

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. IV. No. 98.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1911.

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.

### Women and Food Prices.

During the last few days the daily press has given prominence to reports of riots in northern France in consequence of the high prices of food. Though the military have been called out to quell serious disturbances, the movement had a perfectly justifiable beginning, for it was a spontaneous outburst on the part of women who, as housekeepers, felt the pinch of dear food. A special correspondent of *The Times*, writing of the varied happenings, intimates that no great harm would have come of the demonstration if the women had been left to themselves. We do not wish to enter into the question as to whether enhanced prices of food are due to heat and drought, or to high tariffs, or to over-grasping traders, but the demonstration shows that it is women who speedily feel such economic pressure and are, in consequence, compelled to take action.

### Voteless Viennese Women.

News from Vienna also proves that a similar stress of high prices is effecting a remarkable change in the attitude of the Austrian woman towards politics. Hitherto she has held aloof, partly from indifference from which it was difficult to rouse her, partly because the law forbids women to take part in any political meeting, or to form any political society. Our Austrian sisters are now realising that politics will not leave them alone, and the increasing cost of the necessaries of life is rousing them to the fact that Members of Parliament are too much occupied with party interests to take due heed of the welfare of the community. Politics touch the question of cheap food, but the voteless women have come to understand that, without political rights or power, no one cares for their wants or their opinions. We do not desire that hunger shall be the sharp goad which drives women to see the importance of their enfranchisement, but present-day happenings are proving that high food prices may have surprising and startling results.

### A Procession of 200,000.

We are proud of our women's suffrage processions in London, and are especially glad to know that news of the great demonstration of June 17 has travelled far

and wide. Brussels has lately seen a still larger demonstration, in which 200,000 processionists took part, with universal suffrage as one of the great purposes in view. On one of the multitude of banners was the following inscription:—

At 18 we may marry.

At 20 we are called upon to be soldiers.

At 21 we demand the vote.

From all parts of Belgium came earnest men and women: socialists, radicals, professors, manufacturers, traders, working-men and women, and students. The demonstration was also a protest against clerical domination in the schools. Priests control all the public schools, and the Government provides the money out of public funds. A proposed additional grant of twenty million francs per annum gave point to the protest, and one of the banners bore these words:—

Science in the Schools. Religion in the Churches.

The significance of the protest is to be found in the fact that although the Belgian workman has one vote, the priests and official classes have four, and women are voteless.

### A Deputation of Women to the Sultan.

Things are moving in earnest in Turkey. As a rule the wisdom of hastening slowly may be taken for granted, yet the rapidity of the march of events since the establishment of the new régime is simply amazing. It has been charged against the leaders of the reform movement that they have left Turkish women out of count. There may be justification for this charge, but one must endeavour to realise the immense difficulties that have had to be met, not the least of which was to find men capable of working uprightly and loyally under the new conditions of an administration which set itself against corruption. The Turkish women, however, are wisely taking matters into their own hands, and a few days ago succeeded in gaining a promise from the Sultan that he would exert himself on their behalf. That a Sultan of Turkey should receive a mildly political deputation of women and give them a very favourable hearing would have astonished even the most optimistic of us three years ago. Yet this is what has happened for the first time in Turkish history. "On being admitted to the Sultan's presence," says one account of the surprising event, "the women threw themselves at his feet and complained that the leaders of the women's reform movement were being persecuted; they asked for the suspension of the edict banning clubs for women." One of the most intelligent of Turkish women, who realises the need of her sisters in enlightenment and education, started a club where they could meet and discuss matters that intimately concern women, such as hygiene, improved conditions in the home, the training of children, and education. The movement was not regarded with favour by men of the old school, and it has had a precarious existence. We hope the women's deputation to the Sultan, led by the wife of Tewfik Pasha, a foremost politician in Turkey to-day and the sister of Ahmed Riza, the President of the Turkish Parliament, will have favourable results in this and other respects. We rejoice in the courage shown by Turkish women.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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### AT HEADQUARTERS.

The National Executive Committee was in session Friday and Saturday. Mrs. Coates Hansen was in the chair, and the following members also attended:—Mrs. Despard, Mrs. How Martyn, Miss Tite, Mrs. Snow, Miss Jack, Mrs. Vulliamy, Mrs. Sproson, Miss Manning, Miss Neilans, Miss Munro, and Miss Sidley. A good deal of work was got through and plans for future work were thoroughly discussed. The appointment of Miss C. Nina Boyle as assistant to the general secretary was confirmed. Miss Boyle is a member of the Women's Enfranchisement League, Johannesburg. During the time she has been in England Miss Boyle has acted as delegate for the Guild of Loyal Women of South Africa at the Victoria League Conference; delegate for South Africa at the International Alliance Congress at Stockholm, and attended the Universal Races Congress with a watching brief for the Suffrage cause, and with Mrs. Macfadyen represented the views of the Woman Citizen's League, Capetown. Miss Boyle has for the last eight months spoken for all sections of the Suffrage movement in England, and has finally been drawn within the Freedom League by the prospects of strenuous work held out in its extension programme.

With regard to Scotland, the committee congratulated Miss Munro on the splendid work done in the Clyde campaign. We had hoped to have Miss Munro working here for the London Branches Council during the autumn but the Clyde campaign has been so successful that the committee agreed to the proposal of the Scottish Council that Miss Munro should return to follow up her work in Scotland so that the results could be made more effective. Miss Munro sold our literature and copies of THE VOTE exceedingly well in Scotland. "Florence Nightingale" and "Josephine Butler" were in great demand, and whereas at the beginning of her campaign four dozen copies of THE VOTE were ordered weekly, she ended it by easily disposing of twenty dozen copies quite early in the week. We feel that our members when on holiday or even when at home could render invaluable assistance to our Literature department and THE VOTE through a little more personal effort. Both the publications above-mentioned have had very favourable notices in the Press, and Miss Munro declared that when people in Scotland had once been persuaded to take a copy of THE VOTE it was the natural thing for them to take subsequent numbers regularly and to recommend it to their friends.

The committee also decided that the Caravan campaign in the Eastern Counties should be continued. Miss Sidley has during the summer done excellent propaganda work from the Caravan, and has been loyally assisted by Miss Henderson, Miss Elderton, and Miss Elliott. This part of our work is a heavy expense to the League, for the Caravan does not go to large towns where good collections can be taken, but it is the means of advocating Votes for Women in villages where Suffrage meetings have not previously been held. As helpers for the Caravan are badly wanted, and funds for the continuance of this work most urgently needed at the present moment, will all friends of woman's Suffrage send us assistance quickly? Miss Sidley leaves the Caravan for a fortnight's campaign in Bournemouth on September 12, and we want money and helpers to take the Caravan further east. If our friends only realise the importance of this part of our work, we are

convinced they will contribute generously to the caravan campaign.

To return to the work in London, we would remind our readers again that those who wish to hear Mr. G. K. Chesterton's argument that "Female Suffrage is the Last Blow to Democracy," must secure their tickets early. Mr. Chesterton opens the first of our discussion meetings at Queen's Hall, Wednesday, October 4, at 8 p.m. The chair will be taken by Miss C. V. Tite, and tickets can be obtained from this office at 2s. 6d., 2s., and 1s. each. Subsequent discussion meetings will be held each Wednesday evening at Essex Hall, admission to which will be free. Reserved seats, one shilling. Several Branch "At Homes" have been arranged, particulars of which will be found in the list of forthcoming events.  
F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### KILMARNOCK AND THE CONCILIATION BILL.

We shall soon have the splendid opportunity afforded by a by-election in Kilmarnock Burghs for a specially active campaign for the Conciliation Bill.

The actions of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the frantic appeal of the Anti-Suffragists to Mr. Asquith for a referendum before the granting of facilities next year have but succeeded in getting us the publicity which is so useful. Mr. Snowden's clear, logical and well-reasoned arguments in his latest pamphlet, "In Defence of the Conciliation Bill" must convince every open-minded person that Suffragists are wise in their day and generation to concentrate on the only Bill which has been drafted, not to afford an amusing discussion for a Friday afternoon, but to pass into law.

It must be remembered that the Anti-Suffragists hope in the Committee stage to make the supporters of the Bill quarrel so much among themselves over possible or impossible amendments that the Bill will be wrecked. No specious arguments can blind us to this danger, and no friendly or hostile reproaches as to its undemocratic character ought to be allowed to turn us from our demand that the Conciliation Bill must become law in the Session of 1912.

To quote Mr. Snowden: "To do that will need cohesion, determination, and toleration among the friends of the Cause. The women must work as even they have never worked before. They must concentrate on the Bill. It must be explained until everybody understands what it is and why it is."

That is how we shall work in Kilmarnock. Until we know the views of the candidates, we cannot say whether we shall oppose any candidate or whether we shall carry on a propaganda campaign. One thing is certain, we shall not support either of the candidates. Miss Munro is to be in charge. The constituency is a large one, and plenty of helpers will be needed. Money is as essential as helpers; donations for the campaign should be sent to Miss Tite, other offers of help to me.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

### AMERICAN ADVANCE.

#### Justice for Wives.

Two new laws for the removal of the disabilities of married women have come into effect this summer. One in Michigan gives to the wife the right to her own earnings. Until now a husband, no matter how worthless, could collect all the wages earned by his wife and spend them at his will. In Iowa a new law makes it possible for a married woman receiving personal injury through negligence of an individual or company, in her own right to sue for damages. Heretofore the law required that the husband sue for the loss of his wife's services, if redress was sought. But this new law states that in no case shall the damages allowed to a wife exceed \$6,000.

### TREASURER'S NOTE.

Now that many of us are probably returning from our holidays I should like to remind everyone that the Freedom League, as a society, does not take a holiday. The headquarters office is always open, work is always continuing, and the expenses are as heavy as usual. This is where I should like all our sympathisers to reflect when they are, as I hope, preparing to send a donation to headquarters for the inauguration of the autumn work. Most of the contributions I receive come in disguise, as it were. They are not mere cheques and postal orders, they represent hard work, generally done in the scanty hours of leisure after the regular day's work, or they represent sacrifices not only of pleasures, but sometimes of real necessities. They come in the guise of encouragement and inspiration to those who are directing the national work of the League—as a proof (they are beginning to) mination which has enabled Sof their chief duties.

Such a remarkable change of opinion goes in so short a time. But after I do not care to see as the grappling with prosaic facts, I only care for their Committee grappled for money or position; and I am obliged to admit, hows and those of their when once the money arrives in pure and high moral see it with the eyes of a Peter Bey have no vote, no A sovereign in the Treasurir opinions, and that A yellow sovereign is t those matters which And it is nothing more!

Let every one remember the tr this unbearable situa- facilities only; it rests with us t, k for the abolition of that there must be no trifling wit meeting or to found How Martyn alone tells me she w elections at Bethnal Green and brilliant pieces of work; owing splendid organising talents of

### CAMPAIGN.

Sidley that brilliance has been effoggeshall residents, Mrs. nd asked us to tea at her cost as would fill the ordinary nd arranged an informal anted to hear about our envy. But before we can do the e, and was most kind in catches the eye of the public whs, and we went down avily, but we went down awaiting us. Some had organisation, and I call upon the was a large and apprecia to come forward to my help. ir collection. The next

### NATIONAL FUND (Branch and District Funds) Amount previously acknowledged December, 1910, £11,

Amount previously acknowledged	£	s.	d.
Knowledge	2,022	10	2
Mrs. Brook	5	0	0
A Friend	4	4	0
Anonymous (per Mrs. Despard)	10	0	0
Miss Tite (collected)	3	0	0
Miss Caroline Dalziel	0	5	0
Mrs. Eileen Mitchell	0	5	0
Mrs. M. E. Thomas	1	0	0
Mrs. Harding Andrews	0	1	0
Miss Helen Presbury (Children's Play)	0	2	0
Per Miss Jack—Sydney Arnton, Esq	0	1	0
Mid-London Branch (goods sold)	0	1	0
Per Mrs. Despard—Horne Hill Branch	0	8	3
Per Miss Manning—Manchester Branch	0	9	0
Mrs. Sproson's Imprisonment Fund—Marlow Branch	0	12	6
For Caravan—Mrs. Tritton	0	2	6
Per Miss Sidley: Mrs. Rock	0	2	6
Mrs. Chappell	0	2	6
Collections	3	13	6
	£2,058	19	1

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

JULIA BRACKEN WENDT, an American sculptor, has taken the prize offered by the Political Equality League of Los Angeles for the most effective Suffrage poster. It represents Justice, a seated figure with her hand upon a shield bearing the words, "INTELLIGENCE HAS NO GENDER."

### FINLAND & THE DIGNITY OF WORK.

MISS ROSALIND TRAVERS, writing in *The English-woman* on "The History of Women's Suffrage in Finland," shows with skill and interest the development of "the most complete representative system in Europe," and the share which women have had in it. She remarks:

"Finland was able to move along the road of progress more quickly because its people are singularly free from two great hindrances—class prejudice, and the respect of idleness. On the withdrawal of Swedish influence, aristocratic traditions began to disappear, and—to their honour be it said—many of the old Swedish nobility in Finland were among the first to exchange a semi-feudal existence for one of industrial and intellectual development. Nationalism, democracy and work became all the fashion, and the daughters of ancient houses soon grew proud of the labour of their own hands."

### MADAM MAY

... in man or woman was considered other, in all but a very small group of riches in the hands of the few on with general disfavour. 'Women lependent, the people apologise for recent visitor. . . .

### MODERN

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### FIRTH

16, JOHN DAL

### AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.

asonic honours that the foundation-theosophical Headquarters building Annie Besant in Upper Tavistock-sunday. After a meeting of the women Masons in regalia marched Mrs. Besant was accompanied by theasonic movement. The scene was il, and every part of the ceremonial h an order that was exquisite and was scattered, wine and oil poured led on the stone, each act having ificance; coins of the realm and ay were placed under the stone.

ask for THE VOTE at Paddington and on sale at both these centres, and we should be a big demand for it at all

Those who number

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### THE NURSES OF INDIA AND FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

READERS of the most interesting life of Florence Nightingale, by Mrs. Holmes, published by the Literature Department of the Women's Freedom League, will hear with pleasure that the nurses of India have decided their memorial shall take the form of a copy in bronze of the marble bust by Sir John Steell, given to Miss Nightingale after the Crimean War. A committee of nurses was formed last year in India and speedily reached a decision which can only be regarded as most appropriate. It is expected that the bust, which is being produced in England, will be sent out to India towards the end of this year. It is destined to have a place in the Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta, and it would be in accord with the fitness of things if Her Majesty the Queen during the coming visit to Calcutta could perform the unveiling ceremony. The foundation stone of the Victoria Memorial Hall was laid by King George, when, as Prince of Wales, he visited India in 1905 accompanied by the Princess. In this wonderful Hall, which is to contain interesting mementoes of the Victorian epoch, Miss Nightingale deserves an honoured place, and it is to be hoped that the greatness of her work will be clearly explained in some way so that Young India, visiting the Memorial, will learn to know this devoted Englishwoman and honour her at her true worth.

We are indebted to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the able Editor of the *British Journal of Nursing*, for her courtesy in lending us the block. Mrs. Fenwick has long been known as a keen Suffragist, ready always to lend her help to the Cause. She has also done splendid service in her own profession—nursing—and is widely known as the courageous leader in the great reform of State registration of nurses. Miss Beatrice Kent, in her recent excellent article in *THE VOTE* on the nurse and the franchise, gives briefly the important reasons for proper registration of trained nurses. We wish Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who is President this year of the Society of Women Journalists, and her valiant band of helpers full success in their efforts, and the *British Journal of Nursing*, the organ of the reformers and a valuable professional publication, an ever increasing prosperity.

### AN ANCIENT RECIPE FOR A HAPPY LIFE.

Three ounces are necessary, first of patience, then of repose, and of peace; of conscience one pound entire is needful; of pastimes of all sorts, too, should be gathered as much as the hand can hold; of pleasant memories and of hope three good drachms there must be at least. But they should be moistened with a liquor made from true pleasure which rejoices the heart. Then of love's magic drops a few—but use them sparingly, for they bring a flame which nought but tears can drown. Grind the whole, and mix therewith of merriment an ounce to even. Yet all this may not bring happiness except in your orisons you lift your voice to Him who holds the gift of health.—Margaret of Navarre, written in 1500.

ONE of the most useful ways in which you can help us is to get your newsagent to display a poster of *THE VOTE* every week.

### SUFFRAGE AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Mr. Arthur Ponsonby, M.P., in an article on "The Opportunity of 1912," which has first place in the September number of *The Englishwoman*, writes:—"The division of opinion (on the Conciliation Bill) is not between those who believe in adult suffrage and those who do not. There are adult suffragists in both camps who are pursuing their ultimate object by what they each conceive to be the most efficacious methods. The real difference is among Liberals, some of whom consider that woman's enfranchisement can be combined with democratic extension of the franchise, while others are confident that the principle of woman's enfranchisement can only be adopted at first in a more or less narrow form. At the same time they maintain that once the barrier of sex has been broken down, the road will be far clearer for those who wish to extend the suffrage to its final and only logical conclusion, adult suffrage..."

### KILMARNOCK.

As to the introduction of a broader Bill, it is very doubtful that any such Bill would even get a second reading. If this view is correct—and it is held by many who have had considerable Parliamentary experience—there is no need to waste time and words over speculations and discussions as to whether the Conciliation Bill is or is not democratic, whether it is biased in favour of propertied women, or what exact proportion of working women will be included. It is sufficient that, with all its defects, it has proved itself to be an effective weapon for breaking down the strong prejudice against women having the vote at all...

The success of the Bill depends not only on the extent but the quality of support it gets. Every effort ought to be made, therefore, to get all differences settled. Perhaps it will become more apparent as the time approaches that the most direct, the most expeditious, and the wisest way of bringing this about will be to uphold with as near an approach as possible to unanimity that particular Bill which is known to have behind it the largest amount of support in the House of Commons...

It will be nothing short of a calamity to the Cause if the opportunity of 1912 is lost, not owing to the strength of the opposition, nor owing to the failure of the Government to allow the Bill a fair chance, but only because suffragists fail to present a united front.

The great campaign for the enfranchisement of women in California is growing in keenness as the deciding date—October 10—approaches. Dr. Charles F. Aked, the well-known English Nonconformist minister, who has now taken up work in California, is giving the months of August and September to addressing meetings on behalf of Votes for Women. He says:—"I am up to the eyes in the campaign for woman suffrage in California."

The merchants of San Francisco have had a week's display of suffrage windows. The entire display was in yellow, the suffrage colour, and the effect startling.

Says Dorothy Dix, in giving her reasons for being an enthusiastic suffragist:—"I believe that the minute

women get the right to vote we shall be done with child labour, and that far better laws will be passed for the protection of the working women and to safeguard young girls. In every case where a law has been passed raising the age of consent for young girls there has been the united womanhood of the state behind it."

The convinced suffragists in Austria have great difficulty in getting Austrian women to interest themselves in politics; but the pressure of economic needs has roused large numbers where persuasion failed. An Austrian friend, writing to the *Common Cause* on the question, observes:—"The housewives have roused themselves from their long slumber owing to the growing dearth of all food. They see that the deputies occupied with their party interests, are either incapable of dealing with this question of dear food, or unwilling to do so. They have formed themselves into a 'Housewives' Association,' and they are beginning to see that to care for politics is one of their chief duties."

Hand in hand with the economical question goes the ethical one. The women do not care to see as members of Parliament men who only care for their own interests, who desire merely money or position; they want to see their interests and those of their families represented by men of pure and high moral standard. They feel that, as they have no vote, nobody cares for their wants or their opinions, and that they have no influence even in those matters which are pre-eminently a woman's business. They ask for the franchise to free them from this unbearable situation, and, as a first step, they ask for the abolition of clause 30 of the Law of Association which forbids women to take part in any political meeting or to found any political union."

### CARAVAN CAMPAIGN.

On Monday morning one of the Coggeshall residents, Mrs. King, came to call on us in the Van, and asked us to tea at her house the same afternoon, when she arranged an informal drawing-room meeting of ladies who wanted to hear about our work. She also invited us to have baths, and was most kind in every way. At night rain fell rather heavily, but we went down to the Market-place and found a crowd awaiting us. Some had walked in many miles to hear us! It was a large and appreciative audience, and they gave us a fair collection. The next afternoon we were again asked out to tea, and spent a very delightful hour in a fine old-world garden belonging to the Misses King, who are very keen supporters. We also called on several local ladies interested in Votes for Women, all of whom we hope will join the W.F.L. later on; since then we have heard of more converts to militant methods. Our evening meeting was again well attended, and by dint of a very forceful appeal for funds the collection rose to £1, which pleased us very much! The next morning we received calls from one or two friends, who brought presents of fruit and flowers and bought literature. We also saw Mr. King, who promised to lend us his fine big barn for a public meeting any time before the end of November. It holds four hundred people, and is most conveniently situated, so we were duly grateful for the offer. These kind people also lent us their motor-car to take us over to Braintree, so we all had a very enjoyable journey and did our "pitch-hunting" in fine style. Of course, with the usual perverseness of things, we were able to secure a suitable meadow at once, instead of only after our usual extensive wanderings. We set to work to chalk, and then held an afternoon meeting for the farmers—it being market day. Seven hundred people attended our evening meeting, and showed their interest by asking many questions. Some of the ladies came the next day to call at the Van. Miss Elliot arrived on Thursday to join our party, now we are four workers. That night we found a Fair going on just beside the Market-place, so we asked the crowd to follow us to the end of High-street, where we had a very good meeting. On Friday morning Miss Sidley left us to go up to the N.E.C., so the three of us had to take the last Braintree meeting. Some school teachers, who attended, were heard to declare: "Well, we learnt something to-night!" During the afternoon we received calls from local sympathisers (and, incidentally, one *Anti!*). Also, two of our W.S.P.U. friends travelled over by train and cycle to pay yet another visit to the "dear Caravan" and again showered gifts upon us. Next morning Miss Elliot and I took train for Dunmow, while Miss Elderton came in the Van. We soon obtained permission to stand the Van on the Downs. We should have preferred a more secluded spot, but we were assured that was the best available piece of land, and also the usual (and only) site for open-air meetings. So we chalked one for that night, but as the audience was not large we shall try a street corner on Monday night, when Miss Sidley is to be with us again.—MARGUERITE J. HENDERSON.

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SATURDAY, September 9, 1911.

### CAN WOMEN COMBINE?

No one who looks out thoughtfully into the world of life and labour among women to-day but must feel the serious nature of the crisis by which we are faced. In many ways the present situation resembles that which heralded the break-up of the old Roman civilisation. Then, as now, luxury had reached a climax which staggered those who could still think and reason. Then, as now, luxury was nursed, ministered to, fed by slaves who were denied any participation in it. Then, as now, the trained cohorts of Imperialism were ready, at a word from their masters, to crush down even incipient revolt. Then, as now, there was male domination and female parasitism. And, as a consequence, a generation grew up, too indolent, weak and pleasure-loving even to command.

Upon all this came the thunder of marching hosts of barbarians—Goths, Huns, Vandals; strong men with strong women and stalwart children in their forests at home; men who had burning wrongs and cruel insults to avenge, for they were the sons of queens, warriors and chieftains who had been butchered "to make a Roman holiday," or dragged in chains behind the chariot of a Roman conqueror in the day of his triumph.

It may be said: "There are no barbarians now; the world is mapped out. From what quarter of the earth can forces come strong enough to overwhelm our civilisation?"

We answer with all deliberation: From within! While, in our modern world, luxury has been growing to an alarming extent, something else has been growing—not so rapidly, indeed, but with a slow, strong stride—which, as we shall soon find, nothing can resist. In a host of human beings, crushed under the revolving wheels of an awful machine, ruthlessly sacrificed in the wild rush for wealth and power, a new consciousness is arising. Slowly, very slowly, but with absolute sureness, these are coming to see that, without them, the machine of civilisation would cease to move, and that those who are using them to work it would be as helpless as babies.

We know, now, that the results of this would be momentous. For two days trade was paralysed by a railway strike and famine threatened London. Let us try to imagine what the effect would be if workers, not only on railways, but in docks, mines, factories, workshops, threw down their tools and refused to work until to them and theirs the opportunity was given of leading human lives.

But this is what may be. This is what men are whispering among themselves; and it is the consciousness of this being in the air that makes politicians so anxious to conciliate Labour. Whether they will succeed by the way of compromise and palliative is a question that cannot be discussed here. Our object is to show that amongst women, as well as amongst men, the same spirit is growing, and that if our rulers ignore it there may come to pass some strange and disastrous events.

From one point of view, indeed, the position of women is stronger than that of men. For men are divided. There are the interests of the employers and the interests of the employed to be separately considered. However our opponents may seek to divide us, it will ever remain true that between women, as women, there is no division, as we are all shut out from the responsibilities of citizenship. The rich, the aristocratic, the middle-class woman, the small trader, and the wife of

the small trader, the woman who works in factories, and the wife of the manual worker—all these can stand together on one ground. Because of the dependence which has been forced upon her; because the ancient illusion that man is the bread-winner, and that woman, taking the bread from him, should give him in return humble service, has not yet passed away, woman's work is lightly regarded. It is an unconsidered asset in the life of the nation. If, in the flashing of a moment, as a consequence, let us imagine, of some gross insult to women generally, even a part of that work and service were withdrawn, what would happen?

Heaven knows we do not trifle; in all seriousness we ask the question. Upon some of us there rests—there will ever rest—the shadow of the things we have seen quite lately in the industrial lives of women. These women are banding themselves together. Dimly they are beginning to see the value of solidarity. As this grows, is it possible to imagine that they will be contented with their stunted womanhood, their subjection, their poverty-haunted lives? We think not.

Let us see! What will happen? Suffragists have been put down as sentimental by a recent writer in one of the daily papers for speaking of the "sacredness of motherhood." We answer that with the growing up of this new spirit of solidarity, women everywhere will feel that motherhood is too sacred and far too momentous to be played with; and then there may be a drop in marriages and a fall in the birth-rate which will stagger the world. In France the birth-rate has already fallen, and the French have set themselves to devise means of keeping the babies who come into the world. When women here are asked how the problem of infant mortality is to be solved, I hope their answer will be straight and to the point. "Give us conditions possible for health, and we will rear healthy children!" And with the answer will come the reiterated demand: "Let us have a hand in the making of those conditions. We have suffered. We know what our needs are."

This from the mothers. And the women who are doing other work than that of motherhood, what will their action be? The women who administer, who teach, who heal, who serve; the women who cook, and wash, and clean, and work at factories, where the necessities and luxuries of life are produced; the women who sit all day long writing, typing, adding up figures, even as their brothers do, in close, ill-lighted offices; the women who manage and superintend large businesses for individuals or companies, being given a mere living wage because they are only women—what of all these? It occurs to us to wonder if it has yet entered into the minds of our rulers that in the women, as well as in the men of our land, the blood of the old barbarian stirs, and that when our civilisation becomes so corrupt that they can bear it no longer, they will rise and sweep it away.

But let us, for a moment, consider it! The idea of unionism in industry is, as yet, only in its infancy. Some of us can remember the early days of the movement, when Charles Reed's vivid and terrible novels, "It's Never Too Late to Mend" and "Put Yourself in His Place," came to thousands as a revelation. Since then, by slow, plodding work, unions have become powerful. Shilling by shilling, week by week, their funds have grown, until Governments have thought it wise to lay certain embargoes on their power of spending. Even now legislation to make strikes impossible seems to be impending. And it remains to be seen how the male workers will act.

Unionism amongst women has, practically, only just begun. Yet, in America, the National Union of Women Trade Unionists, founded several years ago, numbers, we hear, from thirty to fifty thousand wage-earning women. It also includes non-earning women, who are enrolled as allies, and these having, in many cases, come fresh from the Universities, give their knowledge and their enthusiasm without stint to their sisters.

In Britain we have not yet made such headway. But, as we have seen, a fair start has been made, and now every effort should be put forth to quicken and make strong the new sense of solidarity. Steady work will tell, and at no distant period women unionists will have funds at their disposal; they will have learnt what organisation means, they will be strong; and then, is it not possible that the best—those who can least be spared—will lay down their tools; and that, if they do, the others will follow them? We know what will be said: "There are so many women! Hunger is a hard task-master. Women never did and never will stand alone." Each of these arguments can be answered. That women are many will only give them increased power, when the truth of the "one in the many and the many in the one" is realised. And, that having been gained, the whip of hunger will have no further terror. For great societies, with large resources behind them, will be able to make their own terms. The time may come when women will refuse to bring up their children, and to waste their own womanhood in cities reeking with corruption. Even in Great Britain and in abundance elsewhere there are tracts of land, untouched by the refuse of factory and mine, unpoisoned by city smoke. Can we imagine an exodus of women with their children to such land—purchased by themselves? It might come to pass. In the old, primitive days of the world's history, man was the hunter and warrior, woman was the agriculturist. To her belonged the farm and the garden, and the flocks and herds of cattle on the hills. Leaving men of the world to their own world, might not woman go forth as in the past, only now with sorrowful experience behind her, to build up new communities, where, very soon, her brother—he, too, made wise by bitterly bought knowledge—would join her. This, at least, is our dream.

In answer to the last objection, women *can* stand alone. With all diligence and dispatch our rulers are teaching them that lesson now. We freely confess that it is not a natural situation. But it is possible.

It is our earnest hope that, through the goodwill of the best of our men, through the sense of rectitude of some of the straightest of our opponents, through the strength and steadfastness of women themselves, a sex war—the worst evil that could come to the race—may be averted.

C. DESPARD.

### ON THE LIBRARY TABLE. TO OVERCOME COLOUR PREJUDICE.\*

In our childhood's days we heard of rivers, mountains, and oceans as barriers between nations, keeping them apart and delimiting their frontiers. In later years we have come to realise that in many ways geographical boundaries cease to exist; the world of suffrage, of art, of science, of literature, knows them not, even though the political world may cling tenaciously to them. In spite of politicians and standing armies, boundaries between nations are tending to disappear; but there still remains one great, almost impassable barrier between them; it is colour prejudice. To our shame be it said. It is reasonable to recognise the variety of the families of the earth, and it would be a very dull world if we were all moulded on exactly the same pattern. But that there should be so prevalent an attitude of condescending superiority of the white towards the coloured races is not only unjust but shows a deplorable want of knowledge and sympathy.

It was with the great aim in view of bringing about a better understanding between the peoples of the West and those of the East, and to encourage friendly feelings and heartier co-operation, that the First Universal Races Congress was held at the end of July last. Out of that great gathering of nations in London definite results will grow, perhaps slowly. One immediate and

\* "Inter-Racial Problems." (P. S. King and Son, London, 7s. 6d.)

important result, however, is available to all in the form of a most valuable book, entitled, "Inter-Racial Problems" (P. S. King and Son, London, 7s. 6d., in English or French.) In addition to a bibliography of unusual interest, lists of officers, council, and supporters, showing the world-wide nature of the Congress, and introductions defining its object and nature, the book contains the complete set of papers—between fifty and sixty in number—presented to the Congress. The book was circulated to members before the Congress and the papers were taken as read, forming the starting-point of the discussions at each session. They deserve quiet and considerate perusal, for their writers are scholars, scientists, students—all of them authorities on the various aspects of the question with which they deal. In this way the volume is unique and will be a standard of reference for years to come.

Broadly speaking, the book is sectioned thus: Papers dealing with fundamental considerations, such as the meaning of race, the anthropological and sociological view, and race equality. Then follow general problems under the heading of conditions of progress, and including such subjects as the influence of geographical, economic, and political conditions, differences in customs and morals, mental differences, the instability of human types. Special problems are next considered: China, Japan, India, Persia, Turkey, Egypt, and other countries and movements have their particular pleaders of their own nationality. Economic problems include papers on investments and loans, wages and immigration, the opening of markets. An important section is that entitled, "The Modern Conscience in Relation to Racial Questions." It includes the treatment of dependent peoples, indentured and forced labour, and also the treatment of racial questions, especially the negro and negroid. The last section touches Positive Suggestions for Promoting Inter-Racial Friendliness, and the papers contributed are on such subjects as the respect of the white race to other races, international law, peace conferences, the influence of the Press, and international organisations for promoting goodwill.

Only second in importance to the subject is the writer of the paper. A few names may be mentioned. To an Indian, Dr. Brajendranath Seal, Principal of the Cooch Behar College, is given the honour of the first place in the book; other scientists are Professor Felix v. Luschan; Professor Alfred Fouillée; Dr. W. E. Burghardt du Bois. The late Sir Charles Dilke, who took great interest in the organisation of the Congress, wrote a paper on Forced Labour, and Professor J. A. Hobson, Professor Tönnies, Professor Alfred Caldecott and Sir John Macdonell, are among the contributors. China is represented by Dr. Wu Ting-fang; Japan by Professor Tongo Takebe; India by the Hon. G. K. Gokhale; Haiti by General Légitime. Mr. Zangwill writes on the Jewish race; Sir Sydney Olivier on the government of Colonies; Sir Harry Johnston on the negro; Dr. Zamenhof on an international language; and such men as Dr. J. S. Mackenzie, Baron d'Estournelles de Constant, Dr. Felix Adler (the inspirer of the Congress movement), Dr. Margoliouth, Professor Rhys Davids, and Dr. Riza Tewfik, make valuable contributions on the ethical, religious and general aspects.

Three women contribute to the book—Sister Nivedita (Miss Margaret Noble) writes on "The Present Position of Woman"; Mrs. Rhys Davids, with her husband, deals with "Religion as a Consolidating and Separating Influence"; and Dr. Frances Hoggan writes on "The Negro Problem in Relation to White Women." This mere outline of the contents of an unusual and unique book may be concluded by a quotation from the thoughtful paper of Dr. Felix Adler on the Fundamental Principles of Inter-Racial Ethics:—

If we are ever to get beyond this barbarous view (national selfishness), it must be with the help of an ideal principle which shall teach the wiser national self-love as against crude national selfishness, and which shall make it plain that the ends of the wiser self-love are only to be attained by fostering the seemingly alien ends of others.

A. A. S.

## THE MOTHER AS A FACTOR IN HUMAN PROGRESS.

BY MRS. WINTON EVANS.

I believe that the present movement in which women are so universally taking part is not a woman's movement merely, but a race movement. I regard it as the racial instinct asserting itself through women—the prime conservers of racial characteristics—demanding better and wider opportunities for the development of those faculties that shall enable humanity to go forward eternally from the less perfect to the more perfect.

### The Silent Force in Progress.

For ages we have, all of us, men and women alike, been the slaves of a false theory, that it was in accordance with the universal law of Nature, and with the fundamental principle of human development, that man only should be taken into account as the dominating factor in race development and race progress. This theory overlooked the all-important fact that the qualities called into existence by the activities of primitive man, in his struggles with the forces of Nature within and around him, and with his fellow-men, in obedience to the primal instincts of hunger, sex, greed of wealth and power, would have been of little avail in evolving a race of human beings with a capacity for infinite improvement and abiding tenacity of purpose, if it were not for a silent force that was at work—a force which conserved the qualities developed in the struggle, rejected those that were harmful to the progress of the race, and blended the various characteristics into a harmonious, though complex, whole, for future generations to build upon. That silent force was the mother spirit that all along the ages has done its work unappreciated, unrequited, and unrecognized. That is the spirit which, having for centuries of time been restricted in its scope to the immediate circle of the family, and having learned from long experience that the welfare of the family has no existence apart from the highest interests of its component members, now seeks a wider outlet, and asks for a direct share in controlling the forces that shape the destinies of the race.

### Equal Opportunity.

I am not one of those who cherish the illusion that women, as women, are inherently better than men, as men; nor that we should have evolved a better system of society if women, and not men, had been the directing forces in the process of evolution. I believe man and woman to be, as Mazzini said, varieties, springing from the common basis—humanity—necessary varieties, with diversity of tendency, special vocations, but with a common purpose. I further believe that in our own country, at any rate, we have reached that stage in our civilisation where it will inevitably break down and decay, as civilisations have done in the past, unless we succeed in removing those obstacles that debar women from equal opportunities for development with the other half of the race. No nation, no race, has ever risen permanently above the level of its women. Humanity can never escape the limitations of its mothers.

### The Mother Spirit.

It is not everyone, even in the suffrage movement, that recognises these facts. Speaking generally, the movement has been mainly actuated by the economic pressure which forces women to compete with men in the labour market, at a disadvantage arising out of their inferior status, and by the exclusion of women from certain spheres for which they are equally fitted with men. Not for a moment do I wish to decry the necessity of absolute equality in the labour market, and in every other sphere of activity, as a perfectly legitimate driving force; but I want to take a more comprehensive view of the situation, so as to judge of the value of emancipation not only to women wage-earners or women taxpayers, but to the entire race, whose capacity to respond to the forces of progress depends, as already remarked, upon the physical, moral, and intellectual standard of its mothers. Society, as we know it to-day, is a complex organism which has taken countless ages to grow and develop. Professor Karl Pearson, in an interesting lecture on "National Life from the Standpoint of Science," traces the evolution of the social instinct back to the struggle, among primitive men, of tribe against tribe, the tribe with the greater social feeling being always the prevailing tribe. This, of course, is obvious to all of us, but we have to recognise the logical development of that type of social evolution, which must be in the direction of extending, and strengthening, the social or tribal instinct, and not in the direction of its restriction. Any influence that is exercised in antagonism to that instinct becomes a disintegrating force which militates against the permanency of that racial development.

### Normal Woman.

The normal woman—the mother—and I use the term in its widest sense, not in its narrow, physical sense, acting in accordance with the fundamental principle of her being, instinctively subordinates her individual interests to the welfare of the race, and in so doing helps to foster in humanity the collective sense; while the abnormal woman who seeks mere

self-expression, and places her own personal interests above the welfare of the race, constitutes the disintegrating element which strengthens individualism at the expense of the development of a common consciousness. It is an instinctive antagonism to the latter element—racial rather than personal—which makes the ignorant opponent of the political emancipation of women regard the suffrage movement as the outward and visible sign of the inward hostility of the sexes, whereas an intelligent inquiry into the history of the growth and development of the social consciousness of women, as a sex, would have taught such an opponent that the inspiration of the movement has come from the awakening of the mother-spirit; from the realisation that the State is the family with its boundaries extended, and that the ethics of the smaller human family must also be the ethics of the larger. The gradual evolution of social systems, founded upon mutual obligations and mutual claims, can be traced back to those altruistic qualities developed by primitive mothers during long ages of personal ministrations to their helpless progeny, a service required from them for racial ends, long before primitive man had left off hunting and slaying.

### The Communal Instinct.

The human mother has been sacrificed to the race, by Nature, to a far greater extent than the human father. The direct physiological demand upon her vitality, the pre-natal period, and the prolongation after birth of infancy in the young of the human species, have all contributed to make the preservation of the race far more expensive to woman than to man. To this close physiological tie may be attributed the development of the communal instinct—of having no life apart from others—which is a fundamental principle of the ethics of the family. The non-combative, much-enduring qualities acquired by the mother as the inevitable result of her instinct for racial welfare, gradually made it possible for the human family to settle together and develop those domestic arts that were rendered necessary as the race grew, prospered, and became more complex in its needs and in its character. The sense of unity, so essential to the well-being of the family, became recognised as a necessity for the tribe, to ensure its security during the periods of hunting and warfare. The racial instinct guided the mother in developing the idea of a common interest in all things that made for the permanency of the race. She co-operated with her kind for the preservation of her race; man combined with his fellows for the destruction of other races, and the great cleavage between the essential

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characteristics of man and woman began. Man, knowing nothing of the cost of human life, held it lightly, took it easily. Woman, having paid the price, set upon it a value far above that of all other things, held it sacred.

### Permanency of the Race.

It was the sense of oneness with the race, prompting her to subordinate her individual life to that of the family dependent upon her services, that made it possible for man, as his sense of possession grew, to enslave her, to secure, without recognition, her personal ministry to his own comfort, and to assert his right of ownership over her person, her labour, and over the children of her body. Hunting, fighting and enslaving, the sense of possession and of property developed in the male character an individualism alien to the mother spirit. She felt, instinctively, that such anti-social feeling was fatal to the welfare of the race, and she took no part in the gradual transformation of the tribal environment into a system of life so contradictory to her nature. The docility which long personal service to her helpless offspring had developed in her character made her again an easy prey when man, the fighting spirit spent, turned his attention to other sources of spoil and plunder, and one by one she suffered the domestic arts so laboriously developed in her care for the family welfare, to be removed from the home, to be used as instruments with which man oppressed his fellows, and to build up a system of society so contradictory in its character to the whole tenor of her own instincts, that she was quite unable to play her part. Shut up in her home, excluded from the larger life of the community, she maintained there an environment in harmony with her own nature, and with what countless ages of experience had taught her was the surest way to secure the permanency of her race. All along the centuries, while social systems came and went, she has preserved the family life with its ethics unchanged, with its sense of mutual aid more highly developed, and with the continuity of the higher type secured.

### 'Revolt of the Mother.'

It was inevitable that with the evolution of the higher type the more complex life of the nation, as compared with the simpler one of the tribe and of early communities, should in time become a matter of concern for the mother. The ruthlessness of a system of society founded upon physical force, with wage slavery as the fundamental principle of its existence, struck at the very root of her function. It menaced the status of the family by reducing her to the position of slave, and by deposing the family in favour of the individual as the economic unit, limited its resources to a bare satisfaction of its physical needs, with no margin for the development of the spiritual and intellectual qualities which she had so carefully cultivated and conserved throughout the ages. Through the operation of economic laws, the spirit of which violated every canon of the moral ideal she had evolved out of the experiences of centuries of time, she saw the finer impulses of humanity crushed, the brutal triumphant. Her instincts revolted when she saw the child, whose helpless dependence had called into existence all the altruistic qualities of the race, robbed of its birthright of a mother's love and care, used as a mere instrument of profit to glut the greed of hungry capital, and flung back upon society as human wreckage when an outraged physique could no longer keep pace with the unrighteous demands of inhuman conditions.

### Seeking a Way Out.

All these things she saw; the race instinct within her awoke, and she sought a way out. She sought it by labour. She thought that by sharing the labour of her fellow man she might relieve the struggle for a decent existence, but she intensified it, for the qualities necessary for the preservation of the race are the non-combative, much-enduring qualities that readily induce sacrifice. Ages of subordination had made her docile, and in the labour market her docility proved not only her own undoing, but the disaster of her fellow man. She sought it by education. Realising that man possessed over her the advantage that knowledge and training give, she determined to acquire that advantage for herself, and to use it for the benefit of the race. Her mother instinct showed her that the salvation of the race depended upon her capacity to understand, to assimilate new ideas, to discriminate intelligently.

### Woman Progressive.

It is not a mere coincidence that, side by side with the education and training of women, two movements, identical in their main purpose, should have come into existence, both growing in power as the education and awakening of women proceed and extend. I refer to the Suffrage movement and to the Socialist movement. I further believe that it is not accident, but instinct, that impels woman to seek her political enfranchisement first. Systems of society, in the formation of which she played no part, and with the spirit of which her nature was out of harmony, have menaced the permanency of racial welfare, and she is not going to risk the future. The knowledge she has won, combined with the instinct that guides her development, has taught her that national life can be organised like family life, and that the well-being of a nation depends upon the recognition of the same fundamental principles as those of the family. Family life yields the best results when the mother takes her natural, conscious share in its development, and the national life demands the same conscious co-operation before the material

and spiritual needs of the race can be understood and provided for.

### The Free Mother.

She now knows that the evils produced by the present system of society undermine the vitality of the race, and breed within it the elements of decay; that long hours of labour, low wages, limited opportunities, bad housing, constitute an unnecessary waste of the resources of life, and that child-labour is a sin against the future. She knows that the resources of the nation are practically unlimited; that every man and every woman has equal claim upon those resources to ensure free, happy lives of continuous progress; and that every child that comes into the world brings with it an inviolable right to its heritage of joyous youth, and of full opportunity to attain healthy, happy manhood and womanhood. But before these things can come to pass she must secure her own freedom, take her full share in bringing about the new world that is to be. Only the free mother can bring forth a race of free men and free women.

### TAX RESISTANCE.

Articles of jewellery belonging to Miss Rayleigh were sold on Thursday at the Chequers Hotel, Uxbridge, having been seized for non-payment of Imperial taxes. This is the second occasion on which Miss K. Raleigh, who is a member of the Tax Resistance League, has made a similar protest. The auctioneer was entirely in sympathy with the protest, and explained the circumstances under which the sale took place. He courteously allowed Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Mrs. Jason Kerr to put clearly the women's point of view; Miss Raleigh made a warm appeal for true freedom. A procession was formed and an open-air meeting subsequently held. Mrs. Cobden Sanderson presided. Mrs. Clarendon Hyde, Miss Neilans and Miss Raleigh addressed an attentive audience. A resolution was passed protesting against the sale, and calling on the Member of Parliament for the constituency to support the Conciliation Bill when it comes before the House next year. The various Suffrage Societies were well represented. M. C. H.

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## BRANCH NOTES.

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

Should Tuesday, September 5, turn out a wet day, our Garden Medley (W.F.L. and G.L.W.S.) will be held on Thursday, September 7, 3 to 10 p.m. If the latter day also is wet, then the Medley will take place in the house, and in either case the support of all sympathisers will be specially welcome. For the first time this year our open-air meeting was obliged to given up, owing to the most unfavourable weather. Our speaker, Mr. Arthur McKinlay, has kindly promised to come on Wednesday, September 13, to the Triangle, Penge, and we hope for a good rally, as this is the last we shall hold there this season. The week following we shall be at South Norwood Clock, most probably on the Monday.

**Croydon.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue. Office: 3, The Arcade, Croydon.

The weekly "At Homes" will recommence on Friday, September 8, from 3 to 5.30 p.m. Open-air meetings to be held at Thornton Heath Clock on Friday evenings at 7.30 p.m. Will members please attend? The first of the Session will be held this week, September 8.

**Hackney.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss P. LE CROISSETTE, 238, Navarino-mansions, Dalston, N.E.

The shop will re-open on Monday next, September 11, after the summer holidays. We hope that every member in the district will give all possible assistance in the local work during the coming autumn. More workers are required to take turn in keeping shop for an hour or two each week, and immediate help will be wanted for the Hackney "At Home" on September 28. Mrs. Despard will be chief speaker on this occasion, so it behoves us to advertise it in every possible manner, and obtain an audience numerically worthy of our President. Miss Nina Boyle will be in Hackney working for the League some days prior to the "At Home," the exact time and place of which will be announced later.

**Herne Hill and Norwood.**—Hon. Sec. (pro tem.): Mrs. ADA PRESBURY, Oak Cottage, Dulwich.

This has been an exceptionally busy and important week for our branch. On Thursday we had the great pleasure of welcoming our honoured President, Mrs. Despard, at Dulwich, and on Friday Mrs. Sproson drew a large crowd at West Norwood. Thursday was a gloriously fine day, and a large number of members and friends met, by kind invitation of Miss Davies, in her charming garden at 161, Croxted-road. Mrs. Wright delighted us by her splendid rendering of "The Awakening," after which Mrs. Despard spoke of her work at Bermondsey, of the prospects of the Conciliation Bill, and other important matters. She made a very strong appeal for assistance in extending the sale of THE VOTE, and impressed upon every member the importance of becoming regular subscribers for at least one copy, and of doing their utmost to bring it to the notice of others. A pleasing feature of the meeting was the presentation to Mrs. Despard of 2s., the proceeds of an entertainment entirely arranged and carried out by young children who are members of the League. We had a splendid collection, and disposed of a considerable quantity of literature. Mrs. Bertram-Hobson presided. Our Friday night meeting at the West Norwood Fountain was an unusually large one. Mrs. Sproson, in her convincing way, held the attention of the crowd. Copies of THE VOTE were sold, and a collection taken. We must now concentrate on our "At Home," which is fixed for October 23, and every member is urged to realise individual responsibility in assuring a good gathering to meet the members of the N.E.C. and, we hope, our President. Will anyone who can help communicate with us?—A. P.

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

We have commenced work again, and intend to have a very busy session. At our first meeting, held (by kind permission of Mrs. Cashmore) at 11, Rookwood-road, Clapton-common, on Tuesday, September 5, at 3.30 p.m., we considered arrangements for the next few months; they will be duly announced in THE VOTE. Members are reminded of our President's kind promise to give her lecture upon "Prometheus Unbound" to our Branch on Tuesday, September 19, at St. Andrew's Hall, Dunsmore-road. Tickets are only 1s. each. The proceedings will commence with a short musical programme at 8 p.m., Mr. E. P. Bousfield kindly acting as chairman.

**Mid-London.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TERTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Baling, W.

Mrs. Nourse, having now returned to London, will undertake the arrangements for the Hyde-park meetings again from next Sunday; during her absence Mrs. Hyde has kindly taken her place, and enabled these meetings to be held without a break all through the summer, for which we are most grateful to her. The best way we can show our appreciation of our fellow members' energy is to send a small donation to our Branch treasurer, Miss Arnold, 81, Barnsbury-street, Barnsbury, N., towards the expenses of these open-air meetings, which we hope, weather permitting, to continue through September and October. We



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WESTBOURNE GROVE, LONDON, W.

are fortunate in having Miss Cicely Hamilton and Miss Nina Boyle as speakers at our "At Home" on Sunday, September 24, at Caxton Hall. We must make it known to all our friends.

Our meeting on Sunday in Hyde-park was one of the most successful this season. Miss Busby, as chairman, introduced Miss Munro, who for more than an hour held her audience spell-bound. They greatly appreciated her pertinent and witty answers to questions. A lady told us of a gentleman having just returned from his holidays in Scotland who remarked to her: "There is no escaping the Freedom League; I have been listening to Miss Munro day after day at Dumoon." The usual resolution was passed and literature was in demand.—M. C. H.

**Tottenham.**—Hon. Sec.: Miss M. SIMS, 3, Elmhurst-road, Bruce-grove, N.

During the month of August, our weekly meetings have been most successful, and we have to thank Miss Madge Turner, Mrs. Duval, and Miss Busby for speaking for us. We have also had Miss Leah Anson, who clearly and convincingly explained the Insurance Bill and its deficiencies from the woman's point of view. Mr. Mitchell, of the Men's League, gallantly took one meeting for us. Our thanks are also due to Miss Bartlett and Mr. Victor Prout for so ably doing chairman's duties. Will members please make a note of next Thursday, and come and help to sell THE VOTE at the Gas Offices, 8 o'clock?

MARY SIMS.

## OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

**Church League for Women's Suffrage.**—Offices: 11, St. Mark's-crescent, Regent's Park, N.W.

A garden meeting will be held at Kew on Saturday, September 16 (3 to 8 p.m.), at 7, Priory-road, by kind permission of Miss Hartley. This is a special effort organised by Mrs. Clayton, Hon. Secretary of the Kew and Richmond Branch, to help the General Fund. Members are asked to send contributions of saleable articles to Mrs. Clayton, Glengariff, Kew-road, Richmond. Arrangements are well forward for Church Congress campaign at Stoke-on-Trent. Lord Lytton and the Bishop of Lincoln have promised to speak. A full list of speakers will be given next week. Suffragists in the neighbourhood of Stoke are earnestly asked to help in this campaign, and should communicate with Mrs. Hinscliff. Offers of hospitality will be most acceptable.

**The New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.** Splendid work has been done in our last week in Lowestoft. Monday a meeting was held at the Triangle, and a large crowd

gathered and showed much interest. Wednesday a most successful meeting was held in the East Anglian Hall, Milton-road. The Mayor of Lowestoft took the chair, and the speakers were Mrs. Clarkson Swann, Miss Rose Lightman, and Miss Helen Ogston, B.Sc. As the result of our work we hope that the Borough Council of Lowestoft will consent to receive a deputation of women ratepayers and will consider the sending of a petition to Parliament. The campaign, which was started in the spring, has been reopened in Mid-Norfolk. We hope to have a series of drawing-room garden and open-air meetings in Dereham and district. Will anyone willing to help please communicate with the organiser, Miss Katharine Parry Frye, 65, Commercial-road, Dereham? Members are reminded that money is still needed for this campaign, also for work now being planned in Kent, Sussex, and Dorset.

**The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss KENDALL, 22, Wilberforce-road, Finsbury Park, N. Hon. Treasurer: Miss MONICA WHATELY, 75, Harcourt-terrace, The Boltons, London, S.W.

Members are asked to make known a meeting to be held on September 11, at 3.30 p.m., by kind permission of Miss Grandy at 1, Pevensey-road, St. Leonards. Those wishing to attend are asked to communicate with Miss Willis, Mount Lodge, The Mount, St. Leonards, who is making all arrangements. Funds are very urgently needed for our autumn campaign, and may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer. Autumn Campaign Fund.—Miss Fitzsimons, £5.

**Cymric Suffrage Union.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. E. DAVIES, 57, Racton-road, Fulham, London, S.W.

Colours: purple and gold. Badges can now be obtained from the Secretary, 6d. each, post free. The Conciliation Bill is to be translated into Welsh, and copies can be obtained from the Secretary.

**The Actresses' Franchise League.**—Organising Secretary: Miss G. M. CONOLAN, Adelphi Terrace House, 2, Robert-street, W.C.

The Actresses' Franchise League are already busy with plans for the annual matinée, which will take place during the last week in October. A very interesting and varied programme is in course of preparation, concerning which information can be obtained at the offices of the League in the course of a few days. A most urgent appeal is made to members to send in their touring lists whenever possible. Many requests for help have been received from provincial Suffrage Societies which cannot be dealt with until the whereabouts of members are better known.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS. LONDON.



**DARE TO BE  
FREE.**

- Thurs., Sept. 7.**—Highbury Corner, 7.30 p.m. Miss C. Nina Boyle. Tottenham Gas Offices, High-street, 8 p.m. Mr. Theodore Gugenheim.
- Fri., Sept. 8.**—Thornton-heath Clock 7.30 p.m. Miss Fennings. West Norwood Fountain, 8 p.m. Miss C. Nina Boyle.
- Sun., Sept. 10.**—Hyde Park, near Marble Arch, 12 noon. Miss Nina Boyle.
- Wed., Sept. 13.**—The Triangle, Penge, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.
- Fri., Sept. 15.**—West Norwood, Fountain, 8 p.m. Mr. Theodore Gugenheim.
- Sat., Sept. 16.**—Finchley, Church End, 8 p.m. Mr. Malcolm Mitchell.
- Sun., Sept. 17.**—Hyde Park, near Marble Arch, 12 noon. Mrs. Tanner.
- Tues., Sept. 19.**—Stamford Hill. Lecture on Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound." Mrs. Despard.
- Thurs., Sept. 21.**—Highbury Corner, 7.30 p.m. Miss Hillsworth.
- Fri., Sept. 22.**—Thornton-heath Clock, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Tanner. West Norwood, Fountain, 8 p.m. Mrs. Mustard.
- Sun., Sept. 24.**—Hyde Park, near Marble Arch, 12 noon. Mrs. How Martyn, A.R.C.S., B.Sc.
- Mid-London Branch "At Home," Caxton Hall, 4-6 p.m. Miss Cicely Hamilton and Miss C. Nina Boyle; chairman, Miss C. V. Tite.
- Thurs., Sept. 28.**—Hackney Branch "At Home," 7 p.m. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. How Martyn.
- Wed., Oct. 4.**—Small Queen's Hall, 8 p.m. Mr. G. K. Chesterton on "Female Suffrage—The Last Blow to Democracy." Chairman, Miss C. V. Tite.
- Tues., Oct. 10.**—Highbury Branch "At Home." Mrs. Despard. Chairman, Miss Underwood.
- Wed., Oct. 11.**—Discussion Meeting, Essex Hall, 8 p.m. Mr. S. K. Ratcliffe on "The New Puritanism." Chairman, Mrs. How Martyn.
- Wed., Oct. 18.**—Discussion Meeting, Essex Hall, 8 p.m. Mr. Laurence Housman on "The Immoral Effects of Ignorance in Sex Relations." Chairman, Mrs. Vulliamy.
- Thurs., Oct. 19.**—Hampstead Branch "At Home." Miss Nina Boyle, Miss C. V. Tite. Chairman, Mrs. Nevinson.
- Mon., Oct. 23.**—Herne-hill and Norwood Branch "At Home." Mrs. Despard, Mrs. How Martyn.
- Wed., Oct. 25.**—Discussion Meeting, Essex Hall, 8 p.m. The Rev. Hatty Baker on "Women in the Ministry." Chairman, Mrs. Nevinson.
- Mon., Oct. 30.**—Croydon Branch "At Home."
- Wed., Nov. 1.**—Discussion Meeting, Essex Hall, 8 p.m.
- Wed., Nov. 8.**—Discussion Meeting, Essex Hall, 8 p.m. Miss Sydney Keith.
- Wed., Nov. 15.**—Discussion Meeting, Essex Hall, 8 p.m. Miss Cicely Hamilton.

### PROVINCES.

- Sat., Sept. 9.**—Caravan Meetings, Bishop's Stortford.
- Mon., Sept. 25.**—St. Peter's Hall, Bournemouth, 8 p.m. Lecture on Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound" by Mrs. Despard. Dr. Eden Paul and Miss Sidley. Chair, Alderman C. Mate, J.P.

### SCOTLAND.

- Thurs., Sept. 14.**—Gilfillan Hall, Dundee, 8 p.m. Opening Meeting of Session. Speaker, Miss Husband, President of Branch.

### FITTING TO SUFFRAGE AS TO LABOUR.

Miss Leonora O'Reilly was thinking first and foremost of the Labour Movement when she wrote the following words, but we quote them as equally applicable to women and suffrage:—"When working women have caught the inspiration which lies within the thought that they are a part of a movement that no power on earth can kill, they will rise as they never rose before, they will dare as they never dared before, they will do as they never did before, for they will then have that within themselves which will keep the lamp of hope alight, no matter how dark the road or long the journey."

We should regret if our short paragraph last week, "The Women of Ireland Move," conveyed the impression that Irish women are only now waking up to the importance of the Suffrage cause. We do not forget that the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association has been in existence since 1876; we also recognise that it was through the work of Irish men and women Suffragists that the Lord Mayor of Dublin took the bold action of presenting a petition in favour of the enfranchisement of women at the Bar of the House of Commons. The event chronicled was a new move.

### "VOTE"-SELLING AT EASTBOURNE: AFTER-THOUGHTS.

After a month's experience in VOTE-selling in Eastbourne (during which I have disposed of more than a thousand copies of our paper), one or two points seem especially worthy of note: first, the sympathy of the visitors here, and secondly, the increasing general interest in our Cause as expressed in THE VOTE. People have come to me and asked for the current number, seeming glad to get information on doubtful questions, as in spite of all efforts the most extraordinary ignorance still prevails as to what we want and why we want it.

After a little talk we find we have many unacknowledged friends, and if we could persuade these timid souls to join us openly, how the dawn would be hastened!

I return to Wales next week. There is a capacity for enthusiasm among the Celts which is lacking in more conventional regions. Freedom is to us no mere party cry but is the very breath of our souls, and our hope is in the near future to number the members of our section of the Women's Freedom League by thousands.

9, Lushington-road.

ALIX MINNIE CLARK.

ON THE MOUNTAIN TOPS!—We climbed for three hours up one of the steep slopes of a Scotch mountain, and at last reached the summit. Our friends the "Anti's" should have been with us, for here, formed with the broken pieces of rock, was our woman's Excelsior—"Votes for Women." That was surely proclaiming the gospel on the mountain tops!

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