

THE VOTE,
April 20, 1912.

DETERMINATION AND HOPE. BY MRS. DESPARD.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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TO READERS OF "THE VOTE."

It is not a little significant, that the novel festival which celebrates the beginning of a co-operation for the Cause should take place at this particular moment.

The Minerva Publishing Company, working for the Women's Freedom League, and the Suffrage Atelier, working from the artistic side for all the suffrage societies, have formed an alliance in our organ, THE VOTE. We, as publishers and editor, concern ourselves with the letterpress. We strive to make our paper not only useful, but interesting; avoiding unnecessary controversy, we try to keep alive in it the spirit of righteousness, of justice and of hope. To the strong appeal made to the League at our last Conference, a most encouraging response has been given; and now, relying on the enthusiasm of our members, and the growing expansion of our League, we have found it possible to make this new departure. The number which we offer to you this week contains a coloured cartoon and a front-page illustration given to us by the Suffrage Atelier. Similar work produced by the same society will be published week by week. We believe that our

readers and every member of the League, rising to the occasion, will use their utmost endeavours to make THE VOTE known, and that in a short time the circulation will so materially increase that we shall be able permanently to enlarge its scope.



L-o-d-G-o-g- You'll be fed on this, Baby, until you grow up a fine, strong, sensible man and demand "The Vote" for women yourself!

The current number, like that which went out a month ago, has four extra pages. Many on that occasion notified to us their satisfaction with the change. The enlargement can only be permanent if our friends and readers make it possible. THE VOTE, as our readers know, has weathered many a storm. Its continued vitality is due to the work, the love, the loyalty of the enthusiasts, who look upon it not as a luxury, but as a necessity, who feel that the life of the League is bound up in our organ. With all our hearts we thank them; fervently we hope that their numbers will increase. We know that our sisters of the Atelier will work with them gladly; and we have every confidence in the result.

Appealing to the public in a new way, and forming thus a factor in the growth of public opinion upon which we depend for the existence of our movement, THE VOTE will strengthen its position in the journalistic world and extend its influence. C. DESPARD.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Sex War Among the "Antis."

Sir Almoth Wright has produced consternation in the Anti-Suffrage camp. His bombshell has fallen on all women alike, heedless as to whether they are "Pros," or "Anti's." Mrs. Humphry Ward and Miss Violet Markham are up in arms against his "bitter and unseemly violence," and "sweeping indictment of womanhood." Both write at considerable length to *The Times* denouncing the insult to their sex, even though their own organisation has, seeing in this "moral emetic" a valuable statement of facts not to be dealt with in ordinary conversation, thought well to distribute it with care and discretion among Members of both Houses of Parliament and some teachers. Suffragists have often been charged by their opponents with inciting to a sex war; now that war has broken out in the Anti-Suffrage ranks, and Miss Violet Markham declares that Sir Almoth is heaping fuel on the fire. We have long known that it is the "Anti" men who despise women; the "Anti" women are now being rudely awakened to the truth. Mrs. Humphry Ward has a perfect right to consider herself and her sex insulted by the diatribe of the scientist, and we join with Mrs. Osler, who, writing in *The Nation*, says that "our sympathy has gone out to Mrs. Humphry Ward and her colleagues in the unnatural alliance forced upon them by their latest champion." We invite Mrs. Humphry Ward and her friends to join our ranks, for it is only in them that such insulting views of their sex can be successfully combated.

Forcible Feeding Again.

Once more the Government of this country is sanctioning the disgusting and inhuman practice of forcibly feeding women political prisoners, who have resorted to the hunger strike as a protest against exclusion from the privileges granted under Mr. Winston Churchill's famous 243 A. rule. To realise the alarming possibilities of such suffering to women we need only recall that such eminent medical men as Sir Victor Horsley, Dr. Mansell Moulin, Dr. Forbes Winslow, Dr. Hugh Fenton have declared that the operation is attended with the "gravest risks," and that if a patient resists, "sooner or later there will be fatal results." Yet His Majesty's Minister who is responsible for this dangerous treatment can find courage to inform the House of Commons that he is sorry for the women thus tortured. Instead of shedding crocodile tears, Mr. McKenna's duty is to stop this barbarity, and remembering his speedy capitulation to pressure on behalf of the Syndicalists, recognise that the suffering women, who are not criminals, have a right to the privileges they demand. The Home Secretary also informed the House on April 15 that there would be no remission of the sentences on Suffragist prisoners. He may hide his head, ostrich-like, from the growing indignation throughout the country with regard to the sentences on women and the torture they are enduring, for which he is responsible, but that indignation, strongly felt abroad also, will recoil on a Government which boasts about its tender care of voteless women. If such things had happened anywhere but in our own country, the House of Commons would have been moved to denunciation not laughter, and hon. Members would have been falling over each other in their eagerness to appear on protest platforms. The mild protest uttered by *The Daily News* a few days ago would have been more effective if followed up by a definite campaign to obviate any resort to forcible feeding by demanding the release of the Suffragists.

Teachers and Woman Suffrage.

The question of Woman Suffrage appears to have been the *pièce de résistance* at the annual Conference of the National Union of Teachers at Hull last week, and judgment—*pace* Mrs. Burgwin and others—seems to have gone by default on the ground that the members met as teachers not as politicians. The question of education assuredly comes within woman's sphere, and the country would gain enormously if its

women teachers could make their point of view felt by the direct lever of the vote. Mrs. Burgwin, who opposed the resolution of sympathy with voteless teachers, laughed aside the example of Finland, where women are not only voters but legislators, on the ground that it was only about the size of the city of Hull. Population does not affect principle, and Finland is wise enough to appoint to the Committee of the Diet which hammers out education legislation women members who have had long experience in teaching and in training teachers. The result is that Finland, despite its size, is the best educated country in the world.

Mrs. Burgwin and her Maiden Ladies.

Mrs. Burgwin contended that education was not concerned with Woman Suffrage, and raised a cheap laugh by an irrelevant anecdote about two maiden ladies who, on being asked to support a certain candidate for the London County Council, inquired whether the rates had not advanced. She regarded this pertinent question as showing want of political acumen for which, however, she did not blame the ladies, as they had no man to instruct them! Recalling the usual experience at an election, and the protests made by men when rates have gone up, we are inclined to think that the ladies had been instructed not wisely but too well. Mrs. Burgwin evidently agrees with St. Paul, who urged all women in search of information to consult with a man, preferably their husbands. With genuine respect for St. Paul, we submit that the plan does not always work in these days when women—through work such as that of Mrs. Burgwin and her colleagues—enjoy educational facilities, and husbands dislike being looked upon as walking encyclopædias.

Japan Lags Behind.

Japan has a long way to travel yet—in the wake of China. It is the old leader who still leads; in art, religion, philosophy, literature, architecture, and political wisdom, China taught Japan all she knew until she began to model her fighting forces on Western lines. China can still teach her how to treat women from a civilised point of view. Last week we gave our readers significant facts about the value of women in the land of our allies and China's progressive action with regard to women in politics. This week a Reuter message tells of the defeat of a Bill in the Japanese Diet to remove the prohibition against women and young men attending political meetings. The chairman of the committee to which the Bill was referred, declared that "the admission of women to politics would mean that they would neglect their domestic duties." Even the advanced legislator who fathered the Bill maintained that Japanese women were "docile and temperate," and in no way like the "impudent hussies of Europe and America." Evidently these gentlemen have been studying the English anti-suffragists, and are slavishly following the example of Lords Curzon and Cromer. The Diet was told that women were classed with "burglars, incendiaries, rascals, and Liberals." We sympathise with our Japanese sisters, for we are in a similar category, only in our case the word lunatic is substituted for Liberal.

A Woman's Parliament.

We notice that Mrs. Eustace Miles is desirous to see a Woman's Parliament established to deal with women's questions. By way of comment we simply ask whether this old idea of strengthening watertight compartments means that the Woman's Parliament would have power to legislate, or whether it would be merely an advisory body? Would there be an exchange of views? If the women had to submit their proposals regarding women to a man's Parliament, would the men return the compliment, and submit to the women their proposals regarding men? Further, would the women receive a salary of £400 a year each, and would the State provide the Woman's House of Parliament. It is too much to hope; wherever it is a question of the Imperial Exchequer and women, the man turns the key in the coffers and pockets it with a bland smile of deep respect to womanhood.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

Special Conference.—We cannot emphasise too strongly the importance of the Special Conference to members of the Women's Freedom League. At this Conference, which will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28, at Caxton Hall, the future policy and work of the Women's Freedom League will be decided upon. All members of our League have the right to attend, delegates having the additional right to vote and speak on the resolutions sent up by the Branches. Hospitality will be required by many long distance delegates, and any members and friends in or near London who are willing to offer hospitality for that week-end are urged to communicate at once with Mrs. Hyde, at this office, who has very kindly undertaken the arrangements in this matter.

Essex Hall Meeting.—Mr. Laurence Housman's lecture on "Sex War and Woman Suffrage," to be held at Essex Hall, Tuesday evening, May 7, should prove of very special interest to both friends and foes of the political enfranchisement of women. Members of the audience will have an opportunity of taking part in the discussion following this lecture. Admission by tickets (prices 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d.) to be obtained from this office.

Trafalgar-square Meeting.—Owing to the Special Conference, our mass meeting has been postponed until Saturday afternoon, May 11. Will members and friends please keep this date free and urge all their acquaintances to be in the Square that afternoon?
F. A. UNDERWOOD.

HOME RULE & VOTES FOR WOMEN.

There has scarcely been any big legislative measure before the House of Commons in recent years which has not illustrated and emphasised the need for Women's Suffrage. The Education Act, the Trades Disputes Act, Employers' Liability Act, the 1910 Budget, the Lords' Veto and the National Insurance Act—all these measures have been instrumental in driving home two points to suffragists: 1st., that politics are tending more and more to interfere with the lives of women, and 2nd., that all the arguments which are advanced on behalf of such legislation are equally strong arguments for enfranchising women. For instance, no unbiassed person could fail to be struck with the fact that every ardent Liberal speech against the Lords' Veto was equally applicable to the veto of the Government upon Women's Suffrage, and the hereditary principle in the Lords is certainly no worse than the ridiculous claims put forward by so many Liberals of an hereditary right to govern women.

Another great measure is now before the country, and it seems likely that the first step towards the decentralisation of government in these islands may soon be taken, and Home Rule for Ireland become an established fact. Here, again, one sees that the very principles upon which this battle is being fought are also those principles upon which women who seek the enfranchisement of their sex are taking their stand. Self-government has always been the basis of our demand. All the good laws which men have—or have not—made for women, all the excellence of the masculine point of view in governing us, all these things have counted for nothing in our estimation as against

the fact that we are not self-governed, that we are governed over our heads, and without our consent. Mr. Asquith, when opposing the Conciliation Bill, laid great stress upon the way in which women's interests were safeguarded by Parliament, and he considered we had therefore no reason for complaint, but when he introduced his Home Rule Bill, with the easy mental agility of the trained lawyer, he completely reversed his position and argued elaborately that although Ireland's interests have been well looked after by the British Parliament, it in no way detracts from the duty of that Parliament to give self-government to Ireland. This is what he says, speaking of the numerous Acts which have benefited the Irish people:—

"There are, I know, some critics, who say that the mere enumeration of such a catalogue of beneficent measures is in itself a refutation of the supposed necessity for Home Rule, and ought to make an irresistible appeal to the gratitude of the Irish people. *That is not, in my opinion, a very formidable argument.*" (Italics mine.)

Mr. Asquith goes on to show that experience had proved how entirely wrong those prophets of evil had been who had said that all manner of trouble would result if the good legislation referred to above were given to the Irish, and he pointed out that they were making equally dismal prophecies about Home Rule, which would prove to be just as futile.

His next point was even more a statement of the Suffrage case. He said:—

"Look at the effect of our present system upon purely domestic legislation and administration. It inflicts every year a double injury on each of the component parts of the United Kingdom. *There is no time or room to deal with their separate needs.* (Italics mine.) Not only is their local legislation hopelessly in arrear, but under our existing arrangement it is constantly thwarted by the votes and voices of those who have no immediate interest in it. You will never get the separate concerns of the different parts of this United Kingdom treated either with adequate time or with adequate knowledge and sympathy until you have the wisdom and the courage to hand them over to the representatives whom alone they immediately affect."

This is the suffrage case in a nutshell—legislation for women is hopelessly in arrear, and our interests are thwarted by the votes of those who have no understanding of our needs. It is high time that women realised that neither Tory, Liberal or Socialist can be relied upon to apply their principles to women. It has been demonstrated to us so often that there can no longer be any doubt upon the matter—all the underlying principles of the great parties *only apply to men* and women need not expect to come under their scope except when it is to the party's interest they should do so. Until we gain political power and learn some "enlightened self-interest" we have absolutely no guarantee whatever that under any party shall we receive fair play. Tories leave us out of their dreams of Empire, except as race-producers. Liberals go happily on in power while women are imprisoned for protesting against "taxation without representation," and many Socialists talk glibly of "equal opportunity for all," while they turn women out of good trades and insist on them receiving less pay for the same work. By our sex it would seem we are outside the ordinary standards of principle and fair play, and we must realise that unpleasant fact and act accordingly.

The women of Ireland are not famed for their passivity, and their cry, and ours, too, must be "Votes

LONDON SOCIETY OF THE
NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES,
NON-MILITANT. 58, VICTORIA STREET, S.W. NON-PARTY.

PUBLIC RECEPTION, TUESDAY, APRIL 23,
EMPRESS ROOMS, Kensington
(High Street Station), 3.30 to 6 p.m.

CHAIRMAN
Hon. Mrs. SPENCER GRAVES (Hon. Treas. L.S.W.S.)
SPRINKLERS: Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D., Mrs. CORBETT
ASHBY, B.A. (Ex. Com. N.U.W.S.S.). Discussion invited.

for Women in the Home Rule Bill." Liberal and Irish women will read Mr. Asquith's plea for Home Rule with deep interest, and they will help us to see to it that an amendment is moved and carried to protect them from having "their needs thwarted by the votes of those who have no immediate interest in them." For us, too, there must be a Reform Bill, and every woman who has the least influence in the Liberal and Labour parties should be using it now to secure two things: the speedy introduction of the Bill and the wrecking of it if it does not ultimately include women. Meantime, do not let us delude ourselves about either Tory, Liberal or Socialist principles; women have no security and no hope of freedom unless they make it for themselves.

ALISON NEILANS.

THE NATIONALIST PARTY & WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The following letter has been sent to the Press by the Irish League for Women's Suffrage:—

"After careful consideration of their dual duty to Ireland as a whole and the rights of Irish women, the Irish League for Women's Suffrage feel it incumbent upon them strongly to condemn the concerted action of the Irish Nationalist Party in killing the Conciliation Bill. Taking this as a declaration of hostility towards Women's Enfranchisement, and in view of the fact that no Home Rule measure for Ireland can be satisfactory which does not include citizen rights for women as well as for men, the Irish League for Women's Suffrage call upon all Irish women who are members of the United Irish League to resign immediately, and devote their energies and time to the fight for the enfranchisement of their sex. It is particularly suggested that those women who have hitherto contributed to the funds of the Irish Party should divert their subscriptions to the Irish Suffrage Societies until such time as Irish women obtain the Parliamentary franchise."

BY-ELECTION IN EAST NOTTINGHAM.

Candidates.—SIR J. D. REES (U.); MR. T. W. DOBSON (L.) Unionist majority in December, 1910, 1,470.

A short and sharp campaign is to be waged over the by-election in East Nottingham. The Unionist candidate is Sir J. D. Rees, once a Liberal member and knighted by a Liberal Government, the famous Anti-suffragist who boasts of having talked out Mr. Dickenson's Bill, and declares his unchanged opposition to woman's suffrage, though he has changed his party. The Liberal is Mr. T. W. Dobson, formerly one of the members for Plymouth. He is a convinced suffragist and promises a straight vote for women on broad or narrower lines.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

The Sentences on Window-Breakers.

Mr. Leach asked the Home Secretary if he intended to remit the remaining part of the sentences of imprisonment passed on the women window-breakers, seeing that he had already released from gaol the leader and instigator of these women, and, if not, would he explain why he did not intend to do so.

Mr. McKenna: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. I advised the remission of a part of Mrs. Pankhurst's sentence in order that she might be in the same position as her co-defendants in preparing her defence on the later charge against her. There are no similar circumstances in the case of the other prisoners.

Suffragettes Forcibly Fed.

Mr. Lansbury asked the Home Secretary how many prisoners for offences connected with the recent suffrage disturbances had been forcibly fed, whether any of the prisoners so fed had been discharged, and if so, for what reason.

Mr. McKenna said twenty-five of the prisoners had attempted to starve themselves, and had to be fed forcibly. Five were discharged on medical grounds. Three had resumed the natural mode of feeding, and ten had to be fed by tube in order to prevent voluntary starvation.

Replying to further questions, Mr. McKenna said everyone must feel extreme sympathy with the women, and he was sorry he had to feed them forcibly. If they refused to take their food there was no other way.

LONDON WOMEN LIBERALS AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE.—The following resolution has been sent to Mr. Lloyd George, Sir Edward Grey, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Birrell, and Mr. Runciman, the five Cabinet Ministers who voted for the Conciliation Bill on March 28:—"This meeting of the Executive of the Paddington Women's Liberal Association, while deeply regretting that on March 28 the principle of Woman Suffrage was not upheld by the vote in the House of Commons, thanks you earnestly for your support to the Cause on that occasion, and pledges itself to work strenuously for the enfranchisement of women by amendment to the Reform Bill."

THE NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS. NO "SYMPATHY" WITH WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

There was a "full dress" debate—not without signs of "hysteria," especially among the Antis—on Woman Suffrage at the Annual Conference of the National Union of Teachers at Hull during Easter week. The Union has made some progress—in spite of the adverse vote—in devoting time to a subject which, last year, was ruled out of order on the ground that the representatives had received no instructions on the question from the local associations. In the meantime, however, the local associations have discussed the motion, with the result that an expression of sympathy with voteless women was sent up as Resolution No. 3, with 17,062 votes for its discussion in Conference and 6,728 against.

The resolution, which was introduced by Miss Isabel Cleghorn, M.A., Ex-President of the Union, ran as follows:—

That this Conference expresses its sympathy with those members of the National Union of Teachers who desire to possess and exercise the Parliamentary franchise, but because they are women, and for that reason alone, are by law debarred from it.

She said she anticipated the objection that this was a political question and should not be discussed by the Conference, but their Parliamentary influence was one of their greatest assets. They were continually discussing politics. If their political power depended on the vote, and if more of their members became voters, then their political power must be increased. They thought her good enough to be their President last year; she was a householder, paying rates and taxes, but she had no vote, while the men who cleaned her windows and dug her garden were on the register, and she was classed with paupers, lunatics, and infants. The Executive of the Union had not only discussed the franchise, but actually expended Union money on obtaining the franchise for members—men, be it remembered—who resided in school houses. The Union was not established for political purposes, but it stood for fair play for its members, and when a large section asked for sympathy in an endeavour to get, outside the Union, the equal voting power they enjoyed inside the Union, was it common-sense to say: "We do not sympathise, we do not care whether you get what you want or not?" The women teachers of this country earned their own living, they had to teach the children citizenship and loyalty, but they were without the qualification to vote.

Mr. A. E. Cook (London), in moving the "previous question," argued that the introduction of this question into their discussions was a violation of the aims and objects of the Union. Their first object was to associate and unite the teachers. This resolution disunited them. He argued that it was a purely political question, and if Woman Suffrage became part of the policy of the Union, the questions of plural voting, Welsh Disestablishment, and Home Rule might be pressed forward another year. The motion was made to look like a pious expression of opinion, but, if passed, it would not be treated as such. He resisted it, not as an opponent of Woman Suffrage, but because that was not the proper place to intrude the question.

Mrs. Burgwin said she opposed the motion because all the sophistries of the Suffrage associations dissolved when she thought of the actualities of life as she knew them. Who were the women to have votes? She hoped some of their members this year would become happy wives. If Woman Suffrage were carried they would start their married life with a grievance, for they would say to their husbands: "See what I am giving up; I am no longer considered fit to have a vote." Miss Cleghorn had said that the Union had discussed many political questions. Granted; but every one of those political questions concerned education, and Woman Suffrage did not concern the National Union of Teachers. Her sex, her womanhood, and her motherhood convinced her that this was not an opportune time to give women votes, and she asked the Conference not to give the Suffragists the opportunity of using this pious resolution in order to boast to the country that that great body of teachers were supporters of their cause.

Mr. Allen Croft (Nottingham) said one of the objects of the Union was to secure the effective representation of their interests in Parliament. What better means were there for increasing that effective representation than by largely augmenting the number of voters among their members? Their political influence was mostly due to nearly all their male members having votes. The importance of Woman Suffrage to them as a body would be realised by asking themselves what would be their influence if the men's votes were taken from them?

The women members of the National Union of Teachers provided the greater part of their Parliamentary fund; more than £4,000 went into the fund every year direct from the pockets of women.

Mr. A. W. Dakers (Newcastle), Vice-President of the Union, pointed out that the resolution did not favour the exclusion of married women from the franchise. If women, who had a very special interest in the laws and regulations which governed the instruction of their children, were refused the right to

exercise a voice in the making of these laws, they were being denied an influence in the management of woman's special department, the home.

Mr. Gwilliam (Leeds) urged that they were there as teachers, not as politicians.

The result of the division was as follows:—
For the previous question 36,225
Against 22,294
Majority 13,941

THE INSURANCE ACT: PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

[Miss Leah Anson has kindly undertaken to answer questions on the Insurance Act as it applies to women. Will inquirers kindly note that replies cannot be sent by post, and that all questions will be dealt with in turn?]

1. My husband now pays a weekly subscription to his Trade Union, which would give him pay if out of work for any cause, but does not give sick benefit. I also pay his death insurance, which I cannot afford to allow to lapse now, and I cannot afford to make any further similar payments out of his wages, but he says I shall have to pay 4d. and 2½d. weekly—6½d. out of what he gives me as he only keeps a very little for himself now. This means £1 8s. 2d. a year out of our food and clothes. Please tell me if there is any way of evading payment?

There is no way of evading payment, because the 6½d. will be taken out of your husband's wages before they are given to him. If he earns £2, the cashier will only give him £1 19s. 5½d. It remains to be seen if working men and women, as a whole, will be willing to accept £1 19s. 5½d. in settlement of £2 earned. (I would only take it out of food and clothes as a last resource. Drop your weekly paper or magazine and use free library more.)

2. I am a "home dressmaker" and have a small business, together with my daughter. When we are very busy a friend next door comes in and does a few hours' sewing, for which I pay her, and sometimes takes work home. Shall I have to pay insurance for daughter or friend?

No. It appears from your letter that your daughter is your partner and not your employee, and therefore neither you nor your daughter need be insured, unless you wish to become voluntary contributors. The work you give your friend is "casual," so she need not insure.

3. Is it true (1) that if a woman Post Office deposit contributor marries she is fined one-third of the amount standing to her credit. (2) If so, why? (3) What is done with this money? (4) I understand a man Post Office deposit contributor can marry without having his balance interfered with in the slightest?

(1) Yes, it is quite true. She forfeits one-third of her balance if she leaves wage-earning insurance, and is only allowed to draw two-thirds of her own money (deducted from her earnings) at 5s. a week, on confinement, for four weeks, or "at the discretion of the society or committee" until the amount is exhausted. (2) The only reason I have seen is that it is not desired to make the Post Office scheme "attractive"! (3) This money does not go to the widows' funds, as Post Office deposit contributors have no reserve value; they can only draw out what they have paid in. I cannot trace what is done with this money. I suggest you write and ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer. We shall all be very interested in the reply. (4) You must remember he might be a Liberal voter!

4. (1) What is the good of "explaining" this Act when it will surely become a dead letter if the doctors refuse to work under it; and (2) why do you state that the income limit is £160 a year, when the doctors have power to fix any income limit they like?

(1) "If" is a word of considerable importance in this connection. "If" the doctors refuse, and "if" the Act becomes a "dead letter," we women who strongly disapprove of the whole thing will be well satisfied. Why not "explain" to those who "want to know"? (2) The Insurance Committees and the doctors can fix an income limit, and it may vary all over the country, but the Insurance Commissioners are to issue "regulations," the object of which is to "regulate."

LEAH ANSON.

WOMEN STUDY LAW.—Fifty Chicago business women have formed a class to study law for self-protection. The course of instruction is to be conducted by Miss Florence King, a Chicago lawyer. Miss King says every woman should have a knowledge of law. Swindlers of all kinds, she says, prey upon women, and women need legal information as a part of their regular education.

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SIR ALMROTH WRIGHT SPLITS THE ANTI-SUFFRAGE CAMP.

The various rumours as to the circulation by the Anti-Suffrage Society of Sir Almroth Wright's "moral emetic" are set at rest by the following letter from the hon. secretary to Miss Hunter Baillie:—

The National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage.
April 3, 1912.

Dear Madam,—We have made it a point neither on the platform nor in the Press to discuss the particular sex questions which agitate the world so much just now, and which form so large a part of the Suffragists' arguments. However, when on reading *The Times* of the 28th we saw for the first time Sir Almroth Wright's letter, we felt he had put forward some of the points that we would like to make in a masterly and professional manner.

We feel in this League that we have not sufficient knowledge either to endorse or condemn what he says—we leave that to scientific knowledge. What we do feel is that in a masterly and dignified manner he has stated once and for all the difficulties of the problem which individually in conversation one cannot really touch upon. We had his permission and the permission of *The Times* to reprint his letter, which we have sent out with great discretion and in limited numbers. The members of the House of Lords and of the House of Commons each had a copy, and some of the Teachers' Union, but nobody else, as far as we know.

I hope, therefore, that you will see that the statement in the newspapers that we are circulating this broadcast is absolutely unfounded.—Yours truly, E. MOBERLY BELL, Hon. Secretary.

MRS. HUMPHRY WARD'S REPLY.

From Mrs. Humphry Ward's trenchant letter to *The Times* on the subject we take the following extracts dealing with the attack on women:—

Will you allow me a little space in which to reply to the letter of Lady Robert Cecil with its appeal to myself, which appeared in your issue of Tuesday, April 2? By the accidents of travel that copy of *The Times* was long in reaching me, and Lady Robert's letter happened to be the first intimation I received of the fact to which she refers. I understand that the reprint of Sir Almroth Wright's letter was circulated for a short time from the League's office, owing to a mistake which has been already amended. I need, therefore, say nothing more on that point, and shall only endeavour—simply as an Anti-suffragist—to answer Lady Robert Cecil's question.

Ever since I read Sir A. Wright's letter it has been in my mind to write a few lines, repudiating for myself and, I have no doubt whatever, for thousands of men and women who feel with me on the suffrage controversy, all connection with the bitter and unseemly violence which that letter displays. *Non tali auxilio!* That the militant movement contains elements of mental and moral unsoundness no one who has watched it carefully can doubt. That an eminent doctor is within his rights when he calls special attention to their physiological aspects may be very true, though one may hold surely that it would have been better for all concerned if Sir Almroth Wright had addressed a discussion so ruthless to a medical journal rather than to *The Times*. But, to my feeling at least, all that is legitimate or valuable in the letter is utterly lost in and neutralised by its unjust and intolerable exaggeration. Because some women holding the extreme suffragist opinions belittle and attack men in general, does it help the cause opposed to them to retaliate in kind? To such sweeping statements as Sir A. Wright makes, how easy is reply! Chivalry is not all on one side, nor weakness either.

Women have worked in the past, and are working now, as unselfishly and devotedly for men as men have ever worked for women. They know the weaknesses of men, as men know theirs; is patience more justly asked or given in the one case than in the other? The violence of men towards women due to their superior physical strength is a dismal chapter, far from closed. Sir A. Wright would have done better to admit it. And what seem to be his views on marriage hardly mark him out as an upholder to be welcomed of that most sacred fellowship. Moreover, if the suffragist movement contained only the elements he allows, it would have long ago spent itself in disaster.

MISS VIOLET MARKHAM'S PROTEST.

The Times has published a strong letter of protest from Miss Violet Markham, in which she declares that "it is difficult to associate Sir Almroth Wright's sweeping indictment of womanhood with that calm and dispassionate judgment to which we look from a man of science." After stating the Anti-suffrage and pro-Municipal case for women, she observes:—

Such is our conception of woman. It is irreconcilable with that put forward by Sir Almroth Wright. The woman he sets before us would be incapable of throwing light on the most muddled mothers' meeting which ever assembled, let alone engage in public duties of a serious character. Unhappy would be the household ruled by such a woman and the children brought up under her care. I for one can but deeply regret such a travesty of our sex should be advanced at a time when

feeling is already sufficiently heated and embittered. Sir Almroth deprecates a sex war, but he himself throws fuel by handfuls on the flames. Not his facts, but the brutality of their presentation, is the point of offence with most women. The suffrage question cannot be argued profitably on the lines he has laid down. His intervention will not help to further that ideal of a womanhood, strong, sane, self-respecting, which surely sober-minded suffragists and Anti-suffragists alike should cherish as a common end.

UNHAPPY is the man to whom his own mother has not made all other women venerable.—*Richter.*

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HOW MEN PROTECT WOMEN.

[All Branch Secretaries, and other members, who have kindly sent in Press cuttings and information concerning police-court cases, are very warmly thanked for their valuable assistance in contributing to this column.]

Murderous Assault.

Miss Baker, shot through heart by Arthur Benbow, lodger, at West Ealing.

Mrs. Slade, criminally attacked by tramp, Arthur Read, during absence of husband, in lonely cottage at Lytchett Matravers. Several previous convictions, recently released. One month.

Mrs. Gibbs, taken to hospital, serious wound in throat, found by policeman lying bleeding on ground. Husband admits the act.

Criminal Assault.

Little girl, terrified and indecently assaulted by unknown man in St. John's Wood Park. Had been enticed by him to a "dark place." Found crying desperately. No arrest.

Young girl of 13, at Walton, in charge of sick mother. Both starving. Went out to find food or work, criminally assaulted, child born. No arrest.

Girl of 12, at Frimley, criminally assaulted, twins born. No arrest.

"Manslaughter."

Mrs. Griffin, Swansea, killed by husband throwing lamp at . . . Good husband when sober, in drink dangerous and cruel. Woman burnt to death, man charged with manslaughter.

Anthony Allcott, Cardiff, heard to threaten "to kick the . . ." his wife being then heard to fall downstairs. Refused to help carry her up, saying, "Let the — stop there till she comes to her senses," and "Let the — die." She died without regaining consciousness. Charged with manslaughter, not murder, and sentenced to 18 months.

Cruelty.

Andrew Feeney, earning £2 a week when sober, drank methylated spirit, violent in his behaviour at home. Charged with neglecting to maintain his 5 children. Three months' hard labour.

Annie Jane Davies, Swansea, summonsed her husband for persistent cruelty. Had been married 10 months, had been beaten, turned out of her house, told to go back to her father, and given a black eye. Chairman considered it a "trivial case," said the court was not a divorce court, and dismissed the summons.

James Gagan, Lochee, striking his wife, knocking her into a corner, and kicked her. Came home in drink. Bench remarked it "was lucky he did not do more damage"—20 days' imprisonment.

William Forbes, in drink, striking his wife several unprovoked blows in face. Fine 10s. 6d.

Roderick Tolmie, Glasgow, assaulting wife and daughter, knocking them down and kicking them. Remitted to sheriff's court.

William Jackson, assaulting his 2-year-old daughter by striking her on face and body with his fists. Sheriff called it an abominable offence, and fined him £2 or 20 days.

Mrs. Arbon, died in Mildenhall Workhouse, emaciated, filthy condition, starving, weighed 4st. 1½lbs., aged 47. Thrush in mouth, tubercular cavity in lung, pleurisy, internal inflammation, mind unhealed. Did her housework up to two or three days before death. Husband shepherd, employed at a distance; only came home for breakfast, and had not slept at home for 5 weeks. Wife alone and untended.

Mrs. Palmer, Lambeth. Worked at printers as "layer on." Hours from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wages 8s. 6d. a week—1s. 5d. per day of 11 hours. Husband out of work. She returned to work six weeks after birth of baby, which died of inflammation of lungs. It appeared to have been well cared for.

John Albert Lewis Price, carter, offered drive in his van to mentally defective girl of 18. Said he could get her a situation. Took her to a loft over stable and kept her there a week. On February 24 lost his situation, and, having locked her in the loft, left her there without food. After several days she was found unconscious. "No case" against the man when charged with "causing grievous bodily harm"; no law to touch such a case.

FOR THEIR RACE AND THEIR RIGHT.

Aspire ye for a race both great and grand,

One to be rhythmic with the laws of good,

Conjoining love and wisdom hand in hand;

Where moral justice is well understood.

Then right one wrong that mars our native land,

And help the moulding of a higher race,

When perfecting the matrix, understand

That present being is pre-natal grace.

Eradicate from motherhood each trace

Of mental serfdom, elevate her mind,

And give her girlhood Freedom's merry face;

And she will bravely bear a nobler kind.

Give her voice and act, cleave to Nature's plan,

Thereby the woman consecrate the man.

ARTHUR KNAPP.

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BASQUE
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(as sketch) in
new coarse linen
lace and insertion,
lined net through-
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THE WATCH COMMITTEE'S DEMONSTRATION IN HYDE PARK.

An indignation meeting will be held in Hyde Park on Sunday, April 21, at 3.0 p.m., to protest against the scandalous sentences passed on English women now in prison, and the brutality of the forcible feeding they are undergoing, and to demand their immediate release. Speakers:—Mrs. Despard, Rev. Claud Hinseliff, Miss Nina Boyle, Mrs. Dugdale Duval, Mrs. Kineton Parks, Miss Joan Dugdale, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mr. Victor D. Duval. The societies represented will include:—Church League for Women's Suffrage, Women's Freedom League, Women's Tax Resistance League, Women Writers' Suffrage League, Men's Political Union, Men's League for Women's Suffrage, and others. Forms of petition can be obtained and signed at the meeting.

A Poster Parade is being organised to advertise the demonstration, and volunteers from all societies are cordially invited to take part. Will volunteers kindly at once advise Mr. Duval, at 13, Buckingham-street, Strand, of their willingness to help, and meet at the above address on Sunday at 2.30 p.m.?

PRESENTATION TO MR. AGG-GARDNER, M.P.

The Women's Suffrage Society of Cheltenham and the local Branch of the Women's Freedom League united last Friday in a meeting to do honour to Mr. Agg-Gardner, the latest of the stalwarts, who introduced the Conciliation Bill. Mr. Agg-Gardner, who is the popular M.P. of a town that has a mayor and a member, a Bishop and a rector all in favour of Women's Suffrage, himself presided at the meeting, and gave a none too desponding account of the defeat of the Bill and the causes that led to it, and urged his suffrage supporters not to be down-hearted.

Miss Boyle, on behalf of the Women's Freedom League, expressed the warm acknowledgements of the support given by Mr. Agg-Gardner and the Conciliation Committee. Canon Talbot seconded a resolution severely censuring the Members of Parliament who broke faith, and calling on the Government to give votes to women in 1912; the Rev. Mr. Downham proposed, and Mrs. Earengy (W.F.L.) seconded, a vote of thanks to the speakers. Lord Kinglake proposed and Mrs. Frances Swiney, in most felicitous phrases, seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman (Mr. Agg-Gardner); and Miss Kelley, of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, presented Mr. Agg-Gardner with an album signed by suffrage members and sympathisers in Cheltenham, as a souvenir of his work for the Conciliation Bill.

SHORT REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

"Women and Prisons" (Fabian Tract No. 163). By Miss Blagg and Mrs. C. M. Wilson. (Fabian Society. Price 2d.)

This pamphlet will prove most interesting to the ordinary public as well as to Suffragists. It is an able, well-reasoned argument for the abandonment of the present prison system, and irrefutable proofs are brought by the authors to show that the system now in force is successful neither as a deterrent to crime nor as a reformatory force. Carefully sifted and verified extracts from the evidence of suffrage prisoners are largely used, and throw much needed light on the interior of a woman's prison. The figures showing the comparative rarity of crimes of violence amongst women, and the statistics of the three main divisions of serious crime with such a gratifyingly small proportion to the credit of women will prove of particular value to suffrage speakers. The official co-operation of women, both in judicial proceedings and in prison administration, is strongly urged by the authors as an effective means of securing reform in the penal system. We cannot speak too highly of the value of this pamphlet to all who have the interests of women at heart.

"Between the Acts." By H. W. Nevinson. (Duckworth and Co., Henrietta-street. Price 2s. 6d.)

"The pleasantest times in a drama are generally the intervals between the acts," says Mr. Nevinson, in his introduction to this interesting and beautifully written collection of sketches and essays. He calls them "casual episodes and situations which I have observed in the successive acts of a life to which fortune has granted a share of variety," but if literary grace, and keen insight into temperament and outlook are any test of worth, then some of these "casual episodes" must rank as literature of a high order. Stirring events in the battlefield are interspersed with episodes of school days, and illuminative sketches of temperament. As illustrative of the insight possessed by the author, the two sketches "A Don's Day" and "The Last Rag" may be quoted. They deal with outlooks and fates as far as the poles asunder, but each rings true and sincere; indeed, the latter, depicting the remorse felt by a coarse and brutalised woman of the street—who "had always earned her living honest" up to then—for her theft of a bun from a little child, is one of the best things of its kind that I have ever read.

"The New Treatment of the Mind." By R. Demain Grange. (Bennett and Co., The Century Press, Henrietta-street.)

This is one of the many books that have been poured out by the world's presses lately, hailing the newly-discovered ancient truth that mind is the only reality, and that matter is but an

outward and visible expression of the unseen energy of mind. Mr. Demain Grange's book is very clear, lucid, and exceedingly interesting—much more so, indeed, than the majority of the "new thought" literature. Undoubtedly the present widespread insistence of the power of thought to heal sickness and govern destiny, and the stressing of the necessity of "right thinking" as a factor in the production of happiness, is having a considerable effect on many people. Thousands to-day are ready to admit that health and happiness are largely a matter of personal choice.

The "new thought" cult makes for optimism and prosperity, and is therefore to be cherished in these uncertain times of strikes and revolt and unrest. The chapters in the book under review on the power and value of prayer are especially fine, and will be appreciated by the devoutly—as well as the scientifically-minded.

"A Living Wage a National Necessity." By C. C. Cotterill. (A. C. Sheffield, Clifford's Inn. Price 6d.)

With legislation just accomplished to deal with the above question, the author's recommendation of a Royal Commission as the best means of getting it seems a little out of date. No one, I imagine, will be inclined to quarrel with his contention that "all willing and capable workers should receive in return for their work sufficient to enable them and those dependent on them to live healthy, vigorous and full human lives." But many will not agree with his optimistic statement that when the degrading facts of many workers' lives are known, everyone will clamour for a change, and insist upon proper conditions for the workers. The public conscience is not as sensitive as Mr. Cotterill imagines, unfortunately; its pocket and its comfort have to be threatened as a rule before it exerts itself to break up and reconstruct on a juster basis existing conditions. This little brochure is interesting and instructive, but requires more careful editing than the present edition has received. The repetition of certain phrases becomes irritatingly monotonous, and detracts very considerably from the strength of the author's presentment of an irrefutable case.

"A Book of Short Plays." By Mrs. De Courcy Laffan. (Stanley Paul and Co., Essex-street, Strand. Price 2s.)

It is difficult to imagine why these plays have been published, for they show no particular merit in either construction, plot, or literary value. Indeed, they are mediocre and conventional all through. The situations are the satiatingly familiar ones of cheap melodrama; the faithful retainer—speaking a brand of the King's English that has never been heard to issue in reality from any living lips—the "wild" son returning to the "old home" on Christmas Eve, the implacable father, the tearfully sentimental mother, all are here uttering the well-worn platitudes in unnatural and stilted language. The only thing to be said in favour of these "short plays" is that their production could not possibly lead to unhealthy excitement or nervous shock!

M. H.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

SUFFRAGIST CO-OPERATIVE STORES.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Madam.—The way to the nation's conscience is through its pocket. The methods recommended by Mrs. Despard are admirable. May I earnestly appeal to all sympathisers to adopt, in addition, one or all of the following means of persuasion:—

1. Sell out all their British securities (Consols, bank stock, railway shares, &c.) and reinvest abroad. (Don't forget that Australia and Norway have given the Vote to women and that their financial credit is good.)
2. Withdraw all sums invested in Post Office Savings Bank, explaining why.
3. Rigorously boycott all the authors and writers opposed to the Suffrage and steadily support those who favour it. A list could easily be prepared.
4. It would be an excellent scheme to establish a Suffragist co-operative stores (on the model of the Army and Navy Stores, &c.), at which Suffragists could deal to the absolute exclusion of other traders.—Yours faithfully, E. D'A.

SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES IN IRELAND.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

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

Men's Society for Women's Rights

PUBLIC MEETING

Will be held at the

Grand Hall, Criterion Restaurant,
PICCADILLY CIRCUS, W.,

ON

FRIDAY, APRIL 26th,

At 8 p.m.

SUBJECT:

"How Votes for Women will
affect the White Slave Traffic."

SPEAKERS:

Miss ABADAM,
Dr. C. W. SALEEBY, M.D., F.R.S., EDIN.

Mr. JOSEPH CLAYTON
IN THE CHAIR.

Tickets 2s. each, and a limited number of free tickets can be obtained from

Mr. A. W. G. JAMRACH, Hon. Treasurer of
THE MEN'S SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS,
141, St. Stephen's House, WESTMINSTER, S.W.
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A SALE of fashionable, high-grade Goods is so unusual at the commencement of a season, and the values to be offered at this important Sale will be so extraordinary, that we consider a word of explanation necessary.

The industries of the country, as ladies are aware, have been greatly depressed of late owing to the labour unrest—and manufacturers have, in consequence, been unable to dispose of their large stocks and were willing to accept lower prices for their goods rather than have them on their hands. It is directly due to this cause that we have been able to secure some very special values in goods affecting 12 departments, and we anticipate, at the astoundingly low prices they are marked, to clear every garment before the end of the week.

Several very important purchases made in Paris will also be offered during this week.



The "Tennis."

Model B.

The "Fashionable."

The "Brighton."

Some of the Bargains in Tailor-made Gowns and Dresses.

The "TENNIS." Pretty Delaine Frock carried out in a variety of stripes, and trimmed plain, coloured piping and buttons to tone. The neck and sleeves are finished with guipure lace. Sale Price **29/6**

Model B. Smart tailor-made in the fashionable Turkish Towelling, with a narrow black stripe running through. Can be had in any of the following shades: Tan with black stripe, drab with black stripe, grey with black stripe, duck's egg green with black stripe, navy with white stripe. Sale Price **69/6**

The "FASHIONABLE." Tailor-made Suit in finest quality two-toned Whipcord. Coat and skirt are outlined with a strapping of French linen to tone. Coat lined ivory satin. Made in three sizes: S.W., W., and O.S. Actual value 7½ guineas. Sale Price **5 Gns.**

The "BRIGHTON." Charming little Taffeta Silk Frock, made from exceptionally good quality Shot Taffeta Silk in a variety of colour combinations, also plain black. Made exact to sketch. Sale Price **69/6**

Costumes sent on approval with Pleasure.



THE VOTE.

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Directors—Mrs. DESPARD, Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. M. H. FISHER, Mrs. COATES HANSEN, Miss C. ANDREWS, Mrs. E. SPROSON, Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

SATURDAY, April 20, 1912.

DETERMINATION AND HOPE.

In all great regenerative movements there are moments of depression. Everything hangs in the balance. The dawn that ardent lovers of the light had thought to see rising sweetly over hills or sea seems again immeasurably far away. Sorrowfully they look at one another. Is all their work, are all their sacrifices, in vain? Has the world they love entered upon another period of gloom and despair? To the woman's movement, to the labour movement, to the movement towards a higher political morality for which both men and women have been working, such a moment has come.

The ever-increasing army of liberty-loving women find themselves blocked by a dead wall of prejudice, or shamed by a saturnalia of sex-obsession, culminating in fear on the part of their opponents, against which it is hard to fight. The miners, many of them sullen and unsatisfied, are going back to work on the strength of indefinite promises; it is true that in the late troubles the power of labour has been felt, but it is felt also that the suffering contingent upon labour's revolt falls principally upon those who are least able to bear it. Hence a natural discouragement. Meanwhile, in the House of Commons, to which the nation should look for example and leadership, threats, jeers, accusations of corruption are flung from bench to bench, and many of those who have publicly scoffed at hysterical women are themselves a prey to such fierce and uncontrolled emotions that one of their own leading representative journals can only describe them as hysterical. Such being the present outlook, the question arises—How are we to meet it?

Be it remembered that the moment is fraught with danger. Hope is the sheet anchor of the soul. Let hope go, and efforts slacken. The fatal policy of drift which has wrecked so many fair enterprises begins. The forces that make for righteousness, scattered and broken, lose the foothold they had gained, and are thrown back upon the wilderness of inaction and despair. So it may be with us. So it will be unless, gathering ourselves together and refusing to accept defeat or compromise, we shape out a strong and settled policy.

It is in this determination that our strength lies. The crucial moment that will test our integrity is upon us, and, educated by adversity, we meet it without fear. One indication of hope is to be found in the wave of enthusiasm that has followed our defeat. We of the Women's Freedom League are making new members and new Branches; money is coming in more freely; our organ, THE VOTE, is commanding a larger sale; and this, we believe, is the experience of other societies.

Outside our societies we have already seen a change. Our opponents have given themselves away rather too freely. The unsavoury letter by a doctor, to which, on the day of the Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill, *The Times* gave a prominent place in its columns, showing what lies behind the opposition; the brutal sentences on Suffragists and Syndicalists clearly indicating fear—these, with the patent disregard of their pledges by Members of Parliament, have caused a revulsion of feeling through the country which will presently be felt by the House of Commons and the Cabinet.

It is on this we should work. Actually the public does not know what goes on behind the many prison doors that shut out women and their children from the light of day. They must be made to know. For,

until that prison-door opens for women it will never really open for men. An imprisoned womanhood is an imprisoned race. Our hope is in this, that we shall not work in vain.

Were it not, indeed, for our passionate conviction that truth and justice will always find a response in the heart of the people, we might give up working altogether, we might let the mighty ones of the earth go their own way.

But we know, history and experience have told us, that it is precisely to this that those who would win the people's love must appeal. Why, the most party-ridden, the most self-seeking politician has, in his popular orations, to address himself to the hidden heart of goodness in the populace, has to point, though he himself may not believe in it, to the Light, "that light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

Hence have arisen some of the tragic disappointments of the past. But through suffering the people learn, and the time will come when cajolery will deceive them no longer.

Those who have watched the history of great movements in the past will have seen that to understand the meaning of their apparent progression or retrogression at any particular moment, two forces must be taken into account. One of these forces is visible; it is more than visible, it is blatant. It commands that which is imposing, that which can be seen and felt. It has behind it the men in "the seats of the mighty," who hold in their hands those material resources out of which is built up the ability to compel and coerce. To superficial observers at all times this power has seemed unconquerable.

"Dream to the bitter end," these will tell us as they told the idealist yesterday. "Imagine with the poet, that your dream is 'the best is yet to be'; but remember that you have to face what is."

We, for instance, to-day, have to deal with Parliaments that represent one sex and chiefly one class, with armies and navies, paid, disciplined and engineered by them, with magistrates, mostly of the mediæval type, served by a body of police whose methods, however gross, they justify, with prisons for political protesters and unwary agitators, and censors for the imprudent adventurer who leaves beaten tracks and tries to open out new paths for bewildered humanity. Yet, in spite of this we know, history tells us, that great emancipatory movements have triumphed. Truth may seem to be "for ever on the scaffold; wrong for ever on the throne. Yet that scaffold holds the future."

How can that be? Because, if we look out less superficially, we shall see that there is another force. It is different in its operation from the first. It grows silently; "it cometh not with observation"; it has neither army nor navy nor police force at its bidding. Certainly it punishes, but not after the fashion of the great ones of the earth, for sometimes it will punish them. From a little thing, a thought of truth that has come to one or two, it has, here and there, grown strong as an army with banners, irresistible as an elemental power, all-compelling as a God.

That force is public opinion.

"*Vox populi vox dei*," said the wise ancients. That indicated not the unerring rectitude of the voice, but its power.

In considering where we, of the woman's movement, stand, and in looking out upon the struggles being made by labour—both that of women and that of men—for our part in a human life, we cannot fail to see the steady growth of public opinion; we cannot fail to realise that the time is not far distant when it will make itself felt in a way and with a force which the great ones of the earth cannot imagine.

Firm in that hope we who are out not only for the freedom of women, but for the freeing of humanity, go forward without faltering and without fear.

C. DESPARD.

THE MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY UP TO DATE.

THE MAD HATTER, THE MARCH HARE, AND THE DORMOUSE at table. [ALICE enters.]

HATTER AND HARE: No room! No room!

HATTER: No room for women!

ALICE (indignantly): There's plenty of room. (Sits at head of table.)

HARE: Who are you?

ALICE: My name is Alice. I was a little girl this morning, but I've had so many adventures since then that really—

HARE: Have some votes for women.

ALICE: I don't see any votes for women.

HARE: There aren't any! We only have votes every other day!

ALICE: Every other day?

HARE: Yes! Votes yesterday, and votes to-morrow, but never votes to-day!

ALICE: Then it wasn't very civil of you to offer them.

HARE: It wasn't very civil of you to sit down without being invited. It's quite plain that this table is only intended for men.

ALICE: I didn't know. It's laid for a great many more than three, and I do so want something to eat.

HATTER: Your hair wants cutting.

ALICE: You should learn not to make personal remarks. It's very rude.

HATTER: Well, well. Why is the Cabinet like a musical box?

ALICE: Come, we shall have some fun now! I'm glad they've begun asking riddles. I believe I can guess that.

HARE: Do you mean that you think you can find out the answer to it?

ALICE: Exactly so.

HARE: Then you should say what you mean!

ALICE: I do. At least—at least I mean what I say. That's the same thing.

HATTER: Not the same thing a bit! Why, you might just as well say, "I see what I eat" is the same thing as "I eat what I see."

HARE: You might just as well say "I shall be pleased when I vote" is the same thing as "I shall vote when I please."

DORMOUSE: You might just as well say "I breathe when I sleep" is the same thing as "I sleep when I breathe."

HATTER: It is the same thing with you!

ALICE (to herself): Now what do I know about Cabinets and musical boxes? (To the HATTER) I believe I know! Because you never know what will come out of it next.

HATTER: You're quite wrong. (Shakes watch.) What day of the month is it?

ALICE: The 29th.

HATTER: Two days wrong! (To the HARE) I told you yesterday's butter wouldn't suit the works.

HARE: It was the butter you wanted.

HATTER: Yes, but some crumbs must have got in as well. You shouldn't have put it in with the bread-knife.

HARE: (Dipping watch in tea, etc.) It was meant to be the best butter!

ALICE: What a funny watch! It tells the day of the month, and doesn't tell what o'clock it is!

HATTER: Why should it? Does your watch tell you when next Session is, or the dim and speculative future?

ALICE: Of course not! You do that with a daisy. This year—next year—sometime—

HATTER: The Dormouse is asleep again!

DORMOUSE: Of course, of course! Just what I was going to remark myself.

HATTER: Have you guessed the riddle yet? Why is the Cabinet like a musical box?

ALICE: How would this do? Because it gets so often out of tune.

HATTER: Wrong again! Wrong again!

HARE: Wrong again!

ALICE: Then I give it up. What is the answer?

HATTER: I haven't the slightest idea!

HARE: Not I!

ALICE: I think you might do something better with the time than wasting it in asking riddles that have no answer.

HATTER: True, we might talk them out. But if you knew time as well as I do, you wouldn't talk about wasting it. It's him. But I have quarrelled with Time—last March, just before he went mad, you know. It was at the great concert given by the Queen of Hearts, and I had to sing:—

Tremble, tremble, little Bill!
How I'd love your chance to kill!

You know the song, perhaps?

ALICE: I've heard something like it.

HATTER: It goes on you know, in this way:—

And I've promised you a week!

How could I have been so meek?

Tremble, tremble, Suffragette!

How I wonder what you'll get!

I shall dish you if I can,

But I'm not the only man!

Tremble, tremble, tremble.

DORMOUSE (sings in its sleep): Tremble, tremble, tremble.

HATTER: Well, I'd hardly finished the first verse when the Queen bawled out: "He's murdering the time! Off with his head!"

ALICE: How dreadfully savage!

HATTER: And ever since then he won't do a thing I ask. It's always Time to fulfil my pledges now.

ALICE: Is that why the empty places round the table are all labelled?

HATTER: Yes. When we've finished one subject, we pass on to the next. Of course we'll never reach half of them, but it looks well. Let's change now. (They do so.)

ALICE: But it's not any better for anyone but you, and it's much worse for me.

HATTER: I really don't mind that in the least!

HARE: Let's talk about something else. I'm getting tired of this. I vote the young lady tells us a story.

ALICE: I'm afraid I don't know one. But I do know some poetry.

HARE: Poetry! Better than nothing! We'll have that. Can you say, "How doth the—"

ALICE: Oh yes! I know that. Only I don't remember things as I used.

HARE: Anyhow, you can try.

ALICE: How doth the great Prime Minister Delight with us to fight!
Talk Anti-Suffrage all the day—
And dream it all the night!

How artfully he plans his Bill
The Suffragette to rout!
He welcomes all the men folk in
And leaves the women out!

HARE: That is not said right!

ALICE: Not quite right, I'm afraid. Some of the words have got altered.

HARE: Altered! It is wrong from beginning to end! Try "You are old."

ALICE:

"You are old, Mother Despard," the Premier said,
"And your hair has become very white;
And yet for the Suffrage you bother your head—
Do you think, at your age, it is right?"

"In my youth," Mother Despard replied, with a smile,
"I feared it might break down convention;
Now I break it, and break it, and break it again!
The police are no sort of prevention!"

"You are old," he exclaimed, "as I mentioned before,
And you've never had time to grow fat;
Yet you led an assault on my Downing-street door—
Pray, what was the reason of that?"

"Though I'm old," Mother Despard replied once again,
"Suffragetting has kept me quite supple—"



Photo by]

[R. Forbes, Edinburgh.

THE MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY.

(Suffrage Version up-to-date.)

Players, reading from left to right:—

ALICE, Miss E. Ireland.

TURTLE, Mr. Boyd.

HARE, Miss H. McLachlan.

DORMOUSE, Miss A. B. Jack.

HATTER, Mrs. Bankhead.

GRYPHON, Mrs. Boyd.

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And dream it all the night!

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Pray, what was the reason of that?"

"Though I'm old," Mother Despard replied once again,
"Suffragetting has kept me quite supple—"

Now I'm selling THE VOTE at a penny a time:
Allow me to sell you a couple!"

You are old, very old; when an argument's raised,
You look far too weak to pursue it;
Let you polish off Antis, and leave them agape—
Pray, how do you manage to do it?"

"All my life," said the lady, "I've studied the law,
And felt my invidious position;
Now, though ready to polish off Antis galore,
I await your momentous decision!"

"I have asked you three questions, and that is enough,"
Said the Premier, "Don't give yourself airs!
Do you think I can listen all day to such stuff?
Be off, or I'll kick you downstairs!"

HARE: Worse and worse! But you may have one more
chance. Do you know "Tis the voice—?"

ALICE: Oh yes!

'Tis the voice of the Bobby! I heard him declare,
I had kicked him and pinched him, and pulled out his hair,
I had pricked him with hatpins, and trod on his toe,
And knocked off his helmet! *I didn't, you know!*

HARE: Really, really! I'm sure the Dormouse could do
better than that. (*They pinch the Dormouse.*) Wake up,
old fellow, and tell us a story; and be quick about it, or you'll
be asleep again before you've begun.

DORMOUSE (*indignantly*): I wasn't asleep. I heard every
word you fellows were saying, and the poetry was awful.

ALICE: Well, let us hear what you can do.

HARE: Silence for the Dormouse's story. (*To ALICE*) And,
remember, you mustn't interrupt.

ALICE: Of course I won't. That would be rude!

DORMOUSE: Once upon a time there were three little children,
and their names were David George, Herbert Henry, and Win-
some Winnie, and they lived at the bottom of a well.

ALICE: What did they live on?

DORMOUSE: They lived on their salaries, of course!

ALICE: Oh! Why did they live at the bottom of a well?

DORMOUSE: Truth is down there, you know, and they had
to see that it didn't come up.

HARE: What a story! But here come the Gryphon and
the Mock Turtle. Now we shall have something interesting.

ALICE: A Mock Turtle! What is that?

HARE: It's the thing mock turtle soup is made from, of
course. You're dreadfully ignorant.

TURTLE (*sadly*): But once I was a real Turtle.

GRYPHON: Cheer up, old fellow, and let this 'ere young lady
hear you sing.

TURTLE: I'll try!
Beautiful Anti! Rich and serene,
How you detest our gold, white and green!
Mr. Asquith with pleasure your great watchword notes—
No Votes for Women! Horrible Votes!
No Votes for Women! Horrible, horrible Votes!

Beautiful Anti! Who cares for laws,
Holloway Gaol, or serving the Cause?
Who would not give much less than a groat
For such a worthless thing as a Vote?
For such a worthless thing as a Vote?
No Votes for Women! Horrible Votes!
No Votes for Women! Horrible, horrible Votes!

ALICE: Thank you! Thank you!
GRYPHON: Now let us a-show 'er of the Suffrage Quadrille.
Ya 'aven't seen it, 'ave you?

ALICE: No.
GRYPHON: Per'aps you 'aven't lived much in 'olloway?

ALICE: Not as yet.
GRYPHON: Well, you stands in two lines—Suffragettes and
policemen. Then Black Maria comes along, and you 'ands
your partner over.

ALICE: It sounds very interesting.
GRYPHON: We can do it without the bobbies. You sing.
I've forgotten the words.

*They dance. The TURTLE sings. The others join in, the
HATTER only at the very end.*

"Will you not go quite so fast, dear?" said a man unto
a maid.

"Woman's sphere is in the home, love; you're forgetting,
I'm afraid.

But the maiden said, "No, thank you; with the times I
must advance;
And you'd find yourself much happier if you joined the
Suffrage Dance.

Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, join the Suffrage
Dancee?

Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, join the Suffrage
Dancee?"

"You can really have no notion how delightful it will be
When they pass the Bill and make us persons, happy to be
free."

But the man replied, "Too much, too much," and gave a
look askance,
Said he thanked the lady kindly, but he would not join the
dance.

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"Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, join the Suffrage
Dancee?
Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, join the Suffrage
Dancee?"

"What matters it how much we get?" the lady then replied;
"For if some of us are Tories, some are on the other side.
The more we have of liberty, the further we'll advance,
So turn not pale, beloved male, but join the Suffrage Dance.
Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, join the Suffrage
Dancee?"

Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, join the Suffrage
Dancee?" HELEN McLACHLAN.

PURDAH LIFE IN THE EAST.

The woman's movement belongs to the whole world.
Though, in form, it may vary in the different nations,
the principle which lies behind it is the same.

In Great Britain we are asking for that Parliamentary
franchise which belongs to citizenship. In the East,
from many an Indian and Turkish prison, aspirations
for a life freed from the restrictions of convention are
going forth. Women of education and position there
are feeling the pressure of the time, are penetrated
with a desire to help on the movement that makes
progress in the world. Is it possible to conceive
anything more tragic than the fate of the purdah
woman to whom these aspirations have come?

Some, indeed, have braved prejudice and convention
and in lands foreign to them have mixed freely with
their fellows; but in their own country what must
they not endure? Ostracised by friends of their own
social standing, humiliated, misunderstood, maligned,
sometimes even in danger of physical injury from the
ignorant or brutal—is it any wonder if even brave
spirits shrink back appalled from what appears to be
the unequal struggle?

And yet they know, as we know, that no great re-
demption has ever been wrought out in the world
merely by sitting still and saying "It will come by
and by." So long as only a few women break their
bonds the enslavement will continue. I have before
me the utterances of two Englishwomen on the subject.

One, Lady Muir Mackenzie, says: "How beautiful it
would be to see women giving up purdah because of
their intense desire to help a suffering world!" I
would that those words might find their way into
the prisons, where intelligent women are eating out
their hearts in enforced activity.

The other, Lady Clarke, had a glorious opportunity.
She spoke in Poona. The occasion was the first con-
ference of Mohammedan purdah ladies, held under
the auspices of the Bombay Presidency Muslim League.
It fell to Lady Clarke to open the Conference, and to
speak of the purdah system. Think of what it meant!
These imprisoned women were before her. This was
their first conference. That they should have been
thought capable of discussing the life and system
assigned to them was a step in the right direction.
What use did the daughter of a liberty-loving race
make of so grand an opportunity? This is what she
is reported to have said: "I do not uphold the purdah
system. In years to come it will pass away."

One looked for a vigorous demand that her sisters
of the East would at once and imperatively claim at
least the measure of liberty enjoyed by their European
sisters.

Nothing of the sort was said. She offered no advice,
she held out no hope. "The process," she said, "will
be gradual. A sudden withdrawal of purdah would
have a bad effect. The education of women must
precede the removal of social restrictions." Here we
have a fallacy in every line. Gradual? I venture
to ask what that means? Are women in the East to
go on sacrificing themselves by twos and threes, and
are the mass of their suffering sisters to be unhelped?

Again, education? The singular circumstance is
that in Eastern lands, and especially in India, the
women free to move about unveiled are just the un-
educated—the good and admirable coolie women.

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There is another inaccuracy in this speech. It sets forth the importance of fresh air and exercise and asserts that both are possible without violation of the purdah system.

I have it on the best authority in numberless instances that this is not the case. Mr. Mir Sultan Mohidin dealt with the subject in his paper at the Universal Races Congress. "Life-long confinement," he said, "is worse than death. In the hottest times of the year women live in rooms about ten feet square, day and night. The result is consumption and lung disease."

Even where there are gardens, the women are only allowed to use them when they are not required by the men of the family.

The saddest part of the whole business is that the purdah, looked upon and enforced as a very ancient, even as a religious institution, has no such high sanction.

In last May's number of *The Contemporary Review* there is given a verbatim letter written by a Turkish lady of such high rank that discretion obliges the suppression of her name. This lady denies that religion is responsible for the seclusion of women in the East. Neither the veil abroad nor the purdah as home was enjoined by the Prophet. "Islamism," she writes, "allowed woman to attain the farthest goal at which she could aim. Notwithstanding the advance of civilisation in Europe and America, women have not yet been able to obtain as much as the Mohammedan women of old."

Records prove that, in the times of the Prophet, women fought in battle, taught, preached, traded, practised the law. It is, in fact, with this as with many other abuses. Religion has been used to betray the unwary into false and devious paths.

The same may be said about Hinduism.

The ancient Vedic writings, and the dramatic Indian literature of the past, offer no glimpse of captive women. Sita, in the days of Rama's exile, wanders with him over desert and forest. The women of the *Mahabharata* are the companions of the men. There is evidence to prove that, in very ancient days, women exercised priestly functions, taking part in the great Narsi sacrifice. Everywhere the student sees the woman free.

How, then, it may be asked, has purdah come to be? No doubt it arose partly from the exigencies of war-times. Women either voluntarily withdrew or were compelled to withdraw into well guarded seclusion for safety to themselves and their children. Men, made rich by the spoils of war, came to count their wives as a part of their possessions. We have the same principle, though in a modified form, in our marriage and inheritance laws; and it is as a final protest against this that our great women's societies have arisen.

The women of the East have now to make their protest; age-long imprisonment, with all it entails, makes their task more difficult than ours; but what some have done others may do. The flame has been kindled. It is spreading from land to land. Education, not in mere Western accomplishment, but in their own ancient literature, must be given to them, and we cannot doubt the resurrection of Eastern womanhood will mean the redemption of the Eastern World.

C. D.

WOMEN IN REVOLT against Sir Almroth Wright's travesty of womanhood, should not miss the opportunity of seeing Mr. Zangwill's censored play, *The Next Religion*, to be given by the New Players at the London Pavilion on April 18 and 19 at 2.30 p.m. when Miss Adeline Bourne, as Mary Trame, will show woman as the sane bond of the great trinity—father, mother, child.

VALUABLE SERVICE.—Miss Greta Garnier, 205, Maida-vale, who is well known for her most successful teaching of voice culture, recitation, gesture, and dramatic art, offers to return to our Treasury fees for pupils whom the League sends to her. Will members take note?

WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING AND SAYING.

The Advisory Committee for National Insurance.

The following women have been appointed members of the Advisory Committee appointed under the National Insurance Act to give advice in connection with the making and altering of regulations under Part I. of the Act:—

Mrs. O. M. Aldridge, Women Confectioners' Society.
Miss M. A. Henry, National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks.
Miss Mary Macarthur, National Federation of Women Workers.
Miss Grace Neal, Domestic Workers' Union of Great Britain.
The Countess of Aberdeen, Women's National Health Association of Ireland.
Miss Bondfield, Women's Trade Union League.
Mrs. Allan H. Bright, National Union of Women Workers.
Mrs. Edwin Gray, National Union of Women Workers.
Miss E. H. Haldane, social worker in Scotland.
Miss L. Harris, Women's Co-operative Guild.
Miss S. C. Harrison, social worker in Ireland.
Miss G. Morgan, Poor Law Guardian.
Miss Constance Smith, National Union of Women Workers.
Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, Women's Trade Union League.
Mrs. Bedingfield and Miss Alice Gregory, both of the Incorporated Midwives' Institute.

Miss M. Hardman, superintendent Leicester District Nursing Association.
Miss A. Michie, superintendent Worcester City and County Nursing Association.

Nominated by the Association of Registered Medical Women, 3—Miss M. H. F. Ivens, M.S.; Miss C. E. Long, M.D. (Brux.); Miss A. H. Watson.

There will be also included in the Advisory Committee five persons (of whom one will be a woman) from the Advisory Committees to the Scottish, Irish and Welsh Commissions.

Fashion and Freedom.

Miss Ethel Arnold, daughter of Matthew Arnold, and sister of the famous novelist and anti-suffragist, Mrs. Humphry Ward, has been travelling in America and speaking in favour of civil rights and larger life for women. Addressing the Chicago Woman's Club recently, she said:

"The ballot and fashions may not seem to have any connection, yet I believe that the imposing of new serious responsibilities may do something to break down what has become an intolerable tyranny. The spectacles I have been compelled to gaze upon in the streets of Paris, London and New York during the last two years has filled me with profound discouragement. Meredith's heartfelt appeal rises to one's lips as one gasps at the sight of some more than usually outrageous object, 'More brains! O Lord, more brains!' This primitive instinct to travesty the human form divine is as old as human nature."

"So long as women are told that the large affairs of life do not concern them, that within the walls of their home they should find quite enough to occupy all their energies and capacities, so long will this tyranny of fashion last. For the contention that keeping a small house in order and caring for the regulation small family of to-day should be enough to fill the heart and mind of the average woman is not only untenable but pernicious."

"The life of the average well-to-do woman is deplorably empty, and it is small wonder if she fill it with bridge, with fantastic clothes, and with all the small nothings which seem to kill time. Nothing, I am convinced, but an awakening on the part of women in general to a sense of their dignity as responsible human beings will break the tyranny of fashion."—*The Ontario Woman*.

A Campaign of Repression.

Mrs. Clark, of Fryer's, Caterham, writes: "Evidently the Government is embarking on a campaign of repression. A working man is thrown into prison and committed for trial at the Winchester Assizes for distributing leaflets among soldiers at Aldershot, urging them not to shoot men on strike. Editors and printers share a similar fate. The bounds of freedom are becoming narrower."

ing narrowed. Let men beware how they treat the women who fight for freedom, and who have for the last half dozen years kept alight the torch of liberty. One precedent creates another. It is our turn to-day; it may be theirs to-morrow. Let them ponder the words of Thoreau. He speaks of those who serve the State with their bodies. 'In the most cases' of these, he says, 'there is no free exercise whatever of the judgment or of the moral sense.' 'Others,' he continues, 'as most legislators, politicians, lawyers, ministers, and office holders—serve the State chiefly with their heads; and, as they rarely make any moral distinctions, they are as likely to serve the devil, without intending it, as God. A very few, as heroes, patriots, martyrs, reformers in the great sense, and men (the word here surely includes women) serve the State with their consciences also, and so necessarily resist it for the most part; and they are commonly treated as enemies by it.'—'On the Duty of Civil Disobedience.'

Women Arbitrators.

On April 14 women voted for the first time in Belgium, when they were eligible as candidates for the Prud'hommes Councils, which settle disputes between master and men. As voting in Belgium is compulsory, women went in large numbers to the poll, and voted solidly for candidates of their own sex. The elections are largely decided by political considerations, and the results should show what political parties in Brussels have most influence with women.

Woman Suffrage in Jersey.

At the last meeting of the Jersey States a petition was read from women ratepayers asking for an extension of the franchise to enable them to vote at municipal elections. The matter was referred to the Legislation Committee. Many members are opposed to granting the petition.

Woman Assistant Astronomer.

Mlle. Edmée Chandon, Bachelier es Lettres et es Sciences, who obtained a degree at the Sorbonne, has been appointed Assistant Astronomer to the Paris Observatory. She joined the Observatory staff first in October, 1908.

Please Note!—We make a special request to all readers to note how our advertisers can supply their needs and to support them because they support us. Mention THE VOTE.

POET'S LICENCE—OR DOGGEREL?

We imagine that in the "Ulsteria" camp there will be a feeling of relief that by decree of the Attorney-General, in replying to a question in Parliament, Mr. Rudyard Kipling, not to mention the proprietors and printers of *The Morning Post*, are not to be prosecuted for sedition. It was certainly unkind of Mr. W. Redmond to suggest that the effusion of the Imperial poet, which appeared in *The Morning Post* last week under the heading of "Ulster," supported by a quotation from the Prophet Isaiah, was simply doggerel. We give an excerpt which will indicate the tone of the six verses, and show whether or not the writer lays himself open to the charge of inciting to disorder, not to say rebellion:—

Now England's shot and shell
Beneath that flag must show
How loyal hearts should kneel
To England's oldest foe.

We leave Mr. Kipling to the castigation of an Irish poet in *The Daily News*, but assure him that had he been charged with conspiracy, he would have found himself in distinguished company.

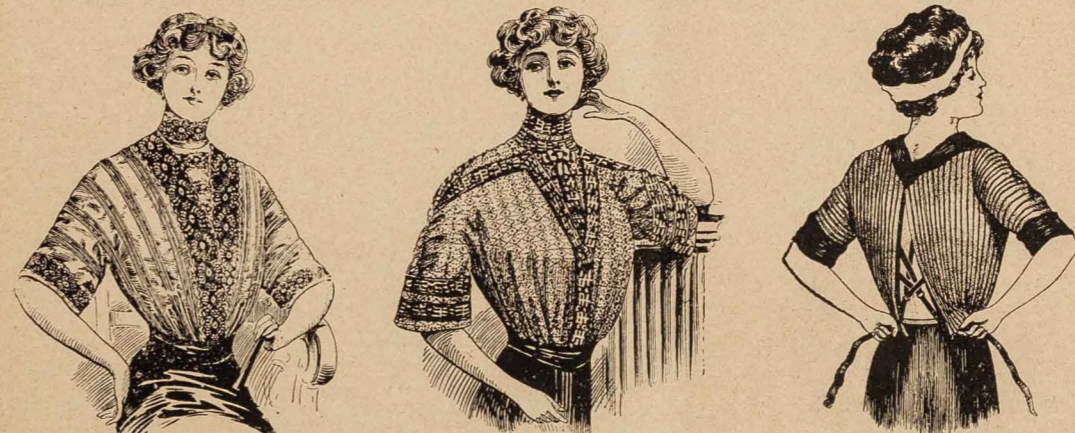
TAX RESISTANCE.

A Tax-Resistance Sale of goods seized from Miss Ball, matron of the Trained Nurses Institute of Ilfracombe and Barnstaple, took place recently at the Auction Rooms, High-street, Barnstaple. A previous sale had taken place a fortnight earlier at Ilfracombe. Members of different suffrage societies were present, and leaflets were distributed. The tax collectors and other officials concerned in the distraint and sales have invariably acted with the greatest kindness and courtesy, and seem fully to grasp the principle of tax resistance as practised by the women of the Tax Resistance League.

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BRANCH NOTES.

NATIONAL OFFICES, LONDON.—1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly on one side of a sheet of paper, leaving a margin on the left, and address them to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.? A halfpenny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside. All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Mondays.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Anerley and Crystal Palace District.—Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road.

THE EVENT of next week will be the Green, White and Gold Fair (in conjunction with the C.L.W.S.) in the Town Hall, Anerley (opposite Anerley Station and three minutes' car ride from Crystal Palace (Low Level), on Thursday, April 25, afternoon and evening, to be opened at 3 p.m. by Mrs. Despard. We are hoping to have the Rev. Hugh Chapman (of Chapel Royal, Savoy) to support her, also Mrs. Nevinston and an M.P. Madame Beatrice Goddard has kindly consented to sing, and Miss Winifred Mayo to recite. Music under the direction of Miss Agnes Fennings, L.R.A.M., phrenological readings by Mr. W. G. Prince; competitions and side shows. Contributions of home-made cakes, sweets, fancy articles, and flowers for the stalls will still be gratefully received. Tickets, 6d. each, to be obtained of the Hon. Secretary. We earnestly trust that every member of the League within reasonable distance will realise that this is a very big venture for one of the smallest and youngest Branches, and that they will rally round us.

Croydon.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue, Croydon.

Office: 32A, The Arcade, High-street. A special Branch meeting was held on Wednesday, April 10, to discuss resolutions for the Special Conference. At our "At Home" on April 12 Miss Amy Miller gave a most instructive address on "The Inequalities of the Law." We appeal to our members to make known our Tuesday evening meetings at the office. Still wanted—many parcels of goods for our Jumble Sale.

Hampstead Garden Suburb.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. SYDENHAM, "June," Erskine-hill.

A special Branch meeting was held on Wednesday, April 10, at 47, Rotherwick-road, to consider questions for the Special Conference. There was a good attendance, and resolutions were passed.

Herne Hill and Norwood.—Hon. Secretary: Miss B. SPENCER, 32, Geneva-road, Brixton, S.W.

On Sunday morning, April 14, our open-air meetings in Brockwell-park commenced. The speakers were Miss Spencer and Mrs. Tanner. A large audience gathered, and showed much interest in Mrs. Tanner's remarks concerning the defeat of the Conciliation Bill and the present political situation, as well as in her convincing answers to questions. Copies of THE VOTE were sold and a collection taken. On Sunday, April 21, Miss Alison Neilans will speak at 11.30 a.m.

Kensington.—Hon. Secretaries: Miss REEVES, 16, Braecwell-road, N. Kensington; Mrs. WALL COUSINS, 7, Castelnau-mansions, Barnes.

Miss C. Andrews was the speaker on behalf of the Women's Freedom League at a meeting of the North Kensington League of Young Liberals on April 2. Her interesting and instructive address was much appreciated. A good discussion followed, and in spite of opposition from Anti-Suffragists, who apparently feared women's votes for party reasons, a resolution was carried calling on the Government to introduce a measure granting votes to women this Session. Will Kensington members please make a special effort to attend the Branch meeting on Friday, April 19, at 7.45 p.m., at 6, Argyll-road, for discussion of Conference resolutions?

Mid-London.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing.

The Branch held its first Hyde Park meeting on Sunday, April 14, at noon. Mrs. C. Hyde presided over a large and most orderly crowd. Mrs. Emma Sproson spoke on the political situation. She vigorously condemned the conduct of the Irish Party, and said that those who barricaded the way of others to liberty did not deserve liberty themselves. She declared it was within the range of possibility for the Labour Party to have saved the Conciliation Bill if they had been prepared to put the Woman's question before Party interests. Asked if she believed that breaking windows had advanced the Cause she replied: "Before I would submit my person to the treatment of a London mob and the temper of the London police, as I have experienced it when on peaceful deputations to the House of Commons, I would not hesitate to break anyone's windows." This answer evoked the hearty applause of the meeting. A Branch meeting will be held on April 22 at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, 7.30 p.m. Business: Conference Agenda.

Stamford Hill, N.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. CUNNINGHAM, 114, Holmleigh-road, N.

On April 9, Mrs. Goodwin was kindly "at home" to a few members and their friends, and provided for their entertainment a much-appreciated demonstration in Vegetarian Cookery. The practical part of the work was undertaken by her cook (diploma S. Kensington), leaving Mrs. Goodwin free to explain different food values, &c. There was a ready sale for the dishes when served up. Subsequently Mrs. Cunningham gave a brief outline of the relations between mistress and maid under the Insurance Act, deprecating that no women have come forward to join Approved Societies for the Exclusive Insurance of Women. She pointed out that a grand opportunity offers for women (notwithstanding THE TIMES' allegations) to show themselves equal to men in business organisation on a large scale.

PROVINCES.—Brighton and Hove.—Hon. Secretary: Miss HARE, 8, San Remo, Hove.

A members' meeting was held at 8, San Remo on Tuesday, when the resolutions for the Emergency Conference were discussed. The next meeting for members and friends will be held on Wednesday, April 24, at 7 p.m., at 17, Sackville-road, Hove, by kind invitation of the Misses Speke. Dr. Laetitia Fairfield will speak. Members are asked to remain after the meeting to elect a delegate and to instruct her on the final resolutions for the Conference.

Cheltenham.—Hon. Secretary: Madame BOROVIKOWSKY, Mostyn Villa, Hales-road.

A most enjoyable "At Home" was given on March 28 by the courtesy

of Mrs. Powell, of Romsay House, who threw open her new and beautiful home to members and friends of the local Branch. After music and refreshments, Mrs. How Earengy, from the chair, warmly welcomed Mrs. Tanner, who spoke on the political situation, and Mrs. Frances Swinny.

Chester.—Hon. Secretary: Miss WOODALL, 13, Abbey-square. On Wednesday, April 3, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brown, a most successful drawing-room meeting was held at Curzon Park, Chester. A large audience of members and friends had the privilege of hearing an able and impressive speech from our President, Mrs. Despard, who proposed the following resolution:—"That this meeting views with dissatisfaction that Mr. Yerburgh (M.P., Chester) withheld his promised support from the Conciliation Bill, and begs that he will take an early opportunity of giving his reason for this action to his constituents." Mrs. Russell seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Yerburgh had given no indication of changed intention, though several members had written to him. A good collection was taken, new members joined. THE VOTE and literature found ready sale. In an excellent little speech Miss Nellie Smith expressed our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Brown for the splendid arrangements they had made for the meeting.—ELLA WOODALL.

Ipswich.—Hon. Secretary (pro tem.): Mrs. GEORGE PRATT, 160, Norwich-road.

On April 9 a Branch Meeting was held at 16, Arcade-street. Questions in connection with the Special Conference were discussed and resolutions drawn up. A Jumble Sale is being arranged for Friday, April 19, at the offices. Miss Andrews resigned the post of Hon. Secretary of the League on account of pressure of other work, and Mrs. George Pratt undertook to fill the post pro tem.

Woolpit.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. DORA V. FOSTER, Lawn Farm, Woolpit, Bury St. Edmunds.

A very successful and well-attended public meeting of the Woolpit Group was held on the evening of April 9 at Haughley Village Hall, when the speakers were Miss F. A. Underwood, of London, whom we were most pleased to welcome, and Mrs. Isabel C. Tippet, whom it is always a delight to hear. We hope soon to make our Group into a Branch, and so be stronger in helping the cause of Woman's Freedom.

SCOTLAND.—Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road.

Hon. Secretary: Miss A. B. JACK, 21, Buccleuch-place. Hon. Treasurer: Miss M. A. WOOD, 67, Great King-street. Hon. Shop Secretary: Mrs. THOMSON, 39, Rosslyn-crescent.

At the Annual Business Meeting the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Miss Sara Munro; Vice-President, Mrs. Bell; Secretary, Miss A. B. Jack; Assistant Secretary, Miss H. McLachlan, M.A.; Treasurer, Miss M. A. Wood; Assistant Treasurer, Miss N. McLaren; Shop Secretary, Mrs. Thomson; Literature Secretary, Miss H. Harvey; Committee, Miss Dundas Grant, Mrs. Simpson, Miss Stirton, Miss Colville, Miss Shaw, Miss Ferguson, Miss A. C. McLaren. Another Business Meeting, to consider agenda for Special Conference, will be held on Wednesday, April 24. Miss A. B. Jack has been appointed delegate. Some goods for the Jumble Sale, May 25, have already been received. As we have ample storage accommodation, goods can be taken in at any time. For the sale on May 4, china and old books, as well as soft goods, cakes, sweets, jams, &c., are wanted. As funds are urgently needed, we hope that these sales will both be well supported.—HELEN MCLACHLAN, Assistant Secretary.

"THE VOTE" AND THE SUFFRAGE ATELIER.

The arrangements for linking up the fortunes of THE VOTE and the Suffrage Atelier proceed apace, and by the time the present issue of THE VOTE is before the public the venture will be fairly launched. From time to time in these columns the work of the Atelier will be followed up and described, and the various lines upon which new enterprise is embarked will be detailed for the benefit of those of our readers who take an interest in the practical side of Art. The new quarters into which the Suffrage Atelier has lately overflowed will give greater scope for the energies of its talented staff, and we doubt not that the establishment in Stanlake-villas has before it a future of successful and useful endeavour.

Posters and other Pictorial Publications advertising The Woman's Movement, issued by The Suffrage Atelier, including Broadsheet No. 1, second edition, revised, containing twenty-nine designs for posters, &c., with particulars of the Poster Campaign, also designs for banners and decorations, can be seen at the offices of the Minerva Publishing Co., Ltd., Room 28, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, Strand.

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LONDON AND SUBURBS.
Thurs., April 18.—"Vote" Soiree, Dore Gallery, Bond-street, 8-11 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Mary Gaunt, Mrs. Louise Popling Rowe. Admission 2s. (including refreshments).
Fri., April 19.—NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 2.30 p.m. CROYDON "AT HOME," 3.45 p.m. Dr. Drysdale. KENSINGTON BRANCH MEETING, 6, Argyll-road, 7.45 p.m.
Sat., April 20.—N.E.C. MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 10.30 a.m.
Sun., April 21.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m. Miss Neilans. HYDE PARK, noon. Mrs. Tanner.
Mon., April 22.—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 7.30 p.m. Business: Conference Agenda.
Tues., April 23.—Croydon. Meeting at Shop, 8 p.m. Mr. Stewart Robertson.
Wed., April 24.—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 7.30 p.m., to discuss letters from N.E.C.
Thurs., April 25.—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR, Town Hall, Anerley. To be opened by Mrs. Despard at 3 p.m.
Fri., April 26.—NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 2.30 p.m. CROYDON "AT HOME," 3.45 p.m. Mrs. Fowler Shone. PUBLIC MEETING, Mattison-road School, Haringay, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A. Chair: Miss Nina Boyle.
Sat., April 27.—Special Conference, Caxton Hall. DELEGATES' MEETING, 9 a.m., Room 15; Conference opens in Council Chamber, 10 a.m.
Sun., April 28.—Special Conference, 10.30 a.m., Caxton Hall.
Tues., April 30.—Croydon. Meeting at Shop, 8 p.m. Mr. J. Katz.
Tues., May 7.—DISCUSSION MEETING, Essex Hall, 8 p.m. Mr. Laurence Housman: "Sex War and Women's Suffrage." Tickets 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d.
Sat., May 11.—Mass Meeting, Trafalgar-square, 3 p.m.
Mon., May 20.—John Stuart Mill Meeting. Speakers: Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., and others.

PROVINCES.

Thurs., April 18.—Liverpool. Pennington's Café, College-road, Crosby, 8 p.m. Miss Munro: "Sweated Workers and Votes for Women."
Fri., April 19.—Manchester. Drawing-room Meeting, Oaklands, Flixton. Speaker: Miss J. Heyes.
Sun., April 21.—Wolverhampton. Agricultural Hall, 3 p.m. Miss A. Munro, Mr. J. Parker, M.P. Chair: Mr. J. Shaw, M.A.
Mon., April 22.—Middlesbrough. Girls' High School, Central Hall, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard.
Tues., April 23.—Wellingborough. Mrs. Despard.
Wed., April 24.—Hove. 17, Sackville-road. Lecturer, Dr. Laetitia Fairfield. Chair: Miss Hare.
Mon., April 29.—Middlesbrough. Girls' High School, 8 p.m. Mrs. Coates Hansen: "Women and Local Government."
Thurs., May 2.—Liverpool. Pennington's Café, College-road, Crosby, 8 p.m. Miss A. Wyse (N.U.S.S., Birkenhead), "The Moral Aspect of the Suffrage Movement." Hadleigh. Mrs. Despard.
Sat., May 4.—Hove. 48, Rutland-gardens, 6.30 p.m. Miss Hare, "The Political Outlook."
Mon., May 13.—Middlesbrough. Girls' High School, 8 p.m. Miss W. M. Jones, "Women and the New Philosophy."
Mon., May 20.—Middlesbrough. All Saints' Schoolroom. Jumble Sale.

SCOTLAND.

Thurs., April 18.—Dundee. Gilfillan Hall, 8 p.m. Miss E. S. Clunas: "Lucy Stone Blackwell."
Sat., April 20.—Glasgow. The Athenæum, 8 p.m. Public Meeting. Speakers: Miss Abadam, Miss Semple. Chair: Rev. James Barr, Govan. Tickets, 6d. and 1s., from the Suffrage Centre.
Wed., April 24.—Edinburgh. Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road. Business Meeting, 8 p.m.
Sat., May 4.—Edinburgh. Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road. Birthday Sale, 3 p.m.
Sat., May 25.—Edinburgh. Jumble Sale.

ONE OF THE WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE GIRLS' REFORMATORY COMMITTEE, which has been sitting in strict secrecy at the Home Office, has been so horrified at the stories of life in some of the reformatory homes that she has felt it her duty at once to formulate plans for the amelioration of the conditions of the unfortunate girls.

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EDITORIAL.

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

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MID-LONDON.—In addition to MEETING on the 22nd inst., a SPECIAL one will also be held, at 7.30 p.m., on Wednesday, 24th inst., to discuss letters from N.E.C. members.

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