

THE VOTE

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

VOL. I.—No. 21.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

EDITORIAL.

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

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WHAT WE THINK.

The Political Rig.

In Manchester last week Mr. Patten, the American "cotton king," a gentleman whose speculative rigs and methods of juggling with the markets were not appreciated by the Manchester Exchange, had a bad time of it. A straw will show how the wind blows. The temper of the country is against shady finance, and it is well that the Government should realise this. Mr. Patten forced a crisis in cotton; Mr. Asquith is forcing a crisis in politics. Both are astute men, and both understand the law of supply and demand—but neither takes enough account of the human element which breeds the economic fallacy. American finance, when its principles are applied to English politics, will be found a bad pattern. With a total disregard for commercial credit, Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George have engineered a crisis. When that crisis comes they will be the first to be surprised at the temper of the country. If they are hustled out of power, as Mr. Patten was hustled out of the Cotton Exchange, they may thank themselves. The price of keeping Mr. Asquith in power is more than the commercial men of the country can afford to pay. Before threatening a possible refusal of supplies in six weeks' time, it would have been well for the Government to have remembered that more truth than sneer lay in Napoleon's description of us as a "nation of shopkeepers," and that the male electorate are not unlikely to prefer retaining the contents of their tills and their pockets to keeping Mr. Asquith in power. If guarantees are asked for and refused when the Lords throw out the Veto, the present Cabinet, like brother Gladstone, may prefer a speedy exit to some of our loving colonies or dependencies. Meantime, we women, who will presently be paying our share of the interest on the money that has been borrowed without reason or rhyme, are "watching and waiting." We are watching the disgraceful and reckless finance of the Liberal Government, and we are waiting our opportunity when the men of the country, like ourselves, will rise above party politics and see that, if they are not to be the laughing-stock of the world, they must choose men whose principles will not be side-tracked by party and biased by sex, and whose regard for public credit is greater than their desire for the gratification of their personal politics.

The Woman's Charter.

Sir Charles McLaren will at an early date introduce a

Bill into the House to give legislative effect to the chief provisions of the Woman's Charter of Rights and Liberties. Owing to the congested condition of Parliamentary business and the many "burning" questions of Budget and Veto, no progress can be made with the measure this Session. It has been drafted by an eminent K.C., and its discussion is bound to direct attention of the kind we desire to the economic and legal reasons at the back of our movement. The men who framed enactments that babies shall sleep in banana boxes will have an opportunity of offering equally valuable suggestions for dealing with their mothers, and, let us hope, of having the ridicule of our supporters (who, at the lowest computation, number well over 400) turned upon them.

Petitions and Admissions.

Willingly and unwillingly, M.P.'s from every part of the country are daily laying petitions for legislation on the question of female enfranchisement from the electorate of their constituencies on the table of the House. In one day no less than fifteen petitions were presented. The House is not allowed to forget that we exist, though the regulations for admission behind the Grille are still drafted in favour of their own female relatives. If admission to the Strangers' Gallery were confined similarly to their male relatives, there might be some reason in this.

Scottish Divorce.

The most important witness who has as yet appeared during the hearing of the Divorce Commission was Lord Salvesen, the senior of the five Scottish judges of the Outer Court of Session in Edinburgh. In the course of his evidence he made it clear that a most excellent system has been in practice for hundreds of years in Scotland, fair to the poor and the rich, to the man and the woman, and though these sane and excellent laws have been within a stone's throw of them, it never occurred to the conservative English legal mind that they might without loss of dignity copy them.

The procedure for suing *in formâ pauperis* dates back to a statute of James I. passed in 1424. In ordinary cases where the wife is the defender the rule is that the husband must supply the funds at an early stage of the cause to enable her to have the necessary professional assistance to conduct her defence, and at the end, unless the judge should hold that the defence was so manifestly untenable that it should never have been stated, the husband is found liable for his wife's expenses, taxed at a higher rate than as between party and party.

Asked as to his views upon the question of the equality of the sexes in regard to the divorce laws, Lord Salvesen said: "The Scotch Courts have exercised divorce jurisdiction since 1560, and all remedies open to man have always been open to woman in actions based on adultery as well as desertion. The system has worked well." He believed if the matter were investigated it would be found that Scotland was more moral than England because of her better divorce laws.

The general result of the Commission so far, the tone of which, with notable exceptions like Sir John Bigham, has been uniformly high, goes to show that you can no more side-track virtue than you can side-track principle in the interest of one particular sex.

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"AT HOME" AT CAXTON HALL.

Two remarkable addresses were given at the "At Home" at Caxton Hall last Thursday. One came from Mr. W. H. Nevinson, the well-known journalist and publicist, who recently gave up his post on a Liberal daily owing to its attitude over the struggle for women's enfranchisement, and the other from Mr. Cameron Grant, who has been for many years a strong believer in the economic and political equality of the sexes. Mrs. Borrmann Wells presided.

Woman's Position amongst Savage Races.

Mr. Cameron Grant chose as the subject of his address "The Effect of Woman's Position in Savage and Semi-savage Races." This was the position given them by custom, which, he observed, had among wild and semi-civilised peoples, an even more binding effect than law amongst so-called civilised races.

The difference in "legal" status between the sexes had a noticeable effect and tended to become a determining factor in the survival or elimination of a tribe, whether struggling against a barbarian or a civilised people and where the legal or customary status of the woman is high, a greatly added vitality was given to the race or tribe where it existed. From the women of the East he took the first example.

Nairs of Malabar.

In Malabar there is a race of people of old Dravidian stock, who exemplify among certain of themselves the advantages of legal equality. "I speak of the Nairs," said Mr. Grant, "mentioned in history even as early as 1583. They allow their women perfect equality: nay, even more, a superiority. In a score of ways they hold the advantage. The laws of inheritance have worked, and that race has been generally advantaged. They stand out superior to their neighbours, not only in domestic polity but also in martial valour. Among them inheritance goes in the female line; even the succession to the throne runs through the sisters in order of seniority, and not through the brothers of the blood royal. The wife has equal property with her husband, and other rights also. The result is the women are bold and enterprising, and naturally their sons and daughters are the same. They draw their best qualities from both the paternal and maternal sides, and are therefore better equipped for life's struggle than those who come into the world drawing them only from one side. Their civilisation, peculiar as it is, is generally higher than that of their neighbours, and even against fierce Mahomedan irruption in the days of Hyder Ali and Tippe Sultan, though ultimately beaten in 1765, they made better headway than many other peoples numerically stronger and more powerful.

Todas and Badagas.

"I will now take another set of Eastern people, still lower in the scale of civilisation, and, curiously enough, also one of the comparatively few polyandrous peoples of the earth. I mean the Todas. There the women are practically on a perfect equality with the men, and certainly I believe that had it not been for this equality, even by the time when I knew them as a very young man they would have disappeared from the earth. They were a

race, small in numbers, of very peculiar customs, and I believe that it was only this equality of the sexes that gave them such vitality as they possessed and prevented them having died out years ago. Their near neighbours, the Badagas, were much more numerous, and still held their own—an active and, in many respects, energetic people. But they largely owe their survival to the position held among them by their women. Their influence, however, is not so marked, and had they been as few in number as the Todas they would possibly have disappeared by this time, for other small hill tribes of different customs have, even in the comparatively short period that I can cover in my memory, died out or became submerged in some other people.

Sioux Warrior and Squaw.

"Let us now turn to the New World, and there we will see the same thing noticeable. The fierce, powerful tribes that treated their women as utterly inferior beings, and not worth more than the passing attention of a warrior and a man, have practically themselves passed away. Certain small and, from an American Indian's point of view, utterly insignificant little tribes have continued to this day, gradually strengthening themselves and growing out of savagery into better things because the legal position of their women, which among savage tribes always means, as I have said, the position given them by custom, was higher; and no brave among them would have done as I have seen a prominent Sioux warrior do, fly at his squaw and bite her nose badly because she had not dug him up sufficient wild turnips after coming to the camping ground, and dragging her household goods behind her, pitching the tent, spreading the skins, getting his pipe ready, and otherwise tending to his lordship's wants. At one time there were about 80,000 Dakota or Sioux Indians—perhaps the greatest of all the Indian tribes or nations. To-day there are comparatively few of them left, and most of those are miserable hangers-on upon the stained skirts of civilisation.

"There are certain tribes of Indians who were very small and insignificant in the days when the Sioux and other savage races like themselves held mastery in the American Continent, small tribes who were held of little account indeed by these savage warriors. They existed both in the East and West. They were like the Conies mentioned in Scripture, a feeble folk; but they treated their womenfolk by custom in a very different way to the Sioux and his like, and to-day they are still existing and more or less thriving and becoming largely civilised.

In South America.

"To go to the far south of the neighbouring continent, if I am not mistaken the Araucanian Indians—the only Indians that have ever successfully resisted a white race—largely owed their power of resistance to the higher level upon which they put their womenkind. The Conquistadores—the early Spanish conquerors of South America—were a tough lot, but they met their match in Araucania. Cortez and the comparatively few companions conquered Mexico, but it would have taken a good many Cortezes and a good many companions to have conquered the Araucanians. The Mexican women had not the grit in them that was given by equality, and hence their sons failed their country in the hour of need. The Araucanians, I believe, noted that the firearms of the Spaniards, once discharged, took time to reload, and it was their women who made the discovery, pointed it out to the warriors, and taught them to receive the first discharge manfully, counting nothing those that fell, and, closing in, finishing foot to foot and hand to hand so successfully that Araucania is to-day practically an independent province of Chili.

The Women of Dahomey.

"Africa is a curious country. The only country in which commissariat cannibalism is the rule, or at least

was the rule, for tens of thousands of square miles. It is a land of the strangest and most barbarous savagery in the world, and yet even there the same law holds good, and the tribes that place their women highest, and by tribal custom, which is their equivalent to our law, give their women the highest legal status, are themselves the least likely to be exterminated.

"Even in such a case as that of Dahomey, the legal status given to women owing to the peculiar military organisation of the State, caused them to give the French under General Dodds a much harder foe to encounter than we had in the Ashantis. The Ashanti warriors never stood up to us in the open; the women warriors and men of Dahomey fought together like tigers, hand to hand, with the French. Anyone who knows the bitter struggle over the rough entrenchments and stockades of Kotopa, where bayonet and cyllas, breechloading rifles, trade musket, horse pistol, and modern revolver were used in wild and ferocious confusion, will, I imagine, bear me out.

"I think these savage instances, nearly all of them from personal experience, have at least shown that the status of a people is in every way raised the more the sexes are brought upon a legal equality. The highest state, of course, will be that in which, omitting only the inherent differences and disabilities and burdens of each individual sex, the two sexes are placed in every other respect upon a perfect legal equality."

Mr. Nevinson's Address.

In the course of his address, Mr. Nevinson dealt with the loss, both of prestige and of adherents, which the Liberal Government had sustained through its treatment of the women.

He, like others, at one time had not thought much about the enfranchisement of women. In Parliament it had formed a subject for off days, for jokes such as Sir William Harcourt's, "What did my mother want with a vote?"—as if that settled the question. But when he was in Russia about four years ago he saw the women fighting side by side in the streets with the men, and at the same time he heard that two women had been imprisoned in England because they had asked for a vote. And after that came the war of the Government against the women by means of unjust sentences, unjust condemnations, and the abomination of forcible feeding. This was all the more inexplicable, because the Liberals had always stood out for the different treatment of political prisoners (as in the case of Mr. William O'Brien). This attitude of the Government had caused them the loss of Mr. Herbert Gladstone—(groans)—and also what it would have gained from the support of men like himself (Mr. Nevinson), who had always been their faithful followers. They had gained nothing by this treatment of the women—they did not frighten them; and one Suffragist had told them that she went in a flame and she came out "a raging fire." The long struggle the women had had was not to be regretted; they would value the suffrage more when it came than if it had dropped into their mouths. Day by day the Commons in their fight against the Lords were supplying them with arguments, and the whole question could be summed up in Swift's epigram, "The government of the governed without their consent is the very definition of slavery." There were certain privileges men would lose when women were enfranchised: restrictions would be put to their drink and debauchery, and they would lose the advantages of their backstairs influence over women. Women would come to the front door for what they wanted. He would remind them that the condition in slave countries was equally bad for the ruling classes, and he declared that they were witnessing a great awakening from bondage.

N. E. C. MEETINGS.

In the North of England we have had a marvellous awakening by the N.E.C. visit to Sunderland. All the meetings have been an unqualified success. Fresh enthusiasm and impetus have been given to our existing branches, and we have gained friends and sympathisers in other towns.

At Halifax the series started with a large public meeting, the first held by the Women's Freedom League. The meeting was addressed by Mrs. Sanderson, Mrs. Manson, and Miss Nelson, M.A. A very good hearing was accorded the speakers.

On Monday afternoon drawing-room meetings were held in Sunderland, at which Mrs. Potts presided. Mrs. Sanderson, Miss Manning, and Miss Clark spoke, while Mrs. Bernard Storey gave delightful Suffrage recitations. The room was crowded to its utmost capacity. The results can be gauged by the number of new members enrolled into the Branch.

In South Shields Mrs. Binks kindly lent her drawing-room, which was also crowded to hear Mrs. Despard on "The New Womanhood." In the evening hundreds of people were turned away from the hall, unable to obtain admission. Mrs. Binks presided. Mrs. Despard, Miss Manning, and Miss Munro spoke. At the close over thirty members were enrolled. A meeting was held later to form the South Shields Branch.

At West Hartlepool on Monday evening a good meeting was held in the Town Hall, and a drawing-room (lent by Miss Cook) meeting on Wednesday afternoon.

Sunderland on Tuesday evening accorded a very hearty reception in the Victoria Hall to Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Sanderson, and Miss Manning, Miss Guy presiding. A large number of students were present prepared to break up the meeting. Thanks, however, to the splendid and effective stewarding of our men associates of the Branch and the presence of the local inspector of police, their presence only resulted in increased enthusiasm on the part of the audience. On the collection being announced, a member of the Branch stated her intention of doubling whatever the audience contributed.

Meetings have been held in Dewsbury, Huddersfield, and other towns. Much credit is due to the secretaries and officials of the local Branches, and to the effective organising energies of Mrs. Gordon, Miss Nelson, and Miss Osborne.

IRISH CAMPAIGN.

Mrs. Despard has addressed meetings in Coleraine, Londonderry, and Bangor. A branch of the Irish Women's Freedom League has been formed at Londonderry. The Saturday afternoon meeting in Bangor was small, but its usefulness may be gauged by its sequel. Mrs. Despard was leaving Belfast by the late boat, and there was time to fit in an evening meeting. Members of the audience volunteered to advertise, and went out with bell and chalk to make the meeting known. As a result the hall was well filled with attentive men and women, the small boys who came to make a disturbance being easily awed into silence.

Miss Coyle has gone to Dublin to make the final arrangements for Miss Matters' meeting on the 18th, and I have not yet received her report of the meetings in the Londonderry district.

Open-air meetings have been continued in Belfast with good results. The "man in the street" shows a greater desire to adorn his person than his mind, so that literature does not sell so well as badges, but he no longer condemns the women's movement as nonsense.—EDITH A. BREMNER.

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THE HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY.

By MARION HOLMES.

"She's the gentlest-looking rebel I ever saw!" said a visitor at one of our Caxton Hall "At Homes," speaking of Mrs. How Martyn, who occupied the chair that afternoon. "Did they really send her to prison?" she asked me, unbelievably. I sympathised with her bewilderment, for, to a person whose idea of a Suffragette has been founded on Press reports, the first acquaintance with many of our members—and perhaps more particularly with our General Secretary—is apt to prove rather disconcerting. They are so very unlike what one has been led to expect.

"But I've been a rebel ever since I can remember," said Mrs. How Martyn, when I told her of this little incident. "I was always in hot water at school, even in my very earliest school days, because I resented the difference made between boys and girls, and the greater amount of liberty allowed to the former. So that until I went to the North London school I'm afraid my career was a very disgraceful one. Luckily for me, it was in Miss Buss's days that I was a pupil there, and her system was a great improvement on the repressive, absurd, and restricted one that I had experienced before."

"What a lot of fire-brands Miss Buss has kindled. So many Suffragettes seem to have been her pupils."

"She knew how to develop a keen sense of self-reliance in them; perhaps that accounts for it. And then, too, we were made to feel that the privileges of higher education that we were enjoying had been won for us at great cost by other women, and that we must value and use them accordingly. Miss Buss sometimes lectured to us on the lives of pioneer women, so that we naturally grew to reverence and respect those who had dared and suffered in pioneer work."

Mrs. How Martyn's rebellious attitude towards school authorities evidently did not interfere with her studies, for she passed one examination after the other with brilliant success at Cheltenham, North London, then at Aberystwyth, and afterwards at the Royal College of Science, South Kensington, where she was the first woman to take the Associateship in Physics and Mathematics. This part of her career, however, one cannot get her to talk about very easily.

"Yes, I studied science," she said, in answer to my persistent questioning, "and took the B.Sc. degree after my marriage, at the same time as my husband. But all that seems to me of but the slightest importance now. I never really took part in any serious public work until I came into this movement."

"And what brought you into it?"

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"An advertisement!" promptly. "I saw in the *Labour Leader* one day an advertisement of a meeting to be held at Clement's Inn. It was in the earliest days of the militant movement, and at that time I had heard little or nothing of the women who were organising it. Still, I felt that I should like to go. Mrs. Billington-Greig was there, and the others who were working with her at that time, and they were like a revelation to me. For the first time I felt I had met women who were strong and self-reliant, women who had really broken away from the old ruts, and were hammering out new paths for themselves and others. My imagination was fired; it seemed like the dawn of a new era. Needless to say, I threw in my lot with them at once."

At that time assistant mathematical lecturer at Westfield College, Hampstead, she resigned this post to devote the whole of her time to the W.S.P.U. She did spade work enthusiastically, feeling that delivering handbills and chalking pavements was gloriously worth while, if only it helped forward the new crusade. She took part in the deputation to Mr. Asquith on June 21st, 1906, when Teresa Billington was arrested.



(Photo by Ridsdale Cleare, Lower Clapton Road, N.E.)
MRS. EDITH HOW MARTYN, A.R.C.S., B.Sc.

"I made my first public speech on that day at an indignation meeting held outside Mrs. Montefiore's house during her famous siege. 'T. B.-G.' had been billed to appear, but she had been sent to Holloway, so I took her place. It was the first time any Suffragist had been imprisoned in London, and we were all seething with indignation. Nothing less than that would ever have given me courage to speak, I believe."

I hastily skirted a vexed subject. It is our one great grievance against our General Secretary that she will not speak oftener.

"You took part in the famous Lobby demonstration in October, 1906, didn't you?"

"Yes. I had taken up the secretarial work of the W.S.P.U. in September; then came the Lobby demonstration, and a sentence of two months' imprisonment. After we came out, as you know, the movement had more than quadrupled its strength. It was a magnificent reward for anything we had suffered."

Mrs. How Martyn was unanimously appointed Hon. Secretary to the Women's Freedom League at the time of its formation, and the fact that she has been willing to continue in so arduous a post is proof of her devotion to our Cause. She recognises in an exceptionally clear way the vast importance of our aim and the far-reaching effect that it will have upon the lives and destinies of women. "No sacrifice is too great to ask or be given," she says. "It is of more importance to women to gain

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legislative power than it was even to gain the right of education. To falter or faint in our efforts would be a terrible betrayal of the duty we owe to the women of the future. Even if the struggle were to last—but I'm sure it won't!—for the whole of our lifetime, we should be prepared to do our part to the end."

It is that spirit that brings victory within sight, and when victory comes Edith How Martyn will take an honourable place amongst those who have "dared to be free."

OUR COMPETITIONS.

PRIZES FOR STREET SELLERS OF "THE VOTE."

To encourage her corps of street sellers, Mrs. Snow is offering prizes for the largest number of VOTES sold in April and May. All copies must be obtained from Mrs. Snow, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi. The first prize will be 15s., or three fully-paid shares in the Minerva Publishing Co.; the second 10s., or two fully-paid-up shares; and the 3rd 5s., or one fully-paid-up share. There will be a special VOTE Week, May 23rd to May 30th, particulars of which will be announced later. A VOTE At Home will be held June 2nd. New recruits to the Street-Selling Corps will be welcomed by Mrs. Snow, who will give them pitches if applied to at 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

"Suffragettes at Home."

Under the heading of "Suffragettes at Home" a series of photographs is appearing in THE VOTE which should be an object lesson to the male "anti" who so frequently requests us to "go home and do the washing," "mind the baby," or "dam the husband's socks." Mrs. Thomson-Price, one of our directors, is offering a prize of a guinea for the best photograph showing Suffragettes doing these and various other domestic duties. It is not necessary that all the subjects of the photographs should be important personages, but they must be members of the Women's Freedom League. We reserve the right to publish any of the photographs sent in. Competition photographs must be sent to the office of THE VOTE, 148, Hoiborn Bars, E.C., before April 9th.

COMPETITION FOR RECEIPTS.

Owing to the interest taken in last month's competitions, and as the advertising is the mainstay of the paper, we have decided to encourage the keeping of receipts on the part of our readers by continuing our offer of monthly prizes for the largest number sent in.

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

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

Entries for the first competition must be sent in before Saturday, April 9th. The results will be announced in the issue dated April 16th.

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Managing Director.—Miss MARIE LAWSON.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1910.

REFORM OF THE COMMONS.

The Commons in their struggle with the irresponsible Lords have many advantages over the women in their struggle with the unrepresentative and undemocratic Commons. Yet an effort by Lord Rosebery to try to induce the Upper House to reform itself has not been hailed with acclamation by the Commons; apparently it brings home to the people the false position of the Commons themselves.

Women Suffragists have realised, and other reformers are grasping the truth, that a reform of the Commons is more essential to the well-being of the nation and more necessary to its progress than a reform of the Upper House. When the Commons have the support of the people—women as well as men, then the Peers will be powerless to override the people's wishes. The Peers know that they cannot fight the people, but they are not afraid to flout the wishes of a House of Commons which as a representative House is a mere hollow sham, representing much less than half the adult population, dominated by party interests, and so dead to the real life of the nation that in their blindness they are crushing the women's agitation for freedom, the granting of which would give them the new strength they need.

The present chaotic condition of British politics is due very largely to the non-representative character of the so-called House of the People. Built on a false foundation, its actions in legislating for women without their consent, in taking women's money without giving them corresponding control, stultify and make ridiculous its pretensions to be the voice of the nation. Is it any wonder that honourable members, refusing to listen to their own consciences, year after year playing their parts in this sex tyranny, have forgotten their duties and allowed themselves to be reduced to mere party voting machines? They sanction the desires of a narrow bureaucracy that, holding the party purse strings, on which the majority of members are more or less dependent, has reduced the power of the private member to zero.

The women in the militant societies have long recognised that it is useless to rely on the private member, and hence demand a Government measure or Government support for a private measure. Women have drawn the attention of the public to the utter powerlessness of the "representatives of the people" to influence the action of their leaders. This was abundantly proved in the last Parliament, when the members showed by a large majority their desire to become more representative of the nation by admitting women to the franchise on the same terms as men. Mr. Asquith, by refusing the facilities necessary for carrying the Bill into law, showed his contempt for the will of the members of the Commons as completely as the Lords showed theirs in rejecting the Budget. Remembering these facts, it is nothing short of amazing to hear these same party leaders, who themselves ignore the expressed wishes of the House of the People and of their party, having the effrontery to talk of the undemocratic nature of the Upper House when their own undemocratic constitution is a far more serious menace to the establishment on a firm basis of free, representative institutions.

For four years the Government has waged a remorseless and unscrupulous war against a great democratic movement; it has imprisoned and tortured for purely political offences those women who have endeavoured to urge that the most pressing political question is the Reform of the Commons.

Though a truce has been called so far as militant tactics are concerned, there was never a more suitable or a better time for urging our claim on the Government and the

public. Our real strength lies not in militant protests, but in the justice of our claim, in our inalienable right to share the privileges, as we are made to share the burdens, of citizenship, in the new and nobler ideals which recognise that the woman's spirit as well as the man's must have free play in our public life. Militancy has been, and when necessary will again be, the outward sign that there are women prepared to sacrifice all they hold dear, to lay down their lives if required, in order to bring nearer women's political emancipation.

The House of Commons is so occupied with its own grievance that we require to be very persistent in making them understand that we are suffering from a precisely similar grievance, and to urge that women find it as intolerable to be governed by the House of Commons as the Commons find it to be governed by the House of Lords. The struggles in the two cases can only end in similar ways—victory for the Commons over the Lords and victory for Women over the Commons.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

IN LIVERPOOL.

During the past week we have addressed meetings in Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Sheffield, Middlesbrough, Waterloo, and Liverpool. In each place the audience that assembled to hear us was in its nature and size very different from our general audiences of a few months ago. The chaff has gone and only the wheat remains. This is due to the suspension of militant tactics. Now comes the need for harder work and greater concentration, for we realise, in the words of Ferrer, that "those stages of progress alone are durable which have rooted themselves in the mind and conscience of mankind before receiving the final sanction of legislation." In Liverpool we have a great field to work, and nothing but the greatest patience and the greatest concentration will bring the results that this city should yield. We have made a good beginning with two meetings, the first at Hope Hall on Friday last, when Mr. Joseph McCabe with his intellectual force gripped the audience and implanted his high ideals; and the second at Waterloo Town Hall on Saturday, when to us was revealed a new advocate with the gift of oratory in Mrs. Evans, a member of our Waterloo Branch. At both meetings Miss Violet Tillard presided. Miss Nellie Smith, Miss Urquhart, and Miss Spencer, working with Miss Tillard, spared neither time nor energy to make the Liverpool meeting a success. The good results of the Waterloo meeting are due to the Branch and its indefatigable secretary, Miss Fenton.—MURIEL MATTERS.

MAUD MULLER.

[As viewed by a sensible American woman, with an international reputation as an explorer and a mountaineer, Professor MARY GRAY PECK, who is also a Suffragist and Headquarters Secretary of the N.W.S. Association.]

Maud Muller on a summer's day
Raked the meadows sweet with hay;
The Judge approved, no man said nay,
For her to stir that dried-up grass.
When she had done her ten-hour stunt,
She homeward went as she was wont,
And nimbly chopped the family wood,
And nimbly cooked the family food,
And fed the pigs and milked the cows,
And then repaired to bed.

We all know Maud's place was the home,
And that it's only in a pome
Such goings on as raking hay
Could be condoned in this mad way.
You brave and noble masculines

Do all the work outside the home;
And you bewitching feminines

Let none entice you thence to roam.
Stay in the house and sweep and dust,
And wash the dishes if you must.

—The American Suffragette.



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SCOTTISH NOTES.

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The Scottish Council.

The Scottish Council held its first quarterly meeting since its reconstruction on Saturday afternoon at the Suffrage Centre, Glasgow. The first business was the forming of the new constitution. This took some little time and consideration, but it was finally settled, and it will be sent to all members of the Scottish Council before the next meeting, which will be held in Edinburgh in June. The Scottish Council will in future be composed of an Hon. Secretary and an Hon. Treasurer and the Secretary of each Branch; or failing her, one delegate from each Branch. At each meeting it will decide where the next meeting is to be held, and it is hoped in this way to keep up the interest all over Scotland.

Glasgow.

An "At Home" was held at the Suffrage Centre, Sauchiehall Street, on Saturday evening, March 12th. After tea and music, Mrs. Wilson, who was in the chair, in her opening address touched on the work being done by the W.F.L. in Ireland. While a shadow had been thrown on the way through the accident to Mrs. Billington-Greig while in Ireland, opening the Irish Campaign, the work in the Emerald Isle was now progressing favourably, and our Irish neighbours were being given an opportunity of hearing some of the leaders of the movement, including Mrs. Despard and Miss Muriel Matters. From Ireland Mrs. Wilson brought her audience back to Scotland, and introduced Miss Sidley, who has won the hearts of Scotch suffragettes. As there were a number of strangers present, and presumably some of them antis, Miss Sidley's speech was very opportune. She dealt with the arguments put forth by the opponents of woman's suffrage. The speaker pointed out that when such men as Lord Cromer, Lord Curzon, and Mr. Rudyard Kipling opposed woman's suffrage one looked for some new information as to why women should not exercise the franchise. But the reason why women should not have the vote, according to the antis—because man is man and woman is woman—Miss Sidley showed was one of the strongest reasons for giving women the right to vote. An appeal was made for new members, and even the old members present had new life instilled into them by Miss Sidley's inspiring address, so that they could truly say with her, "It is, it is a glorious thing, to be a suffragette."

Thanks are due to Mrs. McLeod, who acted as hostess, and to her friends, who supplied the music, for the pleasant evening spent.—AGNES MCLAY.

An exhibition of decorative work will be held in the Suffrage Centre from April 4th till 16th, when a large selection of embroidery, metal work, leather work, painted china, pictures, &c., will be on view. All goods shown will be entirely the work of women, and the exhibition promises to be a most interesting one. Any members or friends desirous of exhibiting should communicate with the Secretary of the Suffrage Centre for further particulars. Miss McEwan presented the Centre with the artistic poster advertising the exhibition. Tea will be served during the exhibition at usual prices.

Glasgow (Central Branch).—53, Dixon Avenue, Crosshill.

The Central Branch held its annual business meeting on Wednesday, March 9th. Very satisfactory reports were received from the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Literature Secretary respectively. The membership roll has been increased by sixty-one during the past session, showing a present membership of 207. The branch is beginning the present session with a smaller balance in hand than in previous years, but this is due to the fact that its givings to various objects have been on a more generous scale. It was intimated that the Cake and Candy Sale held on Saturday, March 5th, had realised a clear profit of £16, and it was decided to give £10 of this towards the funds of the Suffrage Centre and to keep the remainder for branch expenses. The meeting afterwards discussed the advisability of amalgamating with the Hillhead Branch, the latter branch having previously expressed its desire for such a union. It was agreed that the branches should be united, the members all being of opinion that the union would be helpful as a means of consolidating and concentrating their work and energies. The branch will now be called "The Central and Hillhead Branch." T. S.

Pollokshields—4, Hampden Terrace.

A meeting of the Branch took place on Monday March 7th, in the Burgh Hall. Miss Hamilton, L.L.A., was unable, through illness, to come and give her paper on "Political Education," but has been kind enough to promise to do so on some future occasion. Miss Gibson, of Dennistoun (on very short notice), came instead and gave her admirable paper on "Prohibition," a short account of which appeared in last week's VOTE. The Jumble Sale arrangements are now completed. The sale takes place on April 9th in the New Hall, Cornwall Street, Paisley Road, W., at 2 p.m. Mrs. McCall, 13, Dargavel Avenue, Dumbreck, is the convener of the Jumble Sale committee, and she will be glad to hear from all friends and members who can contribute goods. A van will call to receive articles promised.—LAVINIA STEWART, Hon. Sec.

Edinburgh.—17, Upper Gilmore Place.

A well-attended "At Home" was held on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 8th, when Dr. Grace Cadell was hostess. After tea Dr. Cadell took the chair and introduced Miss Moffatt, who, taking as her title "Man and Woman," discussed the arguments against equality usually taken from the Bible, and succeeded in throwing a good deal of new light upon a very old subject. Some discussion followed, turning mainly on the danger of manhood suffrage coming before the women are admitted to the franchise at all, if the "red herring" of adult suffrage be allowed to distract our attention from our own demands. The evening meeting was devoted to business, and to rehearsal of the Women's Parliament for the "Hard Up" Social.—HELEN MCLACHLAN, Asst. Sec.

IF YOU WANT—

A Smart Coat and Skirt!

Try Portland and Co., 14, Bury Street (near the British Museum). There you can have a well-cut costume, perfectly fitting, for 3½ guineas, and if you mention THE VOTE you will get special terms. Those of our members who cannot come up to town to be fitted can choose a pattern and send a bodice or old coat that fits, and they will be delighted with the result.

A Delicious Lunch

You ought to try Eustace Miles's restaurant in Chandos Street. Cool green walls and dainty tables and most excellent fare are to be found there. Warm in winter and cool in summer, it is most attractive, and some of our best-known celebrities who believe in Mr. Eustace Miles's foods may be seen at lunch hour building up their brain tissues.

A Dress Pattern Cut

Try Madame Schild, 142, Long Acre, W.C. Often you see a delightful sketch in some weekly or daily paper, and wish you could get a pattern of it. This you can have by sending your measurements with the sketch. Patterns of fancy costumes and designs of costumes made during the last hundred years are amongst Madame Schild's specialities, and her establishment, with its rare facilities for the home dressmaker, is absolutely unique.

"WHY I WANT THE VOTE."

** Under this heading we shall have from time to time the personal opinions of our best-known supporters, giving the reasons why they want the vote. We all know the broad reasons why we want it; but the intimate reasoning which has led others of us into the ardent fighting front ranks has a special interest. This week our Hon. Literature Secretary, who has had a distinguished University career, gives cogent reasons for direct representation.



MISS HICKS, M.A., Hon. Lit. Sec.

I want the Vote because I feel it an intolerable insult that when the "people" are called upon to decide important issues that affect the lives of women and of children as much as those of men, I and my sister women are ignored and not allowed to take our share because we are "only women." I resent the fact that my sex should still be classed with infants, idiots, and lunatics as those "who lie under natural incapacities, and therefore cannot exercise a sound discretion." I feel it is time that women were recognised as fit to have a voice in their own government, that this necessarily follows from the right to education—i.e., to have a brain and use it—that women have won during the last half-century; for you cannot educate any class, and then continue to treat them as children. We feel we have an individuality of our own, and are not content to be "represented" by any male relation, but prefer to express our own views in the direct way.

I want the Vote to bring a wider interest and a wider feeling of responsibility into the lives of many women who have been taught that the four walls of home must be the limit of their duty and their activity; to make them realise that they must do this and not leave undone their duty to the larger family, the nation. I want these women to have a higher opinion of their own value, and not be content to efface themselves, as they too often have been in the past.

I want the Vote as a symbol of the equality of the sexes, and as a means of bringing about that equality before the law; that the wife may be the equal partner of her husband, and entitled to a fair return and to economic independence in exchange for her services in the home; that the mother may have equal rights with the father over their children; that a woman may have equal opportunities to undertake any work for which she is fitted, and obtain the same rate of pay for such work as a man if her work is as good as his.

I want the Vote because it is the duty of women to take their part in grappling with many grave social problems—questions of unemployment, poor law reform, the education of children, the care of the feeble-minded, and others that now press for solution if we are to remain a strong nation with a strong race of men and women. I am convinced that neither sex by itself can deal with these questions in a satisfactory way, and that the wise co-operation of both is needed, each contributing its special knowledge. For the woman's voice to be effective she must have direct political power.

AMY M. HICKS.

WHAT WE ARE SAYING AND DOING.

"If any man is for captivity, into captivity he goeth."—BOOK OF REVELATIONS, xiii., 10.

** In this column we propose to give W. F. L. news items in tabloid form week by week.

Neither Praise nor Blame.

Speaking at South Shields, Mrs. Despard said that sentiments of praise and blame for their tactics were both entirely out of place. They were doing what they were doing simply and solely because they could not help it, owing to the tremendous economic pressure behind them. She hoped there would never be another election in this country with the women standing outside the gates waiting for the verdict of the men.

A Popular Belief.

At a drawing-room meeting at Mme. Du Mont's, 163, Finchley Road, Mrs. H. W. Nevinson observed that it was still a popular belief that man was the breadwinner, but there were plenty of men who were nothing of the sort. Many women kept their husbands, and the present Government had put fresh burdens on to married women.

Marriage and Factory Law.

Speaking at the Town Hall, Hartlepool, Miss Bennett, remarking that Mr. John Burns was threatening a Bill to prohibit married women from working in factories, said, "If that is passed there will either be a revolt, or women will make up their minds to adopt the policy of a woman entering into a contract with a man to live with him as man and wife and not be married."

The Woman's Point of View.

At an N.E.C. meeting at Sunderland Miss Manning said Legislation had been made in the interests of women, but it was often one-sided; and what they wanted was that legislation for women should be considered, not from the man's, but from the woman's point of view.

"Pegging Away."

Mrs. Potts, at a drawing-room meeting of the W.F.L. in Sunderland, said their work was not by any means done, and they would have to keep pegging away if they hoped to succeed. She impressed upon her audience the need of using personal influence to bring about the reform they needed.

Wastage of Talent.

At the meeting of the N.E.C. at Sunderland, Mrs. Despard said that the deprivation to women of the rights to which they were entitled prevented a deal of talent and power being used for the national weal. Britain would need all the forces which she could muster to face what had to be faced in the present century.

W. F. L. Candidate.

Miss V. Cummin, Hon. Sec. of West Sussex Branch W.F.L., is standing for her local Rural District Council. We wish this good worker every success.

The Labour Party.

To-day (Thursday) at 1.30 we shall have an audience with the Labour Party at the "House." Mrs. Despard, Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Sanderson, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Miss Bennett, and Mrs. Sproson will be present. Next week we shall give the result of the deputation.

Our Competitions.

We are anxious that as many of our readers as possible shall enter for our three competitions (see page 245). It is as easy to keep a receipt as to throw it away, and it is as easy to deal with our advertisers as to buy from firms whose belief in the woman's movement is so weak that they will not advertise in a suffrage paper.

Suffragettes' Husbands.

At a meeting of the W.F.L. in Halifax Mrs. Sanderson said that it had been supposed that suffragettes must be anti-man, that they were all disappointed old maids—that they were soured—(laughter). "Not only are the majority of us married, but we are most happily married. If we were not happily married we could not be suffragettes," she said. Mrs. Sanderson went on to say that if they dared not express any opinions contrary to their husbands, then they dare not be suffragettes. "I claim to be not only married, but happily married. Most of us have our husbands behind us in this fight."

Labour Exchanges.

Miss Brown, B.A., of Londonderry, Ireland, and a member of the Highbury Branch of the W.F.L., has been appointed to Labour Exchange work in Ireland. Her duties will be similar to those of the male divisional superintendents. Miss Brown has also been Workshop Inspector to Islington Borough Council, Sanitary Inspector to Fulham Borough Council, also for the Corporation of Leeds.

Food Reform.

Writing to the Food Reform Association, of which she is a president, Mrs. Despard said, "In many of our poorest neighbourhoods, where good food is more of an urgent necessity than anywhere else, it is literally impossible for the women to get good and wholesome supplies."

REVIEWS.

THE "STREE BODHE" AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN INDIA. (The *Stree Bodhe* Office, Bombay.)

It will probably come as a surprise to those who have concentrated their attention on the educational progress of women in the West during the past forty or fifty years, to learn that a journal, entitled *Stree Bodhe* ("Woman's Wisdom"), has been in existence in India for over half a century. A beautifully-bound memorial volume celebrating the fiftieth year of its existence, has recently been produced by the *Stree Bodhe*.

"In recognition of its services to the cause of Indian womanhood for half a century, a cause for which alone the *Stree Bodhe* took its birth," says the Editor, Miss Shirin K. N. Kabraji, "an influential committee was formed in India and England under the auspices of Lady Muir-Mackenzie, the Honourable Mr. Justice N. G. Chaudarvarkar, and Sir M. M. Bhownagree, K.C.I.E., to celebrate the combined Jubilee of the *Stree Bodhe* and social progress."

The Committee arranged a series of unique functions, lasting for five days, held simultaneously in Bombay and Ahmedabad, a detailed record of which is given within the volume. The book also embodies contributions in English and Gujarati from well-known writers on topics connected with the progress of women's education and social reform in India.

The *Stree Bodhe* was founded by a band of youthful Hindu and Parsi Social Reformers, of whom one of the most memorable was Karsandas Mulji, who, having in 1853 written an essay in favour of the remarriage of Indian widows, so offended the aunt who had brought him up and educated him, that she turned him out of her house and the home of his later boyhood.

Sir George Birdwood, writes an interesting article

in the Memorial volume on the history of the *Stree Bodhe*, and it is interesting to learn from this that Karsandas Mulji was also associated with the *Rast Goftar* ("Truth-Speaker"), which advocated among other reforms the education of Indian girls and opposition to infant marriages. Mr. Kaikhushro Kabraji edited the paper from 1865 to 1904, and was succeeded by his daughter, Miss Sherene Kabraji, who had for some years previously contributed to it.

One of the objects of the *Stree Bodhe* has been to restore to the women of India the position which was their own in the days of the ancient Aryan civilisation. The ancient Aryan women were free from most of the disabilities which exist in modern India—infant marriages, the purdah system, and polygamy.

Lady Cowasji Jehangir, one of the Parsee speakers at the Bombay Festival, pointed out that some of the reforms which had been introduced in India within the last few years, and which had been attributed to Western civilisation, existed amongst their forefathers in the Avesta age, long before the dawn of civilisation in the West. The women of the ancient Iranians were given

the advantages of a good education. The Iranian considered himself a favourite of Ahura Mazda if he became the husband of a learned woman and father of brave children. From stray passages in the Zend-Avesta it has been found that the women of the Avesta age enjoyed a very high position in society; the wife, instead of being a subordinate, was the equal of her husband. She was not a slave, but a companion to him, and co-operated with him in all domestic and other matters. With the extension of their Empire and the increase of wealth, however, changes took place among the ancient Iranians; gradually they became addicted to vices, and their women fell lower in the social scale.

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, who spoke in English at the Jubilee celebrations, and whose portrait, among many other excellent plates, adorns the pages of this inspiring volume, said:—"What I plead for is the chance of a full and perfect self-realisation, which is the inviolable right of every human being, and therefore of every Indian woman; the opportunity to develop all the qualities of the heart and mind and spirit to their utmost capacity, so that she may be fitted to fulfil all the noble and versatile duties and responsibilities of her position in every relationship of life, and so that she may adequately and worthily take her place as a distinct and definite unit in the broad scheme of national life."

When the *Stree Bodhe* was established there was not a single girls' school in Bombay, and even Parsee ladies were then in Purdah. Ahmedabad had no girls' school, while to-day many excellent colleges for Indian girls exist in these cities; Ahmedabad has now an excellent Ladies' Club for promoting social intercourse and general culture among women of different communities, and a Literary Institute for Women connected with the National Indian Association.

That so much has already been accomplished for Indian women is due largely to the advanced opinions which have been

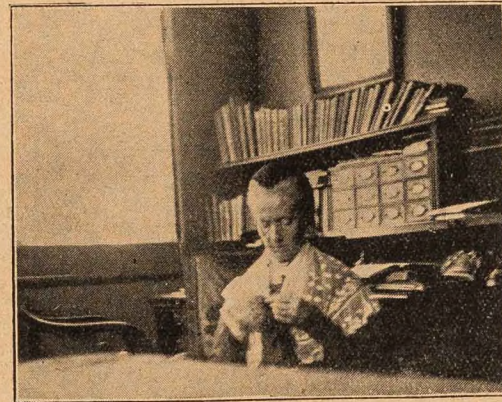
so widely disseminated by the *Stree Bodhe*. "No nation can be great which does not educate the mothers of the race," and this truth India is once more beginning to recognise. The educated women of India are to-day watching with intense interest the movement in the West towards the removal of the sex disability; Indian women in this country are showing their sympathy with the Suffrage cause; some have become members of the Women's Freedom League, so that they may evidence it in a practical way. I feel confident that every member of our League will wish this grand educational movement in India continued success.

It is encouraging and inspiring to all workers in the cause of woman's emancipation to know that the wave of revolt against the educational, social, and political disabilities of womanhood is gathering in power as it rolls onwards. "East is East and West is West,"

And never the twain shall meet."

is a sentiment which may be honestly questioned when we find East and West meeting on a common ground, and together helping to remove the bars against women's freedom.

LOUISA THOMSON-PRICE.



SUFFRAGETTES AT HOME.

(2) Mrs. DESPARD (President W.F.L.) knits a comforter.



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BRANCH NOTES.

Manchester (Central Branch).—9, Albert Square.

The Branch Meeting on Thursday was a small one, but we were glad to see some new friends and sympathisers amongst the number present. A discussion took place about getting THE VOTE into local reading rooms, and it was decided that the Branch would supply six copies for this purpose if the Library Committee will accept them, and the Secretary was instructed to write the Superintendent of branch libraries to that effect. We hope the committee will allow us to carry this into effect. The evidence recently given before the Divorce Commission was mentioned, and warmly commented on from the woman's point of view. The meeting then closed to allow the members to convey various parcels of goods to the schools in readiness for the Jumble Sale. On Friday night a goodly band of helpers attended to unpack and mark the various articles which many kind friends contributed, and the same band, helped by Miss Manning and Miss Heyes and her sister, had a busy time at the sale on Saturday. The goods sold well, and we hope to hand over five or six pounds as a result to the Branch funds. Will all those who helped accept our very warmest thanks? The great success of this effort is due to the untiring efforts of our Secretary, Miss A. E. Hordern, whose work has been beyond praise. Next week we hope to arrange our scheme of outdoor work in preparation for the summer campaign.—M. I. NEAL, President.

Manchester.—Harper Hill, Sale, Cheshire.

The organisation committee met at 302, Upper Brook Street, on Friday, March 11th, by the kindness of Mrs. McMurray. Miss Heyes' scheme for a campaign in the Eccles division, culminating with a mass meeting in the Eccles Town Hall on April 13th, was unanimously accepted. It was decided also to work in the Altrincham division of Cheshire. These two campaigns will offer opportunities of service for those anxious to devote their Easter holidays to the Cause. Volunteers are wanted, and I shall be glad to receive names as soon as possible. In addition to the special activities of the Branches, meetings have been held in connection with the Broadheath and Sale and Ashton-on-Mersey branches of the I.L.P. on March 6th and 10th respectively. On both occasions our resolution was passed unanimously. An impromptu open-air meeting was held in Sale on Saturday night—we hope the first of many equally successful. Next Saturday Miss Heyes will be the speaker. On Wednesday, 16th, the Temperance Rooms have been taken for a women's meeting, when we are looking forward to having Miss Neal in Sale.—M. E. MANNING.

Swinton.—179, Chorley Road.

The meeting at Eccles Cross on Friday, March 4th, was good and encouraging, while THE VOTE sold with remarkable rapidity both at the meeting and on the following day in Manchester. On Monday evening, March 7th, Mrs. Whitehead made out a clear case for Women's Suffrage to the British Women's Association in the Primitive Methodist School, and at the Branch meeting of Wednesday, the 9th, the members, acting on the suggestion of the committee, drew up a scheme of work for the following month, in anticipation of a big meeting in Eccles on Wednesday, the 13th of April. Will members please note the places, days, and times of the open-air meetings? We shall be pleased to welcome a reinforcement of VOTE sellers and collectors. Every Tuesday: Swinton Market Place, 7.30 p.m.; The Heights, 8.30 p.m. Every Friday: Urnston, 7.30 p.m.; Caddishead, 8.30 p.m. Every Saturday: Monton Green, 3.30 p.m.; Patricroft, 7 p.m.; Eccles Cross, 8.30 p.m. On Monday, March 22nd, we want a record Branch meeting to meet Miss Manning in the Unitarian Schools at 7.30 p.m. Please keep the date free.—JANET HEYES.

Sheffield.—32, Dover Road.

Our "At Home" on Wednesday was a great success. Miss Matters came and saw and conquered; even the supercilious reporters capitulated, and did us well in the papers next morning. She was thoroughly appreciated by her audience, who sat listening entranced to her piquant, racy speech for an hour. Mr. G. E. O'Dell, who also spoke, was most interesting too, and all he said seemed to be pervaded by a beautiful spirituality, if one may term it so, and we cannot be grateful enough to him for coming, as he did, all the way from London to Sheffield for barely three hours, to arrive back in London at about four the next morning, showing a devotion to the cause which we very much appreciate. A collection was made, plenty of literature sold, and, joy of joys, five new members joined, a thing before unheard of in Sheffield, for it takes the cautious Northerner a very long time to make the decisive step, and it needs the most persuasive eloquence to accomplish such a miracle.—A. LEONARD.

Eastbourne.—39, Mill on Road.

A debate on "Are Militant Methods Justifiable?" took place in the Grove Hall on March 10th. We were a second time unlucky in our choice of date. A benefit concert, a popular lecture, an art and industry exhibition, to say nothing of minor events, proved strong counter-attractions, which resulted in a small attendance. Our thanks are due to Mr. Chester Hillman, J.P., who presided in a most genial and pleasant manner. The audience was most sympathetic, and much enjoyed Mrs. Manson's clever and humorous defence of militant methods. Her opponent, Mr. Ronald Staples, should have lived centuries ago. His views were sentimental and antiquated, and caused much amusement to the audience. He described the militants as "insane and

idiotic," and the women who adopted them as "a disgrace to the nation." The discussion was thrown open, and several people took part in it. Mr. Manson very ably replied. We sold a fair amount of literature and about one dozen copies of THE VOTE. Alas! the collection was small. Miss Bailey, Miss Muriel Dilks, and Miss Warren were efficient stewards and literature sellers. Mr. Staples confessed to Mrs. Manson at the close that if he were in favour of the suffrage he would be in favour of militant methods.—A. DILKS.

Ipswich.—160, Norwich Road.

On Monday, March 7th, we held meetings at our Club House afternoon and evening, and the room was filled to overflowing to hear Mr. Baillie-Weaver, who is well known in Ipswich for the cogent and convincing way in which he presents the question of Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Henry Tippet presided. On the following Thursday we held our usual Branch meeting, at which Miss Howard presided, and Mrs. Manning Prentice gave "Impressions of Canada and the United States." Special reference was made to the States where women have the vote, and to the difference it has made in the payment of women. On Friday we are holding a Jumble Sale to raise funds for our rent, and next Thursday Mrs. Vulliamy, a member of the National Executive Committee, has promised to come and speak for us.—CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

Waterloo.—48, Kimberley Drive, Great Crosby.

A very successful public meeting was held at Waterloo Town Hall on Saturday, March 12th. Miss Tillard presided, and Miss Muriel Matters and Mrs. Evans addressed the meeting. In opening Miss Tillard clearly enunciated the aims and policy of the League. Mrs. Evans dealt with great earnestness on some of the most pressing disabilities under which woman labours, on her legal, economic, social, and political inferiority to man, resulting from her subordinate position under the present man-made laws. It was unnecessary to introduce Miss Matters to a Waterloo audience. Her former visit was not forgotten, and she was accorded a most cordial reception. With her usual eloquence and charm she championed the Woman's Cause. After reading an extract from Marshall Hall's speech, eulogising the work done by women during the election, Miss Matters pointed out the folly of women making themselves men's "political door-mats," and urged them to come out from their parties, and all political work, till they were accorded human rights, till they were recognised as human beings—in short, till they were enfranchised. At the close of her address questions were satisfactorily answered. A collection was taken. The Secretary thanked the speakers for their efforts, which will certainly bear fruit in due season. The thanks of the Branch are due not only to the speakers, but to the Misses Smith and Urquhart, who spent all day Saturday in chalking and distributing handbills. Although the meeting was successful, funds are needed if we are to do the work that is waiting to be done. Will any friend come forward with offers of help? We wish to hold drawing-room meetings regularly. Who will offer to help the Cause in this way? Miss Knight invites all members and friends to the "At Home" on Friday, the 18th inst., at 10, Cambridge Drive, Crosby.—S. H. FENTON (Hon. Sec.).

Gloucester (Stroud).

A meeting was held at the National Schools in Chalford, near Stroud, and the audience, though not so large as could be wished, was attentive and appreciative. A collection was taken, literature sold, and after the speeches several questions were asked and answered. Miss Boulton, Hon. Treasurer of the Cheltenham Branch W.F.L., took the chair, and spoke admirably. We were threatened with many terrible things if we dared to come to Chalford to ask for "Votes for Women," but as usual the threats were empty sound, and we met with much sympathy. On Tuesday last I spoke to the members of the Gloucester Branch of the I.L.P., when a resolution calling upon the Labour Members of Parliament to support our Cause was passed unanimously, many members present strongly supporting the resolution, Mr. Chas. Fox, the Labour candidate for Tewkesbury Division at the last General Election, being in the chair. A meeting is arranged for Stroud on Monday evening, and it is hoped that a drawing-room meeting will be arranged for Minchinhampton early in April.—MADGE TURNER.

Middlesbrough Branch.—27, Waterloo Road.

On Thursday, the 10th, a public meeting was held in the Victoria Hall, Middlesbrough. Miss Winifred Jones presided. Miss Munro dealt exhaustively with the whole question of Woman Suffrage. Miss Matters followed with an able speech. Thus reports the local Press. The audience was both attentive and appreciative. Several names were handed in, and we are hoping that others present will come in and join the local branch. We are following up this meeting by another on Thursday, 17th, in the Popular Café, when Mrs. Schofield Coates is to speak for us. May I take this opportunity of thanking the members and stewards for the splendid way in which they have worked to ensure the success of this undertaking?—LOTTIE MAHONY, Hon. Sec.

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Hampstead.—Holly Hedge Cottage, Wells Road.

The Hampstead Branch has been in the fashion, and has had a Jumble Sale, the result of this "special effort" being a clear addition of over £8 to the funds. This really seems to be one of the least difficult ways of raising money, and we advise other branches which have not yet tried it and whose coffers need replenishing to do so. Our best thanks are due to friends in other parts of London who sent us contributions for the sale.

OPENINGS FOR GIRLS.

In the current number of *The Englishwoman* is an article dealing with L.C.C. Technical Schools for girls which gives one "furiously to think." It is not, perhaps, complete, in that it makes no mention of the centre at Woolwich, where embroidery such as a Parisian atelier might envy is done by the girl students who are aiming at the higher branches of dressmaking. The pity of it is that the fathers of the girls, in spite of the scholarships allotted to them, are so grasping and have such lack of foresight that they grudge their daughters these opportunities, and would sooner see them under the name of apprentices at 2s. 6d. a week running messages for some West End dressmaker who has neither the time nor the inclination to teach them their business.

Of photography as a trade for girls we can only say that it seems foolish that there should be no idea of training them as operators. Some of the best-known photographers of the day are women, and why this abominable system of specialisation in the mechanical side of the business is pursued it is impossible to say. It is a pity to cramp any knowledge that is new to women.

The following cuttings are from this article, which is well worth reading in full:—

About four years ago it was brought home to the Council that the hundreds of girls then passing through the public elementary schools, all hoping by means of their education to make a future for themselves, had but two paths open to them. They must either qualify as teachers or enter the Civil Service, with the result that both markets were hopelessly overstocked. The problem called for immediate solution, and fortunately the constant demands of the labour bureaux for more, and yet more, skilled workers supplied a means. It was resolved to try the experiment of training girls between the ages of fourteen and sixteen for various London trades, the instruction being intended to take the place of apprenticeship.

The first technical school for girls began, modestly enough, by the forming of a waistcoat-making class at the Borough Polytechnic. It proved such an instant success that in 1906 a dressmaking class was started at the Technical Institute at Paddington, and in 1907 the Council decided to have a trade school existing by itself. For a time it was located at Morley College, but was soon transferred to larger premises in Vincent Square. They, in their turn, were found to be too small for its growing needs, and the school has recently moved to permanent quarters at the old Royal Female School of Art, in Queen's Square, Bloomsbury. The first-established classes are still doing yeoman service, and there are others in various parts of London, the trades taught being invariably those most called for in the locality. But the school in Queen's Square is specially interesting from the fact that no less than five trades are taught there, three of which have not yet been taken up elsewhere. These are photography, millinery, and corset-making—the other two being dressmaking and ladies' tailoring; and in addition there are an art class and classes for general education.

The girls enter the classes at the age of fourteen, either with a scholarship which carries with it a money grant; as a free pupil, if the examination and general record is up to a certain standard; or by payment of the small fee of ten shillings a term. The first term is probationary, and girls who show no aptitude for the work they have chosen are advised to withdraw. But given the necessary intelligence, they leave the

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school at the end of their two years' course as skilled workers, who have mastered every branch of their special industry. All they have then to acquire is speed, and that can only come by experience.

It must be remembered that the technical schools aim at fitting their pupils for work of the highest class, that they may command their price as assistants in the leading West-end workrooms. There only one quality is admissible—the best. Work is curtly pronounced good or bad, for it is judged by a standard that admits of no "intermediate."

Of the photographic work at Queen's Square, the author says:

The studio is extremely interesting, although the photographic class is as yet only in its infancy, being the most recently established of all the classes. But the girls have thoroughly caught the spirit of the work, and show great aptitude for every branch of it. They are taught the use of the camera by making copies of pictures, and understand how to handle slides and negatives; but there is no idea of training them as operators. Only the exceptional few would have the smallest chance of earning a living in that capacity; but there is an ever growing demand for capable girl-assistants, for photography as a business is coming more and more into the hands of women. The Council proposes to give the pupils a good general knowledge of their subject first, and later to specialise in any line for which a girl shows marked ability.

101 POINTS IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

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

11.—"MEN ARE MEN AND WOMEN ARE WOMEN."

No better argument than this (generally put forward by Anti-Suffragists who fail to recognise its import) could be conceived. It would be quite as intelligible to expect a Tory to legislate to a Liberal's satisfaction as to expect one sex to legislate fairly for another. The very difference of sex is as great as the difference of party, and causes a bias in favour of the legislator, either consciously or unconsciously. Because the sheltered woman who seldom comes in contact with the evils of one-sex legislation is satisfied with things as they are is no argument that the working woman with male trade rivals is also satisfied.

THE SUFFRAGE IN OTHER LANDS.

Germany.

Prussian women have played an important part in the agitation against the new proposals for the Prussian franchise, which retain the system of class voting, according to which the majority in the country has the smallest representation and a few rich people a most unfair preponderance. Prussian suffragists had joined in the demand for universal, direct, equal, and secret suffrage, understanding by "universal" suffrage for women as well as men. Now that the question is becoming one of practical politics, it seems that the men are likely to leave the women in the lurch, on the ground that it does not do to ask for too much at once, and here, as has happened so often in other countries, it is the women who will have to go to the wall. Strongly-worded protests against the new franchise proposals have been sent up by the German Women's Suffrage Associations, and these have been backed by several of the Socialist groups. All other parties have simply dropped mention of the women. The Women's Liberal Association has published a protest against the attitude of the party, which concludes with these words: "Because we are faithfully devoted to Liberalism, as we have always proved, above all in many an electoral contest, because we are looking hopefully for a rebirth of Liberalism, we warn you most earnestly not to adhere to your programme as drafted, which shuts the door of your party against every thinking and self-respecting woman."

An able article by Marie Wegner in the *Centralblatt*, the organ of the National Council of German Women, earnestly cautions German suffragists against complicating their demands by working for an extension of the male franchise before the sex disability is removed. "If the Women's Suffrage Associations wish to attain anything, they must have no other objective than women's suffrage; and they must not spend strength, time, and money to promote any male franchise, no matter how excellent." It seems probable that the attitude of Prussian Liberals towards the demands of the women who have assisted them so ungrudgingly will help to drive home this lesson.

Italy.

There seems every prospect that a first step will be taken here before long, for the Bill introduced by Signor Gallini for con-

ferring the municipal vote on women over twenty-five met with a friendly reception in the Chamber. Two years ago a commission was appointed to take a census of the women engaged in charitable and professional work, of those who paid taxes and who voted indirectly by proxy for the municipal councils in accordance with the existing law. Though the report has not yet been issued, the feeling in the country has grown far more favourable during the last two years, and there seems every prospect that the Bill will become law this session. Should it pass it would be a long step forward towards the Parliamentary vote. It would also afford Italian women the preliminary training in electoral responsibility which some people seem to think English women still need, forgetting that they have had some measure of municipal suffrage for over forty years. Italian women will be able to pass more quickly through the intermediate stages, since they will have the benefit of the experience of women in other countries.—A. ZIMMERN.

SUFFRAGE SHEARINGS.

Hope in Home Rule.

At a meeting of the Irishwomen's Franchise League, held on March 1st at the Antient Concert Rooms, Dublin, Mr. Pearse, B.L., said if Ireland were a self-governed country women would long ago have been admitted to the franchise. The work of the Gaelic League would not have been done half as well as it had been if women had not been admitted to a share in it. The women of Ireland had in this struggle, he believed, the sympathy of the majority of Irishmen, and they certainly had the sympathy of the young men who had been working for the uplifting of Ireland. (Applause).—*Freeman's Journal*.

A Henly Hen.

Mr. B. Iden Payne, speaking at a meeting of the Women's Freedom League last week, declared that plain justice called for votes for women. As to the description of the movement as "unwomanly," he did not know what a womanly woman was. He would as soon speak of a "henly hen." Certain qualities were human, and the more they were developed, the better for humanity. Behind the vote they were working for this development of complete human beings. They wanted a state without the present squalour and degradation, and the first step was the freedom of women.—*Manchester City News*.

Women Constables.

Suffragettes will hear with satisfaction that the equality of sexes is to be officially recognised in Indiana. A telegram from Indianapolis states that the new mayor, Mr. Lewis Shank, announced to-day that he intends appointing women to the city police force. They are to perform the ordinary duties of "patrol men" and will be assigned regular beats. Since he was elevated to the civic chair Mr. Shank has given much entertainment to the citizens by his bold and unorthodox methods. It was he who added to the joys of Indianapolis by sentencing publicans to church for keeping open on Sunday, and his threat to revoke their licences if they disobeyed provided law-abiding citizens with a subject to chuckle over for three weeks. It is quite certain that if the lady policemen get into difficulties they will not lack assistance.—*Daily Chronicle*.

"Cattish" Men.

Mrs. Gertrude Atherton says in her latest book that the suffrage movement in America has supplanted bridge and whist, and that women are everywhere losing their "cattishness." Indeed, says Mrs. Atherton: "When it comes to 'cattishness,' men are quite as spiteful as women, especially if the women intrude, as they call it, on their particular man-made province. Most of the 'cattishness' I have met with in my professional life came, not from women, but from men. It is the peculiarly masculine traits of mind in women that men object to, never to essentially feminine traits."—*Daily Telegraph*.

OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

New Constitutional Society.

An interesting meeting of the New Constitutional Society took place at Mrs. Lewis Wright's house last Wednesday. Miss Cicely Hamilton, in beautiful and inspired language, spoke on the oppression of all individuality and originality from which women have had to suffer in the past, and an excellent speech was made by Mrs. Cecil Chapman, President of the Society.

Conservative Women's Franchise Association.

The Marylebone and Paddington Branch of this Association held a very successful drawing-room meeting at 38, Gloucester Square, on Wednesday, March 9th, by kind permission of Mrs. Spielmann. There was a crowded attendance, and very interesting speeches were made by Lady Betty Balfour, Mr. A. Jessel, K.C., and Miss E. Mackenzie. Miss Tuke, Principal of Bedford College, was in the chair, and many of those present joined the Association.

Arrangements are being made for many drawing-room and other meetings for the Summer Session.

The quarterly review being issued by this Association is proving a very great success. The current issue contains interesting articles by Viscountess Castlereagh, Lady Stout, and others.

N.W.S.P.U.

During the six days of the Ilkeston by-election the members of the Union did a tremendous amount of work. Meetings were

held at all hours of the day, and the halls were crowded when Mrs. Pankhurst and Miss Christabel Pankhurst spoke. The result—that Colonel Seely, a member of the Government, had a considerably less majority than his predecessor, a private member—is a great triumph for the women, to whom even the local Unionists admit that the result is due.

The fourth year of the Union's work is now at an end. Owing to the Albert Hall meeting and to the Easter holidays, there will be no Monday meetings at the Queen's Hall on March 21st, 28th, and April 4th, and no Thursday evening meetings at St. James's Hall on March 17th, 24th, and 31st.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.



DARE TO BE FREE.

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| Thurs., March 17th | East Ham, Holme Road, at 8 p.m. Miss Benett. |
| Thurs., March 17th | Caxton Hall, 3 to 6. Speakers, Mrs. Despard, Ven. Archdeacon Escreet. |
| Thurs., March 17th | Deputation to Labour Party at 1.30 p.m. |
| Sun., March 20th | Dulwich, at 8 p.m. Miss Benett. |
| Sun., March 20th | Clapham Common, at 3 p.m. Chair, Mrs. Duval; Speakers, Mrs. Cunningham and others. |
| March 24th and 31st | No "At Home," owing to Easter Holidays. |
| Sun., March 27th | Peckham: Mrs. Manson. |
| Sat., April 2nd | National Executive Committee, 1, Robert Street, 11 a.m. |
| Sun., April 3rd | Mass Meeting, Trafalgar Square, 3 p.m. Mrs. Amy Sanderson, Miss Muriel Matters, Mrs. Sproson, and others. |
| Mon., April 4th | Farewell Party to Miss Muriel Matters. |
| Wed., April 6th | Bow: Mrs. Manson, at 8. |
| Wed., April 6th | Central Branch, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, at 8.15. Speaker, Rev. C. Hindscliff on "Evolution." |
| Thurs., April 7th | Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Rev. Hugh Chapman. |
| Thurs., April 28th | Queen's Hall, 3 p.m. |
| Thurs., May 5th | Queen's Hall, 8 p.m. |
| Thurs., May 26th | Queen's Hall, 3 p.m. |

Mrs. Despard, when in London, is at the office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, and will be pleased to see members of the League who wish to consult her.

THE PROVINCES.

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| Sat., March 19th | High Wycombe, at 8 p.m.: Miss F. Underwood. |
| Sun., March 20th | Gravesend. Miss Guttridge. |
| Thurs., March | Liverpool, Alexandra Hall, Islington, 7 o'clock: Miss Matters. |
| Mon., March 21st | Wallasey (Liverpool), 8 p.m.: Miss Muriel Matters, Miss Violet Tillard. |
| Tues., April 5th | Grove Hall, Eastbourne. Speaker, Mrs. A. Sanderson. |

There will also be a few drawing-room meetings, and possibly a big open-air meeting at York.

SCOTLAND.

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| Sat., March 19th | Masonic Hall, 92, Dumbarton Road, Partick, 3 to 10 p.m.: Cake and Candy Sale. |
| Tues., March 22nd | Edinburgh, Café Vegetaria, 4 p.m., "At Home"; 8 p.m., Miss M. Drummond, M.A., "Women and Education." |
| Tues., March 22nd | Kirkintilloch, 8 p.m. Miss Semple. |
| Sat., April 9th | Cake and Candy Sale, Dennistoun Branch. |

WALES.

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| Thurs., May 5th | Swansea, Albert Hall: Woman's Pageant. Miss Cicely Hamilton and Miss Edith Craig. Speaker, Mrs. Despard. |
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IRELAND.

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| Fri., March 18th | "Airfield," Donnybrook, Dublin, Drawing Room Meeting: Miss Muriel Matters. |
| Fri., March 18th | Dublin, Aberdeen Hall (Gresham Hotel), at 8 p.m.: Miss Matters. |

OUR TREASURY.

Would those who have taken Special Effort collecting books kindly return them? And then, if they like to have them again to collect for an organiser's fund, we shall be very grateful.—S. B.

ORGANISERS.

The N.E.C. of the W.F.L. requires ORGANISERS for London and Provincial work. Also Assistants for the Hon. Organising Secretary. Applicants must be members of the League. All information from the Hon. Secretary, 1, Robert Street, W.C.