NON-PARTY.

Vol. IV. No. 201.

NON-MILITANT

# The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Societies.

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#### CONTENTS.

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## Notes and Comments.

#### The Tactics of Defeat.

Now that the end of this almost endless Session is in sight, Suffragists are realising the enormously increased prestige of the Suffrage movement. Certain of the less friendly papers, it is true, are trying to persuade themselves and the public that the "Grey Amendment" had no chance of passing, and therefore we should all be very glad it was not tried. But the public is very well aware that the refusal to test our case in the House of Commons has never come from us. We have demanded always and before all things that we should be allowed a straight vote on the straight issue of Women's Suffrage. It is our opponents who have shirked it. It is they who have caught at every chance of evasion or delay. It is they who have introduced every kind of side-issue. It is they who have not dared to face a straight decision.

These are the tactics of the defeated; they have not been ours.

#### The Missing Point of View.

Suffragists will also notice the curious effect on the whole of recent Parliamentary history of the disfranchisement of women. It is obvious from the order in which politicians proceed with their Bills that they are not responsible to women for their actions. A Liberal Government, for example, is specially bound to take important measures early, as only those introduced early in the life of a Parliament will have a chance of passing through—or over—the House of Lords in anything like their original form. In the last two years of a Parliament's life the Lords can still do what they like with Liberal Bills. And it is these last years that the Government devotes to Education and Housing!

Women, we think, whatever their party, would hardly let such questions be treated with such levity. Lord Haldane's vague proposals of Educational Reform, Mr. George's assurances that Land Reform is necessary to a solution of the Housing Problem, could hardly deceive a child into supposing them other than they are—mere electioneering cries. But are the women therefore wrong in believing that such questions are, in fact, second in importance to none?

#### Non-Party Questions.

It is greatly to be hoped that when women are enfranchised they will use their power to lift the more vital (and not, as now, the less vital) questions out of the party rut altogether. Women are, indeed, far more closely bound to their party organisations in Great Britain than in any other country, and it is a fact which has disadvantages at least as grave as advantages. But many are still outside, and many more have realised that party feeling has become too often a corrupting rather than a steadying influence. In education they will, like the women of New Zealand, insist that the interests neither of the ratepayer, nor the politician, nor the Church, nor even the parent, but those of the child, shall come first. And it is, perhaps, not fantastic to believe that even so vexed a question as Land Reform may be introduced without those appeals to class-feeling and party rancour which at present even the best of our politicians seem to think essential to it. A question that is made a party question becomes a stake for party leaders to gamble with, and there are some things with which neither men nor women will consent to gamble. "Men will not gamble with their food," said a Conservative leader the other day. It is safe to add that women will not gamble with their homes.

#### The "Defence" of Party Government.

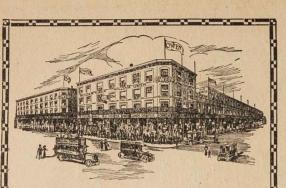
It is the more urgent that women in this country should be able sometimes to act politically, without regard to party, since its pressure on male politicians has become a bondage. The Westminster Gazette points out that Members of Parliament have become so accustomed to automatic obedience that they are now totally unable to act, speak, or think for themselves; or, in the words of the Gazette, when invited to do so, "an assembly of 670 men becomes a distracted mob." It is true that this damning indictment of the system is put forward as a "defence," and the iron pressure of party on the brain is called "the simple and massive views which Englishmen are accustomed to take of politics." To those outside the fold this sounds like simple and massive farce.

#### The Labour Party's Resolution and the Scottish Miners.

In estimating the importance of the resolution of the Labour Conference against any further extension of the franchise to men without the inclusion of women, it is interesting to observe that the Scottish miners are "absolutely sound" on the question. The rank-and-file had instructed their organisation to press upon the Miners' Federation the policy of uncompromising opposition to any Manhood Suffrage Bill.

#### The Federated Council of Suffrage Societies.

At a certain stage of every movement fresh bodies are always formed for its advancement, and their differentiation presents a difficulty to the outer public. There has recently been formed a new federation, which includes specialised suffrage societies of diverse kinds, and which held a meeting in the Queen's Hall on February 5th. Various persons are consequently



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inquiring what is the relation of this new federation to the National Union and what its differences of policy. The answer to the former question is that there is no relation of any kind between the two associations; the answer to the latter must be left for the younger of the two to decide.

#### " Non-Party."

FEBRUARY 14. 1013.

A correspondent, whose letter will be found on another page, presents three complaints against the policy of withdrawing active support from a private Member's Bill. Such a course seems to him ungrateful to the individual Members of the House of Commons who have always voted for Women's Suffrage. He forgets, perhaps, that the proposed Bill owes its inception to Mr. Asquith, and its scaffolding to Mr. F. E. Smith; and enquiry among the steady supporters of the Suffrage cause in the House might enlighten him as to its chances of becoming law. Then he thinks that to make an alliance with the Labour Party is to pay the debt of gratitude which suffragists owe to that party at the expense of Liberal and Conservative creditors. He fails to see that the policy of supporting the "best friend of Women's Suffrage" leads inevitably to the support of a candidate belonging to a party which has placed Women's Suffrage on its programme, as against one whose party is divided on the uestion. Such a candidate is by force of circumstances the best friend." The "definite alliance" between suffragists and the Labour Party is, after all, but an alliance upon the one point of Women's Suffrage; and where two bodies are avowedly ighting for the same end, on the same ground, united action is so obviously the best plan as to be almost inevitable. Nor while National Union remains equally ready to make an alliance" with the Liberal or Conservative Party, if and when either places Women's Suffrage upon its programme, can it truly be said to have abandoned its non-party attitude.

#### Women Police Officers.

The experiments made all over the world in new ways of service for women, will be watched with intense interest both for their own sake and for the light they throw on the kind of contribution to national life that women will bring as voters. The first "policewoman" of Los Angelos, Mrs. Alice Wells, in a long interview reported in the New York Times, states that it was her interest in the prevention rather than the punishment of crime which led her to accept the post that she now holds. The male police are, of course, working at this side of the question too, but, according to Mrs. Wells, women care more for it and do it better. She gives as an illustration, which strikes one as specially significant, the saving of a boy who was being led away by bad company, and would have been in the hands of the police" but for intervention "at the psychological moment." This kind of work, Mrs. Wells observes, sthought "not important enough" for the ordinary police. t is difficult for women to realise that anything could be more important than the work of preventing crime before the boy whose future is at stake has become a criminal.

#### Payment of Shirtmakers.

There appeared recently in the Press an interesting account of an interview with Mrs. Craig, Secretary of the Shirtmakers' Trade Union. She pointed out that rates of wages which had been quoted as average represented payment for a full week's work (often, indeed, for a full week with extra overtime), and that the total of such weeks was far less than fifty-two in a year. She added some observations-instructive o readers who have no inside knowledge-of the "little ways" by which a nominal wage is often diminished in practice. In tained in the Qualification of Women (County and Borough some factories workers are required to

"count the different pieces of each garment and then take them to the sewing machine in bundles of six. This, with the booking and checking, often wastes from 20 to 30 minutes, and time is money when one is working piecework on a power-driven machine running at 2,000 stitches per minute."

It is precisely in such details as these that observers who do not personally know the trade are liable to be misled. Even the examination of wages-books would not reveal this particular sort of of deduction. Such inspection, however, amply confirms Mrs. Craig's statement that a charge of 1s. per week to the worker for cotton is common. She showed, indeed, a careful moderation in fixing the common rate so low. The writer of these lines has frequently met with deductions for cotton running from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. per week.

#### THE COMMON CAUSE.

1910 Gerrard

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noster Square, London, E.C.

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

## The Coming Elections.

Between the 1st and the 8th of next month the County Councils of England and Wales will be elected, and certain women will be entitled to take part in those elections.

The qualifications open to women, being complicated and irrational, are difficult to remember. Women must, in the first place, be "Occupiers," and have "occupied" for a full year (reckoned from one 15th of July to the next). They become occupiers in three different ways: (1) By inhabiting a house or any portion of a house (even a single room), when the person to whom rent is paid does not also inhabit the house. occupying land of the clear yearly value of not less than £10, and at the same time residing, in the case of a county, within its boundaries or not more than 15 miles beyond them, or, in case of a municipal borough, not more than seven miles beyond. (3) By occupying business premises of not less than fito clear yearly value within the same limits as in the case of land. Where two or more women share the same dwelling, or land, or business premises, each paying £10 a year or more, they may claim to be joint occupiers. The revising barrister, however, may, apparently, strike any of them off the Register at his pleasure. name of a lady who has worked as an organiser under the National Union was struck off without the assigning of any reason by the revising barrister in a London borough after having been admitted by himself a year before on the clear statement of her landlord that he had accepted her as a joint tenant and received from her more than £10 a year. Moreover, any qualification is lost if the poor rates due in January upon the qualifying place have not been paid by the 20th of July.

The position of married women in respect to the municipal franchise is quite absurd, and somewhat uncertain. Husband and wife cannot claim as joint occupiers; both may, indeed, be registered, but the two qualifications must be for different properties. Wives may unquestionably be registered and vote for Rural District and Urban District Councils, for Parish Councils, Boards of Guardians, London Borough Councils, and the London County Council. Until the autumn of 1909 it was held equally certain that women were debarred from voting for Town Councils and for provincial County Councils. In that year, however, Mrs. G. Dixon, of Birmingham, claimed to be put on the Register as a burgess, entitled to vote for the City of Birmingham; and the revising barrister held that the disability of women had been removed by the necessary implication con-Councils) Act of 1907. A similar decision was given by a

revising barrister in respect to a provincial County Council.

It will be seen that the municipal franchise is greatly restricted in the case of women, and that even if all whose names appeared upon the Register were to cast their votes, they would be largely itvoted in every constituency by men. The common practice. therefore, of reproaching women electors with the defeat of whichever party fails at the polls is somewhat inequitable. It is also constantly said that only a small proportion of the women on the Register use their votes, and from this questionable statement is drawn the altogether inconsequent deduction that most women would fail to use the Parliamentary vote, if they had it. The fact appears to be that about the same percentage of women as of men abstain from voting at municipal elections.

There is, it is to be feared, a better foundation for the complaint

that many women voters are guided almost wholly by a desire to reduce the rates. Many of the women on the Register are widows in very poor circumstances, struggling to gain a liveli-hood for themselves and often for their children, and receiving only very scanty remuneration for their labours. To expect that a charwoman or a home worker, earning some twopence an hour, should be able to estimate in their true proportion the pennies that make up the local rates is unreasonable. That many working women are capable of taking wide, public-spirited views is clear enough to anybody who has the advantage of acquaintance with the Women's Co-operative Guild. But the members of the Guild have been trained, or rather have trained themselves by long years of discussion and reflection, and by the action of mind upon mind. Most of them, however, are married women, not bearing upon their shoulders the whole support of a household; and, as married women, nearly all of them are excluded from the municipal electorate, which would be so much strengthened by their inclusion.

Upon many of the matters with which local authorities deal, the interests and experience of women render them peculiarly likely to be good judges: education; the care of the sick, the old, and the defective; housing; sanitation; epidemics; pure food—all these fall, even in the judgment of the most convinced Anti-Suffragist, within the proper "sphere" of women. On the other hand, the most eager of Suffragists will admit that administration, although it is not legislation, is of importance. Moreover, there is some trace of validity in the argument that we are not really good citizens if we disregard the minor administrative tool that is already in our hands. A vote-even the smallest local vote—carries with it the responsibility of care, thought and goodwill in the exercise of it; and it is the clear duty of every suffragist to show by her use of this lesser responsibility her fitness for a greater one. She should see that her little grain of support goes into the scale of honest and upright representatives who have no private interests to serve, and who will work quietly and steadily for the good of the community. And, considering how few, at the best, will be the women members of local bodies, it is surely a duty to vote for all possible women candidates, even if their party is not our own. From this point of view it is regrettable that the anti-suffrage Local Government Advance Committee should not have succeeded in securing any candidates. The secretary of that committee writes :-

"We regret to say that, owing to the indisposition on the part of the political associations of both parties to adopt women, we have found it impossible to put forward candidates for the L.C.C. as we had hoped."

Of course, political associations are formed mainly of and for Parliamentary electors—and women are outside the circle. Happily there are women who succeed in overcoming these difficulties. In London seven are standing:—Miss Sophia Jevons, M.A., M.B., B.S. (Dulwich); Miss N. Adler (Central Hackney); Dr. Ethel Bentham (North Kensington); Miss Evelyn Fox (West Marylebone); Miss Pocock (Strand); Miss Susan Lawrence (Poplar); Miss Margaret Bondfield (Woolwich). Dr. Bentham, Miss Lawrence and Miss Bondfield are standing in the Labour interest; the others are all Progressives.

In the country, Miss K. M. Courtauld is standing for the Hedingham Division of Essex; and it is hoped that Miss Mary Noble will present herself for re-election in the Askham Division of Westmoreland. We can but wish to all these ladies, and as many more as may be added to the list, the fullest possible success, and especially the support of every female elector in each of their constituencies.

## The National Union and a Private Bill.

I should like, if I may, to answer the questions so pertinently stated by Miss Wallis Chapman in your issue of last week. She recognises that for the National Union to abstain from spending money and effort on the private Member's Bill is not the same as opposing it; it is in the highest degree improbable that any member of the National Union would wish to oppose it.

Nor is it suggested by any one that the National Union should "rest on its oars" and subside into inactivity. We intend to work and to give; work harder and give more freely than ever. The question is, what for? For a measure which no one seriously imagines can pass-no, not even its friends in the House? Or, looking further ahead, for a united Government to carry the Bill through as a Government measure?

Now, I believe that to do the second, if only we do it effectively, making no vain threats, but steadily preparing the

ground and organising the favourable elements and antagonising none, we shall in no way injure the work which others may choose to do for the private Bill, but we shall be preparing the only way by which we believe the law can be passed under a Liberal Administration.

We are all agreed that Mr. Asquith has clearly and demonstrably broken one of the most sacred promises that a politician in his position has ever made and that he has refused reparation by giving an equivalent. To work for the private Member's Bill would be, to a certain extent, to condone this piece of political dishonesty, and, secondly, it would lay us open to the charge, if the Bill failed, of having accepted a test and then, when it went against us, repudiating it. We do not accept the test. We know a free vote is impossible under present conditions, and we cannot take the responsibility of advising the devoted and self-sacrificing members of the Union to throw more money and labour into a struggle that is lost before it

We are quite well aware that there will be party people (like the egregious Westminster, which professes to think Mr. Asquith "quixotic" in the way he keeps his word), who will say we have had our chance and have sulked and refused to work for it and deserve to have it defeated. There is nothing extreme party people will not say, and we must thoughtfully weigh the situation and go our way. The Conciliation Committee proved up to the hilt that, under a Liberal Administration, a private Member's Bill would never be given fair play. It was the best test that could possibly be devised; for the Conciliation Committee was really composed of all parties. The Liberal Government torpedoed this Committee by making the whole thing a party matter, and then withdrawing all party support. If the new Bill is ever introduced, it seems unlikely that it will be by a united non-party Committee, nor will it command the votes of all suffragists in the House. Under these circumstances it would be sheer waste of money and effort diverted from our active policy, and it would give a fictitious importance to the failure which we foresee and discount in advance.

H. M. SWANWICK.

## "Reclamation Road."

Much interest was aroused by an article entitled "Reclamation Road," issued in The Common Cause on December 13th, which revealed a terrible state of affairs in Colombo, where immorality is being carried on flagrantly in a row of "undesirable houses known to the public and to the police. The writer of the article, it will be remembered, stated that Mrs. Human, a sister of Mrs. Constance Garnett and of Miss Clementina Black, had gone to live in Reclamation Road, in the midst of these houses of illfame. She wrote from that address a letter to the Inspector-General of Police, in which she asked that she and the women-workers of the Salvation Army living with her might have some authority given them to enter and see the oung native girls living in the house of one Chara. The following correspondence ensued :-

Office of the Inspector-General of Police, MADAM,-I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter

dated December 21st, 1912.

I regret to inform you that the Police are not empowered to grant authority to members of the Salvation Army and yourself to enter authority to members of the Savation filmy and years
the residences of householders.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient servant,
S. H. DANIEL
(Superintendent of Police), Headquarters.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 23rd.

December 23rd.

Your answer that "the Police are not empowered to grant authority to members of the Salvation Army and yourself to enter the residences of householders" does not reply to the request that I made. I asked that authority should be given to members of the Salvation Army and myself to enable us to enter the brothels—one of which is owned by Chara, but is not his residence—so that we may speak with the native girls living in them. The police claim that these brothels are under their closest supervision; and such supervision must therefore include the power to give permission to enter.

mission to enter.

I must point out that Chara has no right to forbid these girls visits from us, since the girls are neither his daughters, slaves nor prisoners, nor has he any legal authority over them of any kind. Nor has any one else, except their own parents and legal guardians, a right to forbid, or to prevent them from seeing us.

At present, we are prevented. It is to remedy this that I have asked for authority from the police.

How can men, whether the police or any other, "supervise" the condition of girls? Only women can do this.

Yours truly,

Grace Human
(Cor. Hon. Sec., Colombo Vigilance Society).

The reply to this was received on December 30th, 1912.

MERRUARY 14, 1913.

MADAM,—I am in receipt of your letter of the 26th irst. regarding your wish to enter residences in Reclamation Road.

While in full sympathy with your desire to enter houses suspected to contain women of immoral character, I must again repeat what my Headquarters Superintendent wrote to you on 23rd inst., namely, that I have no authority whatever to grant you, or any one else, permission to enter houses.

I am. Madam. yours truly

I am, Madam, yours truly,
IVOR DAVID (Inspector-General of Police).

An account of the circumstances which led to Mrs. Human's first letter is given by herself in The Christian Watchman (published in Colombo) of January 18th.

Shed in Colombo) of January 18th.

The facts are these. Chara, as is well known, has a large house full of young prostitutes, and the Salvation Army ladies and I wish to visit these girls, to persuade them to leave their evil life and to come away. Our wish is further strengthened by knowing that some of these girls are very young, and that in many cases, if not all, they have been brought there by fraud or without their consent. But we cannot get to see them, except by meeting with force. The men guarding the doors shut them immediately we approach. They stand in front of them and prevent us from coming near. One afternoon when we did find the door for a moment unguarded, and were speaking to some of the girls inside, one of these men returned. As soon as he saw us, he began to yell at the top of his voice, and, running up, tried by force to wrest the door from my hand. I resisted and expostulated. One of the girls took our side, and there was a great deal of loud and angry talking. A crowd collected; and the girls, seeing this, begged us to go away. Chara himself arrived a little later. He informed us that "we should see what he would do to us if we ever came there again!"

Since then, no doubt, the girls have received their orders, and, if

to us if we ever came there again!"

Since then, no doubt, the girls have received their orders, and, if we are not frightened, they are. They peep at us through the chink of the door, but are not even allowed to receive papers from us.

These girls are prisoners. I have lived in this road, close by them, for six weeks, and I have never yet seen one of them outside of the house (except on one occasion when a man was stabbed, and a girl came down the steps into the road for a moment). All the time they are in this house, either plying their trade, which, judging by the number of their customers both day and night, must take a large part of the time, or sleeping, eating, and dressing. Nothing by the number of their customers both day and fight, must take a large part of the time, or sleeping, eating and dressing. Nothing else at all. No recreation, no exercise, no intercourse with the outside world. In mercy and compassion is there any other animal in creation except a young girl that is allowed to be treated so cruelly?

## Women's Suffrage Information Bureau.

As the literature and history of the Women's Suffrage Movement accumulate, it becomes increasingly difficult for speakers and writers to keep pace with it, and the need for a general Information Bureau has become acute. individual societies have their own, but it is felt that this leads to many gaps and, on the other hand, to much overlapping of

A meeting was therefore held on February 4th at the International Women's Franchise Club, to which representatives were invited from all societies having Women's Suffrage for their sole object, or one of their objects. Friendly replies were received from the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, the Women's Freedom League, the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, the Actresses' Franchise League, the Fabian Women's Group, the London Graduates' Union, the London Society for Women's Suffrage, the Writers' Suffrage League, the International Franchise Club, the Women's Labour League, the Scottish Churches' League, and the Church League for Women's Suffrage. Representatives attended the meeting and a draft constitution was hammered out, and will be submitted for approval to all the societies, who will then be asked to contribute the necessary funds for starting the Bureau.

It is intended that, as far as practicable, the Bureau shall give information gratis, and at least £500 will be required for the first year. The National Union and the London Society have declared themselves willing to subscribe £100 and £40 respectively, provided that the remainder of the £500 is found, and that they can approve the constitution as finally determined. It is proposed that the Bureau shall have a governing body democratically elected by the subscribers, that this body shall appoint experts for the work, and that the offices of the Bureau shall not form part of the premises of any of the societies. Subscriptions will be welcomed from individuals as well as societies. For further information apply to Miss Chrystal Macmillan, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster,

Mrs. O'Grady, of the Utility Poultry Farm, Coachford, Cork, has been presented with the deeds of a farm in Kent valued at £1,000 as the winner of a poultry farming competition.

## Extracts from the Press.

"SCOTSMAN," February 5th, 1913.

"It is the position of the Prime Minister and of the Cabinet as a whole that is left in obscurity, and should be cleared up without delay. Mr. Asquith, in the speech to which he refers his questioners, made no specific allusion to the guillotine, or any mention of the Parliament Act. He was understood, from his manner of receiving a remark by Mr. Bonar the distance of the Corenterent responsibility would be He was understood, from his manner of receiving a remark by Mr. Bonar Law, to demur to the idea that Government responsibility would be exercised in this form on behalf of the Bill. There is no doubt that any proposal to place it under the operation of the Parliament Act would meet with strong opposition from some of his colleagues. The Colonial Secretary has endorsed the opinion of Lord Loreburn that it would be a scandal and an outrage on the Constitution to adopt this means of carrying a revolutionary measure which has never received the approval of the electors, and on which the members of the Cabinet themselves are sharply divided. In ordinary circumstances, and in the case of any Government of which the country has hitherto had experience, it might safely have been assumed that a Ministerial break-up was imminent on safely have been assumed that a Ministerial break-up was imminent on this critical question.'

'WESTMINSTER GAZETTE," February 4th, 1913.

"WESTMINSTER GAZETTE," February 4th, 1913.

"Undoubtedly the drawback of our two-party system is that it tends to squeeze a great many varieties of opinion into two rather rough machine but it corresponds to the simple and massive views which Englishmen are accustomed to take of politics, and it is a far more efficient machine for practical purposes than any other that has been evolved. Some discipline there must be, or, as we have seen in a recent example, an assembly of 670 men becomes a distracted mob, and, taking it with its drawbacks and its advantages, we still know of none better than the characteristic English division into Ministerialists and Opposition, with a responsible Government to guide the House. An irresponsible Government with a Referendum (and its inevitable accompaniment, the initiative) seems to us nearly the worst of all, and we cannot imagine any party ms to us nearly the worst of all, and we cannot imagine any party State seriously proposing it, when all its consequences have been

"PALL MALL GAZETTE," February 6th, 1913.

"Mr. Asquith's position in regard to the question of Woman Suffrage, for example, is frankly impossible, unless he is willing to submit to any and every kind of abuse from nominal friend and actual foe. . . . .

and every kind of abuse from nominal friend and actual foe.

"It is believed in the Liberal Party that Mr. Asquith would welcome a release from the responsibilities of leadership, but his destination is not obvious at present. If the way were open to such a change of work as would befit a statesman of Mr. Asquith's calibre, there would hardly be any doubt that he would elect to take it. But the hour—and the place—have not arrived." have not arrived.

"LAW TIMES," February 8th, 1913.

"Although unanimity and co-operation amongst Ministers of the Crown upon the basis of party are absolutely essential to the success of Parliamentary government, questions will sometimes arise which, in the opinion of leading members of a Government, are of too doubtful, delicate, or of leading members of a Government, are of too doubtful, delicate, or complex a nature to admit either of agreement or compromise, and yet which require an immediate settlement. Upon such questions Cabinet Ministers may agree to differ, and when brought before Parliament they are treated as 'open questions,' to be advocated or opposed by individual Ministers, at their pleasure. It is impossible to define beforehand what questions may properly be accounted 'open' questions without detriment to the character of a Ministry or to its claims to the respect and confidence of Parliament. Since unanimity in the Cabinet has become an acknowledged rule, such great questions as Parliamentary Reform, the Ballot, the Abolition of the Slave Trade, Roman Catholic Emancipation, Free Trade, Hours of Labour in Factories, Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister, Women's Disabilities, Household Franchise in Counties, the Public Worship Regulation Bill, with other minor matters, have generally been considered 'open questions' by some Administrations though not by others."

"TIMES." February 8th, 1013.

"The point I wish to press is that, whatever the remedy may be, the root of the evil lies in the modern practice of combining legislative and executive functions in a single committee called the Cabinet. Under present conditions the Cabinet is virtually the sole legislative authority in the realm. No Bill unblessed by the Cabinet has any chance of passing into large core. Bill that the Cabinet has any chance of passing in the realm. No Bill unblessed by the Cabinet has any chance of passing into law; every Bill that the Cabinet chooses to bless can be passed into law in exactly the shape that the Cabinet prescribes. So far as authoritative control over legislation is concerned, King, Lords, and Commons have all disappeared; the Cabinet alone remains. Nor is there any way of getting rid of this legislative omnipotence of the Cabinet as long as executive and legislative functions are combined in one body. Where responsibility is, there power must be; and if the country continues to look to the Executive Government to provide legislative measures, the Cabinet must continue to exercise despotic power.

Cabinet must continue to exercise despotic power.

"The recent decision of the Cabinet to leave the question of Women's Suffrage to the unfettered judgment of the House of Commons seems to have almost terrified many members of Parliament. As one speaker good-humouredly confessed, members have grown so used to their fetters that they are frightened when liberty is offered to them."

(Letter from Mr. HAROLD COX.)

"LABOUR LEADER." February 6th, 1913.

"Mr. Snowden held the conference as I have never seen it held before. There was an intense stillness, and the atmosphere was electric with emotion. To many present the issue was one of more account than life and death. The cause of Labour's emancipation and the cause of Woman's emancipation seemed a part of their very being, and severance would have hurt them more acutely than any bodily pain."

## International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

#### Seventh Conference.

On June 15th, 1913, the seventh Conference of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance will convene in Buda-Pesth,

Hungary, continuing five days thereafter. The affiliated National Woman Suffrage Associations of the following twenty-three countries will each be entitled to twelve delegates:-Austria, Australia, Belgium, Bohemia, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Servia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. Applications for affiliations with the Alliance will be received from National Suffrage Associations in Poland, Roumania, Galicia, and China.

All countries where women now vote, including American States, will be invited to send official delegates to the Congress. Many National Associations of various countries in sympathy with the Woman Suffrage Movement will be represented by

Especially invited delegates are expected from Egypt, India, Burma, China, Japan, and the Philippines. For the first time THE TRAGEDY OF THE WOMAN WORKER: WAGES AND THE WHITE in the Woman Movement, it is expected that Hindu, Buddhist, Confucian, Mohammedan, Jewish and Christian women will sit together in a Congress, uniting their voices in a common plea for the liberation of their sex from those artificial discriminations which every political and religious system has directed against

The rapid strides taken by the Woman Suffrage Movement within the past few years have placed it in the lead of the great reforms of the world. So rapidly has the theory of Woman Suffrage been transformed into established fact that at each of the previous six International Conferences there have been victories to celebrate. The gain of four American States since the last Congress, and analogous significant triumphs of the cause in several European countries will furnish subject for further rejoicing at Buda-Pesth.

Verily, Justice has listened to the plea of Woman, and is touching the intelligence of the world with understanding! The Congress at Buda-Pesth, linking together the chain of organisations which now encircle the earth, will be a milestone in the progress of the Woman Movement, pointing to the certain emancipation of the women of the entire world.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, U.S.A. (President). MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT (Great Britain, 1st Vice- President) Annie Furuhjelm (Finland, 2nd Vice-President). MARTINA KRAMERS (The Netherlands, Secretary) Anna Lindemann (Germany, Secretary). SIGNE BERGMANN (Sweden, Secretary). ADELA STANTON COIT (Great Britain, Treasurer).

Miss M. Sheepshanks, writing from 1, Barton Street, West-

"The "Call" to the International Convention which appears above, strikes a particularly stirring note, and will, we hope, meet with a hearty response. Each year that the Convention meets it becomes more representative, and has more successes to record. Possibly this year Great Britain may have the happiness of appearing among the countries which have enfranchised Whether that is so or not, the cause is a world-wide one, and every country and every individual gains in inspiration and knowledge by these meetings with women of all countries, all bound together in a common movement for liberty. International Woman Suffrage Alliance is the bond that holds women of so many diverse countries together, and we should like to see a great increase in its membership.

monthly the interesting international paper, Jus Suffragii, and to attend the International Congress, if they have been members for three months.

Great Britain in particular, where the cause of women has gained a long succession of victories in the fields of education, local government and entry to professions, and which is now the centre of political action and interest, should play a great part in the international movement and join hands with the women of Asia, Africa and America.

This year it is expected that a number of Indian women will attend the Congress as delegates, and it is hoped that English-women will give them a warm welcome. Will all men and women who wish to join the International Woman Suffrage dom between the covers of a blotting-book is a small triumph in Alliance kindly send their names to me?'

## Some New Books.

FEBRUARY 14, 1913.

THE POODLE WOMAN. By Annesley Kenealy. (Votes for Women Series, Stanley Paul, 6s.)

Miss Kenealy's novel turns upon the inequality of the law of divorce as between men and women; and she brings its hardships into high relief by inventing an angelic wife and a husband of almost incredibly unrelieved selfishness and malignity. The total absence of any intermediate shades in the goodness of her characters, the redundance of adjectives, and an appearance of headlong haste are serious defects. It was an error, too, on the heroine's part to accept as trustworthy her mendacious husband's exposition of the law. If she had demanded the judicial separation to which she was entitled, the court could, and assuredly would, have given the custody of a child of three years old, not to the father of openly scandalous life, but to the plameless mother—especially since she had an ample income for its support. The laws are still unfair to wives, but not so unfair as that; and Biddy's total bereavement would have endured only until it occurred to some of her friends to consult

SLAVE TRAFFIC. By H. D. Roberts. (The Liverpool Booksellers' Co., 70, Lord Street, Liverpool. 1d.)

Mr. Roberts, a Nonconformist minister, takes for his text the fixing by the Trade Board appointed to that end, of a minimum wage in the box-making trade. The hourly rate is to be threepence, and (box-making being almost invariably paid by the piece) piece rates have doubtless been settled at a figure calculated to yield threepence an hour to an average worker. The weekly wage, for 52 hours, will be 13s., whereas many women in this trade have been receiving but 8s. to os. for a full week's work.

Thirteen shillings is surely a small enough weekly income for subsistence, but Mr. Roberts has satisfied himself that in Liverpool and the surrounding district there are 50,000 women workers whose weekly average falls below that level. Proceeding to inquire why women are so badly paid, he concludes that it is because

the housebold without direct pay is still considered to be the place of woman; and when she steps into the industrial arena, it is convenient for the employer to assume that she is still within the circle of domestic support, and that she emerges merely for his

He believes that the same reasons which cause the underpayment of women are causes also of prostitution, and that "the inferior position of women in our actual society" needs imperatively to be altered; and he closes his sermon in social economics by a plea for the extension of the Trade Board Act to all underpaid women's work.

Antiques and Curios in our Homes. By Grace M. Vallois. (T. Werner Laurie, 6s. net.)

\* \* \* \* \*

"Chatty" books are too often "made-up" books, in which a very small nucleus of facts is wrapped up in a great deal of sugary verbiage. Mrs. Vallois's volume is of an entirely different sort. She talks of objects that she has long known and loved, and her descriptions are of real use to the comparatively ignorant. The few lines, for instance, in which she speaks of the "singular ridged appearance in the paste" of Bristol or Plymouth china, discernible only in a strong, reflecting light, but very marked to the touch, has led to the identification as Bristol of a jug in the present writer's possession. Again, the mention of such facts as that Chippendale's chairs ilways have the splat joined firmly to the seat," whereas The subscription is £1, and entitles members to receive Sheraton "hardly ever joined his splat to the seat, but put a crossbar from one upright to the other, fixing the splat in the middle," will be thankfully recollected by many an amateur. In short, Mrs. Vallois writes as only a person can write whose knowledge has been slowly acquired for love, not collected for the purposes of her book.

THE ROYAL PRIMROSE ATLAS. (John Knight, 1s.)

The presence of an atlas on any table or desk, at which literary synthesis for which many a writer will be thankful.

# The Election Fighting Fund.

#### The Last Six Months' Work.

Our Election Fighting Fund campaign opened last summer with a sensational series of by-elections. Before we had prepared our ground, or got our special Fighting Fund staff together, or learned how best to co-operate with our new allies, we had to take our part in four election contests following one another with scarcely a pause. Those were not the most favourable conditions for learning and using our new stength. But even so, we were able to render real help to our friends in the Labour Party; and the fact that we were able to make ourselves felt, as we did at Crewe and Midlothian, was most encouraging.

Since August there have been no by-elections involving the use of our Election Fighting Fund, and we have purposely refrained from publishing very much about the work which the E.F.F. Committee and the Federations have been organising in the constituencies. But on reviewing the events of the past six months we have every reason to be satisfied with the results of

Two of our Federations-the North-Eastern and Manchester and District-have formed local E.F.F. Committees to carry out work on E.F.F. lines in their districts. The North-Eastern Federation has three constituencies in hand, and others under consideration; the Manchester and District Federation has had four organisers at work in three constituencies, and is about to break fresh ground. Excellent work has been done in two of the Yorkshire constituencies in preparation for Labour candidatures of especial interest to suffragists. The Scottish Federation is organising in one of the Edinburgh Divisions, and is eager to get to work in several others in its area. East Bristol has just decided to adopt the E.F.F. policy against Mr. Hobhouse. Liberal seats on which an attack is being made include four held by anti-suffrage Ministers, and a fifth is under consideration.

In addition to all this steady organisation work, which is going on all the time, we now have a special Election Staff of competent speakers and organisers, all of them closely in touch with the Labour as well as the Suffrage Movement, ready to take part in any by-election at a few hours' notice.

The goodwill and comradeship and sympathy which are fast growing up between our workers and our friends in the Labour Movement bore fruit in the resolution passed by the Annual Conference of the Labour Party on January 30th, calling upon the Labour members in the House of Commons to oppose any Franchise Bill in future which does not include women. The large majority in favour of this resolution was largely due to the stand made by the Scottish miners on our behalf. The effect of our Midlothian campaign, and of Miss Robertson's subsequent visits to Scotland, have been far-reaching. It does not seem to be generally realised—and the Liberal papers take care not to enlighten the public on this point—that the resolution of the Labour Conference is absolutely binding on the Labour Members of Parliament. In former years the Parliamentary Labour Party have taken their guidance as to general policy from the Labour Conferences, but have been left free to decide, as occasion demanded, how they should give effect to that policy with regard to any specific measure.

This year, a resolution was passed making all Conference decisions absolutely binding on the Labour members, on pain of eviction from the party. This resolution immediately preceded the resolution on Women's Suffrage, so there could be no mistake about the intentions of the Conference.

#### Deputation to Parliamentary Labour Party.

As we go to press, the report comes in of a joint deputation from the N.U.W.S.S. and the Women's Co-operative Guild to the Parliamentary Labour Party, to discuss the present situa-tion and future policy. The proceedings were private, but we understand that they were of a very satisfactory and fruitful

#### Appeal for Funds.

The following appeal for funds is being issued by the Election Fighting Fund Committee:—

"When, last year, the Labour Party Conference passed a resolution declaring that no Reform Bill would be acceptable to the Labour and Socialist movement which did not include the enfranchisement of women, the National Union, recognising that the Labour Party were proving

themselves the best friends of Women's Suffrage, decided to raise a special fund for the support of Labour candidates in three-cornered elections. A year has passed, and every reason which then operated to make this policy approved has been intensified by events. The failure of the Government honourably to redeem their pledges or even to acknowledge the debt, has added force to its anti-government aspect. So far as it means a blow struck at the Government (as it did at Crewe and Midlethian) we have obviously room call the gain and arthing the lace. it means a blow struck at the Government (as it did at Crewe and Midlothiar) we have obviously now all to gain and nothing to lose. As support of our friends, it has been amply justified by the decision of the Labour Conference this year (by 870,000 votes to 437,000) to 'call on the Parliamentary Labour Party to oppose any Franchise Bill in which women are not included.' Finer even than the decision was the spirit of the Conference. 'Let us say to the other parties,' cried one delegate, 'You are not prepared to keep your word. We are prepared to go one better than our word.' The result of the voting was received with an outburst of spontaneous enthusiasm warming to the heart of Suffragists. Delegates rose to their feet, and cheered continuously for several minutes. They represented nearly two million organised workers. This is a force which should be sufficient to carry us to victory. Let us show in the most practical way both our indignation against those who have failed us, and our appreciation of those who are prepared to make real sacrifices to help us, by doubling and redoubling our Election Fighting Fund. Please think no donation too little and none too big for this vitally important work, but send whatever you can afford as soon as possible to the Hon. Treasurer, Flection Fighting Fund for Women's Suffrage, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W."

#### Treasurer's Statement.

In connection with this appeal for further support it is well to make a short statement of the present position of the Fund. £5,293 has been received; £2,349 has been spent. Of the balance, £2,000 has been placed on deposit, ear-marked for work in six specially important constituencies at the next General Election. All work at present in progress is provided for in this statement up till April, but the remaining £1,944 is all we have in hand to meet any urgent by-elections which may have to be contested on Fighting Fund lines, and the expenses after April of preparing the ground in various constituencies, either for purposes of attack, or for defending the seats of such friends as Mr. Henderson, Mr. Philip Snowden and others.

It will be seen that if the work is to be carried on with vigour we need fresh subscriptions and donations at once.

The following are the officers and committee of the Election Fighting Fund:

Hon. Treasurers: MRS. AHERBACH.

Chairman: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. MRS. ANSTRUTHER.

MRS. ANSTRUTHER.

MISS F. M. STERLING (pro tem.).

MISS CATHERINE MARSHALL.

Councillor Margaret Ashton. Mr. H. N. Brailsford. MRS. STANTON COIT. MISS K. D. COURTNEY.
MURIEL COUNTESS DE LA WARR.
MISS I. O. FORD. MRS. HOMAN. Mr. Laurence Housman. Miss M. Lees.

Chief Organiser:
MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON.

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF LYTTON.
MISS MARGARET MACMILLAN.
LADY MEYER. Miss E. Palliser. Mrs. Philip Snowden. Mrs. Stanbury. Mr. G. E. S. Streatfeild. Mrs. Swanwick. Mr. Israel Zangwill.

Secretary:
MISS M. L. MACKENZIE.

#### HELP STARVING WOMEN!

Suffragists are asked to reserve the Evening of FRIDAY, MARCH 7th, for the Great

## NATIONAL ANTI-SWEATING **DEMONSTRATION** At QUEEN'S HALL.

Women from all the Sweated Trades will be present to Demand that the Government will Secure them a Living Minimum Wage.

TICKETS, 5/- & 2/6 (Numbered and Reserved). 1/- & 6d.; and some Free Seats. From THE NATIONAL ANTI-SWEATING LEAGUE, 34, Mecklenburgh Square, W.C.

# Public Support for Women's Suffrage.

We published in a recent issue a Table showing the evidences of support of Women's Suffrage in the West Lancashire, West Cheshire and North Wales Federation. Further reports have now reached Headquarters from all parts of the kingdom, and we publish those of the North Eastern, North and East Ridings, Surrey, Sussex and Hants, and the South Wales and Monmouth

#### Public Authorities which have passed W.S. Resolutions since 1910,

#### Town Councils

Aberystwith. Beverley. Bridlington. Cardiff. Harrogate. Middlesbrough Newport (Wales Fed.). Penarth. Redcar. Scarborough

County Councils.

Glamorgan.

North Riding

Swansea.

Newcastle.

City Councils.

#### Urban District Councils.

Anfield Blagdon. Chester-le-Street. Cuckfield. Felling. Filev.

Hetton. Southwick. Spennymoor.

Weybridge. Haltwhistle

#### Borough Councils.

Brighton (County). Hartlepool

Jarrow. Tynemouth.

## Boards of Guardians.

Beverley.

Scarborough. Sculcoates.

#### Rural District Council. Haltwistle.

## Organisations and other Public Bodies which have passed W.S. Resolutions.

#### Trades and Labour Councils.

Bishop Auckland. Brighton and Hove. Chesterfield and District. Pontypridd.

#### Trade Unions.

Durham. Amalgamated Society of Engineers (many

Newcastle. Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employees. Newcastle. National Union of Wheelwrights and Smiths. Newcastle. Labour Representation Committee. Northumberland. Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

| Ind          | ependent Labour P | arty.          |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Beawell.     | Gateshead.        | Putsworth.     |
| Blyth.       | Guisborough.      | Pontypridd.    |
| Birtley.     | Harrogate.        | Reigate.       |
| Brighton.    | Haltwhistle.      | Shildon.       |
| Carlisle.    | Hartlepool.       | Spen.          |
| Consett.     | Hebburn.          | South Bank.    |
| Evenwood and | Hebburn Colliery. | South Shields. |
| W. Auckland. | Hull.             | Southampton.   |
| Elder Lane.  | Middlesbrough.    | Stanhope.      |
| Felling.     | Newcastle.        | Scarborough.   |
| Ferryhill.   | Newport.          | Worthing.      |
| Ferndale.    | Pentree.          |                |

#### National Union of Women Workers. Portsmouth.

FEBRUARY 14, 1913.

Brighton and Hove. Winchester. Newcastle Federation

Women's Co-operative Guild.

|                            | with relation to the control of the |
|----------------------------|---|
| Beawell.                   | Heaton.   |
| Blyth.                     | Hull.   |
| Bristol.                   | Linthorpe.  |
| Choppington.               | Middlesbrough.  |
| Camberley.                 | Newcastle.  |
| Croydon.                   | Portsmouth.   |
| Gosport (Women's Co-opera- | Redhill.  |
| tive League).              | Reigate.  |
| Gateshead.                 | South Park.   |
| Guildford.                 | Surrey.   |
| Hartlepool.                | York.   |

#### National Union of Teachers. Hull (District Teachers' Association). Newcastle

#### Liberal Associations.

Brighton and Hove (Liberal Newport (Welsh Liberal and Radical) Council). Nottingham. Brighton and Hove. Oxted. Chertsey Limpsfield. Chertsey (Liberal and Radical). Portsmouth (League of Young Croydon. Liberals).

Guildford. Reigate. Harrogate. Ripon. Scarborough (Club). Haslemere. Holderness. Whitby.

York (Liberal Association New Forest. Executive).

#### Women's Liberal Federations and Associations.

Lampeter (Young Liberals' Beverley. Berwick. Mansfield Blagdon. Middlesbrough.
Oxted and Limpsfield. Brighton and Hove. Cardiff. Portsmouth Durham Elswick (Federation). Pontypridd. Felling. Stroughton. Guildford. Swansea. Ushaw Moor, Harrogate. Ventnor (Isle of Wight L.W. Horsham. Counties Union). Wansbeck. Morpeth. Newport (Surrey Federation). Upper Wansbeck. Newport (Wales Federation).

#### Conservative Associations.

Croydon Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Hull and East Riding Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

Worthing.

Scarborough Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

Woking Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

Worthing Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise

Holderness Conservative Association. Scarborough Conservative Association. York Conservative Association.

#### Number of Meetings held.

| Nort | h Eastern Federation            | <br>67  |  |
|------|---------------------------------|---------|--|
| Nort | h and East Ridings Federation   | <br>23  |  |
| Surr | ey, Sussex and Hants Federation | <br>181 |  |
| Sout | h Wales and Monmouth Federation | <br>23  |  |

The Eastern Counties Federation have held meetings in

The Oxford, Berks and Bucks Federation have held meetings

## In Parliament.

FLANNELETTE. -On February 4th, Mr. T. Taylor brought in Bill "to deal with misdescription of fabrics." In introducing it he said that it was not a Bill to prevent the use of flannelette and proceeded to describe that fabric as composed of cotton, and having its surface "raised" or rendered fluffy. Some varieties of the material were so inflammable that if a person stood near a fire while clothed in it a single spark would in less than half a minute turn a whole garment into a sheet of flame. Deaths occasioned by the ignition of flannelette were, he said, "increasing at a rapid rate," and might, probably, be estimated at a thousand a year or more. In 1910 a Coroners' Committee, after sitting for two years, recommended that it should be made penal to describe as non-inflammable material which would not really stand certain prescribed tests. Some dealers had, unforunately, since the dangerous character of flannelette had become generally known, begun to advertise as safe fabrics which were highly inflammable. The Bill now introduced was intended to stop that pernicious practice. It did not prohibit the sale of the fabric; nor even require that dangerous fabrics should marked as such; it merely required that dangerous fabrics should not be "advertised, ticketed, stamped or marked as

It is surely time that any misdescription of any article offered for sale should be regarded by the law as a fraud and punished accordingly. In the meantime, it is to be hoped that Mr. Taylor's Bill will pass quickly through all its stages, and this particularly nefarious kind of fraud will come to an end.

TRAFFIC IN MINOR GIRLS IN INDIA.—On Wednesday, 5th February, Mr. Ferens asked whether Sir R. Craddock, speaking on behalf of the Government, had not said in the Legistive Council, last September, that according to "the latest reference on the subject " the traffic in minor girls was on the increase, while the development of public opinion among the

educated classes was in favour of fresh legislation.

Mr. Baker, in reply, said that Sir R. Craddock had spoken in the manner indicated; but the Government was reserving its final decision both as to the mode and scope of the legislation to be undertaken, until the opinions of the local governments and of the High Court of Calcutta (which were due on January 15th last) had been received.

It is to be hoped that public opinion both in India and in Britain will speak with no uncertain voice as to the protection of young girls who are British subjects. While our fellow citizens of another race have reason to believe—as they have had, in far too many of our Eastern territories-that young girls of their race are sacrificed, with the connivance, if not indeed with the approval, of the British authorities, to the men of ours, there will always be a just disaffection and a continually growing discontent with British rule.

Women's Suffrage.—Women's Suffrage was mentioned in three questions on Wednesday. In one occurred Sir Arthur Markham's suggestion-one of those suggestions which honourable members seem to plume themselves upon making, without at all comprehending their implications—that militant suffragists might be forcibly deported to St. Helena. To admit the possibility of placing "these people," as Sir Arthur elegantly calls them, outside the ordinary law, is to acknowledge their contention that they have defeated the law. No Member seems to have offered the obvious suggestion that political offenders, however much detested by persons in authority, should be treated as first-class prisoners. Those administrators of the law who orginally chose to treat political prisoners as criminals have themselves to thank for the impasse to which forcible feeding has brought them. Out of that impasse there is but one way for the authorities-the way back.

Somewhat later Sir G. D. Rees asked the Prime Minister whether the Women's Suffrage Bill would be given first place next Session regardless of its fate in the ballot, and in preference to other Bills, regardless of their claims.

Mr. Asquith—than whom no recent Parliament has provided a less informing answerer of questions—replied that the Govern-

ment were pledged to provide facilities for a Bill out of the time at their disposal.

On the same evening Mr. King asked Mr. Asquith whether he had considered the suggestion of forming a Committee on quasi-Cabinet lines to draft a Bill on a subject outside the usual limits of party controversy; whether he was prepared to propose new standing orders to regulate such a procedure; and whether, if the subject were not deemed ripe for such action, means would be taken to consult the opinion of honourable members upon it?

Mr. Asquith, dexterously avoiding the essence of the question, said that the formation of such a Committee was a question for those interested in the particular matter and not for the Government. The point of Mr. King's inquiry lay in the suggestion that if Committees of the kind proposed were recognised and regulated by new Standing Orders they might furnish a means of dealing with important questions that are matters of party, and so, in some degree, remedy the disadvantages of Party government.

NAVAL PENSIONS .- On Monday, February 10th, Dr. Macnamara, in answer to Sir Reginald Pole-Carew, said that when men serving in the Navy lost their reason and were sent to the Yarmouth Naval Asylum, the whole of their naval pensions were surrendered—apparently to cover the cost of their maintenance. Private cash, valuables, and other possessions not likely to deteriorate were retained at the hospital pending the patient's recovery or death. Other effects were sold "at the port of invaliding," and the proceeds retained in the same manner. The Admiralty were advised that there was no legal authority under which these moneys could be paid away unless a committee or person were appointed under the Lunacy Act. Any balance of wages due was payable to dependent relatives; and in cases of exceptional need allowances from the Greenwich Hospital of from 4s. to 6s. a week might be granted to the wives and children of such men. Dr. Macnamara added that the Admiralty were considering the modification of these regulations in regard to the total surrender of pension in the case of men whose pension exceeded 1s. a day.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the considerations of the Admiralty will result in the handing over to the lunatic's wife precisely that amount of pension to which she would have been entitled on widowhood.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.—It is satisfactory to learn that Mr. Birrell is giving attention to the conditions of employment of young children in certain parts of Ulster, as shown by the Report of the Committee of Enquiry into the linen and other trades in the North of Ireland, and that a correspondence is going on between the Irish Government and the Home Office as to what steps should be taken to secure the better enforcement of the Employment of Children Act.

#### News from Sweden.

The elections to the town councils are now completed. There are 18 new women councillors, which brings the total up to 62, a satisfactory result, surely, since this is only the second time that women have been able to stand for election. Most of the new women councillors are prominent suffragists, some of them presidents of Suffrage Associations. Of the newly elected women 11 have been elected by Liberals, 1 by a combination of Liberals and Social Democrats, 2 by Conservatives, and 3 by independent women voters.

At Upsala a Christmas shop was opened for three days before Christmas, where Christmas gifts, sweets and toys, etc., were sold, along with suffrage literature, and the whole proceeds went to the Suffrage Agitation Fund. The sellers were for the most part girl-students, among them some of those whom we remember as such efficient pages in the Congress Hall. The Suffrage paper, Rötratt för Kvinnor, has just entered on its second year. Its subscribers already amount to 3,500, a very good circulation when we consider the small population of the country. Its new editor is Mrs. Ester Brigman, daughter of Frigga Carlberg, one of the oldest and best known of Swedish suffrage workers.

NS OII SWITT

WEIGHT 20 OUNCES YELLOW, GREEN, MOLE, 52/6 EACH

WRITE FOR OUR NEW CATALOGUE OF FISHING WADERS - BOOTS - BROGUES - BAGS ANDERSON, ANDERSON & ANDERSON, Ltd., 37, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C., LONDON, 58-59, CHARING CROSS, S.W.

FEBRUARY 14, 1913.

# Notes from Headquarters.

#### The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. President: MES. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

MISS I. B. O'MALLEY (Literature). Hon. Secretaries:

MISS K. D. COUBTINEY
MISS EDITH PALLISER
MISS CATHERINE MARSHALL | mentary
MISS EMILY M. LEAF (Press).

MISS I. B. O'MALLEY (LIMITED MARSHALL)
MISS I. B. O'MALLEY (LIMITED MARSHALL)
MISS GERALDINE COOKE.

MISS I. B. O'MALLEY (LIMITED MARSHALL)
MISS I. B. O'MALLEY (LIMITED Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

#### New Societies.

Ross, Dornoch, Bishop Auckland, Cockermouth, Cromer, Lowestoft, Silverdale, Sutherland, Stoke-on-Trent, Woodbridge, Matlock, Cinderford, Bargoed, Upper Rhondda.

#### Chorley By-Election.

At a special meeting of the Executive Committee it was decided to undertake propaganda only in the Chorley Division. The Liberal candidate has answered the National Union's questions in the affirmative, and the Conservative is an antisuffragist, so that had the election taken place a month ago, the National Union would have supported the Liberal candidate. But the fiasco of the Reform Bill has completely altered the situation, and pending the decision of the Council, which is to be held in little more than a fortnight, and at which the whole question of the election policy of the National Union will be discussed, the Executive Committee felt that it could not recommend the support of a Government candidate, and must decide upon a policy of propaganda only.

#### Literature Department.

The National Union has a leaflet ready on the political situation. It is called "The Position of the N.U.W.S.S.," Feb., 1913, and costs 6d. per 100. The February Catalogue is now ready, and will be sent gratis and post free to anyone who writes

I. B. O'MALLEY.

#### A Lantern Lecture.

Fran Rosika Schwimmer has kindly lent to the National Union slides and letterpress of a lecture on Hungary. The country is of peculiar interest to suffragists just now, since the Congress of the International Suffrage will meet this summer in Buda-Pesth. The history of Hungary makes a double appeal to us, inasmuch as the Hungarians during a long period stood for national liberty, and maintained a gallant struggle against the Turks, and women have played an important part both in government and in the frequent wars in which the country was

We hope that our Societies will take advantage of Frau Schwimmer's kindness, and we feel sure the lecture will prove extremely interesting. Slides and letterpress will be sent free of cost (except for the expense of carriage) to any Society that makes application.

#### Treasurer's Notes.

The Emergency Fund is growing and there is still a fortnight before the Council in which to build it up. As some questions have been asked, I may repeat that the Emergency Fund is needed partly to fill up the gap in our Funds caused by "emergency expenditure" during the late crisis, and partly to strengthen the hands of the Council in launching any fresh adaptation of policy which may be necessary in the new circumstances. Sums may be ear-marked for the General Fund, for the "Transferable Fund" (to be allotted at the discretion of the Executive as sudden need may dictate), for the Election Fighting Fund (see special appeal for the Election Fighting Fund, page 771), or for any other special purpose. We are grateful for many generous gifts this week.

F. M. STERLING (Hon. Treasurer pro tem.).

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Contributions to the General Fund. Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1912 Received February 3rd to 10th:— Mrs Martin Mrs Martin ...
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Miss C. Fleming
Dr. Jane Walker
Miss Brooke ...
"A Sister" ...
Miss E. J. Sloane
Mrś. Gibson ... Donations. Affiliation Fees. Colwyn Bay W.S.S. ... Guildford W.S.S. ... Kirkcaldy W.S.S. ... Leicester W.S.S. ... ... Leith Hill and District W.S.S. ... ... Innerleithen W.S.S. ... ... Farmers District W.S.S. (additional) ... Exmouth W.S.S. ...
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Lincoln W.S.S. ... Emergency Fund. Miss Colbeck Miss Ellen Underhill . Miss Ellen Elworthy Miss Mary Fretwell ... ... Mrs. and Miss E. C. Allmond Miss Angela Carter ... Miss A. M. Catchpool Miss A. M. Catchpool
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Miss M. E. Colson ...
Lady Gibb ...
Mrs. A. G. Pollock ...
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#### Friends of Women's Suffrage.

The Friends of Women's Suffrage Sub-Committee have received reports from a large number of societies which are working the scheme, but as not all of those known to have adopted it have yet reported, it is impossible to estimate exactly the total of "Friends" throughout the country.

The London Society (which sent to all its "Friends" not only some simple suffrage literature but also Mrs. Fawcett's letter, in which people were asked to induce voters to write to their representatives in Parliament) reports 5,134 "Friends"; the Manchester Society (which has 80 visitors at work) 1,040; the Birmingham Society 820. The Bolton Society reports 170 visits. to "Friends" during the last quarter. The Edinburgh Society has organised the scheme in a very thorough manner; and many of the country societies have done so with great success.

The question whether members of National Union Societies shall continue to be eligible for enrolment as "Friends" will be discussed at the Council meeting. I. B. O'MALLEY,
(Hon. Sec. to F.W.S. Committee).

News from Chorley.

We have received from Miss Eskrigge, the National Union organiser, the following particulars as to the forthcoming byelection at Chorlev .-

"The election fight here will be short, polling-day having been fixed for February 19th. We are fortunate in having recently held a series of open-air meetings in Chorley, so that here we are free from the constant necessity of explaining that we are "non-militant." Luckily, there are three market-days during the campaign, as our stall proves a great centre of interest. Two hall meetings and a good programme of open-air meetings have been arranged, including dinner-hour meetings at the mills.

The "Anti's" have opened a committee-room, and I have already heard of one lady, previously indifferent, who has, in consequence, decided to back us.

The Liberal candidate is in favour of any and all forms of women's suffrage, except the granting of votes to all women (or

The Conservative candidate refuses to answer any questions, and says he holds the same anti-suffrage opinions that he

expressed to me months ago. We are receiving good backing from the Local Society, and nearly all the Conservative members are refusing any support to the Conservative candidate, and are, instead, devoting their energies to working up a meeting to be addressed by Miss. Royden on Friday (the 14th).

Joan of Arc's Example.

A correspondent writes:—There was an exciting moment at Mrs. Pankhurst's meeting at Essex Hall on Thursday, January 30th, when, after calling on her audience to unite in extreme forms of militancy and to make the life of the public "unendurable," short of injuring life itself, a woman asked Mrs. Pankhurst whether she would tell the meeting if she thought God had any place in this campaign?

She went on to remind women that Joan of Arc in eight days raised the Siege of Orleans, after weary months of ordinary warfare had been wasted, because she had behind her a Divine Power, with which she was in close communion. Without that same co-operation we should get nowhere. There was only One General to their movement, and that General was God. (Applause.) And only God's methods were the telling ones in Correction February 7th.

Wallasey and Wirral W.S.S. affiliation fee, £1 5s., should be 1st instalment of affiliation fee.

this great work. The speaker was glad to know they had adopted Joan of Arc for their pattern, as seen on the post-cards sold in the hall. Her great genius lay in her extraordinary power to organise and to unify the constitutional resources of her time and country, never once compromising the instincts of her higher personality. this great work. The speaker was glad to know they had

## LONDON SOCIETY OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES. PUBLIC RECEPTION To-day. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14th, 3.30 to 6.15. WESTMINSTER PALACE! HOTEL, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.

Chair: Miss FRANCES STERLING. Speakers: Miss K. D. COURTNEY, (Hon. Sec. N.U.W.S.S.), PHILIP SNOWDEN, Esq., M.P.
The Guests will be received by The Honble. Mrs. SPENCER GRAVES and Miss E. DIMOCK. Discussion. Tea 6d.
Next Week (Feb. 21): Mrs. FAWCETT, Hon. Mrs. SPENCER GRAVES, Mrs. C. A. V. CONYBEARE, Miss E. HILL.

## News from the Societies and Federations.

#### London Society.

RECEPTIONS.—The four public receptions which have asked taken place of the weekly series at the Westminster Palace Hotel, have proved highly successful. There has been a large attendance each week, and several times the room has been so full that many have been unable to obtain seats. Mrs. Fawcett spoke not notly on the opening day, but again on Jan. 24th, when she and Miss Courtney delivered important speeches on the situation, which were well reported in the Press. A Resolution calling on the Government to declare how it proposed to provide compensation for its broken pledges was carried unanimously. Other speakers have been Miss Palliser, Miss Royden, Miss Helen Ward, Miss Buckton, The Lady Frances Balfour, Sir Laurence Gomme, Miss J. H. Thompson, Mrs. Swanwick, Hon. Mrs. Spencer-Graves, Mr. Cholmeley, Mrs. Heitland and Miss C. Marshall.—Two members of the Executive Committee hold themselves specially responsible each week for receiving the guests, among those who have already acted as hostesses being Miss Emily Davies, LL.D., Miss R. Smith, Miss Palliser, and Miss B. Newcombe. Several interesting discussions have taken place, in which members of the audience have joined.

BALHAM.—A successful drawing-room meeting was held at 82, Balham Park Road, S.W., on Jan. 24th, at which the speaker was Miss Janet Thomson. The Chair was taken by Mr. S. Howard Allen. As the result of the speakers' able addresses, thirteen new members joined the Society. A good collection was taken.

Joined the Society. A good collection was taken.

BRIXTON.—The Literary and Discussion Society of the Brixton Independent Church held a very full meeting on Feb. 5th, to hear Miss A. Maude Royden on "Christianity and the Women's Movement." As it was the usual monthly meeting no selling of Suffrage literature could be allowed, but an energetic member of the local Committee of the London Society for Women's Suffrage, Mrs. Robert Back, stood outside the hall and sold 30 copies of the current COMMON CAUSE. Miss Royden's address was listened to with the deepest interest, and the subsequent discussion was of a very high character. A "millitant" visitor endeavoured to advocate "militant" was too high for such "means" to be appropriate, met with most sympathy from the audience.

CATFORD.—A Debate on Women's Suffrage was held at a well-attended meeting of the Literary and Debating Society in St. James's Hall on Jan. 27th. Miss Goddard opened on the Suffrage side, and Mr. Wanborough replied. It appeared from the subsequent speeches that feeling was mainly sympathetic with the Suffrage cause, but no vote was taken.

EALING.—In spite of a wet night, the Unitarian Church was full on Jan. 28th to hear Mrs. Swanwick. Mr. Ohambers, of the Middlesex County Times, took the Chair, and gave a capital opening speech. Mrs. Swanwick rivetted everyone's attention by her splendid address; she was followed by Mr. Ben Johnson, who ably dealt with historical precedents.

FULHAM.—A small but enthusiastic meeting was held the Elibank House on Jan, 22nd, at 8.30, when Mrs. Jorbeth Ashby gave an admirable address. Mr. Alexan-er Herbert kindly presided, and some discussion followed.

HACKNEY (NORTH) .- A Social Evening of this HACKNEY (NORTH).—A Social Evening of this Branch attracted a good audience to 56, Clapton Common, N., on Jan. 24th. A duologue, "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky" (authoress Miss Glover), was given with great success by two members. A dramatic recitation from Dickens, entitled "The Flight of Little Emily," by Mr. Stannard, was greatly appreciated, and "Talks," and other recitations completed the programme. Three new members were gained.

members were gained.

HIGHGATE.—Having been asked by the local Branch of the W.L.A. to join in a canvass of adult women in N. St. Pancras, desired by H. Dickinson, M.P., for some weeks other work was subordinated to that. Neither time nor number of workers allowed of a complete canvass, but, together with the W.L.A. 2.278 signatures were collected, and those who had done similar work in 1906 with Miss Clementina Black's Declaration Form testified to the great progress in public oninion since that date. The petition was presented to Mr. Dickinson at the House of Commons on January 21st, and Mrs. Misll Smith, B.A. (President of the N. St. Pancras, Mrs. Bouman and Mrs. E. J. Harrington (members of the London Society) to form part of the deputation. Mr. Dickinson expressed much pleasure at the number of signatures.

KENSINGTON (SOUTH).—On Jan. 16th Miss Lake kindly lent her drawing-room for the Annual Members' Meeting. Miss Cockle (in the Chair) read a short report of the year's work, and announced that two new members had joined the Committee Mrs. Felkin and Mrs. Arthur Savory, and that as there were not more nominations than vacancies there would be no voting. Miss Rosamond Smith, who had kindly come to speak at a moment's notice in the regrettable absence of Miss Lowndes, dealt with the present situation. There was some discussion, and several of those present offered to join the Letter Carriers' Guild, and offers of drawing-rooms for future meetings were received.

ST. PANCRAS (SOUTH).—On Jan. 30th, Mrs. Herbert Rendel, 51, Gordon Square, held a drawing-room meeting, at which Miss Frances Sterling took the Chair, and gave an excellent address. Miss Anna Martin also spoke on "How the Need of the Vote especially Affects the Working Woman." She was listened to with great attention, and a good discussion followed.

the Cause. The speaker emphasized the necessity of all interested in the movement joining some Society in order to strengthen the volume of organised opinion on the subject. After a short interval, during which refreshments were served, a number of interesting questions were asked and satisfactorily answered, and a Resolution calling on the Government to introduce a Bill tor the entranchisement of women without delay was carried with enthusiasm, only one person abstaining. 14 full members, 3 associates, and "friends" were gained.

wimbledon.—A successful drawing-room meeting was held at Ashford House on Feb. 3rd by kind invitation of Mrs. T. Raifless Hughes, and Miss Rosamond Smith was the speaker. The Chairman said that her chief reason for supporting the enfranchisement of women was owing to the effect it would produce on the social evil, and quoted Mrs. Fawcett as saying that the Criminal Law Amendment Act was brought forward mainly owing to the Women's Suffrage agitation. Miss Rosamond Smith said that women should have liberty of choice in political matters. At present, educated women are made much use of politically, but they have no direct influence. When women take an interest in the poorer classes of the community and find that all is not well with them, they would like to help in a really effective way. In countries where women are enfranchised, there is a marked increase of domestic legislation. The speaker finally urged all present to take an interest in this great question, and, if in favour of the franchise, to join the Wimbledon Branch. Two new Members joined.

#### Bournemouth Society.

Bournemouth Society.

On January 6th, Mrs. Laney took part in "A Trial by Jury" at the invitation of Southbourne and Pokesdown Debating Society. The Liberal Government was tried and condemned on account of its action re Woman's Suffrage. On January 8th the Bournemouth Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. held the first monthly "At Home" of the season, the Hostess being Mrs. Hanbury Rowe, V.P., After tea a play was acted by the Misses Rowe and Miss D. Silverman. After this Mrs. Hull gave a graphic description of the meeting of the Men's League in London. Several new Members joined and a good collection was taken. On January 24th the Bournemouth Literary Circle arranged a public Debate at Wilberforce Hall. Miss Kemp Furner spoke in favour of Women's Suffrage, and the President of the Circle, Mr. O'Holland, B.A., spoke against. Mr. T. K. Hume was in the chair. At the end, the "Anti's" only obtained two votes, the Suffragiste gaining a splendid victory. On January 29th St. Peter's Hall was crowded (and every seat paid for), a joint meeting being held by the Men's Westbourne Debating Society between the National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage, and the local Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Mr. T. Stevens was Chairman. The Resolution before the meeting was "That the granting of the Parliamentary franchise to women would be dangerous to the Empire, detrimental to the interests of the community as a whole, and specially to the interests of women." Mrs. Harold Norris spoke ably in favour of the Resolution and the leader against was Mrs. Swanwick, who was in splendid form. There were several other speakers and one gentleman who had come intending to speak on the "Anti" side was convinced by Mrs. Swanwick and spoke for her. When the vote was taken, a majority of 38 was declared against the Resolution. The whole arrangements were admirable.

#### The Federations.

#### North and East Ridings : Yorks.

A public meeting was held at Easingwold on January 25th, when Miss Helen Fraser was the principal speaker. Mrs. K. E. T. Wilkinson took the chair, and Miss Dutton also spoke. There was a good audience. Oppies of COMMON CAUSE were sold, and leaflets distributed.

MALTON AND DISTRICT.—A Drawing-room meeting was held at Mrs. Low's, Norton, on January 29th. Miss Dutton gave an interesting address, which was much appreciated. The same evening she spoke at a public meeting in Slingsby.

SALTBURN.—A very successful meeting was held at the Cleveland Hall, Guisborough, Yorks., on January 22nd, by Miss Margaret Dutton. Mr. W. Charlton, J.P., took the chair, and Miss Dutton delivered an excellent address to an interested audience; the other speakers being Mrs. Charlton and Mrs. Waters Stainthorpe, of Saltburn. It is hoped shortly to form a branch at Guisborough.

Guisborough.

SCARBOROUGH.—The first day of the debate on Sir Edward Grey's amendment was marked by two meetings which Miss Helen Fraser addressed—one in the Office at 3.30 (Mrs. Tindall Harris in the Chair), and one in B Class-room, Roscoe Rooms, at 7.30 (Chair, Mrs. Wallis). Her two addresses put fresh heart into former members, and helped them to face the blow of January 25th with resolution, while it added 10 new members to their ranks. At Scalby Temperance Hall, on January 30th, despite bad weather, a fair audience gathered to hear Mrs. Corbett-Asbby. Mr. Evans Jackson took the Chair. Six new members and several "Friends" joined, and other members are certain, so that Scalby will soon be able to form its own Branch. An empty shop window next the office was hired from January 23rd for the display of posters, press cuttings, leaflets, etc., and the Committee hope to take it on for some time longer. The COMMON CAUSE was sent to local members of the I.L.P. and others before and during the discussion of the Franchise Bill.

Cudworth (Vice-President) presided; the business meeting was followed by tea. Mrs. Corbett-Ashby then gave a lucid account of the parliamentary situation, a large audience assembling to hear her. Mrs. Leadley presided at the literature stall, and Miss Pulleyn did a brisk trade with the COMMON CAUSE. An evening meeting was held for teachers, the hostesses being Mrs. Cudworth, Mrs. Jalland, and Mrs. K. E. T. Wilsinson. Mrs. Corbett-Ashby was again the speaker, and as a result of her eloquence several teachers became members.

Oxon, Bucks and Berks,

BANBURY.—Miss Dunnell was "At Home" to a
large number of guests on January 6th, when a discussion was held on "The Vote and the Problem of
Women's Wages." The subject was introduced by Miss
Dora Mason, M.A., and seconded by Miss A. Haines,
Miss Gillett Hon. Secretary, presided; and an interesting discussion followed. On January 9th the Banbury
Women's Liberal Association held a meeting and Miss
Dora Mason, M.A., addressed a large and attentive
audience of Liberal women.

BERKHAMSTED.—The fourth lecture of the series was given at the Progress Hall, on Friday, January 2ith, the subject being "Women under the Law." The attendance was fairly good, and the speaker, Miss Sheepshanks, treated her subject in an interesting way. On February 5th a meeting was held at Boxmoor, the speaker being Miss Helen Matters, who addressed a most appreciative audience.

most appreciative audience.

BUCKINGHAM.—Miss Clarkson went to Buckingham on January 3rd, and thoroughly canvassed the town and neighbouring district. She worked industriously f r the Public Meeting held in Oddfellows Hall, Buckingham, on January 20th, and was rewarded by getting a very large audience. The Hall was full, and the speeches of Mrs. Haverfield and Mrs. A. Gillett, were much appreciated. Col., the Hon. C. J. Hubbard, took the Chair, and also spoke. Messages of sympathy were received from Sir H. Verney, M.P., the Vicar of Buckingham and the Vicar of Thornborough. The audience largely consisted of men. The Resolution was carried with two dissentients, and the Chairman and four others joined the N.U. after the meeting. Miss Clarkson's work in Buckingham was brought to a very successful conclusion by the formation of a Society, and on January 24th an "At Home" was given at which a Committee was formed and Officers appointed. Lady De la Warr, to whom the cordial thanks of the Federation are due for generously financing the campaign, has consented to be President; Miss Woodham and Miss Jakeman are Hon. Secretaries; Mr. J. Baker, Hon. Treasurer. Miss Clarkson was greatly helped by Lady De la Warr, whose constant encouragement was invaluable, and who also lent a motor-car for work in the outlying villages.

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HIGH WYCOMBE.—On December 17th a sale of cakes and sweets was held at Ulverscroft, and was very well attended. A Christmas-tree, an entertainment, and fortune-telling by Miss Robinson, were included in the attractions. More than £20 was realised, which will be a valuable help towards the expenses of the weekly meetings arranged until April 14th. Many "Friends of Women's Suffrage" gave generously both in time and articles for sale.

Five of the weekly meetings arranged since Christmas by Mrs. R. H. Berney have taken place. At the first of these, on January 8th, Mrs. Dixon H. Davies, of Beaconsfield, was in the chair, and introduced Mrs. Matheson, a Russian lady, who spoke on "Voteless Men and Women in Russia," After tracing the gradual rise of the spirit of freedom in Russia among the peasants, aided by the intellectual members of the community, Mrs. Matheson described how the granting of the Constitution and the Franchise in 1905 was followed by the introduction of the Women's Suffrage question. In her opinion the women of Russia appear to be regarded by the men as their intellectual and professional equals far more than is the case in most European countries; and this leads her to suppose that the enfranchisement of the Russian women will be an early result of any considerable advance of representative government in that country.

On January 15th there was a discussion at the Office of the Society on "The Economic Position of Women," papers being read by Mrs. Field and Mrs. Berney. On January 22nd Mrs. Ensor gave an address on "Men and Women in Political Life," followed by a discussion on the present political situation. On January was read by Mrs. G. F. E. Soott, at the Guidhall. The large audience showed great interest, especially in the slides of "Pit Brow Lassies," and those illustrating the conditions under which many sweated women workers toil A Resolution in favour of Women's Suffra

spoke on "How the Need of the Vote especially Affects the Working Woman." She was listened to with great attention, and a good discussion followed.

WALTHAMSTOW.—The Inaugural Meeting of the Walthamstow Branch was held in the Concert Room of the Pioneer Café, Hoe Street, on February 1st, when, in spite of the extremely unfavourable weather, there was a most encouraging attendance. The proceedings, which were of a social character, were opened and closed with admirably rendered songs by Mrs. Kindell. Mrs. Elliott, the wife of a leading physician in the town, occupied the Chair, and Miss Helen Ward delivered an inspiriting address, dealing with the misadventures of the Franchise Bill.

The York meetings were held at the Layerthorpe and Walm-schillenger was a good attendance, and several "Friends of Women's Suffrage "were enrolled.

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The York and the present position and future prospects of the Pranchise League, with Sir. The principal speaker was elected President, and Mrs. Meyer, Secretary. Mrs.

Mrs. Savory, the Vice-President, who touched on various points, such as the miseries caused by sweating, and the anomalies in the law regarding parenthood. The plays chosen were "A Junction" and "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky." The performers, who gave their services, were Miss Tuez Bensusan and Miss M. Caldwell.

FEBRUARY 14, 1913.

OXFORD.—At a special meeting of the Society, held at Somerville College, on January 23rd, it was decided to engage a salaried organiser to work in Oxford, and such part of the surrounding country as is not worked by other Societies in the Federation. A series of leaflets is being distributed every Saturday for a month to the workpeople at the Clarendon Press, the Holywell Press, at two clothing factories, a steam laundry, an iron-toundry and a large carpenter's shop. The "Friends of Women's Suffrage" scheme is being worked on small scale by a few individual members, but so far no secretary has been appointed.

PANGBOURNE.—A meeting for Members and Friends was held at the Friends' Institute on January 29th, at which the chair was taken by Mrs. Sherwood. After an inspiring address from the chair, calling for harder work and more serious efforts from all, short speeches were made on different aspects of Women's Suffrage and the present situation by Mrs. C. Jones, Mrs. Lempriere, Mrs. Phillips, and other members.

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READING.—Fortnightly meetings, beginning on Jan. 17th, have been held at the office, the speakers being Mr. Rowntree, Miss Hilda Jones, and Miss Violet Eustace. The first of a series of these lectures was successfully given on Feb. 5th by Miss Evans, on "How the Factory Acts Help Women and Children." Many questions were asked. Miss Hilda Jones spoke at a social gathering of the Women's Co-operative Guild on Jan. 20th; a discussion followed. On Jan. 29th a paper was read by Mrs. Meyer to the East Reading Adult School. The West Reading Adult School, having asked Miss H. Jones to follow her first speech on Women's Suffrage, she spoke on Feb. 5th on "The History of Trade Unions." At a drawing-room meeting given by Mrs. Denys Egginton on Jan. 23rd, Miss Oxford spoke, and was supported by Miss Hilda Jones. The arrangements for most of the above events were made by Mrs. Irene Meyer, who acted as Organising severe made by Mrs. Irene Meyer, who acted as Organising severe made by Mrs. Irene Meyer, who acted as Organising severe made by Mrs. Irene Meyer, who acted as Organising severe made by Mrs. Irene Meyer, who acted as Organising severe made by Mrs. Irene Meyer, who acted as Organising severe made by Mrs. Irene Meyer, who acted as Organising severe made by Mrs. Irene Meyer, who acted as Organising severe made by Mrs. Irene Meyer, who acted as Organising severe made by Mrs. Irene Meyer, who acted as Organising severe made by Mrs. May Irene Meyer and Stevens in the town. Between 4,000 and 5,000 leaflets have been distributed weekly durine the last month, a tresh leaflet being chosen each week. The factories selected include the G.W. Railway foundry: Wyman's printing worker, Huntley and Palmer's; Huntley, Bourne and Stevens' iron-works; Simmonds' brewery, and three smaller factories. The interest shown by the majority of the men is very encouraging; the large number of female workers however, early Mrs. Adams. Miss Oxted, Miss Eustace

WOKINGHAM,—The Wokincham Society has been occupied during January collecting signatures to postcards and obtaining letters from electors to Mr. Gardner, M.P. for the Wokingham Division. Nearly 100 letters and postcards were sent by electors, and, though the immediate result was nil. it is satisfactory to feel what a strong body of support there is in the Constituency.

#### W. Lancashire, W. Cheshire and N. Wales.

W. Lancashire, W. Cheshire and N. Wales.

LIVERPOOL.—A most successful meeting in conjunction with the C. and U.W.F.A., the Church League, and the W.F.L., was held in the Picton Hall on January 13th. There was a large audience, and the speakers were Miss Garland, Miss Matters and Miss Margaret Robertson, the Chair being taken by Professor Bosanquet. The collection amounted to about £17, which left a net profit of £6 to £7. The general opinion is that this meeting is the most successful which has been held during the last few years.

On January 30th the members of the Central Branch of the B.W.T.A. were invited to the office, and were entertained by an address from Miss C. Leadley Brown, and by a capital performance of "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky," in which the parts were taken by two members of the C.U.W.F.A.

LLANDUDNO.—At an "At Home," given on February 3rd by Mrs. Eakin, Miss Royden was the principal speaker, and the audience were much impressed by her address.

LLANGOLLEN.—A meeting was organised on January 22nd in the Pavilion, when Mrs. Rackham spoke to an interested audience. Miss E. T. Rafthone was in the Chair, and although the meeting suffered by reason of a sudden heavy fall of snow there was every reason to feel satisfaction with the numbers assembled.

REPORT.—The work of the Federation generally has been very strenuous, though there is not very much to report in the way of meetings. Most of the Societies have been carrying out the postcard campaign, and for the fortnight before the Reform Bill fissco a great deal of time was expended in getting letters written by prominent voters to their members. The Flint By-election kept our organisers busy for ten days, and we have now another in prospect at Chorley, so that the slack time, which most of us were looking forward to after the Reform Bill, has not arrived.

C. LEADLET BROWN.

Scottish.

EDINBURGH SOCIETY.—On January 10th the first "At Home" was held at 40, Shandwick Place. Mrs. Melville took the Chair and spoke on "The Political Situation." Miss Rosaline Masson, of the C.U.W.F.A., gave an address on "Sense and Sentimentality." Three new members joined the Society; about £1 was taken at the collection and a quantity of literature was sold. Our Addiewell "Friends," under Mr. Farley's direction, arranged a meeting for us in the Institute on January. 14th. The speakers were Miss Muriel Matters and Miss Alice Low; the Chair, was taken by Mr. MacCullum, Secretary of the Independent Labour Party in Addie-

well; 150 people were present, two dozen copies of COMMON CAUSE were sold, and 88 postcards signed requesting Major Hope to vote for the Women's Suffrage Amendments to the Reform Bill. Miss Jeffrey, Secretary of the "Friends," gave considerable assistance, going out to Addiewell at a moment's notice, and making the preliminary arrangements for the meeting.

A Public Meeting was held on Jan. 15th in the Livingstone Hall, South Edinburgh, when Mr. Baillie Laing occupied the Chair. Miss Muriel Matters and Mr. William Lowson made speeches. Two new members were obtained, and two dozen copies of COMMON CAUSE gold. There was a Public Meeting in Inverleith Hall, West Edinburgh, on January 16th. Miss Muriel Matters and Miss Alice Low spoke, and Parish Councillor, Mr. J. Dan Easson, took the Chair.

Miss Alice Low spoke, and Parish Councillor, Mr.

J. Dan Easson, took the Chair.

On January 17th the suffrage hall at 40, Shandwick Place, was crowded to hear Miss Muriel Matters. The Chair was taken by Mr. J. McMichael, J.P., chairman of the East Edinburgh Liberal Committee. Miss Matters made a hopeful and encouraging speech. The audience had a delightful surprise, as Mr. Mirrlees, Suffragist Candidate for Camlachie, unexpectedly called at the Office on his way through Edinburgh, and spoke a few sympathetic words at the close of the meeting. A vote of thanks was moved to the speakers by Mr. Smalley, Chaplain to the New Zealand Forces. The 17th was a busy day, for the same evening Miss Matters and Miss Gordon addressed an audience at Winchburgh (Linlithgow), under the auspices of the local Independent Labour Party. This was the first Public Meeting held in Winchburgh on behalf of Women's Suffrage. Copies of Common Cause were sold, and a very strong Resolution was passed to be sent to Mr. Ure. The same evening Lauriston Hall, Edinburgh, was the scene of a theatrical entertainment organised on behalf of the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage, by Miss Jean Pagan and Miss Carmouche. The Play given was "Just to get Married," and the audience showed their appreciation of the different points in a way which greatly encouraged the performers. 500 programmes were sold, 16 new members were gained, and satisfactory profit was made for the Society.

grammes were sold, in ew members were gained, this satisfactory profit was made for the Society.

On January 20th Miss Muriel Matters, Miss Gordon, and Miss Pressley-Smith held an excellent open-air Meeting at the foot of Leith Walk. The same evening, Miss Alice Low addressed a Public Meeting at Kirk-caldy. The Misses Bell (Pettes Row) gave a Drawing-room Meeting for the C.U.W.F.A., on January 20th, at which Miss Alice Low was one of the speakers. Five new members were gained by the Edinburgh National Society, and six by the C.U.W.F.A. Miss Alice Low addressed the Liberal Women's Association at Tranent, on January 23rd. About 40 were present at the Meeting, and her remarks were listened to with the most intelligent interest. The usual Public Meeting was held at the Suffrage Hall. 40, Shandwick Place, at 4.30, on January 23th. The Chair was taken by Miss Pressley-Smith, Miss Alice Low addressing the meeting on "The Present Crisis." A good collection was taken and a quantity of suffrage scap (not warranted to cleanse the consciences of Cabinet Ministers) was sold. Miss Low and Miss Gordon spoke at a most successful demonstration at St. Andrews, on January 25th.

Andrews, on January 25th.

Mrs. G. F. Abbott spoke in the Suffrage Hall, 49, Shandwick Place, on February 7th, her subject being "Broken Pledges and New Promises." Dr. Elsie Inglis was in the Chair, and a good audience listened with great attention, and two new members were obtained. In the evening, under the auspices of the Leith Junior Liberal Club, a Debate was held at the Leith Liberal Club, Hope Street. The speakers were Mrs. Greatbatch, from London, and Miss Alice Low, Edinburgh. The subject of the Debate was "Should the Parliamentary Franchise be granted to Women?" The chair was taken by Mrs. Kemp. J.P. The best speeches on the suffrage side were made by Mrs. G. F. Abbott, Miss Ethelwru Lemon, and Mr. Devlin. On a show of hands the Suffragists gained 56 votes and the Anti-Suffragists 48. The "antis" claimed a recount, and a number of young men at the back of the hall voted who had not previously done so, when the

A great deal of work has been done in the office in connection with the arrangements for our Annual Meeting and the publication of our Annual Report. During the month of January 43 new members were gained, besides a considerable number of "Friends,"

#### CORESPONDENCE.

#### THE NATIONAL UNION'S POLICY.

It seems well to point out to readers of THE COMMON CAUSE that the question of what shall be the attitude of the National Union towards the proposed private Member's Women's Suffrage Bill has not been, andicannot be, determined until the Council meets on the 27th and 28th instant. The Executive has, indeed, passed resolutions declaring that the proposed offer does not fully redeem the Prime Minister's pledges, and that those pledges cannot in their judgment now be fully redeemed except by a Government measure, and there can be no doubt that the former of these two propositions at any rate represent the view not only of the National Union but of all Suffragists. But to declare that a certain offer cannot be accepted as full satisfaction of one's claims, does not, of course, necessarily involve rejecting the offer, any more than the refusal of a creditor to be satisfied with a shilling in the pound necessarily involves the rejection of the shilling.

The Council has now to decide on a plan of campaign for the National Union for the future. Granted that a private Member's Bill cannot pass into law this Parliament, because the Unionists will not help it to pass by means of the Parliament Act, it yet seems to many Suffragists, including, I believe, nearly all our Parliamentary advisers in all three Parties, that it will immensely strengthen the case for a Government measure if the private Member's Bill secures a majority in the House. At this stage in the movement it will be impossible for any one to pretend that such a vote is merely academic and does not represent the considered judgment of the House. On the other hand, if the Bill is defeated, the tactical considerations which have led

to the defeat will be well known. Whether the Bill is defeated or successful, it can do nothing but harm if Members of Parliament are allowed to perceive any slackening in the pressure of public opinion on its behalf. Members in the past have been inundated by letters, resolutions and memorials whenever a Suffrage Bill was about to come up for discussion. Any abatement in this form of pressure would be sure to be interpreted by them as a sign that public interest in the question was on the ebb. We Suffragists know that this is not so, but we must take care that we do not adopt a course of action that would be open to this misinterpretation.

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

May I be allowed to endorse the bill of plaint, signed A. B. Wallis Chapman, against the new policy proposed by the Executive of the National Union, and to suggest. some further reasons against its adoption?

First, it seems to me that the withdrawal of active support from the Private Member's Bill has a look of ingratitude and bad comradeship towards the many individual members, on both sides of the House who for years have loyally persisted in supporting the cause of Women's Sufirage. And, secondly, the new policy points unmistakably to a definite alliance with the Labour Party as a Party. Now, I am far from wishing to belittle the debt of gratitude which Suffragists owe to the Labour Party for the self-denying ordinance passed at the recent Conference. But we have no right to pay that debt at the expense of our creditors who belong to the Liberal or the Conservative Party.

And, further, an alliance with one of the recognised Parliamentary parties is, I respectfully submit, a reversal of the "Non-Party" attitude professed by the National Union; and such a step ought, surely, in common justice, not to be taken without the consent of the subscribers to the funds of the Union, many of whom may have been induced to support it by their faith in this profession.

[If by "subscribers to the funds of the Union" Mr.

[If by "subscribers to the funds of the Union" Mr. Herbert means the members of the Union—i.e., the Societies which compose it—he] is quite right in supposing that no change of policy can be made without their consent. The question will be debated and decided at the Council meeting this month.—ED. C.C.]

#### THE FEDERATION OF SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

THE FEDERATION OF SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

May I ask, through your columns, what is the actual relationship between the National Union and the Federation of Suffrage Societies, whose Council convened the meeting at the Queen's Hall on Tuesday, February 5th? Being a member of a society affiliated to both I was surprised to find myself at a meeting where the great majority of the audience appeared to be wholly militant in their sympathies. As a suffragist of long standing and as one who believes that it is principally owing to militant tactics that the present Parliamentary situation became possible, I by no means share the satisfaction frequently expressed that night, that the "advance' guard," as the militant societies term themselves, is now working together with "the more backward" group of suffragists.

In only a few of the speeches—and those few with one exception were, I regret to say, made by men—was there any attempt to make suggestions of practical value or to consider dispassionately the political situation. They were mostly characterised by tall talk about the "Great Betrayal," and threats of vengeance directed equally against avowed enemies and friends who have not done what the speakers consider to be their duty. The refusal of the audience to listen to a Member of Parliament, who hitherto had always voted for the Suffrage, reminded me of the behaviour of excited school-girls.

At present, there is certainly a feeling of sympathy throughout the country with Suffragists in the treatment they have received from Parliament—the cartoon in Punch last week is evidence of this—but it is only too likely that inflammatory reprisals, either in word or deed, will again destroy this feeling before it has had time to be of practical value, and especially will they alienate the rank and file of the Liberal Party in the constituencies with whom the key to the situation both present and future largely lies.

F. MAY DICKINSON BEREY.

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F. MAY DICKINSON BERRY.

[The Federation of Suffrage Societies has no connection of any kind with the National Union of Suffrage Societies.—Ep. C.C.]

WOMAN SUNDAY.

With your kind permission I should like to add one suggestion to the many valuable ones you are receiving in connection with bringing the cause of Woman Suffrage prominently and effectively before the larger public.

It is this. The Ethical Societies have now for a number of years devoted a certain Sunday in the year to emphasising the claims of women. "Woman Sunday" is thus an institution in the English Ethical Movement. Why not take steps, preferably of a national character, to have a Woman Sunday once a year in every church and chapel throughout the United Kingdom? Considering the vastness of the organisation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, such a task might not be impossible of execution. Indeed, all the Suffrage Societies—militant, non-militant and anti-militant—could join in such an effort to create a permanent national platform for pressing the claims of Woman's Suffrage in particular, and the proper recognition of woman's place in the body social in general.

(Gen. Sec. International Union

(Gen. Sec. International Union of Ethical Societies).

#### Why We Demand Woman Suffrage.

#### A. de MORSIER.

PRICE TWOPENCE. Published by the New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage. 8, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge, S.W.

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Coffee (5 kinds) . 1s, 4d.—1s, 10d. ,,
Cocoa (3 kinds) . 1s, 6d.—2s,
Chocolates (20 kinds) 2s. —4s, 6d. ...



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Buy the Royal Primtose Soap from the Suffrage Shop, 54, Long Row, Nottingham. Send for Price List and Samples. All profits to the cause.

# Forthcoming Meetings.

(ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION.)

FERRUARY 14 onfield—Women's Adult School—Mrs. Cowmeadow 3.0

FEBRUARY 17.
Alderley Edge—Public Hall—Public meeting—
Lady Beatrice Kemp
Croydon—34a, The Arcade—Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc.—
"Woman and Marriage" (Mondays) 3.30
Shrewsbury—Masonio Hall—Annual meeting—Mrs.
Harley, Miss Watson
Gateshead—105, Woodbine Street (Mrs. Smith)—
Cottage meeting
Manchester—Parker's Restaurant, St. Ann's Square
The Rev. F. W. Cooper

Deptford—Debate at Hacken.
FEBRUARY 25.
North Hackney—Devonshire Square Literary
Debating Society, Devonshire Hall,
High Street, Stoke Newington. Miss
Charlotte Elkin
Camberwell—Women's Guild of Dulwich Grove
Congregational Church—Meeting at
the Lecture Hall. Mrs. Watson
7.45

FEBRUARY 26.

FEBRUARY 18.

Reading—Assembly Rooms, Bridge Street—Miss
Evans on "Industrial Law" 3.0

Booking—Drawing-room meeting at Miss Smoothy's
—Speaker, Mrs. Rackham
Gateshead—24, Harrow Street (Mrs. Nelson's)—
Cottage meeting—Speaker, Miss
Sheard 3.0

Manchester—16, Deansgate—Miss Helen Ward—
"The Friends of Women's Suffrage
Scheme" 7.30

FBRUARY 20.

Gateshead—Suffrage office—East Central Ward W.S.

Association—Fortnightly meeting
Southport—Rowntree's Café—Miss E. E. Deakin,
"The Present Situation of Women's
Suffrage"
Long Buckby—Co-operative Hall—Miss Muriel
Matters—Chair, The Rev. A. H. Lewis
Wallasey and Wirral—Breck Hey, Liscard—Meeting
of members to discuss the present
situation

8.0 H

FEBRUARY 21.

FEBRUARY 22. Oldham—Primitive Methodist Church, Holmwood—Dr. Olive Claydon, "The Religious Aspect of the Women's Movement"—Chair, The Mayor
Manchester—Lower Milton Hall, Deansgate—Dramatic performance, "The Fortunes of Fan."

7.30

#### LONDON.

FEBRUARY 14. London Reception—Westminster Palace Hotel— Chair, Miss Frances Sterling— Speakers, Miss K. D. Courtney, Mr. P. Snowden, M.P. 3.30—6.15 FEBRUARY 15.

Islington—"Tea Fund" entertainment—11, Loraine Road, Holloway. Tickets 6d. each FEBRUARY 17. Oxshott—Public meeting at St. Andrew's Hall,
Oxshott—Chair, Mrs. Chapman—
Speaker, Lady Betty Balfour

FEBRUARY 19.

Kilburn and Kensal Rise—Liberal Club—(Liberal Women's Association)—Debate—101, Chamberlyne Wood Road (Opposite Kensal Rise Station). Mrs. Rogers

South West Ham—Jersey Road Mission Hall, Custom House—Miss Hay-Cooper on "The White Slave Traffic" 3.9

East St. Pancras—Drawing-room meeting at 22, Bartholomew Road, N.W.—Hostesses, The Misses Jones. Speaker, Mrs. Savory

Sutton, Surrey—Drawing-room meeting at Hatch-ford, Manor Park Road, Sutton— Hostess, Mrs. Martin. Speaker, Mrs. Rackham

FEBRUARY 21.

London Reception—Westminster Palace Hotel—
Chair, the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves.
Speakers, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.,
Mrs. C A. V. Conybeare, Miss Emily
Hill, P.L.G.

Islington (West)—Study Circle, at 57, Hillmarton
Road, N.—Hostess, Miss
Smith. Subject: Mrs.
"Woman's Suffrage" (sixpenny
edition)

8.0

Hammersmith Ethical Society—Hampshire House Club, Hampshire Hog Lane, Mrs. 7.0 Stanbury
Deptford—Debate at Hatcham Liberal Olub, New
Cross Gate. S.E.
8.0

West St. Pancras—Drawing-room meeting at 1, St.
Mark's Square, N.W.—Hostess, Mrs.
Weibell
West Southwark—Farmhouse Mission, Harrow St.,
Marshalsea Road. Speaker, Miss Ruth
Young 3.0

FEBRUARY 19.

Leeds—9, Park Lane—"At Home"—Speaker, Mrs. Kitson Clark
High Wycombe—Guildhall—Exhibition of Sweated Industries—Mrs. Chew (of Rochdale)—Address, "Sweated Industries" Wallsoe—Tea Wallsoe—Tea Wallsoe—Tea Suddoed Suffrage as a Means of Education"—Chair, Councillor E Ruddoek
Gateshead—Suffrage office, 115, High West Street—Social meeting for women—Mrs. Hutchinson, "Women in Local Government"—(Weekly meetings)
Birtley—Coot Hall—Miss Sheard
Heathfield—Recreation Hall—Public meeting—The Lady Betty Balfour, Dr. C. V. Drysdalo—Chair, The Rev. Prebendary Pennethorne

FEBRUARY 20.

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FEBRUARY 20.

FEBRUARY 14.

FEBRUARY 14. SCOTLAND.

FEBRUARY 15. Musselburgh—Open-air meetings—Miss Lisa M.
Gordon and Miss Pressley Smith 3.0 and 8.0
7.30 Edinburgh—Hermitage Drive (Mrs. Jack)—Drawing-FEBRUARY 16.
8.0 Edinburgh—Ardmillan Terrace—I.L.P. meeting—
Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., Miss
Lisa M. Gordon
6.30 FEBRUARY 21.

Berkhamsted—Progress Hall—Miss A. Maude
Royden
Crick—Miss Muriel Matters—Chair, The Rev. W. C.
Roberts
Farnham—The Institute, South Street—Lantern
lecture, "A Woman's Travels in East
Africa"
Workington—Old Town
Whist drive

Lisa M. Gordon
FEBRUARY 17.

Musselburgh—Town Hall—Miss Margaret Robertson,
B.A., Miss Alice Low—Ohair, Miss
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FEBRUARY 17. FEBRUARY 18.

FEBRUARY 18.

Edinburgh—Kinnaird's Hall—Kirkgate, Leith—Public meeting—Miss M. Robertson, B.A., Councillor Edgar
Aberdeen—West Front Room, Music Hall—Miss L.
I. Lumsden, Ll.D., on "Personal Service"
3. Richmend Rooms, Past Masters' Association (Oddfellows)—Miss L. I. Lumsden, Ll.D., 'Why Should Women Not be Citizens'"—Chair, Mrs. Milne
Dennistown—Sword Street Hall, Dennistown Women's Guild—Miss Marion Kerr
Kirkcaldy—Mrs. Abbott

Glasgow — 1,152 Dumbarton Road — Whiteinch Women's Guild—Miss Kirby 7.30
Ardrossan—Lesser Town Hall—Mrs. Abbott

FEBRUARY 21.
Glasgow—202, Hope Street—Hostess, Miss Stuart
Paterson. Speaker, Dr. Everett
M'Laren, "Eugenics"
Dundee—Foresters' Hall—Annual Meeting
Address: Chair, Miss E. Monro Miller
Tayside—Small Blyth Hall, Newport—Miss Crompton 80 Dundee-For

MEETING ADDRESSED BY MEMBER OF THE UNION.

FERRUARY 14. Gateshead—General Railway Workers' Union—Miss Sheard 8.0 A Suffrage Canvass in North Worcestershire.

FEBRUARY 14, 1913.

Our Birmingham correspondent writes:—
"An interesting and useful piece of work has ust been done in the constituency of Mr. Wilson, M.P. for North Worcestershire, by two Wilson, M.P. for North Worcestershire, by two friends of the Suffrage cause in Birmingham, Mr. Alfred Bayes and Mr. C. H. Foyle. Mr. Wilson was reported to have said that very few people in his constituency wanted woman's suffrage, so the following letter, signed by Mr. C. H. Foyle, was sent to him on January 26th:—

In order to obtain some idea of the support that would be obtained by a Parliamentary candidate who is in favour of the extension of the Franchise to Women, a small section of your constituency has been canvassed.

It refers to that part of Northfield Road between Hawthorn and Woodlands Park Road, and contains 23 electors and three women householders. This piece of road was selected for no other reason than that it was easy to work.

Of the numbers stated above, 18 electors and 2 women householders are in favour of the principle involved; 5 electors are against, and the opinion of the other woman householder is not known.

It is sincerely hoped that such support as the above denotes will carry some weight when, as representative of these electors, you have to cast your vote on this question, either now or at some future time.

Needless to say that, in addition to the effect

Needless to say that, in addition to the effect

any such canvass may have on the mind of the member, the results are also very helpful and enlightening to the local suffrage organisation.

The Women Writers' Suffrage

League.

The Women Writers' Suffrage League is arranging a meeting for its members and their friends for Wednesday, February 19th, to be held at the Suffrage Club, 3, Vork Street, St. James's, S.W., from 3.30 to 5.30, Mrs. Herbert Cohen acting as hostess. Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, a member of the League, will give an account of her experiences with her Women's Sick and Wounded Convoy Corps in the Balkan War, and Mrs. Annie Steel, President of the W.W.S.L., will take the Chair.

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WANTED, an Organiser for the Oxford Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. Apply, stating age, qualifi-cations, and previous experience, and enclosing testimonials, or giving references, to Mrs. Haverfield, Headington Hill, Oxford.

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WANTED.—Post as Secretary and Companion to Lady. At home or abroad. Seven years' secretarial experience. Write, Box 1572, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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HAIR FALLING OFF.—Lady who lost nearly all hers, and has now strong, heavy growth, sends particulars to anyone enclosing stamped addressed envelope.—Miss C. C. Field, Glendower, Shanklin.

LACE CLEANED, MENDED, TRANSFERRED Many testimonials; embroidery. Beatrice, COMMON CAUSE Office.

OLD FALSE TEETH.—We give highest possible prices for above. Offers made; if unacceptable, teeth returned. Dealers in old Gold and Silver in any form. Bankers' references. Straightforward dealing.—Woolfall and Company, Southport.

PEMNANTS SALE!—Genuine White Art Irish Linen, suitable for making charming Tea-cloths, Tray-cloths, d'Oyleys, etc.; bundle of large pieces, only 2s. 6d.; postage 4d. Sale catalogue Free.—Hutton's, 159, Larne, Ireland.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for Cash. Costumes, skirts, boots, underclothing, curtains, gents' suits, trousers and children's clothing of every description. Parcels sent will be valued and value sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100, Raby St., Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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E LECTROLYSIS, FACE MASSAGE.—Emelie Barnes, (certified), 48, George Street, Croydon.

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(Town.)

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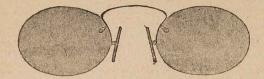
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