must escape from the place; it stifled her. She clenched her hands under the blanket, they were very strong and could surely work her way out. The world, she mused, was full of dirty work to be done; and here was one, at any rate, willing to do some of it. There was no task too exacting, no labour too mean or repellent for Lizzie's attitude to life now. Her lover she should never see again. She thought, with pride, how beautiful he was, one far above her own class, and wonderful in his ways and speech beyond her knowledge or imagination. It was only last spring he had courted her . . . and won her . . . in the green lanes among the corn fields, beyond the big house where she had been a maid-servant. He had never seen his child. . . . The clock struck five, and Lizzie turned her face to the wall and shut her eyes, and her whole soul went out in a passionate prayer for which only a poet has found the words:—

Speak but one word to me over the corn,
Over the tender, bow'd locks of the corn

L. M. E.

In Parliament.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

On the 22nd and 25th of April, in reply to questions, Mr. Lloyd George said he was unable to name the date on which the Prime Minister would introduce the Franchise Reform Bill.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

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

Hon. Secretaries: Miss K. D. COURTNEY. **President:** Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
Miss EDITH PALLISER (Parliamentary). **Secretary:** Miss GERALDINE COOKE. **Hon. Treasurer:** Mrs. AURBACH.
Hon. Secretary to Press Committee: Miss EMILY M. LEAF.
Telegrams: "Voiceless, London." **Hon. Sec. to Literature Committee:** Miss I. B. O'MALLEY. **Telephone:** 1960 Victoria.
Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

From Headquarters.

SPECIAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING.

The Executive Committee has resolved to call a special general Council Meeting of the National Union, to consider the position of the Union in view of the present situation. This meeting will have the powers of the annual meeting with regard to any alteration of the rules or policy, should the resolutions passed make this necessary. The meeting will be held in the Essex Hall, Strand, W.C., on Tuesday, May 14th, and will be continued on Wednesday, May 15th, if necessary.

The resolutions to be proposed by the Executive Committee will be despatched to Secretaries of Societies on May 2nd, and resolutions for inclusion in the agenda must be received at the offices of the Union not later than May 7th. Societies are requested to send the names of delegates by the same date. The number of seats for visitors (i.e., members of N.U. Societies not acting as delegates) will be limited, and applications for these must be sent through the Secretaries of Societies in good time.

Literature Department.

PROPAGANDA AMONG TEACHERS.

I am hoping very much that members of the National Union who are elementary teachers will buy our leaflet, "Teachers," and use it for propaganda among those of their own profession, who are not yet converted. The price is 6d. per 100; 4s. 6d.

For Advertisement of London Society's Reception see Back Page.

On the 24th, he stated that the whole of Government time from April 30th to May 9th would be taken for the second reading of the Home Rule Bill. Provisionally he stated that the Welsh Disestablishment Bill would be proceeded with in the week beginning May 13th and it was the present intention to adjourn on Wednesday, May 22nd.

INEBRIATES BILL.

The Inebriates Bill was debated on April 22nd. The Bill adds to the existing powers under the Act of 1879, two more facilities, one for a voluntary statutory pledge before a justice and another for voluntary submission to a guardian; in addition to these, powers are given to the Court to commit to a reformatory an offender who has been found to be an inebriate, and the term "inebriate" is defined in the Bill, which was in charge of Mr. Ellis Griffith.

THE WORKING OF THE INSURANCE ACT.

The Bill to disestablish the Church of England in Wales was introduced on the 23rd by the Home Secretary, and read a first time on the 25th.

On the 24th, in the debate on Supply, Mr. Forster drew attention to the absence of insurance societies giving alternative benefits to domestic servants, and pointed out that servants had "neither the time, the opportunity, the money, nor the actuarial advice" necessary to create these new societies. Mr. Masterman said, in reply, that "inquiries have been made amongst the domestic servants and they seem to have come to the conclusion that the normal method of giving medical benefit and sick pay insurance in societies that servants can join will to a very large extent be the most welcome form of benefit." Mr. Bathurst drew attention to the effect of the Act on county nursing associations.

MALE AND FEMALE OFFENDERS.

In reply to a question on the 25th, Mr. Ellis Griffith said the returns for 1910-11 show the number of persons under 21 committed to prison are: Males, 10,412; females, 1,165. To Borstal institutions: Males, 495; females, 35.

HALF TIMERS.

On Friday 26th, a private member's Bill to abolish half timers in elementary schools was introduced by Mr. Walter Rea and read a second time.

per 1,000. We shall be very glad to send a sample, post free, to anyone who wishes to consider it for this purpose.

MISS ROYDEN'S PORTRAIT.

In response to repeated requests from societies and individuals the National Union is stocking a portrait post card of Miss A. Maude Royden. The post cards are from a new photograph by Miss Lena Connell, price 2d. each.

ST. PAUL AND THE WOMAN MOVEMENT.

The National Union has stocked the pamphlet with this title, published by the Church League for Women's Suffrage. It is by the Rev. A. E. N. Simms, Vicar of Grayshott, Haslemere.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE N.U.W.S.S.

- PAMPHLET.**
- A. 84. "Women's Suffrage." An Address by M. Rowland Prothero, G.V.O. 3d.
- LEAFLETS.**
- B. 52. "Broken Windows, and After." By Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. 1s. per 100.
- B. 53. "A Protest against Violence." 6d. per 100.
- B. 54. "Constitutional Suffragists and the Militants." 2s. 6d. per 100.
- B. 55. "Lord Haldane on W. S." 2s. per 100.
- B. 56. "To Working Men." 4d. per 100, 2s. 6d. per 1,000.
- B. 57. "Will the Vote Help Industrial Women?" 4d. per 100, 2s. 6d. per 1,000.
- B. 58. "Teachers!" 6d. per 100, 4s. 6d. per 1,000.
- B. 59. "A Blow to Anti-Suffragists." 6d. per 100, 4s. 6d. per 1,000.
- B. 60. "Anti-Suffrage Arguments." 6d. per 100, 4s. 6d. per 1,000.
- B. 61. "Easier to Starve." 6d. per 100, 4s. 6d. per 1,000.
- B. 62. N.U. Manifesto, March 29th, 1912. 1s. per 100.
- "Why We Are in a Hurry." 4d. per 100, 2s. 6d. per 1,000.



**"THE
SUNSHINE
GIRL"
BLOUSUIT**
(as sketch).

An ideal garment for young ladies, specially designed for country, seaside, and river wear. This suit is made of fine cotton voile in striped, spot, or fancy designs, with separate coat of coarse white linen lace and band of same insertion at foot of skirt.

Blousuit and Coat complete,
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About Your Investments.

By D. VICTOR MIRAMS.

The whole aim of an investment is the ideal combination of two things—security and sufficiency. The man or woman who can sit down thoroughly satisfied that every investment gives these is on the high road to long life. The difficulty is to find the right combination. What is security? What is sufficiency? Does the former vanish at 4 per cent.; at 4½ per cent.; or at 5 per cent.? At what percentage do we arrive at sufficiency?

I have before me the latest investments of three financial experts—a bank manager, a solicitor, and a landowner. The landowner obtains 10 per cent.; the solicitor 12 per cent., and the banker 13 per cent. But it may be suggested that it is because these men are experts that they obtain such high rates of interest and that the ordinary man and woman must not look beyond their 4 per cent. Not at all! These three men have all invested in the same securities—securities in every sense—the security of an annuity with the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada. There is no need to give any of the colossal figures in which the position of this office is stated. Suffice it to say that the books are audited annually by the Canadian Government, and that the investments of the three experts mentioned above are but examples of what every man and woman can do.

The rate of interest will, of course, depend on the age of the annuitant, but there is no reason why you should not ask for a quotation if you seriously consider it advisable. Do not imagine that you know all about annuities! Do you know that you get an increased annuity if in impaired health? Do you know that annuities are issued guaranteeing the return of the whole of the purchase money? It is impossible to tell you which policy just suits your need unless you write, stating age and some idea of the provision required, to Mr. D. Mirams, District Manager, The Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, Norfolk Street, W.C. Any amount from £100 to £100,000 can be invested. [Adv't.]

OTHER PUBLICATIONS SOLD BY THE N.U.W.S.S.
"St. Paul and the Woman Movement." 1d.
"Josephine Butler: An Autobiographical Memoir." By G. W. & L. A. Johnson. 2s.
"Women in Local Government (in England and Wales)." By J. M. E. Brownlow. 2s. 6d.
"The Story of the Women's Suffrage Movement." By Bertha Mason. 1s.
"Whose Children Are These?" by Ethel M. Naish. 2d.
"Family Life on £1 per Week." By Mrs. Pember Reeves. 2d.
J. S. Mill "On Liberty," "Representative Government," "Subjection of Women." With introduction by Mrs. Henry Fawcett. 1s.; leather 1s. 6d.
"Banners and Banner Making." By M. Lowndes. Published by Artists' League for W. S. 3d.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

Press Department.

The coming council meeting on May 14th affords an admirable opportunity for Press Secretaries to meet one another and discuss methods and plans for Press work. We are hoping to arrange a meeting for this purpose at the National Union Offices on the evening of May 13th at eight o'clock. The Federations have been organising their work throughout the Union during the last year, but so far there has been no general meeting for discussion, and it is felt that an exchange of ideas, with suggestions from Press Secretaries would be most useful. We hope that they will all make special efforts to be present in order to give us the benefit of their advice and experience. The work at Head Quarters would be rendered much easier if we could occasionally have the advantage of personal contact as well as correspondence.

Attention should be drawn to the monthly paper issued by the Men's League which contains, amongst other matters of interest, excellent notes from Mr. Brailsford.

The new Labour daily newspaper, *The Daily Herald*, which has just appeared, has opened with some good articles on Women's Suffrage, dealing with its results in America and Australia. We hope that Labour men will use the paper as a means for pressing forward by every means in their power the principles they uphold in support of Women's Suffrage.

The *Times* did not insert Mrs. Fawcett's article on "A Fitting Memorial to W. T. Stead," which appeared in several other papers.

EMILY M. LEAF.

A Greeting From Germany.

Mrs. Fawcett has received the following letter, dated April 27th, 1912:—

HONOURED LADY,—We heard with painful commiseration of the unexpected defeat in the House of Commons of the Women's Suffrage Bill on March 28th. This is a heavy blow, not only for the women of Great Britain, but for the women who are fighting for citizen rights all the world over.

Allow us to express to you, most honoured lady, and to the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, our warmest sympathy in the temporary disappointment of your legitimate hopes and at the same time our heartiest wishes for the early defeat of the hostile forces and for a complete victory for the cause of Women's Suffrage in your country.

May your untiring and admirable work for a Women's Suffrage amendment to the Reform Bill be crowned with complete success! Rest assured that no one would more heartily welcome this result of the work of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies than its German sister organisation.

In warmest sympathy and esteem, in the name of the German Union for Women's Suffrage,

MARIE STRITT (President).
ADELHEID V. WELCZEK (Secretary).

"The Common Cause."

We have received several donations lately for making THE COMMON CAUSE better known. Among them is one from Mrs. Roger Clark for placing a poster on Glastonbury Station. The Wakefield Society (per Miss Beaumont) sends a contribution and Mrs. McDade offers to help pay for a poster at Battersea. Posters in prominent places, on stations and outside shops in conspicuous positions are a good way of advertising the paper and the National Union.

Mrs. Stanton Coit's donation is not yet used up, and we could allot a few more free copies for doctors' or dentists' waiting-rooms. Secretaries are asked to send us applications for free copies for this purpose.

May we again remind visitors to London that they can obtain THE COMMON CAUSE at all Willings' bookstalls on the Central London and City and South London Tube stations.

Treasurer's Notes.

The special Council which is to take place this month will mark perhaps the most important period in the long history of

our movement. Every possible development will be discussed, and who can say what new direction may not be given to our work? But whatever be the plan of action approved by the Council, you may be certain that money will be needed for its realisation. For if any scheme is to be effective at the present juncture, it must be one of such magnitude as cannot fail to produce an impression both in the country and in the House of Commons. Remember that our work is ever growing and increasing, as is evidenced by the constant formation of new societies in every part of the country. And no new society comes into existence without the expenditure of money. The larger and more powerful Federations are able to shoulder the entire responsibility for the formation of new societies in their own areas, but the great majority of our Federations are still unable to do more than bear some part of the expenditure. So that we are called upon to mother an immense and seemingly endless family of all ages and sizes, and it is especially the young and small ones to whom we should like to devote the

greatest care, and who look to us for financial help in the early days of their career. I am struck with the great increase in the work of every department that has taken place even in those few months that I have been abroad. We have again been obliged to increase our staff at Headquarters, and to incur the expense of enlarged office accommodation. But extra assistance and additional space were absolutely necessary, as efficiency cannot be maintained with an overworked staff, or under conditions of cramped and overcrowded space. Yet we still need additions to even the simplest and most important articles of furniture, such as chairs and tables, and grudge every penny that has to be spent in this way. If any of our readers feel they would like to contribute to the additional comfort of those who are working at Headquarters, I should be glad to receive donations specially marked "for office furniture and equipment."

HELENA AUERBACH.

Contributions to the General Fund.

ALBERT HALL MEETING, February 23rd, 1912.

Table listing names and contribution amounts for the Albert Hall Meeting on February 23rd, 1912. Includes names like Miss W. Woodcock, Miss Woodhams, Miss E. Woods, etc., and a total of £6,496 2 10.

Domestic and man's heart; those ways, how rough. How vile outside the stately avenue Where you walk sheltered by your angel's wings, Are happily unknown to you. But to him the eternal answer is given:— "We hear women's shrieks on them. We like your phrase, Dominion domestic! And that roar, 'What seek you?' is of tyrants in all days. Sir, get you something of our purity, And we will of your strength; we ask no more. That is the sum of what seek we." Let women of fish-like heart or of quavering will give ear to this battle cry, and, as they listen, the heart and brain and will of a new woman will be born in them, and they will never look back again after ranging themselves on the side of Fair Ladies, and of honest toil-worn women, too, who are in revolt.

London Society.

A TRIPLE BILL AT HIGHGATE.

Whether art and the didactic are sworn foes is too subtle a question to discuss here, but it is indisputable that all who care for women's suffrage, or are interested in things dramatic, owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Fisher White and the ladies and gentlemen who so generously and ably co-operated with her at St. Augustine's Hall, Highgate, on April 24th, as well as to the Highgate and East St. Pancras Committees of the L.S.W.S. and to Mr. Clements and the South Place Orchestra, whose united efforts contributed to the success of a delightful evening. The items produced by Mrs. Fisher White were George Meredith's "Ballad of Fair Ladies in Revolt," The Ideal Woman, by Miss M. Wadhams, and The Mobswoman, by Messrs. Leon Lion and Strange Hall. The Mobswoman is a short one-act piece in which the dramatic interest, centred round a woman fighting desperate odds, is well sustained from start to finish. The delightful little dialogue, The Ideal Woman, with the authoress, Miss M. Wadhams, in the title rôle, made its debut and scored an immediate and unmistakable success. Its happy vein of fun combined with a deeper note of suffragist propaganda make it just what is wanted for those many occasions when we suffragists are led by sound instinct to make of the stage our pulpit, and it is hoped that it will be speedily published for this purpose. Of the ballad it is difficult to speak—had that item alone formed the programme, all must have felt grateful to those who provided this opportunity of making, or of renewing, acquaintance with this immortal apologeta for rebel women, and the audience evinced cordial appreciation of the care and thought expended upon the production under Mrs. Fisher White's management. While there are men and women who know what freedom is and are prepared to live and die to win it, the words of this poem cannot stale. Like the Bible or the plays of Shakespeare, it is as fresh and vital to-day as on the day it was penned, and still the lesson it teaches is hidden from those who count themselves to be the wise and prudent. Those who delight in the obvious or who seek always the "plain safe intermediate way" will not find the thing to their liking. It is rather for those others who believe that "We embrace a future now beyond the fowler's nets," and that "Though few, we hold a promise for the race that was not at our rising." In the spirit of prophecy, Meredith's average man, unasily witnessing the shattering of his man's paradises at the hands of these remorseless women, presents to us the "very moral" of our twentieth century anti-suffragist:— "But say, what seek you, madam? 'Tis enough that you should have dominion o'er the springs

RECEPTION.—On April 23rd, the first of the new series of Empress Rooms Reception took place. Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves being in the chair. Mrs. Fawcett spoke of the great sorrow which has befallen the nation in the loss of the "Titanic," and alluded to the prayer that she calls upon Parliament to enfranchise women and of our fellow-countrymen and of our fellow-countrywomen on that occasion, and she also sketched the life-work of that firm defender of the weak and helpless, Mr. William Stool. The other speakers were Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Miss Sterling. Miss Sterling explained how the N.U. policy is framed and from time to time modified at the periodical Council meetings, such as that to be held on May 14th, and concluded with a strong and urgent recommendation to all members to make full use of the receptions as a meeting ground for enquirers and workers, and as a place to which to bring all who desire to learn more of our movement or of the methods and policy of the N.U.W.S.S.

CAMBERWELL.—An open-air meeting was held on April 16th, at Gosse Green. Miss Glyn and Miss M. Goddard addressed a large and enthusiastic crowd. NORTH KENSINGTON.—Miss Deane and Miss Childers were "At Home" in their studio on April 25th to their suffrage and anti-suffrage friends. Mrs. Stanbury presided. The audience gave a splendid start to the meeting with his opening address, and Mrs. Stanbury followed with a magnificent speech, which gained us 13 new members on the spot and enlisted the sympathies of many more who we hope will join later. The resolution proposed by Mrs. Rackham was seconded by Col. Mansel and carried with one dissentient. The laurel wreath and arum lilies against the back-ground. Three dozen Common Cause cards were sold. PLYMOUTH.—On Monday, April 22nd, a very enjoyable entertainment was given in the Freemason's Hall. Music was supplied by Mrs. Holman Andrew, Mrs. Elgar, Mrs. Wakeham and Messrs. A. G. Ellis and W. Keys. In the performance of "How the Vote was Won" Mrs. Elgar was very successful in portraying the feebly amiable "Bethel," and the spirited acting of Mrs. Cyril Williams (Lily), Miss Phillips (Aunt Lizzie) and Miss Edith Osborne (Mae Christine), and the gentle dignity of Mrs. H. Andrew's "Agatha," ensured success. We are particularly indebted to Miss Phillis Morris, who almost at a day's notice ably supplied the part of "Winifred." "The Silent Woman" formed another attraction and was well acted by Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Williams and Mr. W. Keys. The hall was well filled, but the heavy expenses leave little or no margin of profit. A special collection for the women sufferers from the loss of the "Titanic" realised £110s. We have also had a Jubilee Sale, at which the takings were £2 4s.

TIVERTON.—To forward the progress of a local branch recently formed and affiliated with the N.U.W.S.S., a very successful meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Tuesday, March 26th, when Miss Helen Fraser in an earnest address explained the Conciliation Bill, and treated with great tact the various disabilities which women suffer from under the present law, holding an appreciative and representative audience interested for nearly an hour. Miss Montgomery, of Exeter, also spoke, and ably pointed out that our cause is not a case of "Woman versus Man," but of men and women working together for our common benefit. Mr. Widgery, also from Exeter, who is a staunch supporter of our cause, took the chair.

NORTH WESTERN. ENTERTAINMENT AT WORKINGTON. There was a successful meeting, presided over by the Mayor (Mrs. R. E. Highton), in the Carnegie Hall, on April 25th. Mr. F. E. Marshall (Kewick) gave an account of the National Union Council in London on February 24th, at which he had been a delegate. He

substantial donation to the London Society. Miss Harvey, at 8, Aubyns, Carlisle Road, Eastbourne, will be very pleased to hear from any other branches of the N.U. who would like her to arrange a similar entertainment. WIMBLEDON.—On April 3rd, Mrs. F. S. Mallett, a member of the South Wimbledon Branch, took the chair at a meeting of the B.W.F.A., and Mrs. Ford Smith gave an earnest address on Women's Suffrage. The meeting was reported in the Wimbledon Borough News. WIMBLEDON NORTH.—On March 28th a public meeting was held at the Lecture Hall. There was a good attendance. The speakers were Miss Helen Ward (in the chair), and the Rev. W. C. Hawksley, Vicar of All Saints, Putney, and the Rev. W. C. Hawksley, Vicar of the L.S.W.S., Putney. Miss Ward defended the policy of the L.S.W.S., and said that its non-militant methods were adopted from conviction of its being the best course to pursue to win the end in view. Suffragists felt no antagonism to men, she said, and thousands were to be won by the fact that the working women had to coal strike, for instance, the working women had to suffer more than the men. The Chairman then quoted figures which proved the great majority of the constituencies were in favour of the 500 actual law-breaking militant suffragists over the 500 actual law-breaking abstinent. Finally, Miss Ward urged all supporters of the movement to stand firm, go on holding the meeting. The Women's Suffrage agitation was not a party matter, she said, and she hoped to see the enfranchisement of the woman of the country in the near future. The Women's Suffrage agitation was not a party matter, she said, and she hoped to see the enfranchisement of the woman of the country in the near future. The Women's Suffrage agitation was not a party matter, she said, and she hoped to see the enfranchisement of the woman of the country in the near future.

spoke particularly of the Federation system. Miss M. Robertson (Manchester) gave a delightful address. She spoke at some length of the excellent industries. Mrs. Harvey, M.A., proposed, and Mrs. Cecil Thompson seconded, a resolution asking for some measure of enfranchisement this session. Over 20 new members were enrolled. SURREY, SUSSEX AND HANTS. The first meeting for Women's Suffrage held in LINGFIELD took place on April 24th. There was a very fair attendance in the Victoria Hall. Mr. H. Baillie-Weaver and Mrs. Lyall Dempster gave addresses, and the chair was taken by a very keen supporter of the movement, Mr. A. W. Chapman, chairman of the Surrey County Council. Miss Frances Sterling has very kindly placed her services at the disposal of this Federation for a short campaign in Sussex. She is to address meetings at Seaford, Lewes, Brighton and Uckfield during the second week in May. WEST OF ENGLAND. BRIDGWATER. Our summer campaign has opened in Bridgwater, where we find many good friends eager to help us in forming a branch society. A good public meeting was held in the Oddfellows' Hall, on the 24th, with Mr. Lewis Thomson in the chair, and Miss Barrett as chief speaker. This week Mrs. Troup is giving us a drawing-room meeting, when we hope to complete the business fine we hope to hold some open-air meetings in the town, and then we shall have a sheaf of resolutions in favour of Women's Suffrage to send to the member, Mr. Sanders, to show him that Bridgwater supports him in his friendly attitude towards us. K. M. S. ROBERTSON.

SCOTTISH. The shop continues to flourish, and in twelve days we have had the names of fifty-nine visitors, in addition to the members of the committee, and to strangers who dropped in just for badges or literature. We have, through sales of teas and fancy goods, already covered the rent for the time we have been open, and have something over towards incidental expenses of upkeep. The response to my appeal for "unconsidered trifles" for our Party Stall has not been large, it is in vain to ask a third time for this help? This week I hope to hold some evening outdoor meetings in the town; the weather is now springlike and favourable, and it is about time that Aberdonians ceased to think that the N.U. does no open-air propaganda! In the latter part of May and in June I go on a Caravan Tour in West Aberdeenshire, Banff and Kintardine, Miss Lumsden having generously lent her caravan. Details are not fixed yet, but I should be delighted to receive names of any who would care to join our travelling band through delectable country at that choice time of year. ALICE CROMPTON. Suffrage Shop, 474, Union Street, Aberdeen.

EAST MIDLAND. Deputation to Prospective Conservative Candidate for Mid-Northants. Mr. T. Guy Paget, prospective Conservative candidate for Mid-Northants, received a deputation of women suffragists on April 12th. Mrs. Roberts (Crick) introduced the deputation. Mrs. Butlin (Rothwell), Mrs. Butterfield (Northampton) and Mr. Thornton (Crick) each said a few words. Mrs. Everett (Kettering) and Mrs. Woods (Northampton) also took part in the discussion. Mr. Paget's replies to the questions asked him were extremely unsatisfactory. He professed himself willing to support a Bill on the lines of the Conciliation Bill if he could be assured that there was no chance of any further extension of the franchise to women ever following. His course, such a promise as this is of no value whatever. CRICK.—A successful dance organised by the Suffrage Society was held on Easter Monday. The profits, which amounted to £2 7s. 5d., were divided between the Society and the Federation. A members' meeting was held on April 12th, at which a paper on "Countries where women have the Vote" was read by Mrs. Roberts. NORTHAMPTON.—Nottingham Society has concentrated all efforts on the by-election which has just taken place. Sir John Rees was returned as member for East Nottingham. He is a noted anti-suffragist, and it is a great blow to former records that this division should no longer be represented by a friend, as all the Nottingham M.P.'s for many years had been good suffragists. Mrs. Cowmeadow has already sent full reports of the splendid work of the past few weeks, which the Notts Society intends to follow up in the future. As the members of the other two Nottingham Divisions are eminently satisfactory, it is proposed to concentrate work in Sir John Rees' constituency. A meeting has been held to inaugurate a new scheme for distributing literature. This scheme has already been described in the COMMON CAUSE for April 17th.

LEICESTER.—A drawing-room meeting was held on April 3rd at the house of Miss McKerr Alexander. Informal addresses by the hostess and Miss Gittins were followed by an interesting discussion, and several new members joined the Society. OUNDLE.—A members' meeting was held at the Rectory, on April 10th, to confirm the election of the Committee and to arrange for the distribution of literature. The March reports of Peterborough, Lincoln and Mansfield arrived too late for insertion last month, but may be briefly summarised here.

PETERBOROUGH.—The inaugural meeting of the new Society was held at the Church House, on March 7th. Fifty-four members were enrolled, and plans of future work were discussed. A petition was signed to be sent to Mr. George Greenwood, M.P. for the City of Peterborough. On March 4th an address on "Women's Suffrage" was given to the Lincoln Branch of the National League of Young Liberals by Miss Christina Hicks, daughter of the Bishop. On March 12th Miss Hicks and Miss C. M. Hart were the speakers at a suffrage meeting held at the Junior Constitutional Club, with Mr. W. J. Newsum in the chair. The suffrage resolution was carried.

MANSFIELD.—Councillor Margaret Ashton addressed a meeting held at the Town Hall, on March 14th, Arthur Richardson, Esq., J.P., in the chair. The suffrage reso-

lution was passed unanimously. Three other meetings were held during the month, of which one was in the Market Place.

Manchester and District.

The Accrington branch of the N.U., on the eve of the Conciliation Bill, sent the following memorial to H. Baker, Esq., M.P., for the Accrington Division. To Harold Baker, Esq., member for the Parliamentary Division of Accrington.—We, the undersigned, being constituents in the Parliamentary Division of Accrington, do call upon Mr. Baker to do all in his power to secure the enfranchisement of women in 1912, by supporting an amendment to the Conciliation Bill enfranchising women householders. This memorial was signed by just over four hundred voters, although no systematic canvass was made. Only a limited time was given to this work, so that but small proportion of the electorate was approached. Of that portion only a small number of refusals were received.

Resolution of protest sent to Mr. Baker against his moving the rejection of the Conciliation Bill. The committee of the Accrington branch of the N.U. reads with indignation of Mr. Baker's intention to move the rejection of the Conciliation Bill, and protests strongly against his doing so. It would regard him as the representative of a large industrial constituency in which there is a very large number of women workers, of whom many are the sole or principal wage-earners of the family. By moving this rejection of the Conciliation Bill he puts a slight upon the intelligence of a very large portion of this community and clearly shows that he considers only the interests of those who have the power of electing a Parliamentary representative.

ALTRINCHAM.—A public meeting was held in the institute, Altrincham, on March 22nd. The speakers were Professor de Sumichrast (Harvard University), and Mrs. Graham Nairne (O.U.W.F.A.), the chair was taken by E. Sidebotham, M.D., J.P. The usual resolution was agreed unanimously. A second resolution expressing regret at the recent conduct of the militants was passed with a few dissentients. BURNLEY.—A meeting of members was held on March 28th at the Brunswick School. Mrs. Stanton Barnes was in the chair, supported by Mrs. Craig Rodgers, Mrs. A. Lancaster, Miss Wood, M.A., Mrs. Woodward and Mrs. Stanton Barnes. The following officers were elected:—Chairman, Mrs. Conant; Mrs. Raymond Rose; vice-Chairman, Miss Wood; treasurer, Mrs. Bird; secretary, Miss Lee. An Advisory Committee was formed—Lady Morrell, the wife of the borough member, was elected as president along with the existing vice-presidents. A suggestion to open a club next winter was explained by Miss Wood. Mr. Stanton Barnes gave a comprehensive survey of the history of the Women's Suffrage movement. He showed that women are only claiming a privilege which in former times they enjoyed. He was cordially thanked for his interesting address.

KNUTSFORD.—April 1st. The annual meeting was held in the King's Coffee House. The report for 1911-1912 and the balance sheet were presented. Miss Rushton proposed their adoption, Miss Bailey seconded, and it was passed unanimously. The officers and committee for the year were appointed. A social evening was held. Mrs. J. E. Tomlinson, in the chair. Miss M. Hewitt proposed the resolution "That Parliament be asked to enfranchise women in 1912." It was seconded by Miss D. Hoffman, and passed. Entertainment followed.

ALDERSLEY.—The Suffrage Society held a meeting in Aldersley Edge Public Hall, Councillor Margaret Ashton in the chair. Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., and J. Redgrave Tomlinson, speakers. The meeting was well attended and the resolution passed with seven dissentients. On April 25th, at the Town Hall, Knutsford, Mrs. Swanwick moved the resolution "That this meeting calls upon Parliament to enfranchise women in 1912." The resolution was seconded by Miss J. G. Ford. The speakers were listened to with great interest, and the resolution was passed with only three dissentients. F. S. Oppenheim, Esq., took the chair, and Mrs. J. Uttley supported the resolution.

MACEFELDFIELD.—A lecture was delivered in the Town Hall on March 25th, by the Rev. W. E. Ireland, M.A., on "Some Typical Women of Modern Drama." The lecturer, Walter Greg, Lee Esq., made an acute and critical address traced the development of the intellectual independence of women from Ibsen's Nora, and Shaw's Candida, to the plays of Granville Barker and Mrs. Glyn. The lecturer, through modern conditions, as one who, having gained "liberty," and proved "equality," needed now to establish "fraternity" as the basis of new relations and a new social order. The lecture was greatly appreciated by a large audience.

MANCHESTER.—A very well attended public meeting was held in the Hulme Town Hall, Manchester, on April 16th. The speakers were Councillor Margaret Ashton, and Miss Margaret Robertson. Mr. S. N. Brayshaw took the chair. Several well-known people in the district were on the platform, including Mrs. Needham, sister of the local member of Parliament. Mrs. West Manchester had abstained from voting for the Conciliation Bill and requesting him to vote for an amendment to include women in the promised Reform Bill, was carried with only three dissentients, 60 people gave in their names as members of the society.

The monthly meeting of the South Salford Working Women's Association was held at Oldfield Hall, Salford, on April 15th. Mr. J. Hudson, a member of the N.U., gave a very interesting address on "School Clinics for Children," and there was a very good attendance.

MARBLE.—A successful meeting was held on March 11th at the Girls' Institute, in the presence of Mrs. Margaret Ashton and Mr. Barnes. The chief speakers, and Mr. Barnes kindly took the chair. A resolution deploring the action of the militants, but calling on all members of the Conciliation Bill to vote for the same, was carried.

NORTHWICH.—Organisation is at present being carried on by Miss Fielden in the Northwich division, where several meetings have been arranged. She is also working in aid of preparation for a public meeting there on May 6th. NEW MILLS.—A public meeting was held in the Town Hall, on Wednesday, March 6th. Alfred E. Corry, Esq., was in the chair. The speakers were Mrs. C. G. Robinson and F. Stanton Barnes, Esq. There was a fair attendance and a few new members were enrolled. OLDEAM.—On Sunday, March 24th, the President (Miss Lees) and Mrs. Jagger addressed a large audience at a meeting held at the Independent Labour Party Rooms. There was a good discussion on March 28th. Miss Lees debated with a

representative of the Young Liberals Association (Mr. Butler) on "Should Women Have Votes?" Both sides of the case were well debated, the discussion mainly being in the affirmative. On Friday, March 23rd, Miss Lees spoke for twenty minutes at the annual meeting of the Liberal Registration Association, and was accorded a good reception. Copies of the "Historical Survey" were distributed.

ROCHESTER.—On Thursday, March 22nd, over 150 people were present at a social and meeting held in the Assembly Rooms, Water Street. Lady Beatrice Kemp was in the chair, and spoke on the Conciliation Bill. Miss Fountain addressed the meeting, speaking of the suffrage from the teacher's point of view. Mrs. Chew gave an address on "The necessity of women's help in government work." Songs were rendered by Miss Barraclough, Mrs. Priestnall, and Mr. I. T. B. Cash. Mrs. Elliot gave a dialect sketch. Miss Potterton proposed and Miss Sugden seconded a vote of thanks to those who had spoken and entertained. Refreshments were served during the evening. In every respect the meeting was a great success.

A public meeting was held in the Provident Hall, on Monday, April 15th. Lady Beatrice Kemp presided. Mr. Bardeu put the following resolution to the meeting:—"That this meeting calls upon Parliament to grant the franchise to women this session." He traced briefly the conditions of women since the early days. Miss Boyden seconded the resolution, and referred at length to the beneficial results which had accrued to those states and colonies which had given the vote to women.

ROMILEY.—A public meeting was held in St. Chad's School, on Tuesday, April 2nd, when Miss Ashton spoke, the Rev. H. Enfield Downson, of Gee Cross, being in the chair. Two members of the Society gave "A Chat with Mrs. Chicely." Previous to the public meeting a devotional service was conducted by the Rev. S. P. Gray, Vicar of Bridbury. Three new members joined.

WALTER BURTON.—A public meeting was held in the Drill Hall, on Wednesday, March 22nd. Alfred E. Corbett, Esq., took the chair, and the speaker was Professor F. C. de Sumichrast. The meeting was not well attended, but several new members were enrolled. The annual business meeting was held at the conclusion of the public meeting.

Irish Notes.

Irish suffragists have had yet another disappointment. The much-talked-of National Convention was held in the Mansion House, Dublin, on Tuesday, April 23rd, and no reference was made to the question of women's suffrage. Professor Kettle had, some ten days previously announced in the press, his intention to bring forward an amendment to secure the enfranchisement of Irishwomen under Home Rule. But on the day of the Convention he referred to the supposition that he had come there with "a bee in his bonnet," and made haste to assure his audience that the bee should not escape amongst them on that occasion! Outside in the street close upon 100 women, carefully hemmed in by a large force of police, waited all day in the vain hope that their deputation might be received and heard. It is very possible, however, that that gathering of quiet, patient women made a silent appeal for their cause which will prove far more effective than Professor Kettle's most brilliant oratory could have been. The deputation was organised by the Irish Women's Franchise League.

The failure of so many professed friends has strengthened rather than diminished the enthusiasm of suffragists in Ireland. From north and south come hundreds of crowded meetings and large additions to the membership of societies. Schemes are on foot for the organisation of new societies in various places, and the recent political disappointments seem to have given a stimulus to propaganda work.

Miss Cicely Corbett (now an M.A. of Trinity College Dublin) has won many converts by her charming personality and able speeches. She constitutes in herself an answer to the old-fashioned arguments of many anti-suffragists, for in her intellect and sound reasonableness are combined with sufficient feminine charm to satisfy the most prejudiced anti! At the meeting held in Aberdeen Hall, Dublin, on April 19th, the Committee of the Irishwomen's Reform League presented Miss Corbett, in recognition of her services to the cause of suffrage in Ireland, with an enamel pendant in a Celtic design, which had been made at Miss Gleeson's factory at Dum Emer, Dundrum, now become so famous for beautiful and artistic handwork. In the previous week Miss Gleeson had kindly thrown open her house for a drawing-room meeting, at which Miss Corbett was the speaker.

Mrs. Cope, of Drumilly, Co. Armagh, has recently devoted a fortnight to strenuous organisation work in Armagh. The result of this was a successful public meeting, at which Miss Corbett and the Rev. Hugh Chapman were the speakers. Miss Corbett afterwards came to Dublin with Mr. Chapman, in order to take the chair at the meeting of the Irishwomen's Reform League on April 19th. Mr. Chapman's speech on this occasion was wonderfully inspiring; it lifted the woman movement out of the

small circle of political strife, and illuminated the spiritual issues of our struggle. Those spiritual issues are too often obscured by the dust of the conflict. Too often we cannot "see the wood for the trees."

The Munster Women's Franchise Association held a very successful meeting recently at Middleton, Co. Cork. Miss Day was the speaker and roused considerable interest. This meeting was inspired by an English lady who went to Middleton to spend an Easter holiday, and very kindly undertook to help in the organisation of the meeting, both financially and practically. We hope that this example will be followed by other ladies coming to spend a holiday in Ireland. Miss Bennett, Hon. Secretary, Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation, of Undercliff, Killiney, Co. Dublin, would be very glad indeed if suffragists coming to visit Ireland who could undertake propaganda work of any kind would communicate with her.

Arrangements are being made by the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation for meetings to be addressed by Mrs. Despard and Mr. Laurence Housman during the week of May 14th to 21st. Mrs. Despard will begin her tour in Waterford on May 14th, and will afterwards speak in Cork, Birr, Athlone, Newry and Dublin. Mr. Laurence Housman will spend three days in the neighbourhood of Belfast, and will also address meetings in Dublin, Newry and Bray.

Mrs. Spring-Rice, Mrs. Cope and Miss Eva MacNaughten have very kindly undertaken to form an Advisory and Parliamentary Committee in London to assist the work of the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation.

LOUIE BENNETT.

Women's Suffrage and the White Slave Traffic.

REPORT OF MEETING ON FRIDAY, APRIL 26TH.

On Friday, April 26th, the Men's Society for Women's Rights held a meeting at the Criterion Restaurant to discuss the subject of "How Votes for Women will affect the White Slave Traffic." There was present a large and deeply interested audience.

The Chairman, Mr. Joseph Clayton, opened the proceedings by giving an account of the Society under whose auspices the meeting was held. He spoke strongly about the class of man who preys on the weak and helpless, who receives so little check from the law, and who is positively encouraged by the double standard of morality now prevailing. The agitation for the vote is a menace to those who make a living out of the degradation of women and they know it and are among its most bitter opponents. The women's movement has also been of immense value in waking up the men to a deeper sense of the social evils around us.

Dr. Saleeby was the next speaker and he first of all paid a tribute to the memory of the late Mr. W. T. Stead, for 30 years one of the foremost men in the fight to check the white slave traffic. His practise all his life was "Women and children first," which is also Dr. Saleeby's point of view as a Eugenist. "There is no wealth but life," says Ruskin, and are not women and children the life and, therefore, the wealth of nation. In the "Titanic," luxury was placed before lifeboats and the ship went down. Nations that do not place first things first go down also, and the first thing in the Nation's life is the care of the women and children. To the biologist life (with few exceptions) is maintained by the co-operation of two sexes and anything that tends to sex antagonism is fatal and disruptive. It is clear that if the care of children is the most important thing for the nation, and if life is maintained by the co-operation of both sexes, that the demand of women for the vote is not a claim for themselves but an essential for the well being of the nation. Mr. Stead believed that what the Eugenists want will never be attained without the help of women. The who's Eugenic movement has been vitalised since women began to take an interest in it and they have taught the men that it is more of a woman's question than a man's. Dr. Saleeby then dealt with Sir Almoth Wright's letter, denouncing it in the strongest possible terms, specially criticising the abominable passage relating to medical women. He then gave some examples of badly needed legislation, which would stand a chance of passing if votes were granted to women. He thought the maternity benefit under the Insurance Act a splendid move, and the beginning of protection to mother and child. What still remains to be done is to make the notification

of still births compulsory. At present they are utterly ignored and do not come into the calculations of the Insurance Act and yet there are probably 70,000 in every year and it is highly important to ascertain the various causes that contribute to them. No information bearing on the replenishment of the race is more needed. We should say to those celibate clergy and others who clamour about the diminishing birthrate, "Take care of the birthrate you have got and of those who produce it." Another important measure would be the compulsory notification, within 36 hours, of births for the whole country, which we now have working in those districts which have adopted Lord Robert Cecil's Bill. It would enable help and advice to be given to mothers at the most critical stage. Another regulation, which Dr. Saleeby advocated, was the notification of contagious diseases for all classes and both sexes. Our infant mortality is a scandal and much of it is easily preventable. It is a great imperial question, but it is first and foremost a woman's question and must be treated from the woman's point of view. "We say confidently that women will attend to these matters when they have votes because we see what they have done in New Zealand and elsewhere." At present there is not sufficient force of public opinion behind these measures.

If we had votes for women the Inebriates' Bill and the Feeble-minded Bill would have more chance of passing the "House of Gramophones," and nothing would affect the white slave traffic more. Deficient children are looked after in homes up to the age of 16 and then their parents are allowed to have them home in the hopes of their earning a few shillings a week. The deficient girl cannot hold her own in the labour market and ends on the streets sooner or later. She has only been given the freedom to damage herself and the nation. The Inebriates' Bill would afford a chance of dealing with inebriate fathers, who are responsible for a terrible amount of harm. If we began at the beginning education would teach the children about parenthood and the adolescent would receive special care. At least one half of this would be women's work.

The 19th century concentrated on machinery, and thought that that registered progress. John Ruskin was one of the few who protested against this delusion, and deplored the carelessness with which the age treated the betrayal of women and injury to children. He was a herald of our age. For surely the 20th century is concentrating itself more and more on life and the protection of life.

Miss Abadam then gave a moving description of what constitutes the white slave traffic. It was particularly striking to hear that a house devoted to this terrible purpose was the first building to rise from the ruin of San Francisco after the great earthquake; that 15,000 young girls had been imported into one city alone in a year, and that £40,000 a year was being made by one syndicate. She gave some examples of lowness in wages, and traced the connection between the vote and an improvement in this respect. She also advocated reform in the laws of maintenance, of accosting, etc., and the raising of the age of consent. She impressed on women their responsibility for these things and their share in them if they did not lift a hand to remedy these evils.

Votes of thanks brought the proceedings to a close.

R. S.

The Union of Ethical Societies.

At its last ordinary meeting, the Council of the Union of Ethical Societies passed the following resolution with instructions that it be forwarded to the Prime Minister, to the Members of the Cabinet, and to the leading Press:—
That the Council of the Union of Ethical Societies urges upon the attention of His Majesty's Government the fact that the recent deplorable methods adopted by women to express their determination to gain enfranchisement were an immediate outcome of the Government's announcement of a Bill giving Manhood Suffrage, which was inevitably calculated to prejudice the chances of the "Conciliation Bill" passing into law; and that since this latter Bill is now defeated, it is the bounden duty of the Government to remedy the situation that the recent deplorable methods adopted so largely created by its own action, by enlarging its Suffrage Bill so that it will enfranchise a substantial portion of the women of the country.

The Nursing Exhibition.

The fifth annual Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition at the Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, was crowded on the opening day (April 23rd). Patent foods, disinfectants, and germ killers,

ancient and modern, were displayed on the stalls. A corner allotted to gas apparatus had many attractions; fitted up as a kitchen for a hospital ward or nursing home it contained a gas cooker, and fire to warm the room, a steam radiator for drying linen, an apparatus for distilling water, a portable sterilising stove for sterilising surgical instruments and a gas circulator providing hot water day and night. At the nursing handicraft stall the first prize was allotted to the Royal Free Hospital, and the second to the Chelsea Hospital for Women. A new splint, described as a "swinging backdoor splint on a spinal stand," won a third prize.

An invalid chair called the "Eastbourne," specially designed for wheeling up and down stairs, is a great improvement on the ordinary carrying chair, is very light, and the inventors assert can easily be managed by two maids. The advantage of the "Gripnet" coal tongs for use in a sick room are obvious, but the velvet glove used in many households serves the same purpose of making up a fire noiselessly.

The Manchester School for Mothers carried off the first prize in the baby clothes competition displayed on the first floor and a cradle made out of a banana crate looked so cosy that no sensible baby ought to want a better. M. E. P.

Women Teachers and Equal Pay.

The petition of the women teachers in Birmingham for equal pay with men teachers has been rejected by the Birmingham Education Committee on the grounds that the rates could not possibly afford it. A reason against paying women equally with men has been advanced to the effect that women teachers are more subject to illness and nervous breakdown than men, and are more frequently on sick leave. We are not surprised to hear this. The strain of teaching is not less on a woman than a man, yet for her there is always added the additional strain of trying to make two short ends meet. This involves constant self-denial of all the little comforts and forms of recreation that make just all the difference to the health of tired brain workers. They must walk or bicycle in all weathers to save tram fares; they must not indulge in week-ends in the country after the long week in a town, perhaps a slum school. There must be no generous nourishing mid-day meals, but the cheapest that can be devised, consistently with satisfying the appetite; holidays must be carefully restricted, and medicine and tonics not indulged in till unavoidable. Moreover, evening work of any kind that offers must be undertaken, to eke out the salary which is always just insufficient to meet the needs of daily life, and the standard of that life which has to be kept up. And when the teacher does not undertake extra work in the evenings she must mend and sew, wash out vests and iron blouses to save the laundry bill, or even sometimes cook and "do" for herself in the cheap lodgings which are the best she dare allow herself. But the Birmingham rates can afford to pay men a good salary, and cannot "possibly afford" to pay the same to these educated women of the middle class who provide some of the most valuable material from which the future mothers of the nation can be drawn. C. KING.

Britain Overseas.

CAPE COLONY.

At a meeting of Members of the Cape Parliament favourable to women's suffrage, held in a committee-room of the House of Assembly on the 23rd April, members from all four provinces were present, and it was resolved to form a Votes for Women Parliamentary Committee, and a sub-committee was appointed to try and get the Government to withdraw its Electoral Reform Bill if, by the end of April, they cannot see their way to get it through this session; at present it is a bar to the discussion of Mr. Andrews' motion. A full discussion of the subject of women's suffrage would take place on the Electoral Reform Bill if it were prosecuted.

Reuter understands that the Government is equally divided, five members being favourable and five unfavourable, the opposition being also divided. The situation in England is repeated in another particular as well, some supporters being only in favour of a widows' and spinsters' vote. The Committee is prepared to work energetically in Parliament.

Review.

WOMEN UNDER THE INSURANCE ACT. By W. G. Earengay, B.A., LL.D. (Lond.) (Women's Freedom League. Pp. 31. Price 2d.)

This booklet is an outline from the suffrage point of view of the main provisions of the

Act as it affects women. So far as at all possible in the short space of 31 small pages, the description is accurate and well-balanced. Indeed, simplicity has to a certain extent had to be sacrificed to accuracy, the writer having sometimes preferred to quote the technical and consequently somewhat obscure phrases of the Act itself to the more courageous method of translating these technicalities into language of everyday life. One of the all-important points omitted in the greater number of explanations of the Act has been made clear, namely, that the conditions regulating the insurance of a married woman depend on whether her marriage takes place before or after July 15, 1912 (or such other date as the Act may come into force).

It is to be regretted that in an otherwise fair statement there has been repeated the much-quoted false criticism in which reference is made to one only of the several ordinary benefits, namely, a man gets 10s. for 4d., therefore a woman ought to get more than 7s. 6d. for 3d. It would be as reasonable, because equally illogical, to single out the disablement benefit and to argue—because a woman gets 5s. for 3d., therefore a man should, for 4d., get more than 5s.

Apart from this the writer's two main criticisms are well-founded (1) that the conditions for sickness insurance are such that far more men than women benefit (9,800,000 men as against 4,100,000 women), and consequently the national exchequer, to which women as well as men contribute, devotes a far larger sum to men than to women, and (2) that under the unemployment part of the Act a further £750,000 per annum is to be found by the State to assist unemployed men, whereas no provision at all has been made for unemployed women.

CHRISTAL MACMILLAN.

Letters to the Editor.

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

Correspondents are requested to write ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY.

GETTING THE WORKING WOMEN.

I cannot help feeling grateful to one who is in a more influential position than myself for expressing as Mrs. A. Nield Chew does in the last portion of her letter "An Effective Plan of Campaign," the opinion that Suffrage Societies are too classy. We must fight these difficulties and get at the working women, and one effective way I think this might be done would be to send speakers yearly, or half yearly wherever possible into B.W.C.A. meetings, Sisterhood, Mothers' and any similar meetings and enrol all women who would support the cause at 1d. per head and affiliate them as members from the Do-What-You-Can Sisterhood or the Poor Folk's and Mothers' meeting to our local Suffrage Society and so to the National Union. We need solid moral support even more than subscriptions, and where the spirit is true and willing, but the purse is weak, we should surely not draw the line of membership at a set subscription. Poor women will stand to a cause to give what they can in a humble meeting when they don't care to come out to a Branch and rub sides with those of a class that can leave them far behind in the matter of subscribing.

A MOTHER IN THE WORKING CLASSES.
[A good many societies in the National Union work in these ways, and very good ones they are.—Ed. C.C.]

THE ENFORCEMENT OF AFFILIATION ORDERS.

Will you kindly allow me to correct what appears to be a somewhat serious misapprehension in the review of "Whose Children are These?" in your issue of to-day?

With reference to the weekly payments fixed by the Affiliation Order the reviewer writes that it is urged in the pamphlet "that the power to make application for the duty of enforcing the order should rest upon the administrative authority (in most cases the Poor Law Guardians)." The "administrative powers" referred to on page 10 of "Whose Children are These?" are the powers appointed under Government for the administration of the law—i.e., the Magistrates' Court and its officials. This should be clear from the context "As soon as the Order has been granted it should from that time onwards be the duty of the administrative powers and not of a private individual to ensure payment. . . . It is the duty of the State to enforce its own mandates."

Under the existing law where the Guardians prosecute they are allowed to appoint a representative to receive the money from the father. The Order is made "for payment to the mother or to any person appointed to have the custody of the child under the provision of the Poor Law Amendment Act, 7 and 8 Victoria, c. 101, 1884" (Stone's Justices' Manual). The Poor Law Guardians may, however, prosecute only whilst the woman is chargeable in the workhouse, and the payment lapses when she takes her discharge.

EMILY M. NAITER.
130, Ladywood Road, Birmingham,
April 25th, 1912.

"Thinking Women Read The Standard"

IN a few weeks this phrase became a truism. Why? Order The Standard for a week, or a day, and you will see. It is because, since October 3, The Standard's daily news pages have included one headed:

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which every Thinking Woman in the land, and very many thinking men, want to see and to study every day. "WOMAN'S PLATFORM" has ended what was called the "Press Boycott" of the serious interests of thinking women—not their ribbons and ornaments, but their thoughts, aims, claims, views, hopes, deeds, and—WORK.

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES IN IRELAND.
 In view of the recent reports in your paper from the Irish Suffrage Federation it will be well for your readers to know that this Federation includes neither the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association (secretary, Mrs. Haslam), the Irish Conservative and Unionist Association, the Irish Women's Franchise League, nor the Irish Women's Suffrage League (Belfast). These four societies comprise several thousands of members, and by their propagandist work have spread the Suffrage movement all through Ireland. By common consent they preferred working in voluntary co-operation for specific purposes rather than joining any permanent federation scheme. **IRISH SUFFRAGIST.**

Other Societies.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.
 Office: 51, Blandford Street, Baker Street, W.
 Drawing-room meetings are being arranged. Orders may be sent to the office for the splendid pamphlet Mr. Clayton has written for our Society, price 1d.; also leaflets at 12 a 1d.
 There is to be a meeting of the Liverpool branch at Harman Hall, on Monday, May 6th, at 8. Miss Abadam will speak, and Miss Fitzsimons will take the chair.
WOMEN'S TAX RESISTANCE LEAGUE.
 On Monday, April 20th, two sales were held at Hawking's Auction Rooms, Lisson Grove. A gold watch was sold to recover for non-payment of Inhabited House Duty by Miss Francis Ede and Dr. Amy Sheppard as joint

occupiers of their house in Upper Berkeley Street. Dr. Sheppard made a protest in the room, after which there was a procession to Hyde Park, where a meeting was held addressed by Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mrs. Juson Kerr, and Mr. J. Simpson, of the Men's League.
 At Frinton-on-Sea, on the same day, goods were sold which had been seized from Miss Rose, and a public meeting of protest was held, addressed by Mrs. Arthur Sykes, and Mrs. Last (of Clacton-on-Sea), and Mrs. Kineton Parkes.
 On Tuesday a gold watch and chain was sold at Brighton, belonging to Miss Turner, and a protest made on her behalf in the auction room. A procession marched along the sea front, and a protest meeting was held, presided over by Mrs. Louis Fagan and addressed by Mrs. Kineton Parkes and Miss Allen.
 On Friday a joint sale at Battersea was held, when Mrs. Thomas and Miss Sutcliffe had household silver sold, and the auctioneer offered Mrs. Kineton Parkes his rostrum for half-an-hour. Subsequently, there was a procession and open-air meeting. Mr. Duvall presided, and speeches were made by Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Mrs. Juson Kerr.

THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.
 The next "At Home" of the Actresses' Franchise League will be held in the Grand Hall of the Criterion Restaurant, on Friday, May 3rd, at 3 p.m. Madame Larkoom will be the hostess, and Miss May Whitty will take the chair. Speakers, Miss Abadam, the Hon. Mrs. Henley, Mr. Charles Lazenby and Dr. Ethel Smyth.
 Mr. Ramsay Macdonald has consented to receive a deputation of the Actresses' Franchise League and other professional and self-supporting women, in order that they may put before him their views with regard to the Woman's Suffrage question at the present time.

Forthcoming Meetings.

ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION.
 (The meetings are given only a fortnight in advance.)

- MAY 2
 Leamington—Birch's Music Rooms, Parade—Warwick and Leamington Franchise Club 3.0
 Swansea—Mrs. Lewis's drawing-room meeting—Miss Helen Fraser 3.0
 Swansea—Minor Albert Hall—Lecture—Miss Helen Fraser, Miss Dillwy (chair) Evening 7.30
 Wallsend—Co-operative Hall—Mrs. Philip Snowden 7.30
 Leighton Buzzard—Assembly Room—The Lady Frances Balfour, Dr. Pearson (chair) 8.0
 Coventry—Priory Row Assembly Room 8.30
- MAY 3
 Stockton-on-Tees—Borough Hall—Mrs. Philip Snowden, Miss Lucas 8.0
 Newcastle-on-Tyne—27, Ridley Place—White Elephant tea and sale 4.30
 Newbridge—Mrs. Atkinson's "At Home"—Miss Noel Wright 3.30
 Wolverhampton—Mrs. F. D. Taylor's "At Home"—Miss Noel Wright 7.0
 Brighton—Mrs. Schofield's drawing-room meeting—Mrs. Timpany, B.A. 4.0
- MAY 4
 Horsham—Town Hall—Members' meeting—Mrs. Kineton Parkes on "Tax Resistance" 3.15
- MAY 6
 Nottingham—Office, 54, Long Row—Whist drive, admission 6d. 7.30
 Letchworth—Brighton—Speakers' Class—Mrs. Racham 3.0
 Letchworth—Odsey Schoolroom—Mrs. Racham 7.0
 Bristol—Lilla, Whiteladies' Road—"At Home"—Miss Helen Fraser 7.45
 Bristol—Mrs. Pease's drawing-room meeting—Miss Helen Fraser, Rev. Canon Talbot, D.D. (chair) 3.15
- Birmingham—23, George Road, Edgbaston—Mrs. Hugh's meeting for Hospital Nurses—Miss Matters 8.0
 Knebworth—Mission Room—Miss A. Villiers, Miss Plowden (chair) 3.30
 Croydon—The Office, The Arcade, High Street—"The Protection of the Girl"—Mrs. Duncan Harris 3.30
 Wadebridge—Town Hall—Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Miss Norma Smith, Mrs. J. M. Macmillan (chair) 8.0
- MAY 7
 Huddersfield—50, West Parade—Miss Harrop's drawing-room meeting—Miss Clarkson, Miss Sisson (chair) 3.30
 Birkenhead—Y.M.C.A. Hall—Miss Abadam, Miss Dora Mason, M.A., Councillor T. Raffles-Bulley, J.P. (chair) 8.0
 Newcastle-on-Tyne—27, Ridley Place—Suffrage choir practice conducted by Mrs. Bellas Simpson 8.0
 Brookham Green—Schoolroom—Mrs. Duncan Harris, Miss N. O'Shea, Mrs. Auerbach (chair) 8.0
 Bristol—Waggon Works—Open-air meeting—Miss Helen Fraser dinner hour 8.0
 Bristol—The Misses Tanner's drawing-room meeting—Miss Helen Fraser 8.0
 Cambridge—20, Green Street—"At Home"—"Votes and Wages" 8.0
 Brighton—East Brighton Unionist Club, Bristol Road—Miss Frances Sterling 8.15
- MAY 8
 New Milton—Pagoda Tea Rooms—Mrs. Bowe (Bournemouth) 4.30
 Newcastle-on-Tyne—27, Ridley Place—Shop assistants' meeting 8.0
 East Bristol—Moordale—Miss Helen Fraser Evening 8.0
 Bishopsworth—School room—Miss Helen Fraser 8.0
 Seaford—Assembly Hall, Brockenhurst School—Miss Frances Sterling, Muriel, Countess de la Warr (chair) 9.0
- MAY 9
 Staple Hill—Council School Hall—Miss Helen Fraser 8.0
 Coventry—Omn Exchange—Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A., G. Maxwell, Esq. (chair) 8.0

- Chorley—Workers' Educational Association College—Miss Dora Mason, M.A. 7.30
 Uckfield—Town Hall—Miss Frances Sterling, Sir J. Cockburn, K.O.M.G., The Countess Brassey (chair) 8.15
 Dunstable—Picture Palace—Miss Margaret Ashton, M.A. 8.0
 Luton—Town Hall—Miss Margaret Ashton, M.A., Mr. Milner Gray (chair) 8.0
- MAY 10
 Newcastle-on-Tyne—27, Ridley Place—White Elephant Sale 4.30
 Clifton—Victoria Rooms—Miss Helen Fraser 8.0
 Birmingham—10, Easy Row—Franchise Club 5.30
 Darlington—Temperance Institute—Annual meeting 7.30
 Gateshead—Bewick Hall—"Alice in Wonderland"—Address by Miss M. A. Temperley, M.A., Miss Foley (chair) 7.30
 Birkenhead—Mrs. B. Stanley Clarke's drawing-room meeting—Miss Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Stanger (chair) 8.0
- MAY 11
 Gateshead—P. M. Schoolroom, Ely St.—Jumble Sale 2.30
- MAY 13
 Birmingham—Whitford, Bromsgrove—Miss Green's meeting for members—Miss Noel Wright 8.0
 Nottingham—Office, 54, Long Row—"At Home"—"A Woman's Work"—Miss Hastie 7.30
- MAY 14
 Newcastle-on-Tyne—27, Ridley Place—Suffrage choir practice, conducted by Mrs. Bellas Simpson 8.0
 East Bristol—outside boot factory—open-air meeting—Miss Helen Fraser dinner hour 8.0



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GENERAL.

- MAY 15
 Hove—Town Hall—"At Home"—"Women's Work in Poor Law Administration"—Mrs. Rackham 8.0
 Bristol—Mrs. Somington's drawing-room meeting—Miss Helen Fraser 3.0
 Bristol—Bethesda Schoolroom—Miss Helen Fraser, Rev. Canon Talbot, D.D. (chair) 8.0
 New Milton—Pagoda tea rooms—"Some Economic Aspects of Women's Enfranchisement"—Mrs. Heitland 4.30
- LONDON.
 MAY 2
 Southwark—Corner of Wansoy Street and Walworth Road—Open-air meeting—Miss H. D. Cooke, Miss Glynn 8.0
 MAY 3
 Islington—Miss Bisset Smith's drawing-room meeting—Mrs. G. F. Abbott 8.0
 Southwark—corner of New Street and Kennington Park Road—open-air meeting—Miss Helen Ward, Miss Goddard 8.0
 MAY 4
 Notwood—Central Hill Hall—Women only—Miss Abadam 3.0
 Muswell Hill—The Exchange—Open-air meeting—Mr. Malcolm Mitchell Evening 8.0
 MAY 6
 Clapham Road—Upper Schoolroom, Claylands Road—"Sons of Temperance"—Mrs. Rogers 8.15
 Southwark—corner of Seales Road and New Kent Road—open-air meeting—Miss H. D. Cooke, Mrs. Merivale Mayer 8.0
- MAY 7
 S. Kensington—35, Eardley Crescent, S.V.—Lecture, "Travels in the Gold Coast Colony"—Mrs. Mary Gaunt, tickets 2s. 3.0
 Blackheath—Blackheath Chambers—Annual meeting, 7.30. Social evening 8.0
 Kensington—Empress Rooms, Royal Palace Hotel—The Lady Frances Balfour, Miss C. D. Corbett, B.A., Miss M. Robertson, B.A., Miss Helen Ward (chair) 3.30
 North Paddington—11, Landerdale Parade, Maida Vale—Social—Speaker, Mrs. Rogers 8.15
- MAY 8
 Ealing—Buel's Cafe Restaurant—Mrs. C. J. Hamilton, Professor de Sumichrast 3.15
 Southwark—corner of Falmouth Road and New Kent Road—Miss Ruth Young, Miss D. Brown 8.0
- MAY 9
 Walworth—Mrs. J. Osborn's drawing-room meeting 5.0
 MAY 10
 New Cross—Corner of Perys Road, New Cross Gate—Open-air meeting—Mrs. Rogers, Miss D. Brown 8.0
 Ealing—W.L.A.—Miss Helen Ward 3.50
 Southwark—Corner of Surrey Square and Old Kent Road—Open-air meeting—Miss W. G. Rinder 8.0
- MAY 13
 Southwark—24, Newington Causeway—Miss Rinder 8.30
 Westhill—Crownstone Gymnasium, Northview Drive—The Lady Frances Balfour, T. A. Rose Esq. (chair) 3.30
- MAY 14
 Bow—Church Institute, Newly Place, Poplar—Women's Diocesan Association—Debate—Miss Frances Sterling v. Mrs. Harold Norris 8.30
 Southwark—Corner of Liverpool Street and Walworth Road—Open-air meeting—Miss Goddard 8.0
 Kensington—Empress Rooms, Royal Palace Hotel—The Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Emily Hill, P.L.S., Miss E. Palliser (chair) 8.30
- MAY 2
 Edinburgh—Bath Street Hall—Miss Alice Low, Miss Rosaline Masson, Miss Lisa Gordon (chair) 8.0

- MAY 3
 Ayr—Y.M.C.A. rooms—members' meeting 4.50
 Aberdeen—Castlegate—Open-air meeting—Miss Alice Crompton, M.A., Miss Emily Foggo 8.0
 Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"Infant Mortality"—Dr. Alice Hutcheson 4.30
- MAY 8
 Kirkcaldy—Beveridge Hall—Miss Alice Low 8.0
- MAY 9
 Dalkeith—Glencairn—Mrs. Somerville's drawing-room meeting—Miss Alice Low 3.15
- MAY 10
 Alloa—Public Hall—Dr. Elsie Inglis 8.0
- IRELAND.
 MAY 9
 Dublin—33, Molesworth Street—Irish W.S. and Local Government Association—Committee meeting 11.30
- MEETINGS ADDRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE UNION.
 MAY 5
 Birmingham—Hospital Street Men's Adult School—Mrs. Ring 7.30
- MAY 8
 Bristol—Women's Guild, Gouther Street—Miss Helen Fraser 3.0
- MAY 13
 Bristol—Moordale—meeting of teachers—Miss Helen Fraser 4.45

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Printed by ODHAMS LIMITED, 93-4, Long Acre, London, W.C., for the Proprietors, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., and Published at 2, Robert Street,
Adelphi, W.C. London; George Vickers, Manchester; John Heywood; Abel Heywood and Son; W. H. Smith and Son, Newcastle-on-Tyne; W. H. Smith and Son,
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