

# The Common Cause

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

### Societies.

Registered as a Newspaper.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1913.

Price One Penny.

#### CONTENTS.

PAGE	PAGE
Notes and Comments ... .. 861	Modern Feminism in France ... 869
The Government's Dilemma ... 863	The Woman Architect ... .. 870
Women and State Insurance ... 864	Notes from Headquarters:—
Some New Books ... .. 866	Contributions to the General
Public Support of Women's	Fund ... .. 872
Suffrage ... .. 867	News From the Societies ... 873
Correspondence ... .. 868	Forthcoming Meetings ... .. 874

On the other hand, we do not say that the "militants" are actuated by bad motives—we cannot, of course, see into human hearts—but we believe not. Nor do we say that Mr. McKenna and his predecessors have been actuated by cruelty and malignity. We do not believe so. Unfortunately, however, evil is wrought by many causes other than evil motives.

#### Working People and Education.

The *Daily Citizen* of Friday, March 21st, reports that Mr. Pease (President of the Board of Education) received on the previous day a deputation of trade unionists, who presented resolutions passed at the recent Congress. The resolutions demanded a national system of education under full public control, adequate maintenance of school children, a Treasury grant for medical inspection, immediate attention to consumptive children, secondary and technical education as essential parts of every child's course, a Royal Commission upon educational endowments, and grants from the Exchequer to cover the cost of education, together with free secondary schools and the abolition of half-time. Mr. Pease said that the power of the Board to satisfy the wishes of those who passed the resolutions depended upon the amount of money which it could secure. He agreed with the deputation in deploring that the country found it necessary to spend so much upon instruments of destruction. He did not think the appointment of the suggested Commission would be justified; and in the matter of half-time he did not speak quite decisively, although he declared that the figures from Lancashire, which showed the physical condition of half-time scholars to be much worse than that of those not at work, proved the desirability of abolishing half-time. He had not, he said, succeeded in getting increased grants for secondary and technical education, but he had succeeded in regard to Trade Schools. Fifty per cent. of the cost of treating the ailments of school children would be borne by the Board, and, before the end of the month, local authorities who were spending wisely would be receiving rather more than fifty per cent. Thus, step by step the system of public education improves, but the greatest improvement of all—the reduction of large classes—still lingers.

#### Notes and Comments.

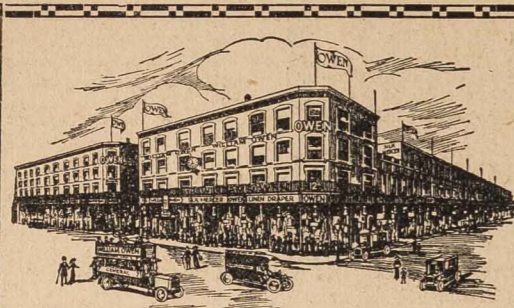
##### Militant Tactics.

On another page we publish a letter from Mr. R. Burnett, which shows a confusion of thought not uncommon. Because the COMMON CAUSE has always protested against forcible feeding, it is assumed that the persons responsible for this paper do not whole-heartedly disapprove of militant tactics. Every person who has ever been editorially responsible for THE COMMON CAUSE disapproves of the violent actions of the militant suffragists. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies as a body, and all the leading members of the Union as individuals, have again and again in the plainest terms expressed such disapproval. All these people firmly believe that the militant methods are both wrong in themselves and damaging to the progress of the Women's Suffrage movement. At almost every meeting held by National Union Societies this disapproval is expressed.

But disapproval of the acts of violence perpetrated by the militants does not involve approval of the process of forcible feeding. That also is a form of violence to be condemned, and the more strongly because it is inflicted in the name of the law and because it injures not property but persons. The militants have done ill; but the Government has done even worse. It began by treating as common criminals persons who were political offenders. Its prisoners, being somewhat different from common criminals, and being rather eager than afraid to die, inflicted upon themselves the far heavier punishment of starvation. Thereupon the authorities, afraid to let them die, subjected them to the daily repeated torment of forcible feeding (for torment it undeniably is, in the case of a person who resists), and, in many instances, were obliged to release the prisoners before the expiration of their sentences. Most—it not indeed all—of the forcibly fed were in a state of seriously bad health at release. Three doctors of repute have publicly declared that all had suffered injury to health; that a considerable proportion were permanently injured; and that in the case of some who had apparently quite recovered, evil effects might appear later. We are of opinion then: (a) That militant methods are wrong and that they hinder the enfranchisement of women; (b) That forcible feeding is wrong and that the Government has done wrong in not treating its Suffragist prisoners as political offenders.

##### Teachers and Education.

The President of the National Union of Teachers, Mr. Dakers, at the opening of their Congress, complained that education in the public primary schools was not on a sound basis, and that conditions in these schools fell so far beneath those existing in secondary schools. The continued employment of uncertificated and supplementary teachers was stigmatised as a national disgrace, and these evils, together with the size of the classes, were destroying the efficiency of primary education. The children, he said, were "hustled," driven out at the earliest moment from the infants' school, and at some schools pupils were "shuttlecocked" from class to class to make the classes fit the room. Very properly Mr. Dakers protested hotly against the idea that the curriculum of any school should be subordinated to the industrial requirements of its district, and the enthusiasm with which this part of his speech was received suggests that his fellow teachers recognise that the danger of such subordination exists.



Telephone:  
PADDINGTON 3600.  
Connecting all Departments

Telegrams:  
"OWEN,  
Westbourne Grove."

# WILLIAM OWEN



WILLIAM OWEN has during the past 40 years established a reputation for selling High-class and Fashionable Goods at Extremely Low Prices.

¶ A visit of inspection and comparison is invited. New Goods are now being shown in all Departments.

¶ Mr. WILLIAM OWEN commenced business on February 13th, 1873, in one shop with two assistants. Over 60,000 square feet of floor space is now covered, and over 700 assistants employed.

WILLIAM OWEN Ld.  
Westbourne Grove,  
London, W.

Daily Motor Deliveries  
to within about 30 miles  
of Westbourne Grove.

Hot & Cold Luncheons. Tea.  
Music in Restaurant,  
3.45 to 5.45.

# VICTORIA

AUSTRALIA'S GARDEN STATE.

Land of SUNSHINE,  
FRUIT & FLOWERS.

Guaranteed Employment and High Wages

for

DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

£3 Passages.

For Particulars apply—

Lady Superintendent,  
Women's Emigration Department,  
Victorian Government Office,  
Strand, London, W.C.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Public Meeting at Caxton Hall,

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2ND, 3.30 P.M.

Speakers: Dr. KATHLEEN VAUGHAN  
on "The Position of Women in India."  
Miss EUNICE MURRAY and others.



Typewriting and Shorthand.

(Miss Mildred Ransom.)

Educated Women trained as Private Secretaries.  
Careful attention given to each pupil.

Second-hand Typewriters bought and sold.

Meetings reported; MSS accurately  
copied. First-class work.

195-197, EDGWARE ROAD, LONDON, W.  
Telephone - - 6302 Paddington.



An important point—

is that Southalls' Towels are made of a perfectly hygienic and thoroughly antiseptic material, most comfortable and truly absorbent. You get this only in **SOUTHALLS' TOWELS** as well as correct shaping, easy attachment, improved ends, and extra thickness.

Send six penny stamps to the Lady Manager, 17, Ball Street, Birmingham for "Introduction Packet" (Size 8.) One trial will prove their superiority over the diaper. Southalls' are sold by all Drapers, Chemists, etc., in packets of one dozen, at 6d., 1/-, 1/6 and 2/-.

## THE COMMON CAUSE.

Telephone: 1910 Gerrard. Price One Penny. 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:  
BRITISH ISLES, 6S. 6D. ABROAD, 8S. 8D. PER ANNUM.

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. The Editor, however, accepts no responsibility for unsolicited matter, and no manuscripts will be returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT THE LATEST TIME for receiving news, notices and reports for the week's issue is the first post on TUESDAY. News should be sent in as long beforehand as possible.

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

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

## The Government's Dilemma.

On Tuesday, March 18th—too late for comment in last week's paper, which had to be printed a day earlier than usual—an important debate took place in the House of Commons on the subject of forcible feeding. The business before the House was the voting of thirty-four million odd pounds for the Civil Service and Revenue Departments, and Mr. Harold Smith moved a reduction in the payment allotted to the Home Office, his object being to draw attention to what he considered to be "the ineptitude and inefficiency" of Mr. McKenna's administration in regard to "the outrages that have been perpetrated during the last few months by supporters of the Women's Suffrage movement." His argument was that if the law was inadequate Mr. McKenna should ask for fresh powers; he pointed out that a large proportion of prisoners secured release before the expiration of their sentences, that "an army of policemen" was on duty at the Hyde Park meetings and that, in fact, the law was broken with impunity. He declared—quite unjustly—that the militant suffragists were "perpetrating, and boasting that they are perpetrating, some of the worst offences known to our criminal law." This, of course, is not the case. These ladies have done serious damage to property, they have caused a good deal of public annoyance and inconvenience, and they have frequently come near to doing serious personal injury. *But they have never done it*, and they declare continually that they will not take life. To say that their violent—and, in our judgment, extremely unwise—acts even approach "the worst offences known to our criminal law" is to talk nonsense. But when he asked Mr. McKenna what remedy he proposed, when he said that it was not the business of a private Member to propose remedies, and when he protested that forcible feeding was barbarous, cruel and unjustifiable, Mr. Smith was on firmer ground.

The debate was continued by a number of Members, but the only three who made any valuable contribution to it were Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. McKenna himself, and Mr. Keir Hardie.

Lord Robert Cecil, alone, traced the history of the Government's behaviour to the "militants," and showed clearly where the mistakes had been made that have led to the present condition of affairs. He reminded his hearers that the militants began by coming to the Houses of Parliament and claiming a right to present a petition. The police prevented them from doing so, and the women were charged with obstructing the police. Those who consented to be bound over to keep the peace were released, those who refused were sent to prison. At this stage, he thought, "the Government treated these offences too seriously." They were "very technical offences at the outset." This was during the administration of Lord Gladstone. Then came Mr. Churchill, and during his tenure of office "very serious events took place." There was a peaceful deputation to the House of Commons, the women coming in parties of tens and twelves. "They were wholly unarmed, and they came pretending, rightly or wrongly, that they wished to present a petition. In my judgment," said Lord Robert, "they were received by the police, or some section of the police, with great violence. They were knocked down and injured in other ways. A charge was made against them." Some of the women asked to see him, and, in company with an anti-suffragist friend, he heard the statements of some ten or twelve of them, and "I confess in my judgment . . . it was quite clear that there was a strong *prima facie* case that these women had been very seriously ill-used by a section of the police. They alleged that

## 'A Question of Money?'

Lord Haldane, in his address to the Teachers' Parliament, set his seal to Mr. Daker's statements as to the unsound basis of education in primary schools, but insisted throughout that it is really a question of money, and hinted that there are to be large additional grants from the Board of Education, when a higher standard of efficiency in the primary schools will be expected. An attempt, he said, is to be made to co-ordinate primary, secondary and University education, and the idea that the higher branches are the marks of a particular social status is to be got rid of once and for all. He also intimated that "the pathetic spectacle," the child of the agricultural labourer, is to receive special attention. Much-needed nursery schools are to be established for infants between the ages of three and five years, who are now accepted or refused as scholars according to the will of local authorities, and fourteen is to be regarded as the normal age for leaving the primary school, with attendance at day continuation schools for the half-timer up to sixteen and seventeen. All this is good hearing, but we doubt whether the problem of the education of the nation's children is entirely "a question of money," or whether a lack of understanding among the leaders and of intelligent interest among the public on this subject are not the real stumbling-blocks to educational progress. It is in such matters as the treatment of "the pathetic spectacle" and the adequate care of the infants of tender years when in the schoolroom, that a one-sexed Government is likely to fail.

## The Independent Labour Party and Suffrage.

The Annual Conference of the Independent Labour Party, held this week in Manchester, was welcomed at the opening on Easter Monday by Councillor Margaret Ashton on behalf of the district members of the National Union. Miss Ashton, who was cordially received, said that the suffrage women of the whole country were deeply indebted to the I.L.P. Mr. W. C. Anderson, the Chairman of the Conference, replied that the labour movement was deeply indebted to the splendid work done, especially at by-elections, by women members of the National Union. Some of the best speeches made in those elections, not only from a women's suffrage but from a labour and human point of view, were made by the women. He believed this alliance would grow. In his presidential address Mr. Anderson said that the demand for a Government Women's Suffrage measure ought to be steadily pressed by the labour movement.

## Financial Support of Candidates.

One of the paragraphs in the report referred to work in connection with the women's movement during the past year, and concluded: "We think it right to report that the largest and most influential of the suffrage organisations, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, has recently, in respect to its electoral policy, drawn much nearer to the labour movement, and we gratefully acknowledge the magnificent help rendered by this organisation to Labour candidates at the by-elections."

An amendment was moved by Mrs. Coates-Hansen, who supported the deletion of the words "most influential." Mr. Lansbury contended that, but for the militants, the Conference would not at that moment have been discussing Suffrage at all. His reference to the Union as "the organisation that happens to be finding you the money with which to run your candidates," was resented by the delegates and reproved by the President, who said that there would be nothing dishonourable in receiving money from the National Union, but that, in fact, the Independent Labour Party, as a party, had not done so. Mr. Lansbury's contention that £200 was contributed in support of his own candidature as a nominee of the Independent Labour Party was erroneous. He was, of course, adopted as a candidate by the local branch of the party; but the support given to him was given as to "the best friend of Women's Suffrage." The point is made quite clear on p. 578 of THE COMMON CAUSE for November 29th, 1912. A vote by card resulted in the rejection of the amendment by 214 votes to 62.

## Revolt of Liberal Women.

At the Annual Meeting of the Cambridge Women's Liberal Association, the Hon. Sec., Miss Julia Kennedy, Mrs. Bateson, Mrs. Rackham, Mrs. Tillyard, Mrs. Dutt, Mrs. Maris, and about half-a-dozen other members of the Executive Committee resigned all connection with the Association as a protest against the treatment of the Suffrage question by the Liberal Government. There is significance in the secession of these members whose names carry weight far outside the circle of their own town.

that was in obedience, as they had been told by some of the police to some kind of hint or suggestion made by the authorities to the police." While not suggesting that this allegation was true, Lord Robert expressed a strong opinion that the inquiry for which the women had asked ought not to have been refused. He thought a great injustice had thus been committed, and that "that was the second great mistake that was made."

After a time came much more serious outbreaks, beginning with the breaking of windows. Now, when the offences became real ones, the Government treated these as no more important than the merely technical ones that came earlier. This again was an error; and it was another to send them to the second division.

Going on to the actual question of forcible feeding, Lord Robert Cecil said that women "who go through the hunger strike and are forcibly fed and let out are severely punished, but unquestionably, to the public, they appear not to be severely punished." Thus what occurred was the exact reverse of what should occur. There should be the greatest possible deterrent effect, with the least possible suffering of the individual prisoner, whereas there actually was the greatest amount of suffering of the individual prisoner with the least possible deterrent effect. "I do not think," said he, "that anything could be worse than forcible feeding as a penal device." To treat such women as ordinary criminals was perfectly absurd, and showed a complete lack of imagination and a complete failure to understand the very elements of the problem. He concluded that some new form of punishment and preventive machinery was needed that would not apply to ordinary criminals and advised that such prisoners should be deported.

Mr. McKenna, speaking in a more effective manner than usual, was able to show that the proportion of prisoners released was not so great as had been supposed, and declared that he considered the prisoners ought not to be allowed to die, and that they would certainly die if not forcibly fed. "I do not think you ought to let one die, and I am quite certain that you could not let thirty die. If you did so, the conduct of the Minister would be challenged, and the administration of the law and order would be brought into contempt by the very process which you are attempting to urge on the Home Office. The other remedy is to let them out. I have no other alternative." As to deportation, he had not, of course, the power to inflict that, nor did he feel at all sure that the House would grant it to him. What he proposed to do was to ask for the same powers in regard to persons committed to prison as he already possessed in regard to prisoners committed to penal servitude. "I wish to have the power to licence out." A prisoner would be let out on licence and not rearrested as long as she was of good behaviour.

Mr. Clyde put his finger upon the real point when he said that by Mr. McKenna's own admission these prisoners were not by any means criminals in the ordinary sense of the word, and that the difficulties experienced by the Home Secretary arose out of the circumstance that he was trying to apply to them machinery devised for dealing with criminals. The real thing to be considered was whether the methods now employed were such as could, consistently with public opinion, continue to be employed in dealing with such offences.

Mr. Keir Hardie, impressed the House by reading a letter from a prisoner in Holloway describing with obvious sincerity the horrible operation to which she was subjected twice daily. Everybody who heard it knew that the writer was probably Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, and it seems quite possible that her release may have been expedited by this recital.

Except from the officials who order its administration, nobody really defended forcible feeding, and almost every private Member roundly described it as torture. Even Mr. MacCallum Scott, who differed upon this point of definition, did not attempt to deny that it was painful. It is clear that the House of Commons, no less than the general public, is becoming more and more ashamed of this continued barbarity. The Government, of course, brought the hunger strike upon itself by refusing to treat women who were political offenders as men who were political offenders had habitually been treated. Now that the hunger strike is here its reasonable attitude is to admit that prolonged fasting is a severer punishment than imprisonment, and that when a prisoner has brought herself, according to the judgment of a doctor, within danger of death, that prisoner should be released, but should be kept—as Mr. Walter Roch suggested—under strict police surveillance for the remainder of her term. To go on employing wardresses and prison doctors in a degrading and brutalising process, the execution of which must be intolerable to them, in precise proportion to that spirit of respect for humanity which should form their best qualification, is more truly criminal than any offence which the "militants" have yet committed.

## State Insurance for Women.

A great deal of misconception still exists with regard to the value of the women's branch for insurance against sickness. It is asked how can 7s. 6d. per week sickness pay be of any real service to a sick worker? Surely it would seem a cruel hardship to deduct 3d. from a scanty wage to pay for a problematic sickness. The worker would be more benefited by the pence in her pocket every week, the unthinking public cry. Now, is this so? Let us examine the case of the worker. As a practical woman with no little experience among the most destitute of this great city, I maintain this sickness benefit is going to be a real alleviation of the burden of sickness at the present moment, and still more so in the future when benefits are extended in other directions connected with health, such as the care of the teeth.

Let me point out the facts. The wages of a woman in the lower class of work vary from 9s. to 15s. for out-work—i.e., work carried on away from home, and from 5s. to 10s. for homework. Such wages sometimes include food, and sometimes not, according to the custom of the particular trade. Coffee-house hands, daily helps, etc., receive partial board and are often given a good deal of food to take home, especially when they are widows with dependent children. On such wages, supplemented in some cases by poor relief, hundreds of widows are bringing up our future citizens; a hard lot, which becomes harder still should the mother fall sick, even temporarily, and thereby lose her work. Her work guarantees the rent; and the sick pay is going to be its substitute and her salvation.

Many a woman in the past, when ordered by the hospital doctor to take a rest, has exclaimed "I've no time to be sick; where's the rent coming from?" She will have no such excuse now. Sick pay, up to 5s., moreover, comes under the Friendly Societies Act, which states it shall not be taken into account by Poor Law Authorities when calculating the income of an applicant for relief. The usual rent for a widow with a family varies from 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. or 6s.; for a single woman from 2s. 6d. to 3s. For a single woman it is possible to "make a do"; the rent being, say, 2s. 6d., leaving a margin of 4s. 6d. for food. Many single workers living with relatives will find, as they always have in the past, much kindness and leniency with regard to rent, and, with a settled sum of 5s. a week coming in, there will be far less alacrity in consigning the invalid to the infirmary for ailments where home treatment would suffice.

Those suffering from serious illnesses should be urged to go into infirmaries or hospitals as heretofore, for skilled nursing and dieting cannot be had in the home. Nor are the essential rest and quietness after operations possible in the crowded dwellings of the poor. These facts should be clearly recognised by Approved Societies and Insurance Committees, and it must also be borne in mind that hospital treatment is a safeguard against malingering in hysterical conditions, for the funds of the Societies might otherwise be unduly drawn upon to the detriment of honest workers.

Many illnesses, of course, only incapacitate for a short time and do not necessarily confine the sufferer to bed; for these ailments it would be well that Health Visitors should be appointed to see that dieting and treatment are carried out. Expensive diet, such as Benger's Food and Brand's Extract, should be given if necessary—at the discretion of the doctor in charge of the case—should poverty preclude the purchase of such foods. Everything possible should be done to hasten a quick recovery. Home nursing is often of far more service than medicine; arrowroot, patent barley, soups and vegetarian dishes can all be easily and inexpensively obtained. It would seem to a practical mind an easy thing to arrange that the Nurse or Visitor under the Local Insurance Committees should have a knowledge of food values and be able to instruct and to diet in simple cases.

There is a most useful 1d. Cookery book, by Herman Senn, that stands the test of being actually in use by poor persons, so much so that a much lent copy was noticed by a visitor propped up by a jam-pot, while stiff fingers, which usually held a scrubbing brush, copied with painful effort the valuable recipes into an old exercise-book.

For solitary workers, laid up for a short time in tenement houses, the nearest elementary school cookery centre should be available, so as to save the invalid from first cooking and then eating, a course so repugnant to many when sick. For a small sum it should be possible for the necessary diet to be supplied daily, fresh, clean and hygienic. School children often arrange to get their dinners at these cookery centres at

1½d. or 2d. a meal, so why cannot these organisations be utilised for the few sick people who have no one to attend to them?

Those women earning higher wages, which leave a margin, should be urged to join a Friendly Society for extra benefits. Some of these Societies have now Women's Lodges or Branches, where, as with the Foresters', it is arranged that a contribution of 2½d. a week will provide 7s. 6d. a week sick pay and funeral benefit. It is rare to find a worker, who is not already paying for funeral benefit, quite apart from State Insurance; in the higher grade artisan families, workers are usually insured from childhood at 1d. a week, so the extra contribution of 1½d. would hardly be considered a burden.

The lists of doctors on the panel do not convey much to most women. Where possible they should choose a doctor of their own sex, especially so in the case of the younger workers. The women doctors on the panel are pretty widely distributed in London and its vicinity. It is so much easier for a woman to tell another woman what the trouble is, and often early-sought advice avoids much ill-health and sickness.

The following is a list of women doctors on the panel in London:—

Dr. Elizabeth Baker, 92, Lower Road, Rotherhithe.  
Dr. Ethel Bentham, 74, Lansdowne Road, W.  
Dr. Mildred Burgess, 6, Church Road, Brixton.  
Dr. Evelyn Constable, 25, Belmont Road, West Green; 463, Seven Sisters Road, N.  
Dr. Alice Corthorn, 30, St. Mary Abbot's Terrace, West Kensington.  
Dr. Selina Fitzherbert Fox, Bermondsey Medical Mission, 44, Grange Road, S.E.  
Dr. Eleanor Gorrie, 78, Bow Road (1, Bow Lane).  
Dr. Amelia G. Grogan, 289, Camden Road.  
Dr. Alice Johnson, 107, Central Hill, Upper Norwood.  
Dr. Beatrice Lovibond, 3, Oakcroft Road, Blackheath.  
Dr. Delia MacDonald, 56, Greencroft Gardens, Hampstead.  
Dr. Flora Murray, 86, Campden Hill Court, W.  
Dr. Helen Serjeant, 27, Peckham Road, S.E.  
Dr. Henrietta Stephens, S. Michaels, 49, Leigham Court Road, Streatham Hill, S.W.

Should serious illness of long duration befall the lonely woman she is far better in the Infirmary of her parish with the care and attention now bestowed on the unfortunate thus stricken down. It is inadvisable to counsel such a woman to linger on in pain and loneliness in one dreary room. In the Infirmary wards there would be some society to cheer her up. Her little home can be stored in the workhouse, so that she can obtain it when better and fit to resume work.

There are, of course, some charitable agencies that used to deal with such cases of sickness, and it is to be hoped they will not fail to do so in the future. The Church Army, the Salvation Army, the Mildmay Mission, and many others will assuredly still stretch out the helping hand of kindness to the sick and destitute.

L. F.

## Joint Demonstration in Manchester.

Several thousand people were drawn to Platt Fields, Manchester, on the afternoon of Easter Sunday by a joint Women's Suffrage demonstration organised by the Manchester Society for Women's Suffrage and the Manchester Central Branch of the Independent Labour Party. The occasion was the Annual Conference of the I.L.P., held in Manchester on the two following days. The demonstration was a cordial union of forces. Many of the Labour speakers and women speakers had been working together in the Houghton-le-Spring election.

Councillor Tom Fox presided at the first platform, and the speakers were Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., Miss I. O. Ford, Mr. W. Stewart and Councillor Margaret Ashton. Mr. Fenner Brockway (of the *Labour Leader*) presided at the other platform, and the resolution was proposed by Mr. Tom Richardson, M.P., and supported by Miss Margaret Robertson, Councillor Egerton P. Wake and Mrs. Annot Robinson. Except for some interruption of Mr. Keir Hardie by youths, hardly to be called heckling, the proceedings were entirely orderly. The big gathering was earnestly attentive, and the resolution was passed at both platforms with very little opposition.

The resolution was as follows:—"That this meeting recognises that nothing less than a Government measure for Women's Suffrage can now redeem the Prime Minister's pledge, and that the most effective means to secure this is to hold up any measure of electoral reform until the sex disability has been removed." The breaking of the Premier's pledge was explained

very clearly and forcibly by Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. Richardson and Mr. Wake, as well as by the women speakers, and both Mr. Hardie and Mr. Richardson declared their intention of opposing any franchise reform until the demand of the women had been met. The alliance of labour and the women's movement was warmly referred to. A point dwelt on both by Mr. Richardson and Miss Robertson was that labour and the women together were going to bring about a brighter and a happier England.

Although Mr. Keir Hardie had justified "militancy" in his speech in the park, a small body of "militants" set themselves to wreck the open I.L.P. demonstration which he addressed in the Free Trade Hall at night. But the afternoon meeting—the third Women's Suffrage demonstration in Platt Fields in less than nine months—was a great popular success.

## The I.L.P. Conference.

The Women's Suffrage question came into prominence at the I.L.P. Conference, held this week at Manchester, when a resolution submitted by the Agenda Committee and the Blackburn and Marple branches condemned emphatically "the breach of faith of which the Cabinet has been guilty in withdrawing from its oft-repeated pledge to take full Cabinet responsibility for any Woman's Suffrage Bill," and declared that "the only satisfactory method of dealing with the situation thus created is for the Government itself to introduce a Woman's Enfranchisement Bill framed on broad and democratic lines." The Labour Party was enjoined by this same resolution "to bring all possible pressure to bear on the Government to secure this, and, in particular, to vigorously oppose and defeat all proposals for amending the franchise or registration laws unless women are included therein."

Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., who moved the resolution, recalled the Prime Minister's statement before the first election in 1910. The Prime Minister's pledge had not been fulfilled. It was the honourable course of the Government, and it was their duty, to consult those to whom a pledge was given. That was not done. It was also an obvious duty of the Government to introduce a Franchise Bill which would permit, according to the rules of the House of Commons, a Women's Suffrage amendment to be added to it. The Government made an offer which was nothing approaching an equivalent to their previous pledge.

Mr. Keir Hardie said Labour would oppose the franchise proposals not because they were against them but because great pressure would be brought to bear upon the Government to enfranchise women.

## The London Graduates' Union.

An inaugural meeting of the London School of Economics Branch of the London Graduates' Union for Women's Suffrage was held at the School. The Hon. W. Pember Reeves, director of the School of Economics, was in the chair. The speakers were Dr. Caldecott and Sir Victor Horsley.

Dr. Caldecott said that he was present at the meeting in his capacity of President of the Society. He did not think a President was much good unless he would support the formation of branches with his presence: he was sorry to say that the other colleges had not all got branches. He considered our age to be far too democratic for us to say that any large body of people could be left out of the franchise. He also felt that the State was making a dire mistake in doing without the intelligence of women, and that the future would lie with the countries which employed the full intelligence, interest and sympathy of women.

Sir Victor Horsley said he thought the establishment of this branch was exactly what was needed by the movement at the present time. The time was a critical one, because of the ignorance of the people, and, therefore, the great thing was the outspoken expression of educational bodies.

The Chairman expressed his pleasure at the formation of a branch of this union at the London School of Economics. After many years' experience in both England and New Zealand, he thought that there was no reason whatever why Women's Suffrage should not work as well in the former country as it did in the latter. There had been many prophets of evil in New Zealand, but absolutely no harm whatever had come of the extension of the suffrage to women.

Some New Books.

THE COMBINED MAZE. By May Sinclair. (Hutchinson, 6s.) Readers of Miss Sinclair's earlier novel, The Creators, may remember how its heroine conceived, in one flash, "the idea of Hambleby, a little suburban clerk. . . . She saw him, all pink and blond, and tall with excessive youth. . . . She saw it all; the Innocence of Hambleby, the Marriage of Hambleby, the Torture and subsequent Deterioration of Hambleby, and emerging in a sort of triumph, the indestructible Decency of Hambleby."

It is a positive relief to the reader when Violet, fulfilling the law of her being, deserts her husband and children. For a moment we foresee an escape for Ransome. He will get the burden of debt lifted, sooner or later, from his shoulders; he will be able to marry Winny; happiness is in store for him yet. But the English divorce law is not priced to suit the incomes of little suburban clerks with babies, and when Ransome has painfully accumulated the thirty pounds required, family necessities break in and devour the "little hoard."

HILARY'S CAREER. By Parry Truscott. (T. Werner Laurie, 6s.)

This is a thoroughly well-thought-out story; the characters are real and the actions those that belong to the characters. The central situation round which the whole tale revolves is complicated, and a careless writer would have settled it by some violent coincidence, but Mr. Parry Truscott just brings together the living persons whom he has created and allows their various natures to work one upon another.

THE ABILITY TO CONVERSE. By Stanley M. Bligh. (Frowde, 3s. leather, cloth 2s.)

This little volume, with its inviting title and its pocket-edition shape, is really a tough, psychological treatise, and by no means easy reading. To the ordinary reader it will appear quite disproportionate, because only people of leisure, engaged seriously in the cultivation of their own minds could possibly devote so much time and thought to the development of their ability to converse or to the exercise of that ability when attained.

THE WHITE SLAVES OF LONDON. By W. N. Willis. (Stanley Paul, 1s. net.)

WESTERN MEN WITH EASTERN MORALS. By W. N. Willis. (Stanley Paul, 5s. net.)

The hot haste in which the earlier of these two volumes was evidently prepared goes far to destroy its value. The record of a young woman's experiences in certain ill-famed West End resorts being new and first-hand, is worthy of attention; but little of the rest is fresh or original.

The larger volume is frankly a pernicious work. It rests upon the assumptions that a really celibate life is impossible to men, that prostitution is therefore necessary, and that, being necessary, it should be fostered and regulated by public authorities. He quotes with approval the shameful instructions issued by Lord Roberts and other military commanders—instructions that involved little less than the kidnapping and enslaving of Indian girls—and derides those persons in England who protested against them.

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

If the intention of this novel was to show how much the character of a young man suffers when he is brought up in a monastic institution, the desired effect is to some extent obtained. The reader is disposed to exclaim: "Let him go back to his monastery; he is unfit for everything else."

THE CHEAP COTTAGE AND SMALL HOUSE. J. Gordon Allen, A.R.I.B.A. (Garden City Press, Ltd. 1s. 6d. net: paper, 2s. 6d. cloth.) (Third edition.)

We are glad to welcome a third edition of this useful volume with its ample explanations and illustrations. Anybody who contemplates the building of a house may learn from it to avoid many errors and probably how to save many pounds.

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

The second number of The Ploughshare is an interesting evidence of the vitality of the Socialist Quaker Society. It deals in the main with the general principles of the movement it represents, but one definite suggestion for the advancement of national welfare is offered in the article, "Some Reasons for a Complete State Medical Service," by its editor, Charles A. Parker.

Houghton-le-Spring By-Election.

Labour has not scored a victory at the poll this time; but there is much in the result of the election to cheer both Labourists and Suffragists. Only those who have been through the fight realise what has been achieved, since only they know what had to be contended with—the dead weight of traditional Liberalism which had to be lifted and the prejudice which had to be overcome.

In lifting this weight and overcoming this prejudice there is no doubt that the suffragists had a large share. To begin with, they made short work of the deadly indifference with which the election opened. Whilst half-empty benches faced all three candidates the suffrage meetings were all packed, and in them a spirit of enthusiasm was generated which, in many villages, set the pulse of Labour going.

At the meeting in the Labour committee rooms after the poll no utterance was more applauded than that of Alderman House, when he said that had the women of Houghton-le-Spring had the vote the result would have been very different and vastly more satisfactory. But the women did their bit; they put portraits of Alderman House in their front windows, and sported their white ribbons and talked and argued with the men, and had a share indubitably great in the result achieved.

The help of the suffragists was most generously acknowledged by the Labour candidate and his supporters. The few words Alderman House spoke from the balcony of the Town Hall after the count were mainly devoted to the subject: "He wanted to speak of the ladies in the division. Miss Robertson and her little band of heroines had done magnificent work amongst them, and he was quite sure their people appreciated it, and he sincerely hoped that the Labour Party inside and outside the House of Commons would give the Government no peace until they had given the women the franchise."

Tribute of another kind came from Mr. Tom Wing, who, in the hour of victory, could not forget his indignation against the women who had opposed him. If any one has hesitated about the justice of our working against this gentleman let her read this, his final remark, on the question, and be comforted. "The other parties had not had all the women. On the Liberal side there had been a few faithful souls, and as they were mostly married ladies they did not bear any grudge to anybody."

The fine Houghton miners cannot long be so misrepresented. Our experience has shown that time and work is all that is needed. With labour organisation and suffrage organisation Houghton-le-Spring will be won at the next election.

Election Fighting Fund

Table with columns for donor names and amounts in £ and s. d. Total: £5,131 18 7

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

Table with columns for donor names and amounts in £ and s. d. Total: £5,133 7 1

Public Support of Women's Suffrage.

[Being evidence of support given by Trade Unionists to Women's Suffrage in the West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales Federations.]

Since the Reform Bill fiasco the most surprising evidence has been forthcoming of the willing and active support given to Women's Suffrage by Trade Unionists in the Liverpool district. The two following resolutions have, so far, been laid before eleven different Trade Union bodies. In no case has the official approached made any difficulty about bringing the matter forward.

The following are the resolutions which have been submitted:—

- 1. "That this meeting of the ——— (or) that the Executive of the ——— endorses the resolution of the Labour Conference at its meeting on January 30th, with regard to Women's Suffrage. It calls upon the Parliamentary party to do all in its power to expedite the passage of a Bill during the coming Session giving votes to women on a broad and democratic basis. It further calls upon the party in Parliament to oppose any Franchise Bill in which women are not included."

This evidence of sympathy is surely an effective answer to the statement that anti-suffrage feeling is growing, and is an encouragement to other districts to undertake the same piece of work. It is satisfactory that the officials who have submitted the resolutions are of all shades of political opinion and by no means always members of the Labour Party.

The resolutions have been sent to the different M.P.'s for the districts covered by the Branches, and in some cases also to the Secretary of the Labour Party.

The following Trade Unions and Trades and Labour Councils have passed Suffrage resolutions:—

- 1. Liverpool Trades and Labour Council, annual meeting, 120 delegates, representing 50 Trade Unions. Only 5 dissentients.—Resolution No. 1.
- 2. Birkenhead Trades and Labour Council.—Passed both resolutions.
- 3. Liverpool and District Committee of Amalgamated Society of Engineers.—Resolution No. 1.
- 4. Executive Council of National Union of Ships' Stewards, etc.—Resolution No. 1.
- 5. Meeting of Railway Clerks' Association.—Resolution No. 1.
- 6. Liverpool Branch Organ Builders' Trade Society.—Resolution No. 1.
- 7. No. 2 Branch (Liverpool) Railway Servants.—Resolution No. 2.
- 8. Liverpool Branch No. 2 National Amalgamated Society of Painters and Decorators.—Resolution No. 1.
- 9. City Branch (Liverpool) Shop Assistants.—Resolution No. 1.
- 10. Liverpool No. 1 Branch of National Union of Life Assurance Agents.—Resolution No. 1.
- 11. Liverpool Branch Lithographic Artists and Designers.—Resolution No. 1.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

DEMONSTRATION IN HYDE PARK,

SUNDAY, MARCH 30th, at NOON.

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

## Correspondence.

### "GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES."

Miss Royden's answer to a letter of mine is, I see, printed in THE COMMON CAUSE of March 14th. I am very grateful to Miss Royden for giving so full and generous an explanation of what had seemed to me an unfounded accusation. But her explanation covers only a small part of my difficulty.

Miss Royden speaks of the present Government as anti-suffrage. This seems to me to obscure the real political situation. The present Government contains some of our strongest suffrage friends, without whom no Liberal Government could at present be formed that would bring in suffrage legislation. It has dissatisfied the anti-suffragists by refusing to proceed with the Franchise Bill, and it has made special arrangements for the introduction of a private Member's Suffrage Bill. No matter that the National Union has said "Thank you for nothing," the fact remains that special facilities have been agreed to by this Government for the Bill. Could it be conceived that a "Free Trade" Government would injure its prestige by making any such arrangements for a private Member's Bill for the introduction of food taxes? Nor would an anti-suffrage Government for the suffrage.

In the question of suffrage a difference exists right through Cabinet and Party, and whichever side preponderates at one particular moment, suffrage cannot rightly be described at present as a party question one way or another. The fact remains that if it is to be made so in the way we want, we must work away until the suffragists in the party outweigh the anti-suffragists both in number and in importance. Yet Miss Royden maintains that any support of a party candidate, however much he is on our side in this division, necessarily means supporting the hostile side of the divided Cabinet.

It is perfectly true that pressure can sometimes be put directly on a Government; witness the coal strike, when the Government was forced to deal with a national crisis immediately, and knew that the necessity was widely recognised by others than Government supporters. The National Union is not at present in a position to produce any such crisis, nor would the Government meet with any such general approval if it adopted our solution of what is to us a crisis. For changing the character of the present Cabinet the National Union has at present offered no constructive plan of campaign as an alternative to that of influencing individual members amongst the general body of Liberal supporters. The constructive side of such a policy the National Union repudiates, yet it is already in part committed to it by its Labour policy. For the interests of Labour are necessarily largely bound up with the fate of the Liberal Party. Does the National Union wish the withdrawal of Liberal friends from the House or not? If it does, why does it refrain from an honest attack? If it does not, why does it face with equanimity the possibility that, for want of its weight cast in the balance, an anti-suffragist Conservative might be returned in place of a Liberal suffragist? E. V. LINDSAY.

May I reply to a part of Miss Royden's letter to a delegate at the recent Council meeting, though I am not the delegate in question? Miss Royden says: "I thought those who took the line you did, failed to realise that pressure on individuals ceases to be effective when we have decided to work for a Government measure, though it was exactly the right policy as long as we sought for a private Member's Bill." In her kindly anxiety to sympathise with those who differ from her, Miss Royden seems somewhat to underrate their intelligence. Those who opposed the recent resolutions of the Executive understood well that an anti-Government policy was being proposed for just the reason stated by her.

Disagreement does not preclude, but rather presupposes, understanding. Miss Royden also says in her letter, "How else can one support a Government but by supporting its candidates?" I should go further and say how can you expect to get a Suffrage Government formed except by aiding the return of suffragist members to Parliament? If a Liberal Suffrage Government is ever to be formed, its nucleus would naturally be our Suffrage friends in the present Government. It is just those friends whose return to the House of Commons we have decided to raise no finger to help. If, on the other hand, Miss Royden hopes no more from Liberals, but looks to getting a Conservative Government united in favour of Women's Suffrage, why does she advocate a policy calculated not to prevent the return of anti-Suffrage Conservatives? It may be said that the new anti-Government policy is only for by-elections, and that anti-Suffrage Conservatives can safely be allowed to enter the House of Commons until a General Election. But there is a certain presumption at a General

Election in favour of the return of a member who has been sent to Parliament at a recent by-election. By refusing to help Suffragist Liberals against anti-Suffrage Conservatives, the National Union, if it has any influence at all on an election, deliberately helps to return the anti-Suffrage Conservatives.

If the National Union had put forward any constructive policy which would tend to produce an undivided Cabinet and a Government measure, no one would have been found to oppose it. But a policy which is bound to lessen the number of our (Liberal) friends and increase the number of our (Conservative) enemies in Parliament, if it has any result at all, is only too likely to have a disastrous effect on the strength of the support for Women's Suffrage in future parliaments. It must be remembered that if the present Government fell and a Conservative ministry succeeded, and if that ministry held unsympathetic views on Suffrage, we should find ourselves obliged to shift round. We should cease helping Conservative Suffragists against Liberal anti-Suffragists. If Mr. Harcourt stood against Lord Robert Cecil we should be unable to help Lord Robert. Such a situation needs no comment. WINIFRED HAVERFIELD.

### MILITANCY.

I observe, at page 840 of your issue of March 14, a reference to questions in Parliament asked by Mr. Keir Hardie. It is not quite clear from the wording what is attributable to Mr. Hardie and what are comments thereon by your paper. But if I am not mistaken, you say, "It must have been present to the minds of all his hearers that since their separation a young woman had been brought to death's door—and is still, we believe, not out of danger—by the forcing of food into her lungs. This horrible injury, moreover, was inflicted not upon a convicted prisoner, but upon one awaiting trial." Later on you say, as I understand it, "Does 'observation' mean watching for the moment when the patient can bear no more without risk of death? Is the way in which the process of feeding is facilitated the strapping down of four prisoners to their beds? These are questions which should be pressed."

It does appear to me that the tone of these remarks in a non-militant organ is inconsistent with the condemnation of militant methods which the speakers at your meetings give (more or less) expression to. How do you suggest the militants are otherwise to be dealt with than by forcible feeding, if they refuse to take food, when they break the law—burn down buildings, break windows, and damage letters—if they refuse to give bail for their reappearance for trial, or thus try to evade the consequence of their acts when convicted and imprisoned?

I had not read the above quoted remarks in your paper when I ventured last Friday (at apparently a woman's meeting) at the Westminster Palace Hotel to make some remarks in reference to men's views on the question of Women's Suffrage, or I would then have asked the foregoing questions. There is a feeling on the part of us, vote-possessing men, who have, after all is said and done, to be convinced that giving the vote to women would be advantageous to the State, that the so-called anti-militant societies for Women's Suffrage do not sufficiently condemn the "militants'" tactics—that there is, in fact, too great an inclination shown to "run with the hare and hunt with the hounds," although these same anti-militant societies give lip-service, at all events, in disapproval of the militants' action, as retarding the granting of the vote to women.

The men-voters I come in contact with strongly object to admitting even the "thin edge of the wedge" of women's enfranchisement so long as these "militant tactics" go on, and I for one think you would be well advised in giving us the feeling, by your more outspoken condemnation of "militant tactics," that they are really and truly offensive to the feelings and good sense of every right-thinking and vote-deserving woman. When this is achieved there will be a better chance of persuading men to give you the vote.

ROBERT H. BURNETT.

### THE EAST ST. PANCRAS SOCIETY.

Will you kindly allow us space to express our keen regret that the hurried report of the Suffrage meeting at St. Pancras Baths in last week's issue did not make it clear that it was partly organised by the East St. Pancras Branch, to whose energy and ability much of its success was due. In addition to taking a full share in the ordinary arrangements, our sister Branch was entirely responsible for the bright and inspiring music of the orchestra, which did much to keep the rowdy band of students and others in such good humour that they contented themselves with signing a few Friends' cards, "Asquith, Westminster"; "Chamberlain, etc.," instead of trying to break up our meeting.

A. E. HARRINGTON  
(Highgate, North St. Pancras Branch).

## Modern Feminism in France.

As announced in the last issue of THE COMMON CAUSE, Madame Schmahl, the founder and first President of L'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes, is making a short stay in London in order to use the library of the British Museum.

Events in the woman's movement in this country have followed each other so quickly that it is possible many readers may have forgotten that in Madame Schmahl we have the Jane Elizabeth Archer who in her youthful days was one of that noble band of pioneers who, led by Miss Sophia Jex-Blake, in the seventies, sought to force open the door of the medical profession to women in Edinburgh.

Madame Schmahl is now 67 years of age, a fact which she sees no reason to conceal, but which is difficult for an observer to believe, for her gestures are full of the vigour of youth, and she transmits fiery energy to her surroundings as she converses, or rather, as she dramatises for you the subject under discussion. Truly Madame belongs to that spiritual company which never grows old.

She is working here in London unremittingly, and her day is mapped out with the solemn care of an earnest undergraduate at Oxford in his third year. To write an extra article would be a dislocation of her plans, and yet she would fain address herself to that large body of thoughtful suffragists who have bound themselves together in the National Union, for she is aware that an intimate knowledge of the woman's movement in the various countries is helpful to the progress of all. So, together, the compromise was devised that one afternoon's conversation at Madame Schmahl's London resting-place might be crystallised by her visitor thus:—

The term suffragist has never been well defined in France; there have been for long feminists and anti-masculinists, but until Madame Schmahl formed L'Union Française there was no general mass of women who were making the suffrage question their platform.

The beginnings of the Women's Suffrage movement in France are difficult to trace, and it is usual among superficial recorders of history to quote two prostitutes, Olympe de Gouges and Théroigne de Méricourt, at the period of the French Revolution, as the originators of the demand for women's political enfranchisement.

But the more thoughtful students of history recognise that these unworthy types of womanhood were merely the echoes of a crowd of nameless women whose silence had been maintained until the disruptive forces of the Great Revolution gave speech to the voiceless—men and women alike. The desire for women's liberties thus brought into social recognition, lived a languishing life from that time (about 1793) until re-ignited by the revolutionary flames of 1848. And how, indeed, could it have been otherwise in the conditions imposed by the France of that period? The Frenchwoman's wonderful two-sided temperament, in which a deeply rooted conservatism and a great dramatic power are both represented, had caused them to be recognised as the national source by which the whole machine of life could be worked. The women became the motor power of the domestic workshop, and had they left home and come into the open to claim their rights, the life of the nation would have stood still. Instinctively the women knew this, and thus the force of a revolution was needed before the sound of women's voices could be heard in the streets mingling with the hoarse cries of the men demanding liberty for the individual.

Yet women in France have been fighting long years for their rights, fighting at greater odds than here, for the power of association is necessarily weak in a Roman Catholic country, where the Church discourages such fellowship. That French men learned to associate sooner than French women is no matter for wonder, since the women were likely to recognise the authority of their Church long after men had enlarged their spiritual boundaries, as the Roman Catholic Church provided the women with their one and only contact with the outer world, and they did not realise that such power could be gained by other means. Again, if the Church forbade "associations," did it not offer other outlets for the emotions by its ritual and its confessional?

There are other reasons why the woman's movement in France has come forward with shy steps, one being the difference in woman's status in that country as compared with her position in England. Women are happier (Madame Schmahl asserts with emphasis) in France; there they are

a domestic force and a commercial power, and by reason of the "dot" (or marriage portion) they become more often superiors in the marriage contract. The Frenchwoman does not enter wedlock as a deadweight or as a servant, but at worst, as an auxiliary, and at best, as a senior partner. True, her position is not confirmed by law; but by custom and practice—which are stronger than law—the Frenchwoman is recognised as a "person" of domestic importance.

The woman's movement fails to gather such large numbers in France as in England from the further reason that Frenchwomen are, as their leader puts it, "terre à terre." An Englishwoman has usually a poem in her heart; when she marries she lives out her poem in her home. The Frenchwoman is not poetical, although she may be artistic. "You cannot think of my countrywoman as a poem, for she is a ledger," and a movement which would appeal to the imagination of an English wife or maid would pass by the Frenchwoman unheeded.

Yet the woman's movement in France was kept alive quietly and steadfastly from 1848. For about thirty years Maria Deraismes was its personification in this its incipient, localised form, and in her hands Feminism in France became intensely national and eventually synonymous with Freethinking. Mainly through her efforts, combined with those of her widowed sister, there was formed a Society "pour l'Amélioration du Sort de la Femme," of which Louise Michel became a member. The main desire of this group was to free education from the grip of the Church, and it is, therefore, not surprising that their first act was the foundation of a school for girls.

About this period another women's rights Society, "pour les droits de la Femme" had been founded by Léon Richer, who, happening upon Maria Deraismes, conceived and carried out the idea of the amalgamation of the two Societies, which worked in union until Maria's death dissolved the bond. The two Societies thereafter pursued their respective courses, the one founded by Maria Deraismes still continuing its educational propaganda, and now endeavouring to obtain the right for women to practise as dispensing chemists.

The next torch-bearer in the Woman's Suffrage movement in France was Hubertine Auclert, who came to Paris in the sixties and was secretary to Léon Richer in the first *Congrès des Femmes*, in 1878 (at which Congress, by the way, Madame Schmahl came to the fore in the moral and legislative sections). Hubertine Auclert started an organ, *La Citoyenne*, and a Society "pour le Suffrage des Femmes," which still continues its activities.

From this point the history of the modern woman's movement in France becomes intertwined with the recital of the events of Madame Schmahl's life. It was she who recognised the principal flaws in the legislation concerning women, and it was she who, single-handed, set about their amelioration in a campaign which lasted fourteen years, and during which she undertook the entire work of the despatch and distribution of 83,600 publications.

Her first success was gained at the end of a three years' fight, when a law was passed in 1896 enabling a woman to be a legal witness in all acts concerning civil states, but it was not until 1907 that a prolonged struggle terminated in the passing of the important law which gave married women a right over their own earnings and investments. The value of this legislation—the "loi Schmahl" as it is affectionately called—has already been very great to the large numbers of women engaged in professions.

In 1909 Madame Schmahl crowned her efforts for women's political emancipation by the formation of "L'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes," of which she was proclaimed President. The movement prospered, women from all sections gave it support, one Vice-President was the Duchess D'Uzès; another, a working-woman, Madame Blanche-Schweig. For two years, Madame Schmahl led the Society to success; an affiliation with the British National Union was arranged, and when she put down the onerous task of presidency in 1911, she left a membership of 1,200.

She is now occupied with the production of two books, which are causing her to trace feminism back through remote ages—"back to protoplasm," she remarked with a smile, as she showed me the volume she was studying that afternoon. It was an old friend, a link in our own chain of development, "The Evolution of Sex," by Professors Geddes and Thompson.—L. Y.

## The Woman Architect.

Although the weight of public opinion has, until recent times, relegated woman to the sphere of "the home," the construction of her own sphere was considered suitable work only for her companion, man, and it has required the force of the modern woman's movement to open the door of architecture as a profession to woman. The effect of this long denial of participation in a profession so eminently suitable to women is still recognisable in our man-built homes, for as yet there are but few practising women architects—a number which may be computed as well under a dozen.

One of these pioneers, Miss Elspeth McClelland (Mrs. Spencer) discussed the subject of house construction this week with a representative of COMMON CAUSE, and her experiences throw much light on the need and opportunity for women in this field of work.

"Women, after all, usually understand the business of house-work better than a man," she remarked, "and are thus more likely to plan a house with regard to interior convenience and the beauty of fitness. The pitfall of the architect seems to be the subordination of interior construction to the symmetry and harmony of the exterior. A woman realises more fully what such sacrifice entails on the housekeeper, and so seeks for a compromise. Now, I never design a house without first living in it in imagination. I go through all the housework, fancy myself cook, and housemaid, and mistress, and thus discover any awkwardness of arrangement in the interior construction. Then I alter, or, if necessary, abandon my whole plan if it will interfere with the comfort or convenience of the inmates of the home.

"No, I never build a house with steps between scullery and kitchen," she remarked in answer to a sudden question; being a woman myself, I recall the continual inconvenience such an arrangement would be to the housewife and cook, and I have also never erected a scullery, where the weekly laundry has to be executed, without making sure that there is room therein for the worker and the necessary equipment for the 'wash.'"

This woman architect has decided opinions as to kitchen stoves. "Why so many men place the kitchen range in a dark corner, is a curious problem," she said. "One must have light by which to cook, and the waste of electricity or gas, to say nothing of comfort, by omitting to place the stove suitably, is considerable. I am also interviewing manufacturers at present as to the construction of kitchen ranges; I want to find one which will not need the frequent application of black lead."

"And where the cleaning of the flues will be a simple operation and not carried out with an elongated buttonhook," her interviewer interposed.

"Precisely. A woman builder has the advantage of practical experience in the home which would lead her to plan the fittings more nicely adapted to the requirements. Shelves, for example, which are too often placed at the height of a workman's arm and out of a woman's reach, and cupboards which are frequently made by men without regard to their contents. A kitchen cupboard should, in my opinion, be shallow, and cover a good deal of wall-space, so that all jars and bottles kept therein are visible, and a brush cupboard should be planned the correct height, to admit the brooms in an erect position. Above all, the accommodation for household tools should be put near to the place of their use, for the saving of labour in small ways adds considerably to the comfort and leisure of the women who administer the household."

With regard to the lighting of a house, Miss McClelland was emphatic as to the necessity for numerous windows. There should be no dark rooms in a house, no, not even a dark coal-cellar. If the coals are kept in an outhouse, why should this not have glass slates in the roof? She had tried such a plan with success. As for a dark staircase, that was unthinkable; the staircase was the architect's opportunity, and the staircase window should be its eye.

The "backs" of average London houses came in for a just share of condemnation from this practical apostle of light and air. "Ideally, the backs of houses should be orchards," she remarked, but in London, where this is not possible, some other solution to the problem must be found.

Luckily, much of Miss McClelland's work is done in the country, where she has designed many houses, ranging from cottages at £600 a pair to the larger residence of £2,200 in value. She has executed orders for both men and women, about one-third of her employers being men, and she gave the comforting assurance in conclusion that she found in men clients no prejudice on account of her sex, and also that her fees were on the same scale as those of men architects.



### FASHIONABLE WRAPPERS

Our stock of Wrappers and Rest Gowns is exceptionally large and well assorted. We buy all the most exclusive Paris Models, and copy and adapt them in our own work-rooms. Some of the latest models are of a particularly dainty character. They are, moreover, beautifully made from high-grade materials.

**PRACTICAL WRAPPER.** In best quality wool-back satin, lined silk throughout, and fastening on one side with one large hook. In sky, pink, heliotrope, white, grey, violet, saxe, cherry, and black.

Price **49/6**

## Debenham & Freebody

(DEBENHAM LIMITED)  
Wigmore Street,  
(Cavendish Square) London, W.

### Stewart Dawson & Compy. Ltd.

73, 75, 77, 79, 81, Regent St., London, W.

Diamond and Gem Jewellery. Watches, Clocks.  
Sterling Silver Dressing Bags and Art-Leather Goods.  
Inspection and Comparison invited. Catalogues Free.

City Establishment:  
THE TREASURE HOUSE, HATTON GARDEN, E.C.

### A Lecture

WILL BE GIVEN AT  
CAXTON HALL, MONDAY, MARCH 31st, 8 p.m.  
by Miss HELENA NORMANTON, B.A., on "The Origin and History  
of English Poor Law."  
Chairman Miss EUNICE MURRAY.

Tickets: 2/6, 1/- and 6d. from WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE OFFICE, 1, Robert  
Street, Adelphi, W.C., and at the Doors.

**MISS L. B. EVETTS, R.H.S. and  
MISS F. H. GARLICK, R.H.S.**  
(Trained Swanley Horticultural College.)

Care of Gardens from 7/6 per day. Gardens designed & laid out.  
ADVISORY WORK.  
SPECIALITY made of Pruning: the laying out of herbaceous borders,  
rock and wall gardens, etc., etc.  
Further particulars apply:—  
28, WATERLOW COURT, HAMPSTEAD WAY, HENDON, N.W.

### SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

Our readers are earnestly requested to support the Advertisers in the paper. Only firms of the highest repute are accepted by us, and if all readers will deal exclusively with them, it will materially help *The Common Cause*.

## The International Congress at Buda-Pesth.

We learn from the organisers of the International Congress at Buda-Pesth that the arrangements are being energetically made and that there is every prospect of a successful and influential gathering. Among the names of some of the distinguished persons who have promised to be present we note Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, the Rev. Anna H. Shaw, Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Jane Addams (President of Hull House and one of the most honoured of social workers in America), Mrs. O. P. Belmont (the mother of the Duchess of Marlborough), Helen Lorin Grenfell (the former superintendent of the States School Board of Colorado), Judge Ben Lindsey (the founder of Juvenile Courts, who, by the way, has never before visited Europe. Comtesse Emilia de Pardo Basan, who holds a high office in the Spanish Board of Education, has also intimated her intention of attending the Congress, and Catharine Van Rennes, the famous composer and conductor from the Netherlands, is an expected guest. From England such well-known personages as Mrs. Annie Flora Steel, Mr. Laurence Housman and Mr. Keir Hardie will attend the meetings, and it is known that many Governments are sending representatives.

The Congress has aroused much interest in Hungary itself, as evidenced by facts already published in previous issues of COMMON CAUSE, and the following particulars, which we have just received, show that this interest is expanding.

Besides a donation of 5,000 crowns from the City of Buda-Pesth and 15,000 crowns from the Board of Trade, which have been previously announced, the Congress organisers have received a further donation of 1,000 crowns from the Board of Agriculture.

The Postmaster-General, Dr. Demény, has promised to give a holiday to the women employees of the post office who desire to attend the Congress, and an organisation of women teachers has resolved to ask the authorities to grant leave of absence to those women in the teaching profession who desire to be present at this international gathering.

We are asked to state that the member's fee to the Congress is 10 crowns (about 8s. 4d.), and that application for membership should be addressed to the Executive Committee of the Seventh International Congress for Woman Suffrage, István-út 67, Buda-Pesth, Hungary. Telegrams: Suffragium, Budapest.

The following tentative programme has been issued:—

**SUNDAY, JUNE 15TH.**—  
Morning—Religious Services. Preacher, The Rev. Anna Shaw.  
Afternoon—Music. Short Speeches of Welcome.  
Presentation of Chinese Banners.  
Short Speeches by Government Representatives.  
President's Address.  
Evening—Reception in Agricultural Museum.

**MONDAY, JUNE 16TH.**—  
Morning—Seating of Delegates.  
Appointment of Interpreters, Stewards, Committee, etc.  
Adoption of Programme.  
Report: Committee on Admissions.  
Report of New Societies.  
Afternoon—Carriage Drive through Buda-Pesth  
Evening—Reception by City of Buda-Pesth.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 17TH.**—  
Morning—Minutes.  
Financial Report, *Jus Suffragii*.  
Treasurer's Report.  
Auditor's Report.  
General Report of Work in all Countries summarised from the National Reports, which are to be printed, but not read.  
Discussion: Business Proposals.  
Afternoon—Free for Invitations.  
Evening—Grand Public Meeting. Speakers invited by the Hungarian Society.

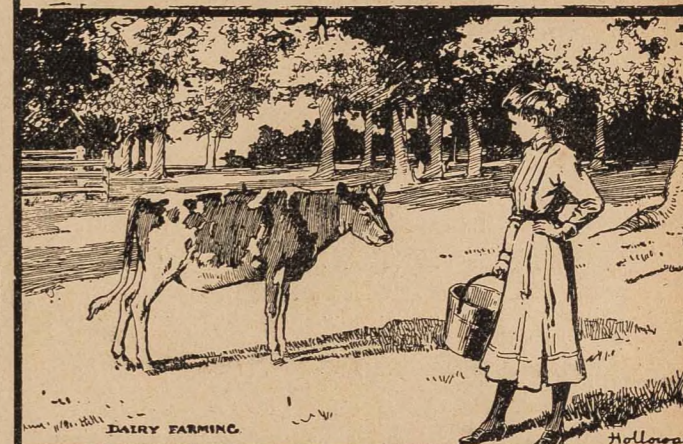
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18TH.**—  
Morning—Amendments to the Constitution.  
Afternoon—Men's League Business Meeting.  
Evening—Public Meeting.  
"How the Vote was won in ten American States" told by Official Delegates appointed by the Governors.  
Story of any other Victories which may be won before our Congress.  
This Meeting will be followed by a moonlight Steamer Excursion on the Danube.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 19TH.**—  
Morning—Minutes. Additional Credential Report.  
Election of Officers.  
Miscellaneous Business.  
Afternoon—Free. Possibly devoted to a Young People's Meeting.  
Men's League Business Meeting.  
Evening—Public Meeting: International Men's League.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH.**—  
Morning—Any unfinished Business.  
Discussion proposed by Sweden: "What should be the relation between Suffrage Campaigns and Political Parties?"  
Afternoon—Business Session—or Free for Invitations.  
Evening—Farewell on Bastion. Hungarian Festival.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST.**—  
Morning—Business (if any).  
Adjournment.

## CANADA FOR WOMEN



The opportunities for women in Canada in every branch of life are fully described in a new edition of the pamphlet "Canada for Woman," issued by the Canadian Pacific Railway. Write to-day for a copy, which will gladly be sent post free.

**Canadian Pacific Railway,  
62-65, CHARING CROSS, LONDON, S.W.**

## THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, YORK STREET, St. James's, S.W.

The Club has been formed as a Social Club for  
**MEN AND WOMEN**  
interested in the Suffrage Movement.

Thursday, April 3rd, a Meeting will take place at 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss G. BINNIE CLARK. Chair: Miss HAIG. Subject: "Women and Land in Canada."  
**CONSTANT LECTURES ARRANGED.**

There are only a few vacancies remaining for Founder members at £1 1s. 0d. subscription and no entrance fee.

**EARLY APPLICATION ADVISABLE.**

The Board of Management have decided to reserve a few Bedrooms for Lady Members wishing to make a prolonged stay in the club.  
**INCLUSIVE TERMS FROM 25s. WEEKLY.**  
Further particulars—Secretary.

## USE OUR COAL, PLEASE!

Silkstone ..... 27/-	Roaster Nuts ..... 23/-
Best Household ..... 25/6	Large Kitchen ..... 22/6
Special House ..... 25/-	Stove Coal ..... 21/6
Best Nuts ..... 24/6	Anthracite Nuts ..... 40/-
Coke, per Chaldron, 15/-	

Order your supplies early from  
**WILLIAM CLARKE & SON,**  
341, GRAY'S INN ROAD, KING'S CROSS, W.C.  
95, QUEEN'S ROAD, BAYSWATER, W.  
3, GREAT CENTRAL OFFICES, NEASDEN, N.W.  
Telephones: 3656, 1592 and 2718 North, 565 Paddington, &c.  
**DELIVERIES ANYWHERE—ALMOST.**

Notes from Headquarters

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. Hon. Secretaries: Miss K. D. COURTNEY...

Mrs. Chapman Catt's visit to London, to take place early in May, is expected with eagerness. The National Union is arranging an evening reception in her honour...

Contributions to the General Fund.

Table with columns for Subscriptions, Donations, and Affiliation Fees. Includes names like Miss K. M. Courtauld, Mrs. J. C. G. Sykes, etc.

Teachers' Franchise Union.

Miss Agnes Dawson presided over a crowded meeting of the National Union of Teachers, delegates and others on March 22nd at the Albert Hall, Weston-super-Mare.

Miss Margaret McMillan proposed the following resolution: "This meeting of delegates of the N.U.T. and others desires to record its conviction that it would be in the best interest of education that women be granted the parliamentary franchise."

Miss Cleghorn, M.A., moved, and Miss A. K. Williams, L.L.A. seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to all the speakers. A very good collection was taken.

Jaeger Fine Pure Wool Under and Outer Wear is eminently safe. Clothed in it one can defy the vagaries of our climate and be comfortable in all weathers.

Foreign News.

France.

A very interesting article in the Française deals with the work of women as "cantal delegates." A cantonal delegate must be elected by the departmental council for primary education...

Switzerland.

That interesting little paper le Mouvement Féministe, which has lately begun to appear at Geneva, publishes an article entitled "une Initiative," which is well worth the consideration of Suffragists.

News from the United States.

Two more campaigns are pending here. In New Jersey the Women's Suffrage amendment passed the Assembly by 46 votes to 5, after the Senate had already passed it by 14 to 5.

Two other victories were nearly won; in fact, according to the voting scheme of most countries, they would have been won. In Maine the Suffragists secured a vote of 89 to 53 in the Lower House, but this was not quite the two-thirds required for a constitutional amendment.

News from the Societies and Federations.

London Society.

BLACKHEATH.—A successful social evening was held in Blackheath Press Chambers on March 18th by the local Branch, when Mr. S. Lamert presided.

BRIXTON.—On March 6th Miss Philippa Fawcett gave an interesting and useful address to the Taxi-Women's Union (wives of the taxi-drivers on strike)...

On March 11th, at 30, Brixton Road, the headquarters of the Taxi-Drivers' Union, a meeting was held. The men being on strike gave them an exceptional opportunity...

BROCKLEY.—A small party of members and friends met at 7, Fobxberg Road on March 6th by invitation of Mrs. Whitfield, when Miss Janet Thomson gave a delightful address on Florence Nightingale.

CANNING TOWN.—On March 14th, through the kindness of Miss Towers, an "At Home" was held at the Women's Settlement. A delightful address was given by Miss M. Royden, and was much enjoyed by over 80 people...

ENFIELD LOCK.—On March 12th Mrs. Garrett Jones gave a most interesting address to the Enfield Lock W.L.A. at the Liberal Hall, Ordinance Road. As a result several "Friends" cards were signed...

HAMMERSMITH.—By kind invitation of Mrs. Ridpath, a drawing-room meeting was held at her house, 12, West Kensington Gardens, on March 10th. The Chair was taken by Miss Gray, headmistress of St. Paul's School for Girls.

HARROW.—This Society was started in February with 14 members. A small but successful drawing-room meeting was held in Harrow on March 17th.

HOLBORN.—Mrs. Ricardo, 13, Bedford Square, kindly lent her rooms for a meeting for working women on March 6th, and the attendance was very good.

KENSINGTON (N.).—A small but interesting meeting was held at 5, Johnston Street, W., on March 18th, when Miss Keeling was in the Chair. The Chair was also taken by the Rev. A. W. Allen and Mrs. Garrett-Jones.

LAMBETH (N.).—On March 11th Miss Anna Martin was the speaker at Alford House, Lambeth Walk, when Miss Downs presided, and Miss Bryant kindly provided tea.

NORTHWOOD.—A Public Meeting was held in the Church Hall on March 11th, and a large audience came to hear Miss Maude Royden. The Chair was taken by Professor Waterston.

PADDINGTON.—On March 10th an evening meeting was held in the Ethical Hall, Queen's Road, Mrs. Pratt being Chairman. Miss Ranson made an excellent speech on the growth of the Suffrage movement from 1832 to the present day.

POPULAR.—On March 10th Miss Royden spoke to a meeting of women at the County of Woodstock Road on Women's Suffrage and the White Slave Traffic.

Sister Barbara was in the Chair. It was a very enthusiastic meeting, and in spite of a wet afternoon the Hall was crowded.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.—Miss Royden addressed a Girls' Club on March 10th at the Church Mission Room, Watney Street.

ST. PANORAS (EAST).—A successful drawing-room meeting was held at 22, Bartholomew Road on February 19th, by permission of the Misses Jones, who most generously presented all their guests with THE COMMON CAUSE and a pamphlet.

ST. PANORAS (WEST).—A most successful drawing-room meeting was held at St. Mark's Square, on February 26th, the hostess being Mrs. Weibel.

SOFTWARBY (WEST).—On March 3rd Mrs. Rogers addressed the Mothers' Meeting in connection with Borough Road Baptist Chapel, and fifteen were enrolled as "Friends."

STOCKWELL, S.W.—At the invitation of the Debating Society of the Ingham House Residential Club, Miss Edith Palfrey opened the debate of March 17th on the right of women to Parliamentary enfranchisement.

WHITECHAPEL.—A Public Meeting was held at St. Jude's Club House on March 11th. Mr. Edward E. Davies was in the Chair, and the speakers were Miss Agnes Dawson and Miss M. Goldard.

WIMBLEDON.—On March 5th a drawing-room meeting was held at Charlton House by invitation of Mrs. McKelvey. The Rev. Hugh Chapman spoke and Mr. Cotton Minchin was in the Chair.

The Federations.

East Midland. ORGANISER'S REPORT.—Since last report the principal work has been what might be termed ground breaking at Belper in Mid-Devonshire division, and preparation for a Public Meeting.

FEDERATION MEETING.—A meeting of representatives of the Societies in the Federation was held at the Foresters' Lecture Hall, Nottingham, on March 12th, to hear an address by Miss Courtney on the "New Policy of the National Union."

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—The Burton Society has inaugurated a new venture, a series of Suffrage "At Homes" on Thursday afternoons, in Friars' Walk School, for the benefit of visitors to the adjacent weekly market.

CHESTERFIELD.—This Society held a Public Meeting on March 14th, at which Mrs. Cowmeadow spoke on "The Political Attitude of the National Union."

CRICK.—The Annual General Meeting was held on March 18th in the Rectory Church. The Secretary and Treasurer reported on the work of the past year, and officers and committees were elected for the coming year.

DERBY.—Miss Norma Smith has been spending some weeks in Derby, and her work resulted in a very successful Public Meeting on February 25th, when a decided impetus was given to the Suffrage movement by her fine address.

LINCOLN.—A meeting was held in the L.L.P. rooms on March 4th. Mr. Walter Hill, Secretary of the Lincoln Branch of the L.L.P., took the Chair and made a stirring speech upholding the new policy of the National Union and showing that the country could do very well without Anti-Suffrage members of the Cabinet.

MANSFIELD.—A series of meetings was held from March 17th to March 19th, at which addresses were given by Miss M. Norma Smith and Miss I. O. Ford. On March 11th a Public Meeting was held at Mansfield Town Hall.

NOTTINGHAM.—The Nottingham Society held their Annual Meeting on March 12th in the Mechanics' Lecture Hall. The Hon. Mrs. Handford presided. The report on the year's work was read by the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. W. E. Dowson, and the financial statement by Miss Stainer, the Hon. Treasurer.

The Kent Federation has been reorganised under the presidency of Countess Brassey, and is now, we hope, on a firm basis.

held at 24, Park Lane on March 12th. All the Societies within the Federation were represented, and the following officers were appointed:—Hon. Sec., Miss Bruce; Hon. Treas., Miss Druce; Hon. Press Sec., Miss F. Taylor. Kent is an extremely difficult county to work owing to the lack of industrial centres, the shifting nature of the population in the garrison and seaside towns, and the apathy of the country folk.

**ASHFORD.**—A public meeting was held in February. In the chair, Miss Griffith Jones; speaker, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell. In conjunction with the C. and U.W.F.A. arrangements are now being made for a public meeting to be held, at which Lady Betty Balfour will speak.

**CANTERBURY.**—A society was formally inaugurated here during February, and is already doing good work. A members' meeting, two drawing-room meetings, and an evening social gathering have been addressed by the organisers and Dr. Wachter, of Canterbury. A lecture on "Work and Wages" has also been given by Miss Minick at the Mothercraft Club.

**FOLKESTONE.**—A large drawing-room meeting, addressed by Mrs. Flora Annie Steele, showed the enthusiasm with which our cause is held in this town. It was followed by a very full public meeting in the Town Hall, promoted in conjunction with the New Constitutional Suffrage Society. The chair was taken by Mrs. Steele; speaker, the Rev. Llewellyn Smith. The following evening the N.L.O.W.S. held a meeting in the same hall, at which Miss Gladys Pott spoke. This meeting resulted in a large increase of membership to the National Union Society. The National Union and New Constitutional Societies have arranged to give a lecture on "Sweating," accompanied by a demonstration, on March 29th. Hythe, under the able care of Mrs. Henry Kingsley, has recently become a branch of the Folkestone Society.

**MATEFIELD, BRANCHLEY AND PEMBERTY.**—Good propaganda work is being done in this difficult district. A successful drawing-room meeting was recently held by this Society. A lecture on "Work and Wages" was given at the Deal Liberal Club. At its close several men present gave excellent Suffrage addresses.

**MARGATE.**—This Society has been reconstituted and promises to prove energetic and progressive. A meeting for the appointment of officers was held on February 18th, and a public meeting, at which Mrs. Rackham is to speak, has been fixed for April 14th.

**RAMSGATE.**—The Annual Meeting was held, when the organiser took the opportunity to explain the new policy of the National Union. This Society, together with anti-Suffragists, is holding excellent meetings on "Women's Local Government."

**ROCHESTER.**—Much propaganda work is being done here, and many posters, among them those protesting against violence, are displayed in Rochester and the neighbouring towns. A well-worded advertisement of the Society also figures in the local papers. A members' meeting was held on February 25th, at which a Literature Secretary and COMMON CAUSE Correspondent were appointed. A debate has been arranged to take place at the Chatham Town Hall on May 7th.

**SEVENOAKS.**—This Society has held several meetings, which have already been reported in THE COMMON CAUSE. Their Suffrage Shop is about to move to other premises.

**SIDCUP and CHISLEHURST.**—Drawing-room meetings have been addressed at these two centres by the organisers, preparatory to Societies being formed. There is every prospect of success.

**TONBRIDGE.**—The record of work done by this branch is most encouraging. Three members' meetings have been held during the past winter, at which addresses were given on "Women and the Poor Law," "Women's Industrial Law Committee," and "Women's Work on Children's Care Committee." The local press gave good reports of all meetings. Another members' meeting is arranged for March 18th, to be followed on March 25th by a public debate.

**Manchester and District.**

**ALTRINCHAM.**—On March 11th, by the kindness of Mrs. Drummond Fraser, a "White Elephant" Sale was held at Devidale-Bowden. The proceeds amounted to £12 10s.

**MANCHESTER.**—The Manchester Society has held very successful "At Homes" during the past month at Parker's Restaurant, St. Ann's Square. Among the speakers who have helped are the Rev. E. T. Kerby, Mr. Frank Leigh, and Mrs. Mütter Wilson. It has been decided to discontinue these meetings during the summer months. The South Salford and Hulme Suffrage Clubs have held well-attended meetings, at which the speakers have been the Rev. W. Whitaker, Mr. Kennish Brown, and the Rev. L. Hertford. Both Clubs are busy working for a White Sale they are holding on April 26th in the Milton Hall, to raise funds for the upkeep of their own organisations. On March 8th the Salford Club held a very successful concert to raise funds for their Sale. On March 3rd, the last lecture of the Society, the subject was "When the Vote is Won." A very interesting discussion followed the lecture, which was immensely enjoyed by the members present.

**MARPLE.**—On February 19th, Mrs. O. M. Aldridge, of Manchester, gave an interesting address in the Girls' Institute upon the work of the Women's Trade Unions. On March 10th, Miss Olga Herty addressed an evening meeting upon "The Poor Law from a Woman's Point of View." There was a good attendance, and a short discussion followed the lecture. On March 11th, by permission of Mrs. Barlow, a drawing-room meeting was held at "Woodville." Lady Rochdale spoke to an audience of about eighty, and several new members joined the Marple Society.

**MIDDLETON.**—A Conversazione, under the auspices of the N.U.W.S.S., was held on January 16th, at the

Corner Café, Middleton. About forty members were present. A most enjoyable evening was passed, the musical items, both vocal and instrumental, being greatly appreciated. Mrs. Mütter Wilson, who had come specially from Didsbury, gave an excellent address. Before the meeting separated, it was decided to have a combined Whist Drive and Dance on February 14th. This was held on the appointed date at the New Milton Hall, and was a great success; over 100 tickets were sold, and over 90 people were present. All parties and sections of the community were represented. As 1 a.m. struck, the hour of departure was, by general desire, deferred to 2 a.m. An appreciable profit was made, though an adverse balance had been feared. It is felt that even though no propaganda was undertaken at the affair, the Cause in Middleton has obtained a capital advertisement, and has materially strengthened its position. A repetition of the evening has been demanded by many people for April, but local considerations would seem to militate against the success of such a function at this time of the year. The Middleton Society is, however, seriously considering the practicability of holding a Suffrage Week (aided by a Suffrage Shop) in the near future.

**ROMILY.**—A drawing-room meeting held on March 8th at "The Haven," by permission of Mr. Frank Leigh, resulted in the addition of fourteen new members to the roll. Miss Ashton proposed "That nothing but a Government measure can adequately fulfil Mr. Asquith's pledge given in 1911." Mr. W. Stokoe seconded, and the Resolution was passed *nem. con.* The meeting was almost entirely composed of non-members.

**South-Western.**

**BIDEFORD.**—This Society is being re-organised, with Miss Hellsall as Hon. Secretary. On February 22nd, Mrs. and the Misses Kelsall kindly gave an "At Home" at "Westward Ho!" in the Station Hall, at which the Rev. F. Scholey took the Chair, and Miss G. G. Chambers was the speaker. After tea, there was a debate between Mr. D. F. Griffiths (for woman suffrage) and Mr. H. Rivington (against), with the Rev. R. W. Sealy in the Chair. The Resolution was defeated, but only by five votes, which must be regarded as a great victory in such an anti-suffrage neighbourhood. About 200 persons were present.

**PLYMOUTH.**—By the kindness of Mrs. Ramsay, the Fourth Annual Meeting was held at her house on March 12th. Mrs. Daymond presiding. The officers and Committee were unanimously re-elected, Miss Keys being elected Hon. Treasurer in the place of Miss Coyle, who is unable to continue the work. For the first time in the history of the Society the financial report shows a balance of £2 in hand. Dr. Mabel Ramsay, the Hon. Secretary, gave a review of the political situation, explaining the new policy of the National Union. The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Ramsay, who kindly provided tea for the members. A Public Meeting, to be addressed by Mr. Cameron Grant, a Jumble Sale and a Whist Drive in aid of funds, are to be the next activities of the Society.

**TEIGNMOUTH.**—At the Annual Meeting held at the School, Exeter Road, Miss Walford presiding, Miss R. Langley was unanimously appointed Hon. Secretary in the place of Miss Clodd, who was resigning. Miss Walford gave an address on "Women's Work and the Vote," and the Resolution was passed unanimously. Miss Walford again spoke at a drawing-room meeting, held by the kindness of Mrs. Sandeman at her house, on March 15th. The meeting concluded with a short discussion.

**TRURO.**—By the kindness of Canon and Mrs. Corfe a drawing-room meeting was held at "Trevé," Kenwyn, Truro, on March 8th. Canon Corfe took the Chair, and Miss Eva Macnaghten spoke on "The Religious Aspect of the Woman's Movement."

*News from the N. Eastern Federation will be published in the next issue.*—ED. C. C.

**Activity at Winchmore.**

In January, this branch co-operated with the Cheltenham branch of the C. & U.W.F.A., in sending up a memorial to Mr Hicks-Beach, from the members of Conservative executives in a number of villages. 84 per cent. of those seen—21 out of 25—signed the memorial asking his support for one or other of the Women's Suffrage Amendments to the Franchise Bill.

On February 11th, Mr. E. E. Wood kindly placed his office at our disposal for the holding of a second annual meeting. The report and balance-sheet were read and adopted. The officers were re-elected with the addition of Miss Sexty as Vice-President; and the Committee was re-elected with the addition of Mrs. Springfield. It was decided to make a special appeal to members for small contributions towards the presentation to Mrs. Fawcett. The following resolution was unanimously carried:—"That while we do not believe in the charge of bad faith attributed to the Prime Minister, the facilities offered are not a sufficient substitute for his promise, and that there can be no satisfactory settlement of the problem other than a Government measure with the benefit of the Parliament Act."

**A PERFECT FITTING COSTUME FROM 3 1/2 Gns.**

Satisfaction guaranteed. References from Best West-End Houses. Ladies fitted at their own residences, if desired.

*Patterns on Application.*

**J. BLATT,**  
7, The Mansions, Mill Lane, West Hampstead, N.W.

Telephone No.: 1630 P.O. HAMPSTEAD.

**Forthcoming Meetings.**

(ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION.)

Table listing meetings for March 28, 29, 31, and April 1-7, 1913, including locations like Tonbridge, Malton, Bournemouth, Watford, etc., and names of chairs and speakers.

**LONDON.**

Table listing meetings in London for March 31, April 2, 7, and 4, 1913, including locations like Islington, Balham, Stamford Hill, etc.

**SCOTLAND.**

Table listing meetings in Scotland for March 28, 29, and April 4, 1913, including locations like Glasgow, Edinburgh.

**MEETINGS ADDRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL UNION.**

Table listing meetings addressed by members of the National Union, including locations like Bristol, Keynsham, etc.