

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe

The Common Cause.

The Organ of the Women's Movement for Reform.

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ONE PENNY.

The News of the Week.

Liberal Women.

Two great gatherings of Liberal women have been held in the past week. The Women's Liberal Federation is considerably in advance of the Women's Liberal Association, which still, though "advocating" Women's Suffrage, will not make it a test question. The Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Women's Liberal Federations had its annual conference at Rochdale, and expressed satisfaction at the division on the Second Reading of Mr. Shackleton's Women's Occupiers' Bill. It was, however, a matter of keen regret to Liberal Women that in spite of deputations and resolutions to the Prime Minister he had not as yet agreed to provide facilities for the passing of the Bill through its remaining stages in the House of Commons. They still looked to Liberal men in the House of Commons and out of it to do justice to the claims of women to Parliamentary enfranchisement.

A resolution was passed urging the Government to grant facilities for effectively dealing with the Bill as amended, and it was further decided to send a personal letter to Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Winston Churchill, regretting that they could not see their way to support the Bill now before the country.

Limited Support.

It must have come as a shock to very many Suffragists to hear that the support given by the People's Suffrage Federation to the Conciliation Bill was "limited to the Second Reading." The Bill was only introduced in its

existing form as a practicable measure, and to support the Second Reading only, and then withdraw, seems to us mere trifling. We do not want "academic" support for a compromise. We only agree to a compromise on condition that everyone shall accept it as a compromise and work loyally for it.



Photo., Madame Lallie Charles.

MRS. ALFRED C. OSLER

(President Birmingham Women's Suffrage Society.)

Town and Trades Councils.

We recorded lately the action of Glasgow, Dublin, and North Berwick Town Councils in passing resolutions favourable to the Conciliation Bill. Hawick and Fraserburgh have followed suit, and the Trades Councils of Glasgow and Dundee have petitioned in immense majorities. It should be recognised by Town Councils that this, being a non-party Bill, is on a different footing from other political matters, and, moreover, Town Councils are in part elected by women, and these are the very women who would vote under this Bill.

Women's Lodging-Houses.

There was a curious paragraph in the London Letter of the "Manchester Guardian" of October 19th, which

seemed to suggest limitations for women's lodging-houses of a sort we should regard as disastrous to any widely beneficent scheme. The paragraph runs:—"One has only to observe that the whole object of women's lodging-houses is to provide a shelter from complexities in order to understand how fundamental are the considerations involved. For a men's lodging-house the only concern is to provide a place where men can sleep, and certain checks on their superficial behaviour. For women's lodging-houses people will have to take into account *keeping-out as well as admission*, and superintendents of them must take more than a superficial care. This necessary regard for all sorts of complexities, this deliberate guarding, affects most curiously the hostels for women—clerks, typists, teachers, and so on—which we have in London. The problems in the management of them are not so marked as they would be in lodging-houses, but they have a totally different atmosphere from similar hostels for men. There is something forced in their character."

We regard it as essential for the humane treatment of poor women that there shall also be cheap places provided where "the only concern is to provide a place where women can sleep, and certain checks on their superficial behaviour." It is well that there should be homes where "deliberate guarding" is provided, but we feel most strongly the inhumanity and even the wickedness and danger of saying that certain classes of women shall have no decent shelter, even though they behave decently. If we drive these women to shameful shelters, the shame is ours. At Ashton House, as long as the women do not make themselves an offence to other inmates, there is no restriction.

A Distinguished Suffragist.

It is good news that Lord Selborne will shortly be taking his seat in the House of Lords, and we may hope that his enlightened counsels may do something to counteract the reactionary views of Lord Cromer and Lord Curzon. Lady Selborne has succeeded Lady Knightley as President of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, and we hear that Lord Selborne is as strong a Suffragist as his wife.

End of the Chain-trade Dispute.

Last Wednesday it was announced at a public meeting at Halesowen that the lock-out in the chain trade was at an end, the manufacturers having agreed to employ only middlemen signing the "white list" of fair pay. Until the trade has readjusted itself, the women will still need help, but the worst is over. We congratulate Miss MacArthur and those who have worked with her most heartily. There never has been a trade dispute which has commanded more universal sympathy for the workers, and the fact that so many of the employers were anxious for fair wages, which they were powerless to give without ruining themselves, shows how necessary is protective legislation in our wholly artificial and highly complex industrial conditions.

The Gentle Art of Canvassing.

The "Morning Post" and "Times" have been very instructive lately on how the dutiful wife should conduct the art of canvassing—for her husband, of course! The anti-Suffragists seem to have profited by the lessons, for they have certainly developed considerable "slimness" in canvassing, as shown in the form of a question naively published last week by the "Times." It runs:—"Do you want the Parliamentary Franchise to remain in the hands of men, or (note the useful little conjunction!) do you want to give the Parliamentary vote to women?" It seems that one might be able to get nearly one hundred per cent to say "aye" to the first question. We are prepared to sign that ourselves.

Experience versus Prophecy.

Dr. John Massie, endeavouring to discredit any results from Mrs. Howe's last piece of recorded work, remarks that a canvass in the Suffrage States "tends to be seriously affected by the fact that the women already possess Governmental power." So we should imagine. It

is so "seriously affected" as to show an enormous weight of opinion in favour of a tried experiment as against the absurd prophecies of those who have no experience.

A Woman Candidate in Bristol.

We are very glad to report that Miss Helen Sturge has been adopted by the Liberals of St. Augustine's Ward, Bristol, as a candidate for the Town Council. St. Augustine's Ward stands to make history, for this is the first time that a woman has been adopted for the Town Council in Bristol. Miss Sturge is a strong Suffragist, and a member of the committee of the Bristol branch of the N.U. She is warmly supported by members of the Suffrage Society and of the Anti-Suffrage Society, both societies being represented on the Local Government Society.

Necessity the Mother of Life.

There is a curious and instructive passage in "Truth" of October 12th. In an article pleading for the better training of women, the writer says:—"After all, there are very few people who can say definitely that their incomes are absolutely safe to continue for a given number of years, and that their daughters, even during their father's lifetime, let alone after his death, will be secured from any necessity to earn their own living."

Oh, blessed necessity to earn their own living! If by that necessity alone women can emerge from the enervating and stultifying atmosphere of being "kept"—useless, inefficient, and not worth even their keep—because their fathers, forsooth, can afford to keep them so.

More Women Inspectors Wanted.

In a report issued by Dr. Cameron, the Leeds Medical Officer of Health, he attributes the improvement in the death-rates of Birmingham and Sheffield as compared with the improvement of Leeds, to the greater amount of energy being put into the personal house visitation by the women inspectors than it is possible for Leeds, with its limited staff, to expect. The Leeds women inspectors consist of six, originally recommended more than ten years ago by the committee who considered the matter, with the occasional help of two probationers. Since that time the new work of the inspection of midwives has been thrown upon this small staff, and occupies a great deal of its time. "It is not merely the infant mortality," he proceeds, "that is benefited by the visit of our women inspectors. A higher standard of cleanliness is being gradually obtained in the district that they visit, which, although far from all that could be hoped for, is probably a distinct factor in improving the health of the town."

"I find that in Sheffield, instead of the eight women who are assisting us in this way, they have fifteen similarly qualified, and to this I am to a great extent inclined to attribute the fact that Sheffield has during the past twelve months outstripped us in the race for a low death-rate. Sheffield is very nearly the same size as Leeds, although the estimated population even on its increased area is 12,000 below that with which the Registrar-General credits us, but they have practically double the number of women inspectors. This alteration has been made within the last two or three years. Birmingham is a town considerably larger than Leeds, but they have in addition to fifteen health visitors, one superintendent of health visitors, one woman doctor who visits infants, as well as three other women inspectors specially charged with the care of workshops, the superintendence of midwives, and the dealing with tuberculous patients. In all, they have twenty women on their staff, against our eight."

Our Portrait.

This week we are glad to publish the portrait of Mrs. A. C. Osler, the honoured president of the Birmingham Society. Mrs. Osler's work for women and girls led her to recognise the paramount importance of securing the enfranchisement of women, and when she found the Liberal Party slack in acting up to its principles she was too good a Liberal to remain within. Mrs. Osler has been a frequent and valued contributor to this paper.

Beginners' Page.

The Organ of the National Union.

To new readers we introduce this paper as being the organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, whose president is Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. This Union asks for the Parliamentary vote to be given to women on the same terms as it is or may be given to men.

The Conciliation Bill.

This is not the proper name for the Bill which is before Parliament, but it is a name that has "caught on," because it is easy to remember. This Bill does not give women all they ask for at once, but it gives them something, and they think that better than nothing. It would give women householders the vote, and it would also give the vote to women occupying business premises of a yearly rental of £10.

Who Would Have the Vote?

The women who would have the vote would be mostly widows and spinsters, because it is more usual for a house to be taken in the name of a man than in that of his wife. But there is nothing in this Bill to prevent a married woman, if she were a householder or an occupier, from having the vote. Soldiers and sailors could feel satisfied, when they were away serving their country, that their wives would have a vote to use in the interests of the service and of the families of men risking their lives for their country.

Does Women's Suffrage Mean Adult Suffrage?

The anti-Suffragists say it does. We say this is not true, and that Adult Suffrage need not, and will not, come until the electors think that it ought to come. Quite a large number of men and women who want some women to have the vote do not at all want all men and women to have the vote, and it is ridiculous to say that Adult Suffrage must follow, although some people hope it will. These people will have to convert the country to their way of thinking, just as the women Suffragists have done, and then, and not till then, they will get it. The majority of members of the present Parliament wish women to have the vote, and have said so in public, and have voted for it. Considering that for many years past there has been a majority in the House, and that women are weary of waiting, we say that the Conciliation Bill should now be passed.

What We Want Our Friends to Do.

We want our friends to remember that you never get anything done in this world by sitting in an arm-chair and wishing it done. A great many people say: "I don't want converting. I have always been a Suffragist. Why should I join a society?" You should join a society, because even if you are very unimportant, you are a person; because if you are a man you are or may be a voter, and you can help to explode the idea that this is a war of women and men; because if you are a woman you can help to break down the excuse that "women do not want the vote."

Our Union believes in peaceful education, and you can educate the people with whom you come in contact, get them to come to meetings and hear both sides, get them to read this paper, so that they may not read only what our enemies have to say about us. Don't let your party forget the women, and when candidates are adopted make support of Women's Suffrage a condition. If all Suffragists would fight with lawful and peaceful weapons there would be no need and no temptation to use others. We want no silent Suffragists!

Which?

A Parliamentary candidate tells us how he once went canvassing with his agent. As they went along the street the agent pointed out to him the houses at which he must call, because a voter lived there. The houses where no voter lived he passed by. At one door the agent said "Yes, there is a vote here!" and they entered. The voter was a young man of twenty-one, with the lodger vote. The candidate tried to find out his views on education, the feeding of school children, etc., etc., but the young man only gaped at him, and seemed to have nothing to say at all. And at last he left in despair, and was just about to turn into the next door when the agent

said: "No; you don't call there. There is no vote there." Now this was a little shop, and kept by a widow with five children. But the State does not recognise that she has any right to be consulted about education or the feeding of school children. Now, which do you think really knows most about these things? She or the young man next door? Which?

That candidate tells us that from that day forward he has been a firm advocate of Women's Suffrage, because he realises that the woman's life and that of her children are closely touched by the great political problems discussed in Parliament, and that she might, by her special knowledge and experience, help very much in the solution of these problems. Is not this, then, the "Common Cause" which seeks to give the State the benefit of the hearts and brains of its women, as well as the hearts and brains of its men? Should not the children gain?

"Never."

Hear what Mr. LLOYD GEORGE said two years ago:—"My belief is that we shall never get really good effective measures for housing, temperance, and other social reforms until we call in the millions of women in the land to co-operate in such legislation."

"Never!" That is pretty strong, isn't it? What folly, then, to discuss social reform at all until the women are put into a position to give effective help. Should not a Women's Suffrage Bill take precedence of all other legislation, since it is bound to take precedence of all social reform? Such a Bill is before the House of Commons now.

Let all who care for social reform determine that this Bill shall become law before Christmas. Then the reinforced army can press forward in its great war against destitution and social disease—men and women together fighting for the common cause of humanity.

What Will Women Do With the Vote

This is a question which we are very often asked, and we should not like to answer it very positively, because nobody can say what all women will do. We can only suppose that if home is a woman's natural sphere she will use her vote just as she uses her time, her money, and her strength, for the home.

Where women do vote—in Australia and New Zealand—we hear that nothing dreadful has happened, no quarrelling, no "unsexing," no neglect of the home. There has not been any great revolution either, or any sudden, dangerous change. But women show special interest in temperance, morality, the protection of girls, education, and fair wages. They show no tendency to vote "against men," but there is no doubt that by having the vote they are able to secure more attention and better understanding from politicians.

Is This the Way to Help the World?

At Plymouth last week a servant girl was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour on a charge of "abandoning her illegitimate child." What really happened was that she left it with a woman to whom she promised to pay 5s. a week. She secured work through a labour exchange, but having to refund her fare, and then having burnt her arm so badly that she could not work, she fell in arrears with her payments, and the woman sent the child to the workhouse. For these "crimes" this girl, of whom the Chief Constable was able to say she had been an orphan for years, and who had done her best to meet her overwhelming responsibilities, was condemned to prison and hard labour, although the Salvation Army offered to care for her and her child. We wish all women to think very seriously on these matters, for they are not right.

Why We Must Speak Out.

You will find some very terrible things spoken of in this number. If the world were perfectly happy, and if women and children were safe, there would be none of these terrible things to trouble about, and women would not need the vote. It is because there is all this dreadful suffering that it is our duty to face it and do all we can to prevent it.

This Week's Motto.

"There is no living in love without pain."

Thomas à Kempis.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday.

LONDON AGENT.—Communications referring to advertisements may now be addressed to our London agent, Mrs. H. A. Evans, 10, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C. Friends in London desirous of helping to get advertisements will kindly communicate with her.

THE PAPER WILL BE POSTED to any address in England or abroad for the following prepaid payments:—

3 MONTHS	...	1 9
6 MONTHS	...	3 3
12 MONTHS	...	6 6

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, accompanied by a stamped envelope addressed if it is desired that they should be returned. The Editor accepts no responsibility, however, for matter which is offered unsolicited.

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 possible day, 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, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, giving the name and address of the newsagent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

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Public Opinion.

(The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has in 26 years dealt with 27,245 cases of outrage.)

A correspondent raises a point which we are most anxious to make plain to our readers and to those who, while admitting the general principle of justice in the women's claim to the vote, do not see that there is any urgency in putting the principle into practice. If it can be shown that girls and women suffer great wrongs under our present system, and that our laws afford them very inadequate protection from the individuals who inflict those wrongs; and if we grant, as surely we must, human nature being what it is, that unrepresented interests are, in a democratic country, certain to go to the wall, we can see that the unprotected position of our girls and women is a direct consequence of their unrepresented state, and that, although a "raging, tearing propaganda," conducted with immense waste and sacrifice, may, after years, alter any particular law against which it is directed, there is no security, and the unrepresented body—in this case the whole of the womanhood of the country—will always be at a tremendous disadvantage as compared with the privileged, represented body—the men of the country.

Now, the actions of individuals are determined by (1) their desires, controlled or not by their own sense of right and wrong; (2) public opinion; and (3) law. A man will do what he desires to do, unless his desire conflicts with

his own conscience, or the consciences of others or the fear of legal penalties. A considerable number of men desire that which will cause fearful suffering and injury to innocent little children. What does our civilisation do to encourage in these men a conscience to check such desires; to create a public opinion likely to further check them; and lastly, to make laws which shall give a final and effective sanction to the suppression of such desires?

A sentence in the letter of our correspondent gives us the opportunity of making clear that we hold those who have the power responsible for the condition of things as they are now. She says it is unfair "to visit the sins of a few degenerates and vicious people upon the entire population." But it is not any given speaker who "visits the sins" upon innocent and guilty alike. It is life itself that does so. Unfortunately, the facts and statistics prove that the degenerate and vicious are not few, and that the amount of injury and wickedness they spread cannot even be measured by any available statistics. And it is the duty of the State to protect the weak and to safeguard the future of the race. How does it perform this function? Can this function ever be adequately performed until the State has within its innermost Councils due representation of the mother's point of view?

It must be remembered that Government has three great functions—legislative, administrative, and executive—to make laws, to administer them, and to conduct public affairs. In all three departments it is clear that those who are not represented will be apt to be overlooked. In making laws, men in council, responsible to men only, are unable to keep the women's point of view in mind with the same vividness as they keep their own. Every debate shows this. A few exceptional men—men like John Stuart Mill, the late James Stansfeld, Mr. Philip Snowden—seem able to perform the feat, but it is no injustice to men in general to say that such men are exceptional. A council of women would probably be incapable of legislating justly for men. A large number of very able and remarkable men are totally incapable of legislating justly for women. In making laws like our late C.D. Acts, and like our present laws relating to infanticide and destitution (to name only a few), they do not succeed in greatly diminishing the evils they aim at, and they do inflict gross and grievous injustice and harm on women and children.

Further, in the administration of the law, the overlooking of the woman's point of view leads not only to grave miscarriage of justice, but to actual spread of moral infection. Speaker after speaker at Lincoln complained bitterly that the conditions under which evidence was taken made it almost impossible in most cases to get evidence; that cruel and unnecessary suffering was added by the law to the already intolerable outrage which the child had endured; that the delays and the conditions in the courts and the attempted exclusion of women from courts where such cases are being tried were an iniquity; and last and most serious indictment of all, that judges and magistrates being all men, and having no public opinion to influence them except the opinion of men, were exceedingly lax in their administration of the law.

Mrs. Bramwell Booth stated that if some judges required "evidence as exacting, as formal, and as final in other criminal cases coming before them as they do in these, ninety per cent. of the criminals brought into their courts would walk out scot free." But, in addition to that, no one who reads such reports as filter through to the papers, and certainly no one who studies these cases at first hand, but must be amazed at the difference between the maximum sentences provided by law and the actual sentences recorded when guilt has been proved. We read of a magistrate "dealing leniently" with a man because he had been "of good behaviour (with this exception) since he had been bound over a year ago," and of giving an inhuman brute "another chance." Another chance of what? Of doing the same thing? And what other chance was there for his unhappy child?

We find that, taken in large numbers, men and women do feel rather differently upon these matters. A certain number of men are hideously cruel in the gratification of their passions at the expense of women and children;

and some men and women make their profit out of these passions; a few men are acutely aware of this, and are deeply stirred to indignation; the great mass of men are indifferent, even when they know of it. They shrug their shoulders and say: "Magistrates are only human"; "Women must not be vindictive"; "public opinion will not stand a stricter administration." Most women, on the other hand, when they know, are not indifferent; they are deeply stirred, and they are determined to change this "public opinion." The fact is that women's opinion until lately has been only "private opinion," and we see how much that is worth! Women are not "vindictive." A mob of ignorant women now and then are found nearly to tear in pieces a man so vile as to outrage a child; that is their dumb, helpless fury, and who shall wonder at it? But if women had legitimate means of expressing their point of view it would not be found to be vindictive; they do not want to punish the man, but to save the child. It is our complaint not that "magistrates are only human," but that "magistrates are only men."

So we want the laws altered; we want their administration altered; we want public opinion altered. Who shall say in what subtle ways the inferior status of women before the law of the land affects the man's estimate of a woman's value? "Only a woman!" A child? Yes, but "only a girl-child!" Among the poorer classes, at least, a woman is less well fed than a man, a girl less well trained than a boy. A man is tried by his peers; a woman is tried by men only. Affiliation orders are brought in courts crowded with men and boys, from which all women are excluded. We attempt to protect our men in the streets, but who protects the women? A man may do a woman the greatest wrong possible, and deprive her, by his sin, of all hope of motherhood. Yet he may go scot free as far as the law is concerned. Women are cheap in England to-day, and in so politically minded a country the continued exclusion of women from direct influence on politics has a far-reaching effect and significance.

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe.

In the whole English-speaking world, for longer than any of us can remember, the beloved name of Mrs. Julia Ward Howe has been a household word among all who work and hope for the full citizenship of women. And now after ninety-one years of a full, active, vigorous, happy life, she has gone; "full of cares, full of years, of neither weary, but full of Hope and of Heaven." She was a standard-bearer in the army who work for the common cause of womanhood; and never was there a braver or a more worthy one. Some of us can remember her visits to England in the 'seventies, and can recall her gracious, dignified, and attractive personality, so exactly the opposite of the lurid picture of the "woman's rights woman" which existed in the imagination of the "antis" of that time. The words "all is gracious, great, and queenly" might have been written for her.

As years increased upon her nothing was more conspicuously evident than that she would never grow old. Her friends delighted to say of her that "she was ninety years young," and this exactly describes her. She remained all through her ninety-one years receptive to new thoughts and new ideas. She retained the hopeful optimism of youth; she was never for a single moment doubtful of the issue of the struggle between right and wrong.

"Never doubted clouds would break,
Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph,
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,
Sleep to wake."

Her speaking was like herself, full of spiritual power—an appeal to what was highest in her hearers, never the least trace of an appeal to the mean and selfish. This is what made Mr. W. D. Howells say of her after hearing her speak: "It gave me for the first time an idea

of what women might do in that sort of thing if they entered public life."

It is characteristic of her continued vitality to the very end of her long life that on the same day, Tuesday, October 18th, on which the "Times" published an obituary notice of her, there also appeared a letter from her detailing the means taken by the New England Woman Suffrage Association (of which she was President) to ascertain in the four States of the United States where women have equal Suffrage with men, whether in the opinion of the general public in these States Women's Suffrage had had good or bad results. It is almost needless to say that by an overwhelming majority the answers received were favourable to Women's Suffrage. This last message from our beloved and trusted leader ought to be reprinted and used by all the Suffrage Societies both in this country and in America.

MILLCENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe was born on May 27th, 1819. She died on October 17th, 1910. Born amidst the culture and refinement of a New England home, she received an unusually good education, and began very early in life to write on philosophical and social questions; she also wrote a considerable amount of verse, and one of her poems, "The Battle-hymn of the Republic," became the national song of the North in the great war. It is interesting to note the aspect of war which appealed to this great-hearted woman, and we print the verses, feeling sure that to many Suffragists the words will seem as applicable to the liberation of women as to the liberation of the black man. When in 1909 Mrs. Howe received the honorary degree of Litt. D., a member of the University Board declared this poem had done more to "stir the masses, awaken the spirit of self-sacrifice, and secure enlistments than any other event of the Civil War."

Her temperament was of the kind that must always strive for betterment, and in 1840 she formed one of the experimenters who sought at Brook Farm to live the simple laborious life. She married in 1843 a man of like aspirations, and she worked with him for the enfranchisement of the slave; it was this work of liberation which made her realise the importance of the enfranchisement of women from a slavery even more widespread and injurious. She herself in 1885 confessed that twenty years before "no one could be more opposed to Women's Suffrage than I"; but she had a heart and mind ever open, and she was "converted" by hearing Lucy Stone, Henry B. Blackwell, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Anti-Suffragists long ago, as now, were always ready to assert that Suffragists had renounced their belief, and it was said of Mrs. Howe and Mrs. Alcott that they had "gone back" on enfranchisement. This they indignantly repudiated, Mrs. Alcott calling it "the most vital question of the age."

In 1870 Mrs. Howe was made President of the Massachusetts Women's Suffrage Association and one of the co-editors of the "Women's Journal"; the year before she had become President of the New England Association. In 1908 she answered in the columns of the "Times" Mrs. Humphry Ward's misleading statements concerning the Suffrage in America, with a vigour, accuracy, and courtesy deserving of all praise.

Dr. Howe died in 1876. Their married life was blessed with many descendants, and in all his work, for freedom, for prison reform, for the succour of the deaf and dumb (Laura Bridgeman, the deaf, dumb, and blind prodigy, was his pupil), his wife was his ardent and radiant helpmate.

The vigour of her old age is shown by the fact that the issue of the "Times" recording her death also contained a letter embodying the results of an inquiry she had just made. These results have been sent us by Miss Blackwell, and are printed elsewhere.

Those who heard her are eloquent of her noble and moving speech. She said of the Suffrage: "I do not say it is our right. I say it is right—God's right and the world's."

When Mrs. Howe was last week brought upon the platform in a wheel-chair to receive her degree of Doctor of Humanities at Smith College the whole audience rose. Dr. Burton, in conferring the degree, referred to her as "poet and patriot, lover of letters and learning, advocate for over half a century, in print and in living speech, of great causes of human liberty; sincere friend of all that makes for the elevation and enrichment of womanhood, to whom in her serene, gracious, and venerated age we offer felicitation and pay grateful homage." There was a tremendous burst of applause, and then the entire audience, numbering about 3,000, burst into singing the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

"The Battle-Hymn of the Republic."

By Julia Ward Howe.

(1)

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightnings of His terrible, swift sword;

His Truth is marching on!

Chorus.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His Truth is marching on.

(2)

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps;
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;

His day is marching on.

Chorus (as before).

(3)

I have read a fiery Gospel writ in burnished rows of steel;
"As ye deal with my contemners, so with you my grace shall deal;
Let the Hero born of woman crush the serpent with his heel";

Since God is marching on!
Chorus (as before).

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 EDITH DIMOCK. *President:* MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. *Hon. Treasurer:* MISS BERTHA MASON (Pro Tem.).
MISS BERTHA MASON (Parliamentary).
Telegrams: "Voiceless, London." *Secretary:* MISS T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A. *Telephone:* 1900 Victoria.
Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Executive Committee.

The thing upon which everybody must concentrate their energies during the next fortnight is "Suffrage week." Somehow we must make the Government understand the driving force there is behind the Conciliation Bill.

The arrangements, so far, are as follows, but further meetings will probably be added to them. It will be noticed that three of the meetings are to take place outside the prescribed week, but their conveners have asked for them to be included in the demonstrations, because they have been unable to arrange for them to take place during the week itself.

(4)
He has sounded forth the Trumpet that shall never call retreat;

He is sifting out the hearts of men before His Judgment Seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet!

Our God is marching on!
Chorus (as before).

(5)

In the beauty of the lilies, He was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,

While God is marching on!
Chorus (as before).

(6)

He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave;
He is wisdom to the mighty, He is succour to the brave;
So the world shall be His footstool, and the soul of Time His slave;

Our God is marching on.
Chorus (as before).

Mrs. Howe's Last Piece of Work.

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, President of the New England Woman Suffrage Association, lately sent a circular letter of inquiry about the good or bad results of Woman Suffrage to all the Episcopal clergy, and to all the Congregational, Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian ministers in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Idaho, where women have had full Suffrage for periods ranging from forty-one years in Wyoming to fourteen in Idaho. The circular was also sent to a number of Sunday-school superintendents, and to the editors throughout those States.

Of the 624 answers received, 62 were unfavourable, 46 in doubt, and 516 in favour. The replies of the Episcopal clergy were in favour more than two to one; those of the Baptist ministers, 7 to 1; of the Congregational ministers, about 8 to 1; of the Methodists, more than 10 to 1; and of the Presbyterians, more than 11 to 1. Of the Sunday-school superintendents replying, one was opposed and one in doubt; all the rest were favourable. The replies from the editors were favourable, more than 8 to 1.

ALICE STONE BLACKWELL
(Editor, "Woman's Journal").
45, Boutwell Avenue, Dorchester, Mass.
October 15th, 1910.

Suffrage Week Programme.

Friday, November 4th.—Actresses' Franchise League "At home," Criterion Restaurant, 3 p.m.

Monday, November 7th.—Joint meeting of workers (?) (afternoon).

Women's Freedom League meeting, Caxton Hall, 8 p.m. Admission free; reserved seats, 1s.

Tuesday, November 8th.—Conservative and Unionist W.F.A. meeting, St. James's Theatre, 3 p.m. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 2s., 1s., 6d.

Artists' Suffrage League meeting, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, November 9th.—Reception by Executive Committees of the N.U. and London Society, Chelsea Town Hall, 3 p.m.

Thursday, November 10th.—Younger Suffragists' meeting, 3 p.m.

Women's Freedom League meeting, Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Free.

Friday, November 11th.—Church League for W.S., Medical Society's Hall, 11, Chandos Street, W., at 3 p.m.

National Industrial and Professional W.S.S. and New Constitutional Society's meeting, at 8 p.m., Saturday, November 12th.—Men's League Demonstration in Trafalgar Square, 2.30 p.m.

Joint mass meeting in Albert Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Monday, November 14th.—Church League for W.S. Procession to Westminster Abbey, leaving Cleopatra's Needle at 1.45 p.m.

Forward Suffrage Union Reception (evening).

The special arrangements for the mass meeting at the Albert Hall are, so far as arranged at present:—

JOINT MASS MEETING.

Albert Hall, Saturday, November 12th, at 7.30 p.m. Chairman, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.; speakers, Lord Lytton, H. N. Brailsford, Esq., Mrs. Swanwick, Mrs. Despard, C. S. Goldman, Esq., M.P., Archdeacon Escreet, and others to be announced later. Sale of tickets: Reserved seats, 5s., 2s. 6d., and 2s.; unreserved, 1s., 6d.; boxes holding twenty, five guineas and £4; boxes holding ten, £2 12s. 6d. and £2; boxes holding five, £1; loggias holding eight, £1 15s. On sale at the offices of each of the societies co-operating—viz.: Actresses' Franchise League, Artists' Suffrage League, Church League for Women's Suffrage, Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, Forward Suffrage Union, Men's League for W.S., London Graduates' Union, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, New Constitutional Society, Scottish Graduates' Union, Suffrage Atelier, The National Industrial and Professional Women's S.S., Women's Freedom League, Women's Liberal Federation (provisionally) Younger Suffragists.

The Executive Committee urges the societies of the National Union to support all the meetings included in their programme for Suffrage Week, and would be glad if individual societies would take boxes for the Albert Hall meeting.

All members of the National Union are urged to do their utmost to make Suffrage Week known, not only in London, but locally, by displaying posters in windows, getting tradespeople to put up notices, sending notices to the local press, chalking, distributing bills, and wearing the colours.

The answers to the inquiries made of the candidates both at South Shields and Walthamstow reveals the fact that although, with the exception of Mr. Vaughan Williams, at South Shields, they all express themselves to be in favour of Women's Suffrage in one form or another, they are none of them prepared "to do all in their power" to secure the further stages of the Conciliation Bill. It has therefore been decided not to support any of them, but to confine ourselves to educating the electors on the subject and strengthening our position in the constituencies.

Three new societies have joined the Union since last report—namely, Greenock, Leigh, and Wisbeach. Another organiser, Miss Geraldine Cooke, has been appointed.
EDITH DIMOCK.

Weekly "At Homes."

The committee passed a resolution deciding to be "At Home" in the offices every Thursday evening, 8—10. It was found later on, however, that the London Society had arranged a series of receptions in November and December, and this will prevent us from beginning before Christmas.

There is, however, one possible date before the London Society's receptions begin, and that is Thursday, November 3rd. Miss Ashton, Mrs. Rackham, and Mrs. Swanwick had undertaken to be present that evening, and they hope to make it a "Common Cause" evening for

friends and inquirers in London. Please note, evening dress will be optional, and will not be worn by some of the committee.

Treasurer's Notes.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

October 8th to October 15th, 1910.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	2,088	8	10
Subscriptions:—			
Miss Laura Z. Morgan	0	1	0
Miss M. W. Roberts	0	1	0
Miss M. L. Harris	0	5	0
Mrs. Wm. C. Marshall	1	1	0
Mrs. Eric Carter	1	1	0
Miss M. Lillie	0	2	6
Mrs. Ralph Durand (2s. 6d. additional)	0	7	6
Miss M. L. Lloyd	0	5	0
Mrs. Smielton	0	2	6
Miss Dymphna Ellis	0	2	6
Miss Katharine Ellis	0	2	6
Miss B. Picton-Warlow	0	10	6
Donations:—			
Miss Leigh Browne	5	0	0
Forward Suffrage Union, towards expenses of Albert Hall Meeting, per Mrs. Corbett	1	1	0
Mrs. Aldworth, for Autumn Campaign	2	0	0
Election Fund:—			
Dr. Eric Evans, for W.S. Candidates	0	10	0
Affiliation Fees:—			
Crookham and Crondall W.S.S.	0	5	0
	£2,101	6	10

MILLION SHILLING FUND.

	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1,745	9
"Binlie," a Suffrage Bear	3	0
	1,748	9

May I remind all societies and friends that the financial year ends on Monday next, October 31st, and I shall be grateful for all outstanding subscriptions and fees to be paid in before that date, so that they may be included in the year's balance-sheet.

BERTHA MASON, Treasurer.

The Common Cause.

We are glad to report that applications are coming in very well indeed, and we hope that intending shareholders will act promptly, so that Mrs. Robie Uniacke's offer may be accepted. It was to take five shares, if 99 other persons would do the same by November 10th.

We greatly regret that by an editorial error we stated that the shares would not be required to be fully paid up, being under the impression that this was a fresh issue. This is not the case. Five shillings per share must be paid on application, and the remainder, 15s., on allotment.

Please send for application forms to the Secretary, "Common Cause" Publishing Company, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

HOW PEOPLE ARE HELPING.

Members of the Reigate Society have applied for 31 shares; Miss Sterling undertook to raise £20; Miss I. O. Ford £5. Nottingham is having a "special effort month" on our behalf in November, and the committee has secured promises for £10, and has decided to take two dozen extra copies a week. Scarborough Society is sending a copy to each of its members, enclosing a letter from the local committee making a very urgent appeal to them to become regular subscribers; engaging a boy to sell the paper in the streets; supplying the paper to reading-rooms and railway waiting-rooms; it is also trying to raise money for shares. Sheffield Society has sent in twelve applications, and Birmingham is doing splendidly. Mrs. Randall Vickers, of Bristol, has applied for 25 shares.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING.

"All Suffragists must feel what an excellent paper it is. No other paper, I think, gives news, facts, and figures so fully yet shortly. We should lose with it our most valuable source of information about all that particularly concerns women in the week's events."

From Leeds: "We must not let that splendid little paper cease."

From Exeter: "I find it most stimulating."

"I must tell you of my admiration for its broadness, and instead of going down, it has improved. My husband and I always read it with great interest."

"It would indeed be a calamity if 'The Common Cause' had to cease issue at the present critical moment. But most of us don't work half hard enough to increase its circulation."

"How much we all owe Miss Ashton for her generous support of 'Common Cause.'"

"I shall consider it an absolute catastrophe if 'The Common Cause' should cease to exist. I think it is a splendid paper, and do not agree that it is no use for propaganda work. There is seldom a number in which I do not find something which is just what I want, to meet an argument, explain a difficulty, or in some way influence favourably someone or other whom I have been trying to influence."

One lady, in applying for 100 shares, writes: "I feel the money (which I had meant to devote to Suffrage work) will be spent to most advantage thus."

Another writes: "I am glad you have started a column for beginners."

Mrs. Chapman Catt writes encouraging words. Leicester Suffragists, in applying, send "best wishes for the success of the paper, which has done such valuable service."

We have, of course, had suggestions and criticisms, for which we also return thanks. Some think the paper too heavy; some wish for more elementary articles. We hope to meet these by our "Beginners' Page." Some think we show occasional "bitterness." For this we are sorry. But the cup which women have to drink is often very bitter, and perhaps it overflows sometimes. We hope, now that the societies are federated, gradually to present their news in better proportions.

Error in Date.

LONDON SOCIETY'S RECEPTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR SUFFRAGE WEEK.

Two receptions to members and friends will be held at 58, Victoria Street, S.W., on Friday, October 28th, at 4-6.30 p.m. and 8-10.30 p.m., not as erroneously stated last week, October 27.

Deputation to Mr. Runciman.

A deputation of Women Suffragists will be received on Tuesday, October 25th, at 4 p.m., by the Right Hon. Walter E. Runciman, M.P., President of the Board of Education, at the Town Hall, Dewsbury. It will be introduced by Miss Fielden, and the speakers will be Mrs. Leonard Firth (president, Dewsbury W.S.S.), Mrs. Connor (president, Leeds W.S.S., Board of Education), Miss Maud Illingworth, Mrs. Grosvenor Talbot (committee, Leeds W.S.S., Poor Law Guardian), and Miss I. O. Ford (Executive Council, N.U.W.S.S.). Mrs. Alfred Illingworth (vice-president, N.U.W.S.S.) will also be present. All the West Riding and Mr. Runciman's own constituency (Dewsbury) will be represented by influential men and women.

Interviewing M.P.s

The interview I had with Mr. Cecil Grenfell, Member for the East Cornwall Division, convinced me how very important it is that all the members of the House of Commons should be interviewed by Suffragists before Parliament re-assembles.

I heard Mr. Grenfell was in the constituency, and, as the local society had not succeeded in obtaining any pledge from their member to support our Bill, I thought it was an excellent opportunity of obtaining Mr. Grenfell's views on the most important question of the day.

I called twice at the hotel, but found Mr. Grenfell was busy attending to the wants of those very important people—the voters. The third time I was successful in seeing him. I explained why I had called—that the local Suffrage Society was desirous of knowing what Mr. Grenfell was prepared to do for our Bill.

Mr. Grenfell began by quoting what Mr. Lloyd George had said to the deputation of Suffragists who had waited on him a few days before.

I said that was very unsatisfactory; as Mr. Lloyd George had not proved himself a friend to Women Suffragists it was useless to quote him.

Mr. Grenfell then confessed that he was in America at the time of the debate in the House on the Bill, and knew hardly anything about it. He asked me if I would explain the Bill to him.

He gave me his courteous attention for a quarter of an hour, and then asked me to answer the various arguments that had been used against the Bill: That it was undemocratic; that it did not lend itself to amendment.

Mr. Grenfell was very anxious to be firmly convinced that the Conciliation Bill was democratic. After I had succeeded in satisfying him on these points, he said the Bill should have all the support he could give it, and pledged himself in writing to that effect.

There was general satisfaction amongst the Liberals in the constituency, who had shown great interest in one Suffrage campaign, when they heard of the pledge Mr. Grenfell had given.

Suffragists must remember that the most valuable educational work to be done during the next few weeks is among the members of Parliament. M. NORMA SMITH.

By-Elections.

SOUTH SHIELDS.

Candidates: Mr. Russell Rea (L.),
Mr. Vaughan Williams (U.).
Committee Rooms: 57½, King Street.
Organizer: Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A.

On Tuesday the Rt. Hon. Russell Rea received a deputation representing the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. The deputation, consisting of Dr. Ethel Williams, chairman of the Newcastle Suffrage Society, and Miss C. M. Gordon, District Organizer, was introduced by Mrs. Spence Watson, President of the Gateshead Society. In reply to questions, Mr. Rea stated that he would not support the Conciliation Bill, which proposes to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to those women who already possess a municipal vote, as he feared that the majority of these women would vote Conservative, and as he objected to the exclusion of women lodgers. He added that he would be strongly opposed to a further extension of the franchise to men unless it included women also; but further questions revealed that he only meant that he would speak against such an extension, not vote against it. Dr. Ethel Williams said that the deputation regretted the attitude of Mr. Rea, which they could not regard as satisfactory. The lodger franchise had been rejected by the Conciliation Committee to meet the wishes of Liberals, who desired to prevent a rich man from enfranchising his daughters and creating faggot votes. It was not possible for anyone to know how women would vote, and to deny them the franchise from party considerations was illiberal and undemocratic. She thanked Mr. Rea for his courtesy, and regretted that he could not see his way to give a reply which the National Union could consider satisfactory.

Later in the day Mr. Vaughan Williams also received a deputation. Miss Robertson, Dame President of the S. Shields Branch of the Primrose League, introduced Dr. Ethel Williams and Miss Gordon, who put to Mr. Williams the same questions as to Mr. Rea. The candidate stated that he was not in favour of Women's Suffrage, as he was not clear that a majority of women desired the vote; and that he would not support the Conciliation Bill. He added that the action of the militant Suffragists had alienated his sympathies. The deputation thanked Mr. Williams for receiving them, and regretted that they could in no sense regard him as a supporter.

Miss Gordon, speaking that afternoon in Salem Street, stated that the National Union would advocate neither candidature; that Mr. Rea would not support the Conciliation Bill, but only a measure granting Adult Suffrage, which has not been before the country, is not practical Politics, and has no chance of becoming law; while Mr. Vaughan Williams would support no measure at all. She appealed to the electors to force the question of Women's Suffrage to the forefront of the election, as Members of Parliament are forced to consider the wishes of the voters in their constituency. A resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill was carried with no dissentients.

Although polling day is now imminent, there is a total lack of excitement in the town. Male orators find that to attract

an audience is a herculean task, and they show a strange but unanimous unwillingness to address a meeting if a Suffragist is anywhere visible; in other words, the only subject of interest to the electors is Women's Suffrage. We have had a splendid reception, and at not one of our meetings have more than four hands been raised against our resolution, which is usually carried without a single dissentient. Neither candidate has placed Women's Suffrage in his election address, but we have secured that they shall deal with it on their platforms, by getting the men who sympathise with us to ask questions at both Conservative and Liberal meetings. We have obtained several new members, and hope to form a branch of the N.U. immediately the election is over, when our speakers can be set free for other work.

C. M. GORDON.

WALTHAMSTOW.

Candidates: Sir J. A. Simon (L.),
Mr. J. S. Johnson (U.).
Committee Rooms: 384, Hoe Street, Walthamstow.
Organizer: Mrs. Merivale Mayer.

I have been carrying on a vigorous campaign during the past week, as the one and only speaker, down here, for the N.U. That means that I have been obliged to speak for three hours and a half at a time, while meetings all round were continued with a change of speaker every half-hour. I do hope helpers will be forthcoming during this week. The most extraordinary energy is being displayed by all sorts of Suffrage societies—in fact, by far the greatest number of meetings are being held upon our question, yet "The Morning Post" does not so much as mention the words Women's Suffrage in its report. I have met with nothing but sympathy and approval once I succeed in making the crowd understand that our Society is really non-party, and that we do not adopt the watchword, "Keep the Liberal Out." At a great meeting at Grange Park Road on Friday night, where I spoke until 10.50 p.m., when I asked for questions there was dead silence for some moments, then a gentleman remarked: "No; there is nothing left to question. The arguments and evidence you have given us are conclusive." I have arranged a great meeting in the Town Hall, Leyton, for Thursday evening, October 27th, when I hope Mrs. Fawcett will speak. I need many helpers to give out handbills, and also to canvass for members for the local Union which I hope to form here.

C. MERIVALE-MAYER, Organizer.

Dinner to Mrs. Fawcett Given by the Newcastle Society.

The Newcastle-on-Tyne Society had the honour of entertaining Mrs. Fawcett to dinner on October 13th. Our grandmothers would certainly never have dared to chose that date for a festive occasion, but modern women scoff at superstitions, and after the splendid success of Thursday's function no one could ever again call it "the unlucky number." Everyone was in a merry mood, everything was perfect, and it was indeed a red-letter day for the local Society. The only cause for regret was that the dining-room at Tilly's cannot seat more than 80, and a very large number of applications had therefore to be refused. The tables were charmingly decorated with red and white flowers and green foliage, whilst red candle-shades emphasised the distinctive colour of the National Union. The menu cards call for special comment, being printed in dark green, and tied with narrow ribbon in the three colours; and the Clarion Girl on the front page proudly announced that "the Vote is the Keystone of Our Liberties."

The guests were received by Lady Blake and Dr. Ethel Williams on behalf of the committee. Sir Francis Blake, in a happy speech from the chair, proposed the loyal toast, and said that in all probability the hand of King George V. would sign the charter which would give the vote to women. After the loyal toasts had been honoured, he proposed in felicitous terms "Mrs. Fawcett and the Cause." There was not a soul in the room, he declared, or far beyond the confines of the room, but would delight to do honour to the lady whose training, talents, and temperament were proving such a mighty and valuable asset to the cause which she was espousing with such eloquence and with such shrewd common-sense. She was a leader and a pioneer, and had spent her life in doing what in her lay to ameliorate the condition of women and to establish them in their proper place in the body politic. He concluded an eloquent speech by declaring that no Government could do the best or the highest or the noblest work so long as it excluded women from taking part in its work.

Mrs. Fawcett, who was, of course, most enthusiastically cheered, was never in better speaking form, and she delighted everyone in the room. She was convincing, she was witty, she was splendid. She won loud applause at the outset by declaring that the cause in which we are engaged is the greatest that exists in the world at the present moment. It was the cause, she said, of half humanity—no, it was the cause of the whole of humanity; for if we did good to women we should also do good to men; if women suffered, men also

suffered. We were working for men as well as for women. It was an enormous satisfaction—and enormous happiness—to be able to give some of the years of one's life to promote such a cause as this—a cause which meant the elevation and development of human freedom. She likened the present position of the Liberal Government to the man on a tight rope, who balanced himself on one leg and held a candle on his nose. It was a very unstable equilibrium, and one which could not be maintained for long! Speaking of the present situation, Mrs. Fawcett said Suffragists meant to make the Conciliation Bill advance through its further stages, and there were certain signs that their efforts would not be in vain. "We shall win the Suffrage before very long," she concluded. "We shall not be long delayed; but even then our movement will only be in its infancy."

Dr. Ethel Williams next proposed, in a forcible speech, "The Conciliation Committee," and coupled with it the name of Mr. Burt. She very warmly commended the work of the Committee, and said how proud we were that the Father of the House should be one of its members. The Committee had taken a great step forward; our cause could never go back to where it was before the introduction of the Conciliation Bill.

The Right Hon. Thomas Burt, who, on rising to speak, was loudly cheered, paid a warm tribute to Mrs. Fawcett's great personality and to her services to women generally. He declared himself to be thoroughly in sympathy with the cause which Mrs. Fawcett and her followers had at heart. He declared with great vigour that every valid argument, every powerful argument, that had been adduced for the extension of the franchise to men in the past applied with equal force to the extension of the franchise to women. He was in favour of Adult Suffrage, but everyone knew that the number of opponents would be enormously multiplied by such a proposal. It was contrary to the genius of the country to propose such a sweeping change, tradition demanding that reforms should be filtered out in dribbles. Therefore, he stood behind the moderate measure. "Those of us," he concluded, "who are members of the Conciliation Committee will not rest satisfied until this reform is achieved, and you may rely upon it that you are espousing a cause which will ultimately succeed."

The toast to the Chairman was proposed by Miss Margaret Mein, who spoke of the deep gratitude felt by all Women Suffragists to the men who espoused their cause. Sir Francis Blake replied in a speech which charmed his audience, and made us all feel that we had indeed an ideal chairman. Needless to say, all the speeches were punctuated with loud and prolonged applause.

Nothing could have been finer than the recitations of Miss Laura Smithson, and the singing of Mr. Norman Ridley and Mr. W. Robinson. The Newcastle Society is deeply indebted to these artistes for contributing so largely to the success of the evening. "God Save the King," three cheers for Mrs. Fawcett, and "Auld Lang Syne" brought to a close a most delightful evening.

Federation Notes.

West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales.

Mrs. Cooper and the writer spent last week in Denbigh, and hope a branch of the N.U. will shortly be established there on a firm basis. As the result of a very rowdy meeting held there by Miss MacMillan and Miss Lamond in September, we found quite a number of ladies willing to join, but there is the usual difficulty in securing anyone for a secretary. Profiting by the experience of the promoters of the other meeting, we admitted the audience by ticket only, and had a very successful evening, in spite of a number of noisy youths who had obtained tickets in some mysterious way, and who managed to be very disturbing at times.

As it rained every day and nearly all day, we could not hold the number of open-air meetings we had hoped to do, but had one very successful one at Ruthin. Here we found some strong supporters amongst the mistresses of the County Secondary School, and two of them, Miss Morgan and Miss Normanton, entertained us and made our evening a most pleasant one.

Mrs. Cooper also visited St. Asaph, where there are several supporters of the movement, and I hope to go back in November and help them to get the society into working order.

Western.

Owing to the generosity of a member of the Western Federation, I have been able to do organizing work in Wells, which has resulted in the formation of a new, enthusiastic, and representative society. Mrs. Coode, Portway Lodge, very kindly lent her drawing-room for a meeting.

Mrs. Barker did splendid work by hurriedly getting together quite a number of people, and inviting them to one of her rooms to hear about votes for women.

A committee has been elected, and has already planned further educational work. Canon Church's daughter has agreed to do the work of secretary and treasurer for some time.

The society will soon grow in numbers, as many are interested, and are only waiting to hear just a little more about our movement before becoming members.

M. NORMA-SMITH.

Midland.

Miss Phillips left Burton-on-Trent after a very successful week's work to go to Warwick and Leamington on October 13th. The Burton Society has asked Birmingham to spare Miss Phillips for one night this week, as they want her to speak at their public meeting on October 27th with Lady Frances Balfour and Dr. McCombie.

At Leamington, Miss Phillips went on a joint deputation with the W.S.P.U. to the Member, Mr. Pollock, with most satisfactory results. She also spoke at several meetings, arranged with a view to advertising Mrs. Fawcett's meeting, held at Leamington on October 20th.

She arrived in Birmingham on Friday, and spoke at a public meeting that night, and at a drawing-room meeting the next day. She also held a successful meeting in the Birmingham Bull Ring.

On Monday she is going to interview Mr. Hickman, the Member for South Wolverhampton, who has consented to receive a joint deputation from the Birmingham Society and the W.S.P.U.

Miss Phillips is helping Birmingham to prepare for its Town Hall meeting on October 26th, and is leaving for Shrewsbury at the end of this month.

Scottish.

FORMATION OF MELROSE SOCIETY.

The formation of the Melrose Society was announced at a meeting held in Melrose on the afternoon of Monday, 17th. Dr. Inglis was present, and the Society elected Mrs. Dunn as president, and Miss Allan secretary.

In the evening a crowded public meeting was held. Dr. Johnston, who made a rousing Suffrage speech, was in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Lady Frances Balfour and Dr. Elsie Inglis; the latter spoke mainly on the Conciliation Bill. Lady Frances Balfour emphasised the need for consulting women on Government questions which involved conditions of life in the home, and said that government should be by the choice of the whole of the people, not one-half.

GLASGOW CAMPAIGN.

We have had another busy week, and as a result our tickets for the big meeting in St. Andrew's Halls, November 23rd, are being taken up well.

On Monday night I spoke at the weekly meeting of the Partick Women's Co-operative Guild, on Wednesday at the Women's Labour League and at the Cowcaddens Co-operative Guild, and Mrs. Hunter at one of the Govan branches. On Thursday Mrs. George Kerr, of Greenock, gave a drawing-room meeting, largely attended and enthusiastic in spirit. The Arderton Guild meeting on Thursday night was also very successful. Indeed, all the Guilds we have addressed this week have vied with each other in offers of help, and all are giving away handbills, placing shop bills where possible, and selling tickets. At all these meetings, too, "The Common Cause" has sold splendidly, and I have been asked to send up copies for sale during the coming weeks.

I have been calling on the Glasgow Editors, and find them nearly all favourable to Women's Suffrage, so we expect excellent announcements and reports of our meetings.

Next week Mrs. Hunter addresses a large meeting of the B.W.T.A. on Women's Suffrage. This is not an arranged part of our campaign, but it fits in very happily, and should help our propaganda work materially.

Mr. Bonar Law is to be in Glasgow this week, and we hope he will receive a deputation, asking him to press for facilities for the Bill, and particularly to vote for Mr. Keir Hardie's resolution when it comes up.

E. LAMOND.

Surrey, Sussex, and Hants.

Four important meetings in support of the Conciliation Bill are to be held in this Federation within seven days.

ON OCTOBER 27TH THE SUSSEX SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES HOLD A MASS MEETING IN THE DOME, BRIGHTON. Lord Lytton is to speak on the Bill, for which he holds so great a responsibility. Mr. Percy Alden, M.P., and Miss Margery Corbett will also speak. At WINCHESTER ON OCTOBER 28TH, A PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD. Lady Selbourne will take the chair, and Mrs. Fawcett will explain the Bill. Next day, OCTOBER 29TH, THE SURREY SOCIETIES HAVE ARRANGED TO HOLD A DEMONSTRATION FOR ALL SOCIETIES AND INDIVIDUALS IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, AT GUILDFORD. During the afternoon Suffrage societies of all kinds will proceed with banners to the Borough Hall. On the platform many prominent local supporters will come to show the strength of the demand. Mr. Chapman, the vice-chairman of the Surrey County Council, will take the chair, and will be supported by Viscountess Middleton, Lady Farrar, Professor Sadler, Mr. Reginald Bray, amongst many others. The Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Frances Sterling, Mr. Brailsford, and Sir William Chance will all speak.

A little breathing space, and then, on NOVEMBER 2ND, THE HAMPSHIRE SOCIETIES ARE HAVING A MASS MEETING IN THE ALBERT HALL, PORTSMOUTH, when Mr. Laurence Housman will speak. On the same day the Federation Committee meets in that town at the invitation of the Portsmouth Society. During the afternoon the Society will hold a reception to entertain the representatives; and in the evening we hope the representatives will be present and support our Hampshire Society at its public meeting in the Albert Hall.

At the reception a sale of useful or ornamental things will be held to raise funds for the Federation. The hon. treasurer particularly emphasises this fact, and asks that contributions in goods or money may be sent her not later than November 1st, addressed to Cosham, or the Speedwell Hotel, Portsmouth.

Miss Abadam's Engagements for November.

Nov. 1: Bath.	Nov. 18: Springburn, Masonic Hall.
" 2: Gloucester. 3.0	" 19: Glasgow.
" 2: Cheltenham Town Hall. 8.0	" 21: Govan, Burgh Hall.
" 3: Glastonbury. 3.0	" 22: Maryhill.
" 3: Street. 8.0	" 23: Glasgow, St. Andrew's Hall.
" 4: Teignmouth.	" 24: Greenock.
" 5: Teignmouth.	" 25: Edinburgh.
" 8: Froyle Place, Hants.	" 26: Edinburgh.
" 12: Norwood Office. 7.0	" 28: Peebles.
" 14: Macclesfield.	" 29: Kilmalcolm.
" 16: Denistoun, Church Hall.	" 30: Bradford.
" 17: Whitechurch, Burgh Hall.	

Forward Suffrage Union.

(Within the Women's Liberal Federation).

The Chairman and Executive Committee of this Union are giving a reception to the Earl of Lytton and the members of the Conciliation Committee before the opening of Parliament. They also propose to invite those members of Parliament who voted for the Conciliation Bill. The reception will be held at the Westminster Palace Hotel on Monday, November 14th, from 9-30 to 11-30. Tickets, at 3s. each, will be sold to sympathisers who are not members of the Union, and they may be obtained from Miss Grace Hutcheson, 44, Highbury Grove, London, N.



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Debate with Mr. A. Maconachie.

A debate took place at the Social Club, Lower Mosley Street, on Wednesday evening, October 19th, on the subject of Women's Suffrage. The speakers were Miss Margaret Robertson and Mr. A. Maconachie.

Mr. Maconachie, who opened the debate, raised the old bogey of Adult Suffrage, and the resultant predominance of women in the electorate, but he failed to make clear the inevitableness of Adult Suffrage consequent on granting the vote to women on the same terms as to men. The physical-force argument was also to the fore, and we were told that women were "the spoil darlings of the law," and lived in a "man-made shelter."

Miss Robertson, in her reply, answered Mr. Maconachie's arguments one by one, and pointed out that if the vote were given on the same terms men would still outnumber women on the electoral register by nearly 7 to 1, so that if Adult Suffrage did come the responsibility for its advent would rest upon the men's vote. The debate was then thrown open; Mr. Barnes and Miss Andrews spoke in favour of the Suffrage, but no Anti-voice was raised, so that Miss Robertson had no further opposing arguments to deal with when she rose to reply.

Mr. Maconachie, in his last speech, displayed a lack of knowledge of women's work—particularly in Lancashire—by stating that if women were paid the same rate as men for the same work they would be turned out of their employment; and he further made the astounding assertion that it was to the women's advantage to remain cheap in the labour market—an assertion which was greeted with murmurs of dissent. Mr. Maconachie's idea of argument seems to consist in taking his opponent's speech point by point and asserting that what she has said is "absolute rubbish," but in spite of this he admitted that probably Miss Robertson had, "by the plausibility of her arguments," to a certain extent convinced her hearers, whereupon a lady in the audience was heard to remark, "That's more than you can do."

No resolution was put at the conclusion of the meeting, but it was fairly obvious that a majority was in favour of the Suffrage.

We can only hope that this energetic gentleman will debate on this question frequently, as there is no doubt that by so doing he is helping our cause.

Suffrage Fair.

The "Opening Ceremony and Speeches" is very formal language for the delightfully informal opening of the Suffrage Fair on Friday last, the 21st inst. In a few well-chosen sentences Mrs. Pethick Lawrence declared it open, and closed her little speech with the words of the Athenian women, "We conquered but to serve." The work of the Suffrage Atelier is well known, and now that they have added a printing press to their other industries they will be always kept busy. Some of their printing was on exhibition, and it seemed to me clear and good. Everybody should order one of their Calendars for 1911—a specimen of which lay on the stall. On the "Press and Badge Stall" our paper had an excellent place, and you will like to hear that a little placard at one corner of the stall said, "Read the 'Manchester Guardian' for correct Women's Suffrage news." Next to that stall was that of the Bomb Shop, with quite unexplosive and delightful books lying upon it. Miss S. Bennet presided over piles of pottery—much of it from Staffordshire, where she personally knows the workers who produced some of the big dishes she had for sale. Round dishes, these, admirable for fruit, and with a pleasant green pattern of leaves and fruit upon them. Mr. Jacobs, the excellent defender of the Suffrage cause, was very busy everywhere, proclaiming his creed in pleasant conversation with prominent Suffragists. In a draughty corner a determined enthusiast roasted and sold chestnuts and potatoes—things of comfort they really were in that north-easterly wind, as was the excellent coffee which one could get at the Refreshment Stall. In this department particularly the Suffragists showed that the Cause was no deterrent from good housewifery. Mr. Housman had so kindly left his garden gate open that we might wander through to the little workshop, where a picture show was arranged of original drawings by Mr. Walter Crane, and pictures and sketches by himself. The whole Fair was admirably organized by Miss E. B. Wilkie, and I hope the balance-sheet will reward her for all the work it must have entailed.

AGNES EVANS.

London, October 22nd, 1910.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

Hon. Secretary: THE REV. C. HINSLIFF, 11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

President: THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN.

Members of the C.L.W.S. are requested to do their utmost in conjunction with the other societies to render the forthcoming "Suffrage Week" a complete success. The League

will attend the mass meeting at the Albert Hall on November 12th, for which tickets are now ready, but its individual efforts will take the form of (a) an At Home at the Medical Society's Hall, 11, Chandos Street, W. (near Oxford Circus), on November 11th, at 3 p.m., to which members are specially asked to bring friends who are still unconverted; (b) a procession to attend evensong at Westminster Abbey on November 14th. The procession will be formed at Cleopatra's Needle, Victoria Embankment, at 1-45 p.m., and will start at 2-10. Sympathisers are invited to walk with the Church League on this occasion, and all who wish to take part should send in their names immediately to the C.L.W.S. offices. As the time for assembling is short, punctuality in arrival is most essential.

MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH LEAGUE.

Nov. 11: At Home, Medical Society's Hall, 11, Chandos Street (near Oxford Circus). 3.0
Nov. 14: Procession to Westminster Abbey, Cleopatra's Needle. 1.45
Nov. 16: Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Miss Maude Royden.
Nov. 17: Kenilworth.
Nov. 18: Leamington.

Free Church League for Woman Suffrage

The next branch meeting will be held at Homelea, South Croyden, on October 28th, at 8 p.m. Miss Lucy Morland, B.A., will take the chair, and the Rev. Mayor Scott, M.A., will be the speaker.

It is hoped that a demonstration will be organized for November 14th.

Branches of the League are being formed in many districts. All inquiries should be addressed to the secretary, Miss Hatty Baker, 133, Salisbury Square, London.

Matinee at the Aldwych Theatre.

A theatrical event of unusual moment, both to those interested in the Women's Suffrage movement and to the general public, is promised in the forthcoming matinee organized by the Actresses' Franchise and the Women Writers' Suffrage Leagues, which is to be given on Friday, November 18th, at 2-30, at the Aldwych Theatre.

The programme includes two new plays—a charming one-act play by Cicely Hamilton, which has just been completed, and a play by George Paston, entitled "Stuffing." It will be remembered that George Paston (who is Miss Symonds in real life) is the author of "Nobody's Daughter," the play that Gerald Du Maurier is presenting at Wyndham's Theatre with so much success.

"The Pageant of Famous Women," by Cicely Hamilton, will take up the second half of the programme, and will again be produced by Edith Craig on even more elaborate lines than was shown last November at the Scala Theatre. A special feature in the pageant will be a special solo dance at the conclusion.

Among the notabilities who have already promised their services are Miss Gertrude Kingston, Miss Fanny Brough, Miss Evelyn D'Alroy, Miss Eva Moore, Miss Lena Ashwell, Miss Dorothy Minto, Miss Lillah McCarthy, Mr. Henry Ainley, and Miss Lily Brayton.

Miss Lillian Braithwaite will take charge of the programmes, and will be assisted by most of our prominent young actresses.

Seats may be obtained from the Actresses' Franchise League, Adelphi Terrace House, Robert Street, Strand; and from any of the Suffrage societies.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

SUSSEX BRANCH.

The S.M.L.W.S. has opened at 114, London Road, Brighton, the first Men's League shop in England, which has, probably, the finest display of literature and posters ever possessed by a Suffrage shop. The shop is large and double-fronted, and well situated in a working-class district. I hope to be able to forward you a photograph of the shop shortly.

I have undertaken the organizing *pro tem.*, and should be glad to hear from societies in Sussex who will help to form branches for the League, and who will enlarge the League's membership. Speakers will be sent out to local societies from the League.

I am directed to inform you that our cycle corps will visit Ditchling on Saturday, 29th, and will hold an open-air demonstration about 4 o'clock. Brighton Suffragists, men and women of all societies, are invited to join the corps at these offices between 2-15 and 2-30 on Saturday next. Will all cyclists decorate their handle-bars with black and yellow ribbon. The Brighton section will, weather permitting, leave these premises every Saturday afternoon at 2-45. As this will be the cycle corps' first outing, will all Sussex Suffragists make up their minds that it shall be a success?

ADRIAN BRUNEL.

Foreign News.

FRANCE.

A Women's Strike.

A special correspondent to "La Francaise" gives some interesting details about the first women's strike in Paris, which took place amongst the workers in the outfitting department in the large establishment, "A Réaumur."

To be quite correct, it is worth mentioning that the women in a large dressmaking establishment ventured on a strike ten years ago, but gave in almost immediately. At the present day the Press comments on the attitude of the strikers with great detail, but does not give any definite opinion. Funds have been raised with great energy, and the collectors get about 200 francs every day, their boxes being filled by sympathetic donors in the various workrooms and restaurants. The strikers receive from 1.50 francs to 2 francs a day, a supplementary sum being added for each child or infirm relative.

One of the principal reasons of complaint is the behaviour of the foreman of the workroom, Mr. Claes. Cases of gross insolence on his part have been reported, and one of the daily petty annoyances is the vexed question of open windows, to which he appears to have a rooted objection, however stifling the atmosphere!

But the question of wages is the most serious. Machine-work is paid at the rate of 4.50 to 7 francs a day; hand-work, which is less skilled, from 2.50 to 4 francs; and apprentices from 1 to 1.50 francs. However, some of the machinists complain that owing to a change in the fashions, or some other cause for which they are not responsible, their wages sometimes sink to 14, 12, or even 9 francs a week.

This strike is the first step towards a combined action for the improvement of the unsatisfactory conditions of female labour. Unhappily it has caused riot, and even slight bloodshed, but until women are allowed to voice their political opinions, a strike appears to be the most effective way of expressing their grievances.

A New Profession.

An enterprising lady at the "Ecole du Honore" has just passed the examination which will qualify her for a post of custodian of a museum, and received the congratulations of the examiner on the brilliance of her thesis. Several others are now following her example, and have entered their names for the next examination.

GERMANY.

It is interesting to learn that out of the 602 women studying at the Berlin University, 133 are taking the course on medicine. Next in favour come modern languages with 112 women students, German literature and language are taken by 103 women, 39 take history, and 28 philosophy and history respectively; 12 women are studying classics, 23 mathematics, 30 natural history, and 15 dentistry. One lady is studying archaeology, another Sanskrit, another astronomy, and three are taking theology. Six women who are devoting their time to law complete this very varied list.

HUNGARY.

Fraülein Rosika Schwimmer write in "Jus Suffragii": "A very encouraging fact is that one of our new Parliamentary parties, the party of independent landowners, declared itself in favour of Women's Suffrage. This is the first active political party in Hungary which has declared itself officially in favour of it."

She adds:—"The women's movement is getting on very well. The greatest event is the nomination of the first woman as University teacher. Dr. Iréne Markbreiter, a member of our Society since its foundation, is the first teacher of ophthalmology at the University of Kolozsvár."

Lysistrata.

It is worth going to the Little Theatre in John Street to see a Suffrage play that has escaped the Censor. "Lysistrata" is "adapted from the Greek of Aristophanes"

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Telegraphic Address:—"BOOKCRAFT, LONDON."

by Mr. Laurence Housman, and the learned critics have been exercised to show us how near or how far the adaptation is from the original. Taken on its own merits, as a thing to see and hear, we say it is beautiful to look at, entertaining, and provocative of thought—all good things for an English audience.

Some critics were inclined to suggest that the subject was too "steep" for a play to be played in public. One cannot help thinking that their learned minds were obsessed by a knowledge of what was left out. The women, sick of war, its miseries and deprivations (not least among these being the deprivation of men), are advised by the wise Lysistrata to compel the men to make peace firstly by refusing love, and secondly by cutting off supplies. The women exhibit a certain reluctance to the first method; theirs is no "sex war"; they love their men-folk, and wish them all good things. Lysistrata's speeches also are free from all venom; her attitude is the truly feminine one that if the "dear sillies" don't know what is good for them, women must teach them. Of course, the war does not last long, and one of the best scenes is the final one, in which both sides are made to yield something to "Conciliation" in order that peace may be attained. The egregious Commissioner has been blustering about "Women! Pooh!" and refusing to see what is before his nose; but the mass of men on both sides are wiser, and grant the peace which all desire, with its blessings and fruits.

One gathers that some critics were shocked at the frank admission that women love men as men love women. The thought that they might not is to us far more shocking.

Correspondence.

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.

ASSAULTS ON CHILDREN.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—In support of Mrs. Harley's letter to "The Common Cause" drawing attention to the great necessity of the appointment of women magistrates in cases relating to criminal assaults upon women and little girls, I quote a case which I read in the paper a few days ago, where an old-age pensioner of 71 was found guilty of a criminal offence upon two little girls, "but being considered mentally afflicted, he was placed on probation for twelve months."

I understand this to mean he was placed on trial—to see whether he committed such an offence again, with, of course, the attendant possibility of another little girl being ruined.

Surely the fact that he had already committed a criminal offence against two little girls was enough to show the man was dangerous in this respect, and it seems incredible that, having realised the irresponsibility of the man and his mental affliction, no steps were taken to ensure the impossibility of a recurrence of such a dreadful offence by his detention in the asylums provided by the nation to ensure the safety of both the mentally afflicted themselves and the people of the country.

Of course, one feels that at present, beyond the education of women themselves in such matters, the only thing is to do our utmost to obtain the vote; and once this acknowledgment of our rights as citizens is made, we shall be able to

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work in a certain and sure way to obtain this and many other most necessary reforms.—Yours,

MARGARET STONES

(Hon. Treas. Derby Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies).
25, Hartington Street, Derby, October 21st, 1910.

[We imagine, if the old man were "on probation," it would be the duty of the probation officer to watch him. But we agree that the danger of disaster is too great.—Ed. "C.C."]

WOMEN AND PUBLIC OPINION.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Mrs. Swanwick, in her interesting speech in Lincoln on October 14th, dwelt at some length on the horrors of certain injuries to little girls. I think she seemed rather unfair towards mankind in visiting the sins of a few degenerates and vicious people upon the entire population.

I should be glad to know how the granting of votes to women would be likely to lessen this evil.

I remarked also that Mrs. Swanwick said nothing to this point, which struck me as a sad and important omission, for one afterwards heard criticisms from some of her hearers, who wondered why on earth she raised the question at all.

If she could have made a point and convinced her audience that the vote for women would have done something to prevent or stamp this out, she would, I am sure, have gained many converts. Otherwise her mere relation of horrors does the cause no good, but rather harm.

Could she also tell me whether, if women get the Suffrage, they would press before the public and before their local Members of Parliament the dire necessity for legislation in the question of venereal diseases? Society at present shuns this burning question, which affects the whole nation; and surely women should have the courage to start a crusade to save thousands of innocent women and children from this preventable calamity. So much is done, so many societies started, to fight diseases such as cancer and consumption, for they, forsooth, are respectable diseases, but, up to the present, practically incurable. Because certain diseases are not considered even mentionable, they are allowed to go unchecked, untreated, spread broadcast amongst the innocent and guilty alike, and handed on from generation to generation. Yet this most fearful disease, which has such awful results to society at large and to posterity, is absolutely curable.

Therefore, I want to know if they got the vote, would women be courageous enough to break through this unholy barrier of prudish silence, and work with the object of making this contagious and preventable disease notifiable, and of adopting in England similar laws and regulations to those employed abroad for its prevention.

I shall be most grateful if you will find time to answer these questions. I am sure it will largely influence the minds of many who, like myself, are still undecided as to whether women should have the vote or not.—Yours,

WAVERER.

[Our leader this week refers to the first question contained in this letter. As to the second question, it is one upon which women, like men, are divided. It is safe, however, to say that women would be greatly concerned to remedy these very grave evils, and that a large number of Suffragists who have carefully studied the matter, consider that the working of the C.D. Acts, as they used to be in England, and as they are abroad and in our own colonies, shows that they do not diminish disease, while undoubtedly they are the cause of injustice and oppression of a peculiarly vile nature. Many women have been drawn into the Suffrage movement through the illuminating and inspiring words of Mrs. Josephine Butler, of honoured memory. As to the suggestion of notification, we refer our correspondent to our issue of October 28th, 1909, in which there appeared an article entitled "The Price of Liberty," by John Whitford.—Ed. "C.C."]

DESCENT OF REAL PROPERTY.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—The further letter from Mrs. Purdie in this week's issue is incorrect. Women can take by descent. They have a grievance, certainly, similar to, but greater than, that of the younger son, who is postponed to the elder. She is generally postponed to both. But, if a woman claim through a male, she will take before other males of a younger line—e.g.: A dies intestate, leaving three children in this order of age—viz., a daughter (B) and two sons (C and D). C takes first, D second, and B third. I am assuming that C and D both die without issue. But if C dies leaving a daughter, she will take prior to her uncle, because she represents the older male line. She takes, in fact, precisely as Queen Victoria took the Crown—in priority to her uncles, the Duke of Cumberland, etc. This is the case referred to in Mr. Chapman's letter of a fortnight ago. It is therefore quite wrong to say, with Mrs. Purdie, that women are debarred from taking by descent. Indeed, she contradicts it herself a few lines lower down.

It seems to me of vital importance that we should be right in our facts. So many minds appear to move on these lines:

"Facts (relevant or not) slightly wrong; therefore arguments altogether wrong." "Facts quite correct; therefore arguments probably correct." A non sequitur in each case, of course, but we must approach minds by the avenue most likely to admit us. And, besides, unfair as the existing law is in many ways, it ought not to be blamed unjustly.—Yours,
October 24th, 1910.
FRANK LEIGH.

IS THE BILL ALIVE?

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—The net result of our discussion in the columns of "The Common Cause" is that we differ as to the meaning of the vote on sending the Conciliation Bill to Committee of the whole House. That is a matter of opinion. Why let it remain so? Why not put the matter to the test? It would not be difficult for the N.U.W.S.S. to send reply paid post-cards to every M.P. who voted for the second reading of the Bill, or who paired in favour of it, asking him to say whether he would welcome further facilities for the Bill this session or a promise of full facilities early next session. If a majority of the House of Commons are keen enough to reply in the affirmative, that is at least something to go upon; if not, I am afraid it would prove that there is not sufficient pressure available in the House of Commons to justify the Government in granting such facilities.

Personally, I would gladly subscribe towards the cost of printing and posting involved in this simple test or in any similar test approved of by the N.U.W.S.S. Executive.—Yours,

ELEANOR ACLAND.

[We acknowledge Mrs. Acland's generous offer. It would appear superfluous to ask those Members who voted "Aye" on the first and "No" on the second division whether they wished for further facilities this session. As for those who voted "Aye" on both divisions, the Conciliation Committee is already engaged in inquiring whether they wish for further facilities this session.—Ed. "C.C."]

"THIS ADVERSE VOTE."

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—In Mrs. F. D. Acland's letter in this week's issue of "The Common Cause" the following sentence occurs: "By suppressing all allusion now to this adverse vote, which we said beforehand would kill the Bill, we cannot alter the fact." May I say that this statement is a misleading one, though, of course, not intentionally so. The leaders of the N.U.W.S.S. do not wish, and have never made any attempt, to suppress this or any other fact.

On the contrary, Mrs. Fawcett, in her speech at Haddington, reproduced in "The Common Cause" of September 29th (which I think Mrs. Acland must have omitted to read), made special allusion to the adverse vote of Mr. Haldane. In that speech Mrs. Fawcett said: "Many of us were of opinion that to do so" (i.e., to give an adverse vote in the second division) "would be practically to shelve the Bill for the rest of the session; but Mr. Haldane contested that view, and, as he had so immeasurably more Parliamentary experience, we have bowed to his opinion."

Also, the N.U.W.S.S. is at the present moment engaged on a plan for determining the true meaning of this adverse vote. It still remains to be seen whether Mrs. Fawcett's original opinion, or Mr. Haldane's opinion to which she has bowed, is the right one; but I think it is clear that Mrs. Acland is mistaken in her supposition that all allusion to this adverse vote is being suppressed.—Yours,

A NORTH WESTMORLAND SUFFRAGIST.

October 21st, 1910.

MANHOOD AND ADULT SUFFRAGE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—There was a point in the discussion of our deputations with the Liberal candidate yesterday which may interest your readers. Mr. Rea said he would oppose an extension of the franchise to men which did not include women; but when pressed for a definition of the word "oppose," we found it to mean "speak against," but not "vote against." In other words, Mr. Rea would pledge himself to speak against a Manhood Suffrage Bill, but not to vote against it. I wonder how many other members have said "yes" to Question 3 with a similar reservation, and taken for their motto, "Words, not Deeds!"—Yours,

C. M. GORDON (Organizer).

57½, King Street, South Shields,
October 19th, 1910.

SUFFRAGE OR PARTY.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Your correspondent, Miss Ward, who in excess of zeal formerly misquoted me, still seems to labour under mistaken notions, which I should like to indicate. None would deny there are devoted Suffragist workers on the Executive Committee; it is equally true that all are not members of party organizations. What I—and by no means I alone—maintain is that such membership is calculated to indispose the Executive to active political opposition of

HUDDERSFIELD.

An open-air meeting was held in St. George's Square on Saturday, October 15th, Miss Siddon, the President, in the chair. Miss Fielden moved a resolution calling upon the Government to give facilities for Mr. Shackleton's Bill. Miss Kate Kilburn seconded it, and it was carried unanimously. Mrs. Jagger moved a vote of thanks to the speaker and President, and Councillor Beaumont, in seconding, also thanked the people of Huddersfield for passing the resolution unopposed. He said the meeting had been advertised in all three local papers, and every one of the hundred thousand inhabitants had had their chance to come and vote against it. As they had not done so they were evidently in favour of the Bill.

KNUTSFORD.

A meeting for "women only" was held in the Ruskin Rooms on Wednesday, October 5th, when Mrs. P. T. Swanwick (in the chair) and Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald dealt with the necessity of the vote for women as a means of obtaining moral reforms and for legislation affecting social purity. A resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill was carried *nem. con.*

LONDON.

A speakers' class will be held at 58, Victoria Street, by Miss Margery Corbett, on Mondays, from 3 to 4 p.m., beginning October 24th. There will be a course of six lessons. For further particulars apply to Miss P. Strachey.

NORTH HERIS—STEVENAGE.

On Friday, October 7th, a cake and candy sale was held in the Small Public Hall, Stevenage, in order to raise funds to pay for an organizer in those parts of the constituency which are difficult to work from Hitchin as they are off the main railway line. The sum of £7 14s. 2d. was handed in as the result, £2 2s. of which had been contributed by a member, who, to our great grief, died before the sale was held.

On Tuesday, 11th, a small meeting took place in the Adult School, Little Wymondley, where a resolution calling upon the Government to grant facilities for Mr. Shackleton's Bill during the autumn session was carried without a dissent. "Common Causes" were sold on both occasions.

NORWOOD AND DISTRICT.

We had a most enthusiastic meeting on Saturday, October 6th, at the opening of our shop and offices at 42, Amerley Road, Upper Norwood. Lady Onslow and Miss Abadam were the speakers, and the fact that we took a collection of over £7 from an audience of 100 people, who had already paid for tickets of admission, shows that they were more than satisfied. Several new members were enrolled and many articles of furniture were presented.

NORTH OF ENGLAND.

DRAWING-ROOM MEETING IN FALLOWFIELD.
On October 5th a successful meeting was held at the house of Mrs. Alfred Simon. Miss Sterling's address was much appreciated. She made her hearers clearly understand that if they disapproved of militant methods, upon them rested the responsibility of helping forward, by every means in their power, the constitutional agitation. Literature and "Common Causes" were sold, a good collection taken, and four new members enrolled.

PERTH.

The above Society opened its winter work on Thursday, the 6th inst., when Miss Haldane addressed a well-attended meeting in the Guild Hall.

On the 8th inst. a cake and candy sale was held in the Guild Hall. Mrs. Kirkland, Glenfarg, introduced the Rev. P. Gordon Clark, who declared the sale open. Mr. Clark, who spoke very warmly in support of the cause, mentioned that he had been a convert to Women's Suffrage since hearing an address delivered by Mrs. Fawcett in his college days. A cake guessing competition caused much amusement, and was won by Mr. J. S. Saunders. The weight of cake was 6lb. 13½oz., Mr. Saunders' guess being 6lb. 13oz. The takings of the sale were £10 11s. 6d.

PORTSMOUTH.

The annual meeting of this Society was held on Monday, October 10th, at the Portsea Parish Institute. The attendance was fairly good.

We are looking forward to the meeting of the Committee of the Surrey, Sussex and Hants Federation in Portsmouth on November 2nd, and after the work of the Committee is over the Portsmouth Society will entertain its guests in the afternoon, and in the evening there is to be a united demonstration of all Hampshire and Portsmouth Suffrage Societies. Mr. L. Housman will be the speaker. It has also been decided to present Mrs. Ward, a prominent local Suffragist, now in her eightieth year, with a red, white and green bouquet. Mrs. Ward is much respected in the town, and was the first woman to appear in public in support of Women's Suffrage in Portsmouth, when many years ago she held the first Suffrage meeting ever held in the borough.

THREE TOWNS AND DISTRICT.

For the first time in the history of our Society we had the great honour of having Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., to address a public meeting on Women's Suffrage. He gave us a very clear and masterly exposition of the Conciliation Bill dealing with it in detail, and showed clearly how very truly democratic the Bill is. He also stated emphatically that if it is desired to amend this Bill in Committee so as to remove the one or two objections that opponents say will cause plural voting, this can easily be done.

We then had the honour of having a brief speech from the Rev. E. J. Brailsford, the father of Mr. Brailsford, Secretary of the Conciliation Committee. He said he gave his support because it was an act of justice, and stated that he was on that side because it affected so many women, but even if it affected only one woman his sense of justice would compel him to be on her side.

Then Miss M. Norma Smith spoke, directing her appeal to the women, showing them how world-wide was this movement and how much it meant to them as women, from a social, from an economic, and from a moral point of view. She called upon them to come forward now and work as hard as they were able.

A vote of thanks to the speakers and our Chairman, Mr. J. H. Beckley, concluded the meeting. "Common Causes" were sold, and a fair collection for expenses was taken.

London Letter.

London, October 17.

I have been idling to-day over a charming red-covered book which has come in from Endsleigh Gardens—the "Travel Handbook and Calendar,"—for the winter before us, 1910-11. When the first fogs of an English autumn appear it is a pleasant thing to spend some time imagining all the nice places where fogs are unknown—where, if one is stern with oneself in the matter of saving, a steamer will take one.

I was talking to a girl the other day who had been one of these tours to Greece and Asia Minor, and came home full of enthusiasm about the flowers she had gathered on the Grecian Hills in springtime. Before the spring, however, comes the winter, and those who have once known the pleasure of "winter sports" in the high Alps will find their thoughts turning towards the snowy regions and the exhilaration which is born of skiing over snowfields during the sunny hours of fine December or January days. We can, at long intervals, skate and enjoy curling, and even sleighing, in our own islands; but skiing is a sport we must go abroad to enjoy, and to ski on a gloomy English winter day. The Grosse Scheidegg reaches a height of 6,400ft., and is about halfway between Meiringen and Grindelwald. The views from there are magnificent, and there is a little inn at the top, too small to accommodate many visitors. There are people who like to go to some place for winter sports where there is not a crowd; where dances and bridge parties do not fill up every evening; where they can go early to bed, and not have too many on-lookers to laugh when they tumble over into the snow with their long skis in the air and feel more helpless than a baby. Englishwomen take well to this sport, and setting aside those who are born to it and learn as children, we do as well, and better than beginners of other nationalities. Skiing seems at first an almost impossible feat, and yet an active Englishwoman can learn in a week, and the fascination of it is beyond description. Skis for women are about 6ft. 6in. long, and the important thing to remember when you start out on them is NOT to lift your feet, and also to take care that the skis are well fastened to your boots, otherwise you will be left with one ski on whilst you watch the other coasting away from you on and on down the slopes. It has been generally found that the Norwegian fasteners are the best. A woman who is going abroad to ski should take a warm white sweater, and one of those long knitted caps which can roll up into a close-fitting cap if required, short skirts and good ski boots, and, of course, blue spectacles. The winter-sport people are all merry, good-natured folk, who are so glad to escape from English damp that they are in a happy temper all the time. No one is so kind helping you when you fall, or showing you how to move your feet the best way, as the ski-lover.

The ski-run from Meiringen to Grindelwald requires an expert, but it will let you into the secret of the snows, and will drive the last thoughts of work out of your brain for the time that you can spare for this fascinating holiday. If your heart fails you or if you are too tired to make arrangements for yourself, then a postcard to the secretary, 5, Endsleigh Gardens, will do all that is necessary; you will then merely have to do as you are told, and everyone knows the virtue which comes of giving up your own will for a season.

AGNES EVANS.



ABERDEEN.

There was a well-attended meeting in the Music Hall, Aberdeen, on October 17th. Miss Bertha Mason gave a lecture on "The Story of the Women's Suffrage Movement." Miss Lummen presided. Miss Mason, with the help of limelight views, gave a detailed sketch of the rise and progress of the Women's Suffrage movement from its earliest beginnings until the present day. At the end of the meeting a resolution in support of the Conciliation Bill was carried unanimously.

BARNESLEY.

A meeting was held in the Arcade Hall on October 17th. The Mayor (Councillor H. M. Walker), wearing his chain of office, was in the chair. Miss Wray read a letter from Sir Joseph Walton, M.P., in which he said he regretted his inability to attend the meeting, and assured them that they might rely on his support being given to any Bill which would enfranchise women. Councillor Alexander moved a resolution asking the Government to give further facilities for this session for the Conciliation Bill. Mrs. Fawcett, who met with a great ovation, seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT.

By kind permission of Mrs. West, Miss Dorothy Edwards was given the opportunity of addressing a meeting for women only in the Sarum Hill Baptist Chapel on October 17th. There was a good attendance, and the first part of the meeting was of a devotional nature. Mrs. West, the minister's wife, spoke of the position of women in Bible history, and in beautiful and touching words called the attention of her hearers to the dignified position women held in the life of Christ. She believed, personally, that this women's movement was God's work.

Miss Edwards spoke for half an hour to a most appreciative and attentive audience, telling them the effect Women's Suffrage had had in bettering the laws of women and children in the Colonies, and showing how the lack of the vote in Great Britain told heavily against women as wives, mothers, and workers. She illustrated her remarks by various stories that had come to her knowledge of hardships imposed on women through the inequality of the laws between men and women. Many women on leaving the meeting declared themselves from henceforth strong upholders of Women's Suffrage. Several new members have joined lately.

BIRMINGHAM.

Drawing-room meetings have been held at Handsworth, Moseley, Sutton, Northfield, Solihull, and Erdington, and a public meeting at Harborne, during the last week, to advertise the Town Hall meeting on the 26th. A very good open-air meeting was also held on Friday. Many new subscribers have been gained, Sutton alone bringing in twelve new members, and we have twice sold out all our copies of "The Common Cause." Miss Phillips, the Midland organizer, has come to us from Leamington, and is helping with the meetings and the canvassing.

A good portrait of Lady Frances Balfour, with a short account of her and of the Earl of Lytton and Mr. Cecil Chapman, who are the speakers for the 26th, have been published in one of the local weekly papers.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

On Friday, October 21st, Miss Ray Costelloe addressed the Newham College Society. She combined amusement and instruction in the most delightful way, and her speech was enlivened by anecdotes of her own experiences while doing Suffrage work. Those who had heard the arguments in favour of Women's Suffrage before felt that they had learnt much about actual conditions of life, and those first-year students who had taken no interest in the movement were filled

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with keenness to know more. Many questions were asked, and quite a brisk trade was carried on at the literature table after the meeting. Ten new members joined on the spot, and several others only need a few days in which to consider the matter, and will probably soon be active Suffragists.

CARDIFF.

By special request of the students, Miss Nautet gave an informal talk at Aberdare Hall on the subject of Women's Suffrage. About sixty students had assembled; they stormed Miss Nautet with objections, and with questions as to the nature of the demand, its age, its *raison d'être*, and the results women anticipate if their demand is granted. After the discussion, which lasted over an hour and a half, there was much demand for free literature and for various pamphlets, and several students personally thanked Miss Nautet, acknowledging they had been but "wobblers," and were now much strengthened.

EASTBOURNE.

The Society held its first meeting of the autumn season on Wednesday, October 19th. A good number of members and others gathered at 7, West Cliff, by kind invitation of Miss Dorothea Roberts. Miss Anna Martin, B.A., spoke excellently on "The Practical Effect of work in a London 'settlement.'" Miss Martin's years of practical work in a London "settlement" have thoroughly qualified her for expression of her views on so vital a matter. The chair was taken by Miss W. L. Brodie Hall (P.L.G.).

ECCLES.

The members of the Eccles Society held a drawing-room meeting in Eccles on September 20th, and a public meeting in the Walkden Co-operative Hall on October 19th.

Miss Atkin very kindly entertained us on the former occasion, and we were looking forward to an address from our Chairman, Miss T. Potts, M.A. Unfortunately, at the last minute she was not well enough to attend, and the Secretary had to take her place. The organization and methods of the N.U.W.S. were explained, and three dozen copies of "The Common Cause" were sold.

The Walkden meeting, held in support of the Conciliation Bill, although not so crowded as one could wish, was quite satisfactory. I believe it is the first indoor meeting of the kind in Walkden, consequently too much is not to be expected. We had a most efficient chairman, Mr. Rogerson, a member of the L.L.P. Miss Abadam proposed the resolution, and gave a splendid explanation of the Bill, and Mr. Matthews seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously and forwarded to Sir George Pollard. The meeting was very fully reported in the local paper.

EDINBURGH.

The first four of the drawing-room meetings arranged by members of the Society took place this week. They resulted in all cases in an addition to our treasury, and in the sale of a good many tickets for Lord Lytton's meeting on the 25th November. Our thanks are due to Miss E. J. Scott-Moncrieff, Mrs. Mapleton, Mrs. Betts-Brown, Mrs. Carruthers, and Mrs. Adams, who gave these meetings, and to Miss Mair, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, and Dr. Elsie Inglis for speaking at them.

We have now to confine all our energies to make Lord Lytton and Miss Abadam's meeting on the 25th November a great and unqualified success. I am most anxious to distribute the tickets at once, as the press of work in organizing a huge affair of this kind becomes so great later on. Will all those willing to help in selling tickets or in distributing bills communicate with me without delay? Early offers of assistance go far towards relieving the anxiety which organizers must always feel, and I shall be doubly grateful for the promises that I hope will come in this week.

Miss Lees spoke at the weekly At Home. Her address was of the greatest interest, and what she said has gone far towards strengthening the belief among those present in the absolute necessity for Women's Suffrage.

LISA M. GORDON.

HULL.

This branch opened its winter session on Wednesday, October 19th, with a sale of work and drawing-room meeting in the afternoon at Mrs. Cussons, and a public meeting in the evening at the Owen Hall, Baker Street.

The sale of work realized the satisfactory sum of £23, and the visitors, having made their purchases, remained to listen to the persuasive eloquence of Miss Cicely Corbett, who made her first public appearance in Hull on this occasion. Dr. Murdoch was in the chair. At the public meeting Dr. Stacey was in the chair.

Miss Corbett was received with much enthusiasm. Speaking of her visit to Hungary, she said that the Suffrage movement in the various countries of Europe seemed to be waiting for the success of the movement in England. She said they wanted the vote for two reasons, for they regarded it as a protection and a power. The vote would immediately raise the status of the whole female population. At present women were debarred from taking part in their own affairs, for, after all, politics were only the management of the affairs of the State of which they were the larger half.

In conclusion, Miss Corbett spoke of the Conciliation Bill, which she said was a perfectly moderate and democratic Bill. She urged the members and sympathizers of the movement to keep badgering their Members of Parliament. Miss Hyde (secretary) proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Corbett. Miss Jacobs seconded, and Mrs. Richardson (president) supported.

KELSO.

A meeting was held in the Town Hall, Kelso, on October 5th. The Rev. J. Gordon Napier was in the chair.

Lady Frances Balfour proposed the following resolution: "That this meeting of the inhabitants of Kelso heard with satisfaction the declaration of the Prime Minister that the House of Commons has the right to deal effectively with the question of Women's Suffrage, and therefore earnestly prays His Majesty's Government to grant time in the coming autumn session for the further stages of Mr. Shackleton's Bill, which was read a second time in July last and passed by the large majority of 110." Miss Macmillan Scott seconded, and Dr. Elsie Inglis supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously. There was a large and enthusiastic audience.

KENDAL AND DISTRICT.

A meeting was held in the Town Hall, Kendal, on the evening of October 10th. There was a large attendance. Mrs. Gandy, our vice-president, was in the chair. We were most fortunate in having both Lady Betty Balfour of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association and Miss I. O. Ford to speak for us.

Lady Betty Balfour, in proposing the resolution urging the Government to grant facilities for the passing into law of the Conciliation Bill during the autumn session, made a most charming and interesting speech. Miss Ford seconded the resolution and made a short and excellent speech, with many humorous touches which were much appreciated by the audience.

The Chairman then put the resolution, which was carried with only four dissentients—though many people did not vote either way. The meeting was well reported in both the local papers.

LEEDS.

At the beginning of the week Miss Fielden was away at Huddersfield and Marsden, in both of which places the resolution was passed without a dissentient. On Wednesday we had a good meeting at the Harehills Liberal Club, Mr. Cryer in the chair. Miss Fielden moved, and Miss I. O. Ford seconded, the resolution, which was well carried.

For Thursday a debate had been arranged at Ackworth School, Pontefract. The headmaster (Mr. Andrews) was in the chair. The affirmative was taken by Miss Fielden, supported by Mr. Carr, and the negative by Mr. Waite and Miss Wilmet. After the opening speeches a lively debate followed, the pupils of the 5th and 6th forms taking part. It was a most enjoyable evening, the young speakers were excellent, and the resolution was carried in our favour by 62 to 38.

Through the kind invitation of Mrs. Duncan a drawing-room meeting was held on Saturday afternoon. Many of the audience told us it was their first Suffrage meeting. Miss I. O. Ford took the chair. Miss Fielden moved and Mrs. Parrish seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. Miss Foster proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Duncan for her kindness, and several new members joined the Society.

We are very busy arranging the deputation to Mr. Runciman, which he has consented to receive on October 25th at the Town Hall, Dewsbury.

LONDON—HIGHGATE.

A Suffrage tea party was held by invitation of Mrs. Seekings at Highgate, on October 6th. Mrs. Gillett, of Oxford, gave an address, in which she pleaded for liberty for women to take up whatever work they felt called upon to do in the home or in the State. Seeing that our lives are lived under conditions laid down by law, it is necessary that women should control those laws equally with men. Social evils, such as prostitution, are arousing people to the urgency for the equality of men and women before the law.

LONDON—EALING AND ACTON.

Several fixtures have now been arranged for the ensuing weeks. For the second at Home, which will take place next month, a very interesting lecture has been promised. The annual general meeting

of this branch will be held in the Prince's Room, Municipal Buildings, on the evening of November 1st, when Miss Bertha Mason has very kindly promised to give us her lantern lecture on "Pioneers of the Suffrage Movement." The business meeting is fixed for 7.15 on that night, the lantern lecture to commence at 8 p.m., and we hope for a large gathering of members and friends.

On the 26th October, Miss J. H. Thompson, B.A., comes down to Ealing to lead a debate which will take place in a local college on the subject of Women's Suffrage. The rummage sale, postponed from earlier in the year, is dated for the afternoon of November 19th.

The author of the original Suffrage play entitled "Martinmas," which was performed locally in May last, desires to make it known that she is willing to lend the manuscript (all parts typed) to any Suffrage Society wishful to perform it. There would be no fee to pay, the Suffrage moral is marked, and scenery which was especially painted for the play can be hired on moderate terms. Inquiries to be addressed to Miss Catherine Comins, 115, Kingsley Avenue, West Ealing (co-hon. secretary).

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

The date of the bazaar has been definitely fixed for Thursday, December 1st, and the Committee urgently requests every member who has not already commenced working for it to do so at once. Plain and fancy work, provisions, flowers, fruit, cakes, sweets, butter, eggs, poultry, game, china, etc., will be gladly received by any of the Committee. Work should be sent in before November 29th, and perishable goods on November 30th.

NORTH OF ENGLAND—NELSON.

We had a very good meeting on October 18th. Over one hundred attended. Miss Abadam gave a very good outline of the Conciliation Bill. A good number joined the branch after the meeting. The following resolution was moved by Miss Abadam: "That this meeting urges the Prime Minister to grant facilities for passing into law Mr. Shackleton's Women's Suffrage Bill this autumn." It was seconded by Mrs. Aldersley, of Nelson. A copy of the resolution has been forwarded to the Prime Minister and to Mr. D. J. Shackleton, M.P., Member for this division.

NORTH OF ENGLAND—PRESTWICH.

A successful meeting was held in the National Schools, Prestwich, on Monday, the 10th inst. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the Rector, the Rev. F. W. Cooper, who was unfortunately indisposed, the chair was taken by the Rev. E. R. Mackintosh, who in his opening remarks expressed his sympathy with and interest in the cause.

The speakers were Miss Abadam and Miss Leadley Brown, whose addresses were listened to with great interest and appreciation. The resolution calling upon the Government to grant the necessary further facilities for the passing of the Conciliation Bill was carried unanimously.

Several new members joined the Society, and a number of copies of "The Common Cause" were sold.

Copies of the resolution were subsequently forwarded to the Prime Minister and to the Member for the division.

NORTH OF ENGLAND—STOCKPORT.

Two meetings have been held in support of the Conciliation Bill—one in Mersey Square on the 14th and one in the County Restaurant Assembly Room on the 17th—at both of which the resolution was passed almost unanimously. We have now a Branch Society at Stockport, Miss M. Deakin, B.A. (123, Grenville Street, Edgeley), acting as secretary, pro tem., and Mrs. Milner Crosland ("Overdale," Romiley) as treasurer. The first committee meeting is to be held on Tuesday, November 1st. Twenty members joined at this meeting.

NORWOOD AND DISTRICT.

On October 15th Miss Raleigh gave a most interesting and instructive address. The following resolution, proposed by Miss Green and seconded by Miss Raleigh, was carried unanimously: "That this meeting calls on the Prime Minister to carry out the principles of representative Government to which he is known to be so much attached, by granting immediate facilities for passing into law the Conciliation Bill, which has passed its second reading in the People's Chamber by the decisive majority of 110 votes." The resolution has been forwarded to Mr. Asquith and to Mr. Bonar Law, in whose constituency our offices are situated.

(We are again obliged to hold over some reports of Societies.)

Other Societies.

ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

The Actresses' Franchise League will hold their second members' meeting of the season in their offices, Room 17, Adelphi Terrace House, Robert Street, Strand, W.C., on Friday, October 28th, at 3 p.m., when Miss Abadam will speak on "How Women will Vote under the White Slave Traffic," after which a short discussion will follow. Miss Adeline Bourne will be in the chair. Hostess, Miss Di Forbes. This meeting is open only to members of the League and their friends of the musical, dramatic, and music hall profession.

WOMEN'S TAX RESISTANCE LEAGUE.

A very successful drawing-room meeting was held on the evening of Tuesday, October 18th, when Dr. Lewin kindly invited members of the above League to meet at 25, Wimpole Street, and in spite of the stormy evening her spacious rooms were crowded.

Mrs. Cobden Sanderson presided, and in a forcible little speech urged members to redouble their efforts to make this logical form of protest known amongst their tax-paying friends. Mrs. Despard was the speaker, and her eloquent address was listened to with the deepest attention. She threw quite a new sidelight upon the somewhat prosy subject of unrepresented taxation by showing how men were giving themselves up, body and soul, to the piling up of gold, and how commercialism was spoiling all that was best in our nation. Women then, she said, must, observing this, attack the stronghold and see to it that John Bull's moneybags were not so easily filled in the future.

Mrs. Kineton Parkes dealt with the business of the League, and members signed pledge cards to signify which Imperial taxes they would resist if the Conciliation Bill does not become law this session.

An interesting discussion followed, and the collection amounted to £27.

Forthcoming Meetings.

- OCTOBER 27.**
Brighton—The Dome—The Earl of Lytton, Miss Margery Corbett, Percy Alden, Esq., M.P. 8.15
Bridlington—Miss I. O. Ford.
London—Kensington—Surbiton Assembly Rooms—Lady Frances Balfour. 3.0
London—Hampstead—Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Myne. 4.0
Basingstoke—Town Hall—Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. 8.0
Leeds—Horsforth Socialist Club—Debate—Miss Fielden, Mr. George Lily. 8.0
Bristol—111a, Whiteladies Road—Debate. 3.30
London—58, Victoria Street—Receptions to Members and Friends. 4.0 and 8.0
Nottingham—Hucknall—Miss Halford Dickson. 7.30
- OCTOBER 28.**
Shrewsbury—Music Hall—Public Meeting—Lady Frances Balfour. 3.0
London—Kensington, S.—Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Hogg, Miss E. A. Bompas. 8.30
Bath—Deputation to M.P.s. 2.45
Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—At Home—Mrs. More Nesbitt. 4.0
Whitby—Lecture Hall, Silver Street—Annual Meeting. 3.30
Irish W.S. and Local Government Association—35, Molesworth Street, Dublin—Women Only—Dr. S. G. Prosser. 8.0
London—Enfield—Lock Gates, Small Arms Factory—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Stanbury. 12.0
London—58, Victoria Street—Two Receptions to Members and Friends. 4.0 and 8.0
Wells—Miss Norma Smith. 8.0
- OCTOBER 29.**
Guildford—Borough Hall—Procession and Meeting—Lady Frances Balfour, H. N. Brailsford, Esq. 3.30
Norwood—Suffrage Offices—Lady Constance Lytton, Miss Abadam. 7.0
Carlisle—Conference of Liberal Women Suffragists organized by North-Western Federation.
- OCTOBER 31.**
London—Windor and Eton—Grove Road Schoolroom—Mr. Th. Guggenheim. 8.0
London—Blackheath—3a, Eliot Place—Speakers' Class. 5.0
London—Bermundsey—Mission Room—Mrs. Rogers. 3.0
Cambridge—Gamingay—Miss Cochrane, Mrs. Rackham. 8.0
London—58, Victoria Street—Speakers' Class—Miss M. Corbett. 3.0
Bath—Lacock—Miss Abadam, Miss Wheelwright. 7.0
Shrewsbury—St. Alkmund's Schoolroom—At Home—Miss Le Clerc Phillips. 8.0
London—Enfield—Lock Gates, Small Arms Factory—Open-air Meeting—Miss Ward. 12.0
Bradford—Members' Meeting—Mrs. Cooper. 4.0
Bradford—Little Horton—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Cooper. 8.0
- NOVEMBER 1.**
London—Ealing—Princes Room—Annual General Meeting—Lantern Lecture—Miss Mason. 7.30
Cambridge—Great Grandsen—Miss Cochrane, Mrs. Rackham. 8.0
London—Central Emsbury—Miss Janet Thomson, B.A.
Bath—Jubilee Hall—Debate—Miss Abadam. 8.0
Whitechurch—Oddfellows' Hall—Public Meeting—Miss Le Clerc Phillips. 3.0
London—N. Paddington—Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Holbertson, Miss Bompas. 4.0
Bradford—Saltire Mills—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Cooper. 12.45
Bradford—Bolton Woods—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Cooper, Rev. R. Roberts. 8.0
- NOVEMBER 2.**
Cardiff—Monthly Meeting—Mrs. Viriamu Jones.
Portsmouth—Reception to S. S. and H. Federation representatives. 3.0
Portsmouth—Albert Hall—Laurence Housman, Esq. 8.0
Cheltenham—Town Hall—Miss Abadam. 8.0
Altrincham—British Schools—Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., A. E. Langdon, Esq., K.C. 8.0
London—Enfield—Sir Victor Horsley, Lady Frances Balfour. 8.15
London—Richmond—Castle Assembly Rooms—Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Swanwick. 8.30
Nottingham—Weekly "At Home"—Miss Dickson. 7.30
Leeds—Men's Brotherhood, Salem Congregational Church—Miss Fielden. 8.0
Bradford—Lilycroft Road—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Cooper. 12.45
Bradford—Whetley Hill—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Cooper, Mr. A. Craven. 8.0
- NOVEMBER 3.**
Dublin—Irish W.S. and Local Government Association—Committee Meeting. 11.30
Plymouth—Chambers—Miss Willocks, B.A. 8.0
London—Hampstead—The Library, Prince Arthur Road—Mrs. Stanbury, Miss Clementina Black. 4.0
London—St. George's, Hanover Square—Drawing-room Meeting—Lady Brassey, Mrs. Fawcett. 3.15
Leeds—Nethergreen Girls' Club—Miss Fielden. 7.30
Croydon—19, Wellesley Road—Mrs. Andrews' Drawing-room Meeting—Miss B. Duncan. 3.0
Ludlow—Public Meeting—Miss Le Clerc Phillips. 3.0
Bradford—Illingworth's Mills—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Cooper. 12.45
Bradford—Morley Street—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Cooper. 8.0
- NOVEMBER 4.**
Tonbridge—Public Hall—Lady Frances Balfour.
London—Blackheath—Concert Hall—Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., R. Cholmeley, Esq., M.A. 8.0
London—Hampstead Garden Suburb—Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Raphael, Miss C. Corbett. 3.30
London—S. Paddington—Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Franklin Thomasson, Miss Thomson, B.A. 4.0
Plymouth—Stoke Public Hall—Miss Willocks, B.A. 3.0
Bradford—Ickringhills Mills—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Cooper. 12.45
Rugby—Co-operative Hall—Miss Ashton. Afternoon
Rugby—Market Place—Open-air Meeting—Miss Ashton. Evening
Croydon—18, Wellesley Road—Mrs. Richards' Drawing-room Meeting—Miss B. Duncan. 8.0

Church Stretton—Town Hall—Public Meeting—Miss Le Clerc Phillips.
Bradford—Shiple Market Place—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Cooper. 8.0
Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—At Home. 4.0

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October 28: Open-air, Charing Cross, Miss Kirby. 8.0
October 31: Open-air, Wellington Street, Miss Stuart Paterson. 7.30
November 2: Drawing-room Meeting, Mrs. Gemmill, Miss Lamond. 3.0
November 3: Open-air, Charing Cross, Miss Stuart Paterson. 8.0
November 3: Drawing-room Meeting, Mrs. Chalmers Smith, Miss Lamond. 3.0
November 5: Greenock, Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Lamond. 3.0
November 7: Open-air, Wellington Street, Miss Stuart Paterson. 8.0
November 9: Open-air, Miss Lamond. 8.0
November 12: Greenock, Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Lamond. 3.0

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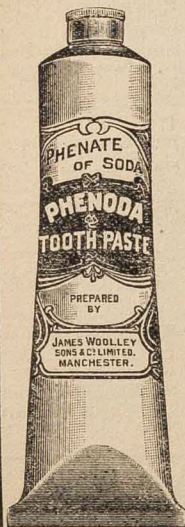
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