

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. V. No. 117.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1912.

ONE PENNY.

## NOTICE.

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

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

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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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## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

### "United" We Differ.

Is there a subtle meaning in the words "United We Differ," with which *Punch* headed its clever cartoon last week? Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Harcourt are shown on the same hustings, but back to back, vigorously announcing their disbelief in each other's declarations on the question of votes for women. The cartoon, however, makes it perfectly clear that the politicians are propping each other up in spite of the antagonism of their words. We may well ask why, if they are really fighting in earnest, they adopt the curious attitude of turning their backs on each other? Surely the proper position for duellists is face to face. The Government has now to realise that farcical fighting will not do; it is a question of close grips. They have so long played with votes for women as an academic matter that they find it difficult to understand that the *laissez-faire* way of handling it will not now suffice. A policy of "bluff" will deceive no one; certainly not the women, who have learned by bitter experience the unreliability of politicians' pronouncements. That the general elector is awake to the true inwardness of the friendly fighters is proved by the flood of alarmed advice or biting ridicule—according to the Party point of view—which fills so many columns in the Press.

### The Irresistible Advance!

The irresistible force of the right of women to political recognition is shown by the eagerness with which all kinds of suggestions are being made to hold it back. The referendum as a dodge for delay has split the Liberal Press; the Opposition organs are busy finding reasons why the country must not be tricked into a disaster. We recognise an appreciation of facts in the "anti" writer in *The Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, who declares that if Home Rule, Welsh Disestablishment, National Insurance, and Tariff Reform were rolled into one ball and multiplied indefinitely they would still fall short of the importance of the question as to whether or not votes should be given to women. We remind the politicians that King Canute's words could not stay

the advance of the waves of the sea. The situation to-day shows the strength of the woman's movement; it is no longer academic; it is real; it must be faced. If the fight of a "unitedly" divided Cabinet be a sham, the Government may rely on being speedily found out. It is possible that a realisation of this fact underlies the rumour widely current that the Manhood Suffrage Bill will be abandoned and the Plural Voting Bill resuscitated. We are not the policy-makers of the Cabinet, but we insist that, whether the Government likes it or not, a straight handling of a straight issue is the only way to deal with the important and dominant question of votes for women.

### The Leniency of the Law to Women.

We remember that when Dr. Jameson, who (technically) was guilty of high treason for proceeding with an armed force against a nation with whom we were (technically) at peace, was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment in the first division, a London newspaper broke out into the following pathetic headline, "By Torturing Dr. Jim We Degrade Ourselves!" This same paper comments, occasionally, on the sentimental leniency of our law towards women. Miss Emily Wilding Davison's case is a striking instance in point, particularly when compared with the man's case quoted above. She was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the second division for having "wilfully and maliciously attempted to endanger a letter box and its contents." In the course of his summing up the Recorder said that if people desired to change the law they must influence Parliament to do so. We should be glad if he could tell voteless people how to do it. We have tried various ways, with the result that many of us have found ourselves in the same place as Miss Wilding Davison—the dock.

### Childlike Innocence.

All of us who have been in that predicament will heartily endorse her dictum that it is a place from which the occupant can seldom be heard or hear. Also that the embodiment of the law, who dispenses "justice" there, is generally someone who ought to be taking life less strenuously, having reached an age when he tends to revert to the same conditions that prevail at the beginning. The due preserving of justice and impartiality demands as great an efficiency as the preserving of peace or the conduct of commerce. Miss Davison spoke very much to the point on this matter, but in many courts it would all have been lost on the person for whose benefit it was intended—for he would be either deaf or sleeping.

### The (?) Missing Word.

Really the Suffragists are turning things topsy-turvy! How will even the Church of England deal with a bride who refuses to "obey" her husband? Will she revenge herself by declaring the marriage illegal, or will sweet reasonableness and common sense prevail? The Church is face to face with the necessity for a wider recognition of woman's value as a member and worker; let the Church also carry out a much-needed reform of the marriage service. Mr. and Mrs. Victor Duval—to whom our congratulations—may find that their marriage has been a lever in this direction.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—15143 CENTRAL.  
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### AT HEADQUARTERS.

**Manchester.**—We are pleased to learn that our Manchester Branches have secured an office at 46A, Market-street, which Mrs. Despard is to open on January 18. Our President intends to spend a good deal of time in Manchester during the next three months, and we are confident that, with the assured devotion and work of our members in the district, Manchester will soon be one of the most important strongholds of the Women's Freedom League.

**Mrs. Sproson's Scottish Tour.**—Our Scottish Branches have arranged the following programme for Mrs. Sproson: January 19, Glasgow; January 20, Dunfermline; January 22, Perth; January 23, Dundee; January 24, Kilmarnock; January 25, Edinburgh. In all these towns, with the exception of Glasgow, Mrs. Sproson will speak on "The Philosophy of Robert Burns." Besides this lecture, Edinburgh has arranged a Burns Concert, at which professional singers have promised their services. Tableaux vivants of Burns' characters, with song and recitation, will also form part of the programme. We understand that Mrs. Sproson is the first English woman to be invited to Scotland to give a Burns lecture, and to initiate a Women's Burns Night. We thank our Scottish friends for paying us this compliment, and send our heartiest wishes for a splendid success.

**Conference.**—We hope that our members are making no engagements for Saturday and Sunday, January 27 and 28, and that they will be at Caxton Hall, when the delegates from our Branches will deal with the Conference Agenda.

**Discussion Meetings.**—Through an error it was stated that these would begin on January 23. Will readers kindly note that the first of these discussion meetings will be held at the Gardenia Restaurant, Tuesday evening, January 30, and will be opened by our friend, Mr. O'Dell?

**Freedom League Fair.**—We have already received many promises of assistance for this venture of the Freedom League, and hope to give further particulars in a later number of THE VOTE. Meanwhile, we should be pleased to hear from other members and friends who can help us to make it a success.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

#### The Referendum Bogey.

There is a suspicious tendency on the part of a section of the Liberal Press to resuscitate the Referendum "dodge for delay." We are asked by *The Daily Chronicle* to consider the unprecedented situation that has been created by women's suffrage. There is a hopeless Parliamentary tangle, we are told, with the Cabinet tied in a knot in the middle! Other papers call attention to the lamentable, or ludicrous—the adjective depends on whether the organ is a Government or Opposition one—spectacle of Cabinet Ministers speaking against each other on the floor of the House and on public platforms.

Now, we women are not particularly concerned with Cabinet Ministers making lamentable or ludicrous

spectacles of themselves. Both aspects have become stale through much repetition. But we are very much concerned as to whether our great agitation to set the Parliamentary machinery in motion shall be rendered for the time being null and void by the cry that it is not equal to the task we have set it. No one knows better than we that the machinery is cumbersome and unsatisfactory, that it needs superhuman efforts to make it move in any desired direction—particularly by those who are denied the direct motive power; but having made those superhuman efforts, we have not the faintest intention of seeing it scrapped—for this question only—and waiting for the result of our labours until a new and experimental device is built up and put into action. The trick is altogether too transparent.

#### Proof Provided.

For what is a Referendum supposed to do? Give expression to the opinion of the country. There is no proof, say the Anti-Suffragists and others who are beginning to "shy," now that our question has reached the stage when "it has to be faced with courage and sincerity"—*vide The Daily Chronicle*—that our demand has behind it the support of the country.

It would be difficult to see what further proof could be brought. Petitions innumerable have been signed; meetings uncountable have been held; resolutions in favour of votes for women have been passed by large and influential bodies of men and women over and over again. Every organised body of women from the Conservative and Unionist to Co-operative Guilds and Labour Leagues, women doctors, writers, artists, nurses, teachers have all voiced their desire and urgent need in both orthodox and heterodox fashion.

#### What's Sauce for the Gander—

Quite obviously the most determined opponent of the reform—the Prime Minister—was satisfied on that count when he promised facilities for the Conciliation Bill more than a year ago. And finally, the House of Commons, usually supposed to represent the *vox populi*—has spoken clearly enough by its large and repeated majorities on the subject. The authority of the House of Commons is good enough for Cabinet action on every other measure. It is good enough for our measure too.

#### The Real Reasons.

No. *The Daily Chronicle* and the "Antis" may rest assured that the disgruntled minority in the Cabinet are not opposing votes for women because they think there is not sufficient demand for it. Their opposition is based on no such democratic reason as that. They fear that the influence of women would be dangerous and inimical to the best interests of the State; that to give them power would be "a mistake of a very disastrous kind," to quote Mr. Asquith. No wonder the supporters of these "democratic" Ministers want to keep them from expounding these sentiments on public platforms! There is such a body as the Women's Liberal Federation. Will they cheer a declaration like Sir Edward Grey's again, "We are all united in one thing, our allegiance to the Prime Minister," if they hear too much of this brand of Liberalism? I wonder.

#### Burnt Children Dread the Fire.

It is inevitable, with past experience searing our memories, that we should view any and every suggestion for delay with suspicion and resentment. Parliamentary difficulties are so easily manufactured. Defections and counter-plans are so readily masked by "flapdoodle" and specious oratory. We have been deceived by them in the past, but that time is gone now for ever, let us hope.

The most effective weapon in our hands when the final tug of war comes will be our power to compel a dissolution. Any attempt to proceed with the Manhood Suffrage Bill without the inclusion of women will be met at once with that counter-thrust. A number of men pledged to vote against the third reading in such a circumstance will secure this, and our "lobbyers" cannot be concentrating on any better issue. The knowledge of that, and of the fact that all the suffrage

societies will unite to strike, and strike hard at any sign of being put off again, at any treachery, will be our best guarantee for the quick unravelling of the present Parliamentary tangle. As to Cabinet Ministers and ludicrous spectacles, that, as I have said before, is not our concern.

MARION HOLMES.

### ALL THE WORLD OVER.

"The Russian passport discrimination has suddenly become a burning question in America. Humanitarians have long called attention to the wrong, and at last we have the edifying spectacle of Russia's injustice and cruelty being denounced even by those statesmen who are known to have no more heart than a cobblestone. What is the reason for the difference? Finding that moral considerations carried little weight in diplomatic circles, the Jews, with the practical shrewdness of their race, resolved to bring political considerations to bear directly upon Congress. Of late years there has grown up in America a large Jewish vote. It was brought to the attention of the Congressmen that a great number of voters objected to the discrimination practised by Russia against their co-religionists when they sought to visit that country and presented American passports; and that, if such discrimination were allowed to continue, these voters meant to know the reason why. Forthwith, statesmen who had shown themselves wholly callous to all humane feelings, began to tumble over one another in their zeal to protest against this outrage to American principles. The object lesson ought not to be lost upon women of the way in which even a mean politician will respond to a humanitarian appeal if it is backed up by a vote. The ballot is the only 'big stick' that can successfully beat that kind of dog."—*The Woman's Journal*.

"The leper colony at Ramachandrapuram, a town about 400 miles from Madras, which enters this month into the sixteenth year of its ministrations, was founded by an Englishwoman—Miss F. Isabella Hatch. Miss Hatch has not only been in residence, but also in active charge of the colony during its whole existence, and has enlisted the financial assistance of many well-known Anglo-Indians in her self-sacrificing enterprise."—*The Standard*.

"Miss Margaret Lindsay Williams has won the Royal Academy gold medal and travelling scholarship of £200 for a decoration for a public building, while Dr. Elizabeth Thomson Fraser has been granted one of the Beit Memorial Fellowships of £250 for medical research. Both of these honours have been won in open competition with men."—*The Standard*.

K. HARVEY, Hon. Head Press Department, W.F.L.

#### WOMEN COMMISSIONERS.

The names of three women Commissioners under the Insurance Bill have now been announced—Miss Mona Wilson, whose work with regard to the Inspection of Factories is well known; Miss Violet Douglas-Pennant; and Mrs. Creighton, long prominent as a social worker. They are appointed on the same terms as the men Commissioners. This is very good, but we hope to hear the names of many more women Commissioners. Obviously it would be an impossible task for three women to safeguard the interests of women under this Bill, affecting them, as it does, in so many directions. It is, of course, as Lloyd George pointed out, *reductio ad absurdum* for women Commissioners to administer, control, be empowered to suggest amendments and improvements to the Bill, but not to vote for or against it! This is a very clear illustration why the municipal vote alone is not sufficient for women—it does not go to the root of the matter.

L. A.

#### QUALITY AND VALUE.

A perusal of the illustrated catalogue of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company, Ltd.—which can be obtained post free from 112, Regent-street, London, W.—convinces one that purchasers of gem jewellery and gold and silver plate may there obtain the utmost value for their money.

### ISLINGTON WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION.

As a matter which closely concerns women as electors, we call the attention of our readers to the inaugural meeting of the Islington Women's Local Government Association, at the Central Public Library, Holloway-road, on Friday, January 19, at 8 p.m. Mrs. Miall-Smith, B.A., will preside; Miss Susan Lawrence, L.C.C., will speak on "The Work of Women on the London County Council." Among other speakers are Miss Jessie Clarke, Mrs. Essex, Miss Margaret Michael. Hon. Sec., *pro tem.*, Mrs. Abbott, 5, West View, Highgate Hill, N. All interested are invited to attend.

### LONDON SOCIETY OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES. 58, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.

**PUBLIC RECEPTION** On Tuesday, Jan. 23rd, at the EMPRESS ROOMS, Kensington (High Street Station), from 3.30 to 6.15.  
Chair: Mrs. THEODORE WILLIAMS. Speakers: THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR; Miss A. MAUDE ROYDEN (On "A Suffragist's Impressions of America"); Miss FRANCES STERLING.  
Discussion Invited.

## "Thinking Women Read

### The Standard."

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

#### "WOMAN'S PLATFORM,"

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

"WOMAN'S PLATFORM" in *The Standard* has already become the Thinking Woman's own medium in the Daily Press of Great Britain. All thinking women modern women, are keenly interested in "WOMAN'S PLATFORM." They know that it is their own; they themselves determine how much it can serve their own interests by:—

1. Following "WOMAN'S PLATFORM" closely and day by day in *The Standard*, and using it freely in women's interests, as opportunity offers.
2. Inducing the largest possible number of the general public—men and women—to do the same thing, thus extending the scope of its services to women.

*The Standard*, 104 SHOE LANE, LONDON, E.C.

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**OUR TREASURY.**

In the list to-day will be found the names of those friends who joined Mrs. Drysdale in her surprise New Year gift to the funds. It has been more particularly gratifying to me as I know that January is almost the worst month in the year for the collection of money. Most of the Branches have made a final effort for the year in December, and even suffragists allow themselves a little holiday at Christmas, so that I am specially grateful to Mrs. Drysdale for her work, and to those who contributed to her scheme. I have not yet had time to answer personally all the kind letters that have accompanied the collection, but hope to have more leisure this week.

I should like to remind our members again of Miss Barrow's generous offer of making pencil drawing copies of photographs and selling them for the benefit of the funds. A portrait she has just sold is beautifully done, and an admirable likeness, as I can testify. Other members have also offered to earn money in various ways for the League by needlework, making sweets, blouses, doing shopping and other errands for those who have little time.

CONSTANCE TITE.

**NATIONAL FUND.**

(Branch and District Funds not Included.)

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1910, £11,595 3s. 2d.

	£	s.	d.
Political and Militant Dept. —			
Amount previously acknowledged	2,813	5	11
Mrs. How Martyn (Voluntary Workers' Expenses)	1	13	0
Ditto, Donation	0	2	4
"In Memory of Guelielma Kitching"	0	10	0
Kensington Branch (Capitation fee)	0	1	6
<b>Total, Dec. 31, 1911</b>	<b>£2,815</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>
To amount brought forward	261	11	5
Miss McGilchrist Gilchrist	20	0	0
Miss C. Tite (collected)	4	0	0
Miss Cicely Hamilton	2	0	0
Miss C. Harvey	0	10	0
Miss Barrow (enlarging a portrait in black and white)	1	17	0
J. Y. Kennedy, Esq.	1	0	0
The Hon. Miss G. O'Brien	0	10	0
Miss M. I. Saunders	0	10	0
Miss E. Lyndon	0	5	0
Mrs. A. Sanderson	0	5	0
Miss Woodward	0	5	0
Miss C. E. Lawson	0	2	6
Miss Jeffries (sale of sweets)	0	2	9
Mrs. A. King	0	2	0
R. Wilcock, Esq.	0	1	0
Mrs. Nourse	0	5	0
Per Mrs. Nourse:—			
Mr. Bryden	0	1	0
Mrs. Bryden	0	1	0
Miss E. Birnstingl	0	2	6
Miss Boothby	0	1	0
Mrs. Tritton	0	2	6
Miss Norris	0	2	6
Mrs. T. for Battersea Branch	0	2	0
Mrs. Hester Chapman	0	2	0
C.T.O., per Miss King	0	2	0
C.T.O., per Miss Alder	0	2	6
Per Mrs. Drysdale:—			
New Year's Gift Fund:—			
Miss E. Murray	5	0	0
Mrs. Sargent Florence	12	0	0
Ipswich Branch	0	5	0
Scattered Members' Branch:—			
Mrs. Cunge	0	5	0
Miss McIntyre	0	5	0
Mrs. Stewart	0	2	6
Miss Jean Stewart	0	2	6
Miss Juthin	0	2	6
"An Unexpected Windfall"	0	10	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>£327</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South Western Bank, Ltd."

**WORKING WOMEN AND THE VOTE.**

The debate arranged by the General Secretary of the W.F.L. between Mrs. Sproson, of the N.E.C., and Mrs. Agnes Stewart, late of the N.L.O.W.S., but now in the position of a free-lance for the "Anti" Cause, took place at Caxton Hall on Saturday night. There was a good attendance. Mr. J. Y. Kennedy took the chair. Mrs. Sproson, who was warmly greeted, proposed the resolution that "Women's Suffrage is essential to the welfare of women of the working classes." Beginning with the Cradley Heath strike, she pointed out that it was said that the women had never organised themselves, but it was the men who had refused them admission to the unions. While conditions for women had certainly been improved in some directions without their votes, yet their position was never safe from attack by male competitors. She instanced the case of the typographical workers in Edinburgh, and the brass workers in Birmingham; she mentioned how the Amalgamated Society of Engineers had abandoned a strike in favour of Parliamentary action, and showed that it was this combination of industrial organisation and political power which gave working men their strength.

As for the married woman, it was her work, in an even greater degree than that of her husband, which built up the home, and yet it became his property entirely. He could sell it up, and transfer his domicile without reference to her wishes. She dealt further with the position of children and young girls, and insisted that the woman's point of view was needed in legislation.

Mrs. Stewart said that the unit of the nation was the family, and she wanted to see women give the best work to the welfare of the State and of the people. Elizabeth Fry and Florence Nightingale had done so, and their record proved that without the vote women could be useful. She contended that men had not really achieved much by means of the vote, and it was hardly probable that women would do so much more. She thought it was grossly unfair to place political burdens upon women who had quite enough to do already in their homes. They had not shown themselves equal to it. The heavy infantile mortality rate was the fault of ignorant mothers. Mrs. Stewart also averred that the Suffragists were in reality Socialists; that the economic independence of women would result, indeed, in making "marriage a trade"; that many men with votes had less wages than some women without; that votes would not in any way affect morality, and that it was ridiculous to fancy that Women's Suffrage would make women what they were not.

An interesting discussion followed, after which Mrs. Sproson and Mrs. Stewart were each allowed five minutes in which to wind up their arguments. The vote was carried by an overwhelming majority; there were only four dissentients. A protest was lodged in strong terms against certain remarks made by Mrs. Stewart in regard to Madame Curie. Mrs. Stewart's reason for leaving the N.S.O.W.S. was that it was illogical to work for the Municipal and against the Parliamentary vote.

**INDUSTRIAL NEWS.**

**READING BISCUIT FACTORY DISCHARGES.**

Seldom, if ever, has Reading witnessed a more magn demonstration in favour of any Cause than that of Thursday night in behalf of the discharged workers from Messrs. Huntley and Palmer's Biscuit Factory. Not only was the hall packed by an audience of some two thousand, but upon a foggy and chilly night about 1,500 workers and their sympathisers formed an overflow meeting in the Market Place. The most significant feature was that at both these great gatherings a resolution declaring the dismissals to be an unwarrantable interference with the right of combination, and demanding that the firm should receive a deputation from the Unions with a view to the reinstatement of the men and women discharged, was passed with absolute unanimity. Upon the platform and among the speakers were representatives of all the political parties—Liberal, Tory, Labour and Socialist, who each agreed in expressing indignation at the firm's tyrannical conduct, and the conditions of wage and work prevalent at the factory. The chairman, the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis, is a clergyman of the Church of England, and a prominent member of the Christian Union. Among the other speakers were the Countess of Warwick, Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Lowin (of the Federation of Women Workers), Mr. W. T. Hedges (chief proprietor of the local Tory newspaper, *The Berkshire Chronicle*), Mr. Ben Tillet, Mr. Victor Grayson, and Mr. Harry Picard (organiser of the Gasworkers' and General Labourers' Union). The cause of the workers was pleaded with a fervid eloquence and force. The women and girl workers found their own special champions in Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Lowin. Mrs. Despard asked what sort of children the young women who worked under such conditions as those which prevailed at the Biscuit Factory were likely to bear after they had left it to enter upon married life? They must join together in the Trade Union movement and the Women's Suffrage movement. The best men were upon the women's side, and the conviction that men and women must stand together was spreading throughout the length and breadth of the land. An indirect result of the agitation is that the case of the girls and women is giving a moral impetus in the town to the Women's Suffrage movement. Since the demonstration referred to, Messrs. Huntley and Palmer have refused the interview demanded by the two Unions, and had up to the time of writing, returned no answer

to a similar application from the National Transport Workers' Association. Some hope, however, is entertained of a favourable change in the aspect of affairs upon the return to England of the chairman of the company, the Right Hon. G. W. Palmer, who is now on his way from India, where he has been attending the Royal Durbar at Delhi.

In Mr. Kenneth D. Scott's article last week on "Reading Biscuit Workers," he stated that "most girls receive from 8s. to 10s. a week." It should be explained that the girls begin at 4s. 6d. a week, and that their average wage is between 6s. 6d. and 7s. 6d. a week.

KATHERINE MASON.

**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.

**"SUCH STUFF AS DREAMS ARE MADE OF."**

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—I heartily endorse Mrs. K. Harvey's view that sarcasm is a poor weapon to use as a lever for replenishing your exchequer. Your reviewer, in his or her notice of "The Man-Made World," replies with good effect to the suggestion that noble sentiments work out to be such stuff as dreams are made of and leave not a wrack behind, by the wise remark: "It is all very well for people who call themselves practical to scoff at ideals. The least smattering of logic will show them that the practical is only the manifestation of the ideal." The woman's movement, if it is to succeed, must be inspired by high ideals. I like your paper, because it seems to me that your writers recognise this. I have listened with pleasure to many of your speakers, because they, too, are evidently inspired with the spirit which emanates from the organ of your League, and it is for this reason that I have dropped many a coin into your collecting-boxes.

Don't forget your ideals. It would be a sorry world without them.—Yours truly,  
Carshalton, Surrey.

LEONARD MASON.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—I hope that Mrs. Harvey is speaking for herself, and not for the rank and file of the W.F.L., when she says that we require tact to rouse us to give. It is a deplorable fact that many people do need to be hypnotised by a treasurer, persuaded by an appeal to their emotions, amused by bazaars, or flattered by tact into giving time and work, but surely the right way to give is to give to a cause on its own merits. Members of the W.F.L. should support it merely as an instrument for obtaining, in the most direct way, the reforms they may desire; we should have a self-supporting democracy, not a society depending for its funds on personal magnetism.

The treasurer, and all those interested in the treasury, know that often the poorer members who give the most work also give the most money. If the treasurer received purchasing power equivalent to the sacrifices made, there would be no limit to the work we could do. But it is impossible not to feel some scorn for the prosperous women who, while professing attachment to high ideals, do not make similar sacrifices to secure their practical attainment. At the present moment money is needed to put enthusiasm to practical use, and sympathy alone, however spiritual, is not such a valuable contribution as the material forms of work such as money giving, electioneering, and canvassing Members of Parliament.

The Freedom League would degrade itself if it had to rouse its members by "tact" or any other form of management. We do not lack speakers to rouse people to give by making them understand the need for reforms, and by appeals to their conscience and reason. None should belong to a democratic society who ask more for their money than that it should be prudently and economically used to attain the object for which the society exists.—Yours faithfully,  
Maitland House, Cambridge.

KATHERINE VULLIAMY.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—I read "K. Harvey's" letter in the Open Column of the last issue of THE VOTE feeling that I was in entire accord with her point of view. I know what it means to pore over bank balances; but I think in order to be "impersonal" and to devote ourselves ably to the "practical details" of the work, it is essential that the realisation of the "noble sentiments" of the W.F.L. should be regarded as our first aim and the Treasury as its necessary accompaniment.

Experience has taught me that "K. Harvey" utters truth when she says "it is not sound economy to arrive at purses by the road that is called sarcasm; receipts fall so pitifully short of expenditure." It is the force that lies in "noble sentiments" that will ensure the generous response to an appeal based upon them. On the other hand, "receipts" which are the results of a treasurer's sarcasm and scorn will assuredly be less in amount because, being merely human, many of us are unwilling to give where the giving brings no present sense of joy. What, therefore, is the use of this expenditure of sarcasm?—Yours faithfully,  
January 14.

ANOTHER TREASURER.

[Other letters on this subject are held over till next week.]

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## THE VOTE.

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

SATURDAY, January 20, 1912.

### THE ETHICS OF RESISTANCE.

Tied and bound as we are in our age by the chain of conventionalism, it is peculiarly difficult, even in thought, to stand free. "They say, What will they say?" is constantly at the back of our minds, and, if ever the winged horse, Imagination—which the Greeks called Pegasus—having soared above the clouds, alights upon the Earth and relates his experiences, he is ordered to depart, lest, high thought leading to impulsive action, his listeners should offend against the proprieties. Hence has arisen that confusion of motive and desire which has always been a block to resolution. "Thou shalt" and "Thou shalt not" jostle one another in our consciousness; the ethical and the conventional assume identical shapes; and the bewildered seeker after truth—"the one and only fair"—finds himself baffled.

Nowhere has this confusion of ideas been more marked than in that resistance to the Civil Law which is one of the methods used by Suffragists to establish and, if necessary, to enforce the claim of women to equal political rights with men.

Convention, naturally, is shocked. That the dear little woman—guardian-angel of her home and submissive servant of her lord—should enter upon the thorny path of resistance to the laws framed and administered by man must seem almost inconceivable to non-thinking members of a society governed for generations by the male ideal. And these, making their appeal to ethics, try to show that methods of resistance, especially when adopted by women, are dangerous to the community, and therefore wrong.

We, on the other hand, believe that this judgment, based on insufficient knowledge, is erroneous. We go further; we maintain that methods of resistance, under certain circumstances, are instinct with a definite, even a high, morality.

Early last century, when the United States of America were a slave-holding community, and when only a few great souls had recognised the enormity of their national crime, David Thoreau, a Quaker, having refused to fulfil some of his legal obligations towards the State, wrote a pamphlet, which is extant still, and which bears the curious title "On the Duty of Civil Disobedience." No one will deny that this use of the word "duty," especially from the lips of a truth-loving Quaker, has a peculiar significance. Taking it as our motto, let us consider our own position to-day.

It may be said, "There is no analogy. How can you speak of the enslaved thousands of America in those days, and the free British woman of to-day in the same breath? David Thoreau and his contemporaries may have acted righteously then; it does not follow that, in treading in their footsteps you are acting righteously now." We answer, While circumstances differ the principle is the same. Women in this country are subject to the authority of men. Their money, much of it earned by themselves, is collected in taxation. Their labour—their service—is taken, not on their own conditions, but on the conditions laid down by men; at present there is not even an equal standard of right and wrong for the two sexes; and justice (so-called) is adjudged and administered by one sex only. Opportunities for education; entry into the professions; training of her body in sports and gymnastic exercises—these, with the larger light of knowledge that is breaking upon human horizons, and the push of the advanced movements, have aroused woman to a sense of her subjection; and, since no fair answer to her just demands

has been given by those who hold the destinies of the nation in their hands, her ethical position is clear. It is her DUTY, braving convention and prejudice, to resist to the utmost limits of her power the laws that restrict her free movement, that tend to cripple her life, and that seriously affect the future of her children. To those who have seen, even dimly, that which lies behind resistance, it is more. It is as a Sacrament setting upon them the seal of service, binding them together in a common hope and love.

The methods of resistance? Broadly, there are two—passive and active. We of the Women's Freedom League have taken our part in both, and have suffered through imprisonment, seizure of our goods, and, at first, much personal obloquy. We earnestly hope that the struggle will not last much longer. We realise, however, the necessity of being prepared for all contingencies. Looking forward into the future, it would almost seem that the most effective weapon will be passive resistance—refusal to pay imperial taxes, hampering in every possible way the administration of laws that affect us and our children, with continual protests against injustice, which may take various forms.

Dealing specially with this method, which is as yet with us only in its infancy, we desire to call the attention of our readers to a case in very modern history when, through passive resistance, which has often been written down as absolutely inefficacious, a great deliverance has been wrought out. It happened in South Africa. In the year 1893 the Indians of Natal were disfranchised. Led by Mohandas K. Gandhi—a noble Indian of high birth—the Indian community, up to that moment apathetic, awoke to a new life. After a visit to South Africa, Mr. Gandhi had intended to return to his native land, but the persuasions of his countrymen in Natal prevailed. He remained amongst them, and "under his hand the Natal Congress and the Natal Indian Educational Association were formed." Much splendid work was done by these societies, which, in spite of opposition, held together, until, in 1899, the war broke out. That Indians rendered fine service to the British Army, and that many of them gave up their lives in that service is well known; a monument has been raised near Johannesburg to their memory. And it can be understood that, with the new order of things in South Africa, strong hopes of better and more equal treatment were entertained by Mr. Gandhi and his friends.

They were doomed to disappointment. Indians were excluded from citizen rights and degrading conditions continued. Immigration and Registration laws in the Transvaal were so framed as to prevent them from entering South Africa because they were Indians, and with the demands of the Registration Acts no self-respecting Indian could comply.

In spite of vigorous protest, including visits of Indian deputations to England, these Acts became part of the new South African constitution.

It was then that, in their desperation, the British Indians determined upon passive resistance. Time fails to tell of the heroic incidents of this struggle or to give even a faint idea of the fine spirit which animated both the women and the men engaged in it. Briefly we may record that it lasted for no less than five years, and that, during this time, between three and four thousand sentences of imprisonment were passed. Some persons were condemned four, five, six, seven and eight times. About two thousand five hundred individuals suffered, and two deaths were the direct result of imprisonment. The sufferings of the women and children during this prolonged struggle, and the fortitude of the women who encouraged their husbands and sons to hold out, making light of their own hardships, will, in the future, make one of the finest pages in the history of the age-long battle for righteousness. Now, as there is every reason to believe, success has crowned their efforts. General Smuts has given way. A provisional settlement has been arrived at, and it is confidently hoped

that, in February next, when the Union Parliament meets, legislation satisfactory to the Indian community will be passed.

Let this fine example stimulate us to perseverance! We are bound to win. The time of battle may be long or short. That is not within the region of our control. But what we can do we will. Fully convinced that resistance is ethical, and that to resist is a duty which we owe to our nation and to ourselves, none of us who have the opportunity will refrain from action. The battle is not always to the strong, as history has demonstrated again and again. Rather it is to those who, with eyes fixed on the goal they seek to reach, allow nothing to daunt them.

C. DESPARD.

### MAY WRIGHT SEWALL: INTERNATIONALIST.

To unify the unlike. This is the goal towards which Mrs. May Wright Sewall, Honorary President of the International Council of Women, has been working for more than twenty years. Not that she desires to bring all

women—or men either—to one dead level of sameness. Quite the reverse. She knows that variety is the spice of life, but she knows, too, that the women of the world, as also the men, are even yet far from realising their sisterhood and brotherhood. Born in a home through which the breath of freedom blew, she had ever a passion to help in the advancement of her fellows—the higher education of women, the political enfranchisement of women, moral and social reform, particularly the substitution of peace and arbitration for war. Then came the vision of a bond of union between women the wide world over: individuality and nationality maintained, yet, in co-operation, women doing the work that waits and needs them, standing shoulder to shoulder against grievous wrongs and lifting life to a higher level. The vision has materialised; the International Council of Women exists; already twenty-four countries are united; soon it will encircle the earth. Here are the ideals which the women stand for, towards which they strive: Peace and arbitration; equal political and civil rights; an equal moral standard for men and women; the improvement of public health; the spread of international education.

Into the room came a lady, tall, dignified, but whose very presence exhaled a winning friendliness; her white hair a crown of glory, and beneath it eyes dancing with youth and energy. It was Mrs. Mary Wright Sewall, whose presence in England at the moment must be taken as a compliment, since she is endeavouring to escape the trans-Atlantic "hustle," and, in the quiet of the Old Country, is busy writing another book.

"I do not find it as easy as I expected; there are so many delightful interests; I am tempted away from my work so often; but what I see may find its way one day into a book after all!"

"You find that the Suffragists keep the Old Country from getting too sleepy and dull?"

"Yes, surely; Suffragists must always be alert and alive. I know what Suffrage campaigns are. Already in

1878 I was working hard for the Cause in Nebraska; I am an old campaigner; in my own city, Indianapolis, and elsewhere I have organised, written, and spoken. For seven years I was chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Woman Suffrage Association. In 1888, when we were celebrating the fourth decade of the Suffrage Movement, I had the honour of introducing a resolution, the adoption of which led to the founding of the National Council of Women of the United States and the International Council of Women."

"I know that these Councils are your chief love now."

"Chief love, yes; but that does not mean the abandonment of my old loves, Suffrage, education, &c.; the Council includes them all."

"And you are the originator of the idea?"

"I do not put it like that. I believe in the working of the forces of Nature. Then in the evolutionary process there comes a time when ideas materialise, when a definite step can be taken. I was, if you like, the channel of this idea, comprehending and materialising it."

"How did you begin?"

"I began with the big idea of uniting all kinds of women in all countries in council; but I knew that a council must be national before it could be a part of the international, so I began in my own home and country. I wanted to bring together the women who were most unlike. You know that in Shakespeare Societies, for instance, or religious organisations, it is the men and women who think alike who meet together. This is very good in its way, but it is apt to lead to narrowness and exclusiveness. I wanted something broader; I wanted to get women to ignore their differences and hunt up their resemblances."

"You found plenty of variety among American women before you began on international women, I am sure."

"I did. At first we recognised that all we could do was to come together, to get acquainted, to learn to

know each other, to be friendly. This took some time, but meanwhile I was working at the bigger idea. I made three visits to Europe for the purpose between 1888 and 1898. When this aspect was emphasised at Chicago, there came to 'The World's Congress of Representative Women' delegates from thirty-four countries."

"That meant organisation on a huge scale?"

"You will have some idea of what it was when I tell you that meetings were held simultaneously, the smallest number going on at the same time was nine, the largest twenty-three, and the meetings were attended by from 25,000 to 30,000 people."

"You presided over the Congress?"

"Yes, I had the honour, being President of the American Council; I also edited the 'Transactions' in two volumes. I have since completed two further volumes, giving the history of the International Council during my five years' presidency, 1899-1904. Since the memorable gathering at Chicago we have met every five years in the capital or important city of other countries represented on the Council; the order has been London, Berlin, Toronto, in 1914 we hope to meet in Rome. And the countries which have



Photo. Marcant, Boston.  
MRS. MAY WRIGHT SEWALL  
(Hon. President of the International Council of Women.)



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## PETER ROBINSON'S ANNUAL SALE

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joined us? Here are some of them, in addition to the United States and Great Britain: Germany, Canada, Sweden, New Zealand, all the Australian States before the inauguration of the Commonwealth, France, Finland, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, Italy, Hungary, Austria, Bulgaria, Servia, Greece, Argentina. Let me mention that the Government of Argentina is the only one which has regularly subsidised its Council; it has done so for ten years, increasing the subsidy in recognition of the skilful and effective work of the women in promoting the charities of the country. The Argentina Council, by the way, publishes a monthly journal which is one of the best women's papers I know."

"And what is the plan of action of the Council?"

"You must realise that each country has its own Council, which deals with its special needs and conditions; we all stand, however, for certain great principles, which we discuss and adopt at the meetings of the International Council. The first adopted was Peace and Arbitration—always a subject very close to my heart, and for which I have long worked actively; our keen demand for women's enfranchisement is included in our principle of equal political and civil rights for men and women. Then we stand for an equal moral standard for men and women, which, of course, covers a wide field, not leaving out the White Slave traffic, to the abolition of which we are all pledged. Our internationalism, too, leads us to desire to further education, enabling the different countries to know the varied circumstances and conditions which obtain. I believe that the abatement of national prejudice lies at the foundation of successful world legislation; race-pride and selfish greed are the causes of dissension, whether in private or international life."

"So you are a breaker of barriers and a builder of bridges, and all the women in the National or International Councils are pledged to this noble ideal."

"Pledged, yes; but do not forget that our pace must be the pace of the weakest of our members; we must carry the whole International Council with us in every forward step we take. We have much need of patience, but we may well say with Galileo, *E pur si muove!* I feel it is a greater work to help forward even a little way a large number of people than to go out of sight oneself through a rapid advance."

Those who have known Mrs. Sewall longest and best have given her a delightful name—the Inspirer. A woman of wide culture, linguist, traveller, organiser, writer, lecturer, educationist, she has not allowed her abilities to carry her far out of sight; she has used them for the benefit of her fellows. In association with her husband she founded in 1882 the Classical School for Girls at Indianapolis, and only withdrew after twenty-five years' service as Principal. In this school she carried out many of her educational theories, such as education in household science, domestic arts, and physical culture, in addition to the most thorough preparation for college and university. She has organised more than fifty women's clubs in different parts of America; she was one of the founders of the Federation of Women's Clubs, and its first Vice-President. Her work on behalf of women was recognised by President McKinley, who appointed her to represent the work of the women of the United States at the Congresses held in Paris during the Exhibition of 1900. To bring East and West together in mutual understanding has been one of her aims since her youth, and she carried it out in a practical way so long ago as 1875 by inducing Jews, Romanists, and Protestants to study with her the ancient religions of the East. Nor would any picture of Mrs. Sewall be complete without the bright lighting of her saving grace of humour; serious in purpose, she is ever alive to the funny side of a question, and often acts on the effective plan of driving home a truth with a jest. Mrs. May Wright Sewall is an American by birth, but she is the incarnation of the true spirit of internationalism.

A. A. S.

### A PIONEER: DR. SOPHIA JEX-BLAKE.

From *The Aberdeen Free Press* we take the following interesting account of Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake and her fight to secure the recognition of women as medical students:—

"The announcement in yesterday's issue of the death of Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake will recall to older readers the great fight in which she took part for women's entry to the medical curriculum. It is more than forty years ago now, and even the echoes of the combat have died away, but the results of the stand taken then are to be seen in the modern attitude to the woman doctor.

"Miss Jex-Blake, who was born in 1840, was at first a mathematical tutor. As the result of a tour in the United States, however, her attention was turned to medicine, and especially to the medical education of women. In America she met Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, who in 1849 was the first woman to obtain a doctor's diploma. Miss Jex-Blake herself studied medicine at Boston in 1866 and 1867, and took an active part in the campaign being carried on in the States for the recognition of women practitioners. When she returned to England, however, thinking to take her degree, she found that she had left the land of freedom and progress for one where the barriers of conservatism were hard to scale. The Act of 1858 forbade anyone to practise who did not hold a licence granted by a British board of examiners, and such a licence no woman could possess—the doors of the universities were closed. In 1865, it is true, Miss Elizabeth Garrett (better known as Dr. Garrett Anderson) had her name placed on the British Medical Register but although the authorities were not unwilling to see such a *rara avis*, they refused to let such an admission serve as a precedent. The University of London met Miss Jex-Blake's request for admission with a curt 'non-possumus.'

"Not to be denied, Miss Jex-Blake turned to Edinburgh University with a demand for admission to the medical classes. The authorities refused to make special provision for a single lady. This was a difficulty easily overcome, for a number of ladies at once came forward, and in 1869 provision was made for their reception. They were taught in separate class-rooms, and at the close of the first session it was found that they had obtained higher places in the class lists than the men students! That seemed likely to prove their undoing. The hostility of the males was roused, and when the ladies (whose ranks were being steadily augmented) asked leave to study in the wards of the city infirmary, criticism broke into open opposition, and the ladies were mobbed at the gates of Surgeons' Hall. For a time they were protected by a score of sturdy students who espoused their cause, but their studies were brought to a close by a resolution passed by the lecturers in Surgeons' Hall, amid great opposition throughout the country, forbidding women to attend their classes. Resort was had to the law, and Lord Gifford in 1872 decided in favour of the women's petition to be allowed to complete the curriculum. Next year, however, the decision was reversed on appeal, and Miss Jex-Blake gave up the struggle. Returning to London, she took the lead in founding the London School of Medicine for Women, which was opened in 1874. Two years later an Act of Parliament enabled British examining bodies to recognise women as doctors, and the fight was won.

"We are so accustomed to having women medical students nowadays that it is difficult to imagine the extraordinary storm roused by the efforts of these pioneers. Charges of unwomanliness, even of indecency, were levelled at Miss Jex-Blake and her companions. Writing to the press in 1871, a Miss Peachey, of Edinburgh, complained that knots of young men find pleasure in following a woman through the streets, and take advantage of her being alone to shout after her all the foulest epithets in their very voluminous vocabulary of abuse. These things seem to belong to another age, instead of to a time well within living memory."

### THE BOXTED EVICTIONS.

We still await the evidence of the impending inquiry into the evictions from the Salvation Army's small holdings at Boxted, Suffolk. Following the facts as given in the Press, we note that "General" Booth has explained the position from the point of view of the Army, and lays stress on unsatisfactory workers as well as patience extended towards them. On the other hand, there is strong evidence as to the difficulties of the workers, especially with regard to the soil, and the fact that the evicted people were specially chosen, both as to character and capability, for the experiment. They merit a hearing.

WE HAVE MUCH PLEASURE in advising our readers to attend the concert to be given by Miss Agnes Fennings, L.R.A.M., and five other excellent artistes (Miss Phyllis Scott; Mme Beatrice Goddard, who, it may be remembered, gave a delightful rendering of "The Awakening" at a recent W.F.L. meeting. Mr. W. Fuller-Clarke; Mr. Owens Claydon, and Mr. Aubrey Ford), at the Steinway Hall, W., on Tuesday evening, January 30. As is well known, the Misses Fennings have been amongst the most active supporters of the League, and especially of THE VOTE, and we feel sure everyone will be glad of this opportunity of showing appreciation of their work. Tickets may be obtained at 149, Croydon-road, Anerley.

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Madam,

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An early visit will be esteemed a favour.

### BRANCH NOTES.

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

**LONDON AND SUBURBS.**—London Branches Council. —Hon. Secretary: MISS ETHEL CLAYTON, "Askrigg," The Mall, Southgate, N.

The London Branches Council met at 1, Robert-street on Tuesday, January 9. One of the most important matters decided was that a public meeting should be held at the Caxton Hall on Thursday, February 15. Mrs. Despard has promised to speak for us, and we are hoping that Mrs. How Martyn will be well enough to take the chair. The other speakers will be announced later. Since this meeting comes immediately after the opening of Parliament, members will not need reminding that from a political point of view it will be a very important one. We hope that all the affiliated London Branches will realise their responsibility, and do all in their power to ensure the success of the meeting, and that we shall also have the co-operation of the unaffiliated Branches and other members of the League. Tickets and handbills will be ready shortly, but it is not too early to make the meeting known amongst our friends. A very good programme has been arranged for the Café Chantant on January 20, when we hope to see again many of our members and friends. Please come representing a song. The details are given in "Forthcoming Events."

**Anerley and Crystal Palace.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road.

Members are reminded their subscriptions are due this month. We offered before Christmas to present a free copy of THE VOTE to the Penge Public Library every week. This offer was refused without any reason being given, so we are still carrying on a vigorous agitation.

**Croydon.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue, Croydon. Office: 32a, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon.

At our first "At Home" on the 12th inst., we were favoured with a splendid address by Mrs. Sproson, who spoke directly and strongly on the subject of "The Vote and the Working Woman." She was able from her many experiences to illustrate her various points, in which she showed how greatly the working woman needs the protection which only the power of the vote can give her. It was regrettable that so small a number of members were present. Members are urged to make these meetings known. Will every member do her utmost to be present at



**Important Notice.**

**WILLIAM OWEN**

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|                        | Bedding                |
|                        | Cutlery                |
|                        | Kitchen                |
| Hosiery                | Requisites             |
| Gloves                 | China and Glass        |
| Millinery              | Silver Goods           |
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| Feathers               | Toys and Outdoor Games |
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NO CATALOGUES ARE BEING ISSUED FOR THIS SALE.

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the social on the 23rd inst., so that a financial as well as a social success may be assured?

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

On Thursday evening, January 11, a members' business meeting was held at 161, Croyed-road, Dulwich, at which resolutions and amendments on the Conference agenda were discussed; Mrs. Bertram-Hobson was appointed delegate to the Conference. The next meeting for members will be held on Monday, January 22, at 199, Norwood-road, at 7 p.m.; plans for local Branch work will be discussed. On Sunday, January 21, Mrs. B. H. Jones will open a discussion on "The Political Situation" in respect to Woman Suffrage, at the South London Ethical Societies' Debating Circle at 60, Lyndhurst-road, Peckham, S.E., at 11.15 a.m. Branch members and friends are cordially invited to attend.

**Mid-London.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Tritton, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing, W.

At our Branch meeting on the 8th, Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Tritton were elected delegates to the annual Conference, and instructed as to the way they should vote on behalf of the Branch. I hope as many members as possible will be present at the Conference on 27th and 28th to hear the discussion on the policy of the League and matters affecting its internal organisation.

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

The speakers' class will meet on February 8 at Mrs. Thomson's, tea being served at 4 p.m. The resolution will be moved by Mrs. Thomson punctually at 4.30, and the meeting will continue without any interruption till 5.30. The sewing-class will meet as usual on Wednesday at 3 p.m., and on Saturday evening, the 20th, a few members and their friends will meet at Mrs. Cunningham's to discuss "What Help Will the Vote Give to Working Women?"

**SOUTH OF ENGLAND.—Brighton and Hove.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss HARE, 8, San Remo, Hove.

There will be a members' meeting at 8, San Remo, on Monday, January 22 at 6.30 p.m. All members are requested to attend, as the matters to be discussed are important, viz.: the resolutions for the W.F.L. Conference, also arrangements for spring work and meetings locally.

**Portsmouth and Gosport.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. WHEATON, 64, Devonshire-avenue, Southsea.

Owing to indisposition Mrs. Donald Shaw was unable to read her most interesting paper, "Woman's Sphere—Past, Present and Future," at Gosport, on January 9; it was read by Miss Hattrill and a good discussion followed. The jumble sale was very successful. Will members please begin to save for another?

The next members' meeting will be held on January 23 at 6, Clarence-view at 7 p.m., to discuss the Conference agenda.

**WALES AND MONMOUTH.—Swansea.**—Hon. Organising Secretary: Mrs. KNIGHT, 23, Walter-road. Hon. Corresponding Secretary: Miss PHIPPS, B.A., 5, Grosvenor-road.

Our deputation to the Health Committee of the Town Council, asking them to consider the provision of municipal lodgings for women, was received most courteously. Mrs. Knight, Miss Neal, Miss Salmon, and Miss E. Holmes represented the League. The committee listened very sympathetically, and the chairman, Alderman David Williams, said he hoped something would be done in the course of a few weeks. On Wednesday, January 24, at 8 p.m., at Dynevor-place, Rev. H. J. Sandheim will lecture on "Woman and Judaism."

**SCOTLAND.—Dundee.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss L. CLUNAS, 1, Blackness-crescent.

The Branch meetings were resumed on Thursday last. Miss Helen Wilkie, M.A., presided over a good audience. The speaker for the evening was Miss Emily K. Brown, Director of Physical Studies under the Dundee School Board. Miss Brown's subject was "Physical Culture," with special reference to incorrect postures and deep breathing. The disastrous effects of bad methods of sitting, standing, and walking were shown; rules for breathing given and faults demonstrated. Good breathing was instanced as a potent factor in moral training and in physical endurance. The many questions answered by Miss Brown showed that her hearers realised that slackness of body means slackness of mind and general inefficiency. Tickets were issued for Mrs. Sproson's Burns lecture, and we hope to have a bumper house.—J. A. SMART, Hon. Press Secretary.

**Edinburgh.**—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.

An audience which filled the shop to overflowing assembled at our opening meeting for 1912, and very heartily appreciated the entertainment arranged by Mrs. Finlayson Gould. Songs and recitations were contributed by Miss Fairbairn, Miss Durkin, Miss Michael, Misses Rankin, Mr. Adair, and Mr. and Mrs. Finlayson Gould, and a dramatic sketch, "The Helstone Drum," was acted by Miss Bycroft and Mr. McLean. To all these ladies and gentlemen our thanks are due. In the course of the evening reference was made by the secretary to the life and work of the late Dr. Jex Blake, who was so prominently connected with Edinburgh. There still remains a week in which to ensure the success of our Burns Night. We do not know of a previous case in which a woman has been the lecturer on a

Burns Night—and an Englishwoman at that! The concert and the tableaux should also arouse much interest. At the same time we hope that members will make a point of attending the business meeting on the preceding evening.

**Glasgow.**—Hon. Treasurer: Miss J. L. BUNTON. Hon. Secretary: Miss MINA STEVENS. Suffrage Centre, 302, Sauchiehall-street, Glasgow.

On Friday, January 19, at 8.0 p.m., a public meeting, addressed by Mrs. Sproson, will be held in the Centre. The subject "The Vote and the Working Woman," should be interesting to all. The Council will meet at 6.30 p.m. the same evening. On Saturday, January 20, at 3.0 p.m., a special meeting of the Branch will be held to consider the resolutions for the Conference. Those who were at the Whist Party on Thursday all declared it was a great success. The committee wish to thank Miss E. Hamilton, Miss May, Mrs. Sringeeour, Miss White and Miss Bunton for donations in kind, which helped to keep down expenses.

**THE PROPAGANDA PLAYERS.**

Branch secretaries will be interested to hear that the Propaganda Players, who have been in active rehearsal for the last few weeks, are now ready to book engagements for the rest of the winter season. They will perform Suffrage plays and plays dealing with the Woman Question for any Branch without fee provided such Branch will pay all out-of-pocket expenses, and, if necessary, provide the players with hospitality, all profits resulting from the entertainment to be retained by the Branch. There are vacancies in the company for two gentlemen, and the hon. secretary will be glad to hear from experienced amateurs. The Propaganda Players hope to supply a felt want and to be of great assistance to the Branches. There is no doubt that a strong Suffrage play is excellent propaganda and the players have the sole acting rights of some very good plays.

For all particulars apply to Mrs. E. P. Fielden, "Lynton," Dormers Wells, Southall, Middlesex.

**"HARD-UP" SOCIAL.**

Members who want to help the Cause and at the same time, to spend an enjoyable evening are asked to book Saturday, February 17, for the "Hard-Up" Social at the Gardenia Restaurant, Catherine-street (next Drury-lane Theatre.) Tickets, price 1s., will soon be obtainable from Headquarters, and all London Branch secretaries. The evening's entertainment will include Dancing, Suffrage Plays performed by the Actresses' Franchise League, vocal and instrumental music, palmistry and Morris dancing. Guests are asked to provide the supper by

(Continued on page 156.)

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS.**

**LONDON AND SUBURBS.**

**Thurs., Jan. 18.**—CLAPHAM BRANCH MEETING at 113, West Side, Clapham Common, 7.30 p.m. KENSINGTON BRANCH MEETING at 64, Bedford-gardens, Campden hill, 8 p.m. NORTHERN HEIGHTS BRANCH MEETING, 29, Marquis-road, Stroud-green, 7.30.

**Fri., Jan. 19.**—CROYDON WEEKLY "At Home," at 3.30 p.m. Lecture by Mrs. Marion Holmes on "The Torch of Feminism."

**Sat., Jan. 20.**—CAXTON HALL, Whist Drive and Cafe Chantant, 7-10 p.m. Whist, Games, Music. Tickets, 1s. 6d. (children 1s.). No extras. From Mrs. Fisher, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi.

**Sun., Jan. 21.**—S. LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETIES' DEBATING CIRCLE, 60, Lyndhurst-road, Peckham, S.E. Mrs. B. H. Jones on "The Political Situation in Respect to Woman Suffrage," 11.15 a.m.

**Mon., Jan. 22.**—HERNE HILL AND NORWOOD BRANCH MEMBERS' MEETING, 199, Norwood-road, S.E., 7 p.m.

**Tues., Jan. 23.**—SOCIAL AND WHIST DRIVE at the Croydon Office, 7.30.

**Fri., Jan. 26.** CROYDON WEEKLY "AT HOME," 3.30 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Anna Munro.

**Sat., Jan. 27.**—W. F. L. ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 10 a.m.

**Sun., Jan. 28.**—W. F. L. ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Caxton Hall, 10 a.m. Bow Baths. Meeting in support of a Government Adult Suffrage measure next Session, 8 p.m. George Lansbury and others. Chair: Mrs. Despard.

**Tues., Jan. 30.**—DISCUSSION MEETING, Gardenia Restaurant, 6, Catherine-street, W.C. (next door Drury Lane Theatre), 8 p.m. Mr. G. E. O'Dell on "George Bernard Shaw's *Blanco Posnet*—the Play that the Censor banned."

**Fri., Feb. 2.**—CROYDON WEEKLY "AT HOME," 3.30 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. Betham.

**Tues., Feb. 6.**—DISCUSSION MEETING, Gardenia Restaurant, 8 p.m. Lady Meyer on "Home Science for Women—is the Movement a Progressive One?"

**Fri., Feb. 9.**—CROYDON WEEKLY "AT HOME," 3.30 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. Bessie Drysdale.

**Mon., Feb. 12.**—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEMBERS' ANNUAL MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 7 p.m.

**Thurs., Feb. 15.**—Public Meeting, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard and others.

**Sat., Feb. 17.**—Hard-Up Social, Gardenia Restaurant.

**PROVINCES.**

**Thurs., Jan. 18.**—Manchester.—Opening of New Office, 46A, Market-street, Manchester. Mrs. Despard.

**Mon., Jan. 29.**—Gedalming.—Borough Hall. Mrs. Despard.

**SCOTLAND.**

**Tues., Jan. 23.**—Dundee.—GILFILLAN HALL, 8 p.m. Burns Lecture. Mrs. Sproson. Tickets, 3d.

**Mon., Jan. 22.**—Perth.—Guild Hall, 8 p.m. "The Philosophy of Robert Burns," by Mrs. Sproson. Admission 6d.

**Sat., Jan. 20.**—Dunfermline.—Mrs. Sproson.

**Wed., Jan. 24.**—Kilmarnock.—Mrs. Sproson.

**Edinburgh.**  
**Wed., Jan. 24.**—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road, 8 p.m. Business Meeting.

**Thurs., Jan. 25.**—ODDFELLOWS' HALL, Forrest-road, 8 p.m. Burns' Night. *Speaker:* Mrs. Sproson. Songs by Mrs. Marion Christie, Mrs. Alfred Young, Miss Jean Gordon, Mr. Alex Murray, and others. Tableau. Tickets, 1s. and 6d.

**Glasgow.**  
**Fri., Jan. 19.**—Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Sproson on "The Vote and the Working Woman." Council meets at 6.30 p.m.

**Sat., Jan. 20.**—Special Branch Meeting at 3 p.m.

THE ANNUAL MATINEE OF THE WOMEN WRITERS' SUFFRAGE LEAGUE will take place at the New Princes' Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, on February 9. A very interesting item of the programme will be a new one-act play by Miss Elizabeth Baker, the author of "Chains."

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(Continued from page 155.)

bringing contributions in kind. We append a list of several kind friends who have generously come forward with special donations to cover initial expenses. Further contributions will be gratefully welcomed by the hon. treasurer, Miss Lillian Woolf, 46, Mazenod-avenue, West Hampstead. Other communications to be addressed to the hon. secretary, Madame J. van Raalte, 23, Pandora-road, West Hampstead. The treasurer acknowledges the following, with thanks:—Mrs. Vulliamy, 7s. 4d.; R. Pott, Esq., £1; H. Fry, Esq., 5s.; Miss Briant, 5s.

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