

THE VOTE.
October 17, 1913.
ONE PENNY.

SPECIAL NUMBER: OUR TEST CASE

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. VIII. No. 208.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1913.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE? WHO IS RIGHT?

(See Pages 399, 400, 401, 406.)

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

A "Festival"!

We hear that his Grace the Duke of Devonshire is sending out invitations for a Festival Dinner, the object of which is to obtain money for the London Lock Hospital and Rescue Home. Festival! How strangely, with what sinister cynicism does the word strike upon one's ear in this connection! Rich food, fine clothes, well-arranged speeches, money coaxed out of the pockets of rich persons—all quiet and comfortable, unimpassioned and refined, as a Festival Dinner should be. This on the one hand, and on the other the yawning jaws of hell open to devour the best things—health, life, honour, and money which, in the last resort, is merely the result of accumulated labour. Look upon this picture and on that! Which receives most response? Can the world wonder if Suffragists, who know and have seen the horrors of Lock Hospitals, are on the war-path?

Torture Renewed.

We enter our strong protest against the unspeakable torture of women by the renewal of forcible feeding at the bidding of the Home Secretary. The whole argument in favour of the Cat and Mouse Act was that it obviated such torment. Is Great Britain in the twentieth century again to be ranked with the Inquisitors of the sixteenth, and not only punish but condemn to physical and mental agony women driven to violence by long-delayed justice? While politicians prate about justice—the justice that brings them votes—to agriculturists, to male militants in Ireland, voteless women under a Liberal Government are again to be subjected to such indignity. The end will be tragedy and black shame for procrastinating politicians, false to their vaunted boast of liberty—for all but women.

Citizen Rights.

We publish below a letter which has reached us from overseas:—

Canterbury Women's Institute,
Christchurch, New Zealand, 131, Office-road.
August 13.

Mrs. Despard, Editress THE VOTE.

Dear Madam,—I am instructed by the Canterbury Women's Institute to thank you for the brave stand you have taken in your paper against Conscriptio in New Zealand.

The aftermath of the Defence Act proves its deadly danger to democracy.

1. An illegal military oath illegally administered has been ratified by Parliament.

2. Legislation of a most iniquitous retrospective character has been passed against young men, who have been illegally fined and imprisoned, obtaining legal redress for the wrong done to them. (Am forwarding pamphlet setting forth the facts.)

3. Free education is to be made contingent on obedience to military authorities.

4. An amendment to the Police Offences Act has passed the Lower House giving the police Russian and German powers of repression of free speech.

5. The Act (though ostensibly for defence) is being used to establish "Expeditionary Forces."

6. Military regulations are supplementing and over-riding deficiencies of military power provided in the Act.

7. Military service has been recognised as the prime basis of political rights.

The C.W.I. desires to express its heartiest sympathy for the work you and your society are so ably performing. There can be no doubt that the more we realise the aims of the women workers of the world, the more we realise their work is a prayer for the redemption of the race. A nobler time is ahead!—I am, Honoured Lady, yours very truly,

ADA WELLS, Hon. Secretary C.W.I.

THE VOTE wishes, in acknowledging the above communication, to dissociate itself from any stand taken up for or against conscription—or, to be more accurate, national military training—in New Zealand or elsewhere. Our point is, and will continue to be, that any granting or withholding of citizen rights in respect of military training is a fresh attempt, from another direction, to cut the ground from under the feet of women. It would be monstrous, for instance, if educational facilities were at the disposal of military authorities; equally monstrous that any

attempt should be made under "Liberal" and "Reform" Colonial Governments to repress free speech and meeting; while to recognise military service as the basis of citizenship is to admit the whole Anti-Suffrage case in a breath, and to imperil gravely the security of the position that has been won by women in our oversea dominions. We shall be glad of further information, and look forward to the promised pamphlet. In the meantime we thank Mrs. Wells for her letter and her sympathy with our work, assuring her that women who are struggling for political freedom here will not fail to protest strongly against encroachments on the political freedom enjoyed by women in other countries.

Where Women Vote.

Further recent news from New Zealand is of significant interest. A deputation representing the Society for the Protection of Women and Children had important information as to the need for further legislation to lay before the Government. There was no trouble about whether the Prime Minister, the Hon. W. F. Missey, would or would not receive them. He heard their statements as to the demand of New Zealand women for raising the age of protection and of marriage, for bringing the law into line with a judge's declaration that a man's belief that a girl was over age should no longer be a sufficient defence for criminal assault; that there should be women justices of the peace, women doctors to control women's wards in mental hospitals, and other changes to afford further protection to women and children. The Prime Minister did more than listen. He undertook to place the demands before the Cabinet with his recommendation "that legislation should be introduced this session if possible." A General Election is due next year, so the hon. gentleman's complacency indicates anxiety on the part of the Government to meet the demands of women, who are voters and consequently an important factor in the coming elections. And yet there are those who would have us believe that the vote is a worthless possession!

Man's Mismanagement.

Man-made muddle and mismanagement are brought to light by the Report recently issued of the Departmental Committee appointed in 1911 to inquire into the working of Reformatory and Industrial Schools, which must have been recognised as pretty bad, or such a step would not have been taken. There are 15,000 children and young persons in these institutions; some are little wanderers like the small boy of seven who, a few days ago, kissed the magistrate for sending him to such an institution because his parents were not fit to take care of him; others are described as "youthful offenders." There is not one woman on the managing committees of the Boys' Reformatories; four Reformatories for Girls are managed entirely by men. So are forty-one Industrial Schools for Boys and seven for Girls! Small wonder that the investigating committee calls attention to the unsatisfactory treatment of sick children, the absence of effective nursing by qualified persons, and the inadequate watchfulness in the beginnings of disease. It is a disgrace to the country that such a report should be possible to-day; from sheer stupidity in man-management these unhappy children suffer most seriously. We may demand that women shall have authoritative control, but, unlike our sisters in New Zealand, we are not able to enforce our demand without the weapon of the vote. And the evil continues.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE? WHO IS RIGHT?

A GROSS ABUSE. C. NINA BOYLE.

THE EXPERT. G. COLMORE.

THE "DANGER OF SELF-EXPRESSION FOR WOMEN." M. MAUD.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN WORKERS: HULL CONFERENCE.

THE "PROTECTED SEX."

POLITICAL PIFFLE. C. NINA BOYLE.

[M.B.LOND.]

WOMEN DOCTORS FOR INDIAN WOMEN. KATHLEEN VAUGHAN.

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Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
International Department—Mrs. HARVEY, Brackenhill, Bromley, Kent.

AT HEADQUARTERS.

IMPORTANT!

Owing to Mrs. Harvey's health the performances of "Hiawatha" are postponed. Further particulars will be given next week.

London Meetings.—Readers are reminded of the following fixtures at Caxton Hall, Westminster. Next Monday evening Mr. Laurence Housman will give his lecture on "Petticoat Government," to be followed by a discussion. The chair will be taken by Miss Eunice Murray at eight o'clock. Tickets can be obtained from the W.F.L. Office, or at Caxton Hall, Monday evening. Next Wednesday afternoon the principal speaker will be Miss Eunice Murray, and we shall also have Miss Nina Boyle. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Tanner at 3.30. Friday evening, October 31, we shall have our second political meeting, the speakers being—Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle, and Mrs. Marion Holmes. The chair will be taken by Miss Eunice Murray at eight o'clock.

Scottish Activities.—During the past week a new Branch has been formed at Lochgelly and good work has been done at Dunfermline. Our London East-end Branch has also been inaugurated. This week Mrs. Despard is speaking at meetings arranged by our Edinburgh, Dundee, and Glasgow Branches.

Provincial Activities.—Last week meetings were addressed in Middlesbrough by Mrs. Despard and Miss Eunice Murray, and in West Hartlepool and South Shields by Miss Eunice Murray. During this week meetings have been arranged for Miss Boyle at Liverpool, Birmingham, Gravesend and Grays, and she will shortly be visiting Manchester. Miss Andrews is now working in Manchester, Miss Munro in the North-Eastern District, Miss Elphick in Birmingham, and Mrs. Taplin in Brighton and Bournemouth. F. A. U.

POLITICAL AND MILITANT.

The League is contemplating an action against Mr. Mead, the magistrate at Marlborough-street, for illegally closing the courts to women. The correspondence is published elsewhere. Such an action would establish once for all the rights of the public to be present at public trials.

The Memorial for the Home Office in the case of the police-constables involved in the Wetherall case, Mr. Bodkin, and the Common Sergeant, is to be presented by Miss Boyle and Mrs. Watson, of the Freedom League, Mrs. Parrott, the mother of the injured child, Mrs. Worthey, of the Battersea Board of Guardians, and Borough Councillor Greenaway, of Homerton. The Political and Militant Department has approached the Home Office to know if it will be received and is awaiting Mr. McKenna's reply. That gentleman was due in town on Tuesday for a Cabinet meeting.

Mrs. Harvey still continues seriously unwell, and so far has recovered strength very slowly. She will not be fit for work for a considerable time.

Our members will be grieved to hear that Mrs. Sproson, whose recovery we so gladly announced a short time ago, is lying dangerously ill at Aberdovey, where she had gone as the guest of Mrs. Frances Lewis for change and rest. It was hoped that during her stay she would have helped to form an Aberdovey Branch of the League. Her condition is most serious, and but for timely assistance might have proved fatal. Mr. Sproson was sent for, and has given us further news of her state, which will continue to be precarious for some time to come.

Miss Cummins, of Fronfield, Petersfield, sends us news that the Income-tax collector has distrained upon her

goods, so that a protest meeting will be held on the occasion of the sale. All members who can attend such a meeting will do well to send their names to the Political and Militant Department so that they may be notified of the date and place.

POLITICAL PIFFLE.

It is impossible not to be scornful on surveying the political landscape. The sight of irresponsible politicians scuttering hither and thither, mouthing their clap-trap phrases and bragging of their principles—which they contrive so completely to divorce from practice—is calculated to kill what little respect remains for our institutions and those who maintain them. The Lord Advocate, the Home Secretary, the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, have all done their "turn," with interludes by Sir Edward Carson, Mr. Redmond, and Mr. F. E. Smith. Mr. Outhwaite's Apache song and dance have also been included in the variety programme. This *artiste* has turned with unaccountable venom on his Liberal associates, and accuses them of wanting something new with which to catch votes. That is the only reason, he declares, that they will go in for the Land Campaign. (We wonder what it was that made Mr. Outhwaite stand as a Liberal, if it was not for vote-catching purposes?) It is a pretty display; but the stage-management and the prompting still leave something to be desired.

It is when we sift their utterances that we get most scornful. Whether it is Mr. McKenna saying that the object of the Parliament Act was to give the representatives of the people "the last word on legislation," when he knows it is only the Prime Minister (who as a great favour occasionally promises that those representatives shall have a free vote) who has that last word; or whether it is the Lord Advocate boasting, amid vain cheers, that the "Liberal Party have convictions, and they have the courage of their convictions"; whether it is Mr. Churchill preaching that "There is rarely violence without a cause. Liberalism is successful because it does not treat the symptom, but always seeks the cause," when he is talking of Irishmen, while next day he lectured on the "form of disorder which the women of England must drive out of their political system before they could make any advance," when speaking to and of women; it is all equally humbugging and ridiculous: Mr. F. E. Smith, not to be outdone in hypocritical pretence, weighed in at West Bromwich with this remarkable statement:—"Mr. Churchill points out—and this is *undoubtedly true*—that no settlement can ever be permanently made upon the basis of humiliation and compulsion, and that the demand made upon modern statesmanship to-day is to discover some method of dealing with admitted facts which may satisfy one section of the community without involving the other in revolution or subjugation." How fine all these phrases sound. How trippingly they fall from the lips of Mr. Smith, the Anti-Suffragist. "Oh, wise young judge!" Why do you not try to be consistent?

As for Mr. George, he has forgotten, with that Celtic

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facility with which he is so richly endowed, for shifting his imagination to a fresh level, the woes of woman, the virtues of the working man's wife, the needs of the mother, the nation's need of her advice, and all the other things about which he once waxed eloquent. He has transferred his fleeting will-o'-the-wisp of sentimentality to the agriculturist, and is saying all the same things over again to him and of him that once were voiced to admiring audiences of our confiding sister society. The results of his outbreak of affection and admiration for women are calculated to damp the ardour of his new love, and make the agriculturist pause before he indulges in frantic enthusiasm for his panegyrist. He may wait; he will not see—much.

The performance of these persons is much like their prattle—childish. The Prisoners Temporary Discharge (for Ill-Health) Act was duly and solemnly passed, Government and Opposition gladly joining hands, for once, in the congenial job of coercing women. We called attention at the time to the masculine pronoun throughout the Act, and the preposterous pretence that it was a piece of permanent and important legislation to strengthen the Home Secretary's hand in dealing with forgers, burglars, and other ruffians, and with only the most superficial application to the "ephemeral" conditions of the militant movement which yet it was going to eradicate altogether. The first man who needed the application of that law—a law, mind, that being law, must and should be applied—has been allowed to die without its benefit; while in regard to the women at whom it was pretended the Act was not aimed, it has been so palpable and wholesale a failure that the filthy torture of forcible feeding is now to be resumed. Ineptitude cannot go much further.

"By a finding of the High Court," Dr. Pearson, of Holloway, stated in a letter, the prison authorities had no authority but to forcibly feed prisoners who tried to starve themselves, because it was their duty

to keep the prisoners alive, and not allow them to commit suicide. A finding of the High Court is a slightly more serious thing than the finding of the complacent coroner's jury which sat on the defunct Davis. To connive at suicide is a criminal act, just as it would be to connive at a murder. The "Cat and Mouse" Act was the "only alternative," according to our legislators and officials, to forcible feeding. Neither were applied to Davis. By that "finding of the High Court," what is it of which the Home Secretary and the Governor of Bedford Gaol have been guilty? C. NINA BOYLE.

JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE: WHO IS RIGHT?

The following correspondence is of special importance; it is published in full so that the facts may be known in view of the impending test case.

I.

Frederick Mead, Esq.,
Metropolitan Police Court Magistrate,
Marlborough-street, W.C. October 10.

Sir,—On behalf of the Women's Freedom League I desire to call your attention to a matter concerning the management of the Court over which you preside, and in regard to which we have on various occasions approached the Home Office, when the same arrangements have met us in other places. We refer to the habit prevailing on the Bench of excluding women from *Public Trials* in the Courts, when the cases tried concern the most intimate interests of women and children—i.e., cases classified as "indecent." This action on the part of the Bench is entirely *ultra vires*, and as you will see by the leaflet which I venture to enclose with this communication, will be made the subject of a test case, if necessary, by my League.

In the temporary police-court premises of Francis-street last Tuesday morning, when some members of the Women's Social and Political Union and one member of the Women's Freedom League were charged with various matters connected with the disturbances at the London Pavilion, I was present with several friends. Before the Suffragist cases came on there was another case described by the doorkeeper as "indecent," to which he refused access to all women, saying no women were allowed to be present at indecent cases, and that he had "orders" to that effect. This was immediately reported to me, and I went to the office connected with your Court and asked leave to telephone at once to the Home Office. Your clerks would not allow me the use of the telephone. I then asked the doorkeeper why he had kept women out, and he denied that he had done so; but women standing near contradicted him and repeated his statements to them. I asked him who gave him such orders, and he replied that he was afraid he could not tell me that; but the clerks had told me previously that the entire responsibility for any such orders was the magistrate's, and that I had better see you about it. The doorkeeper, I wish to say, was perfectly civil and considerate, and I have no charge of any sort to make in regard to his manner and behaviour. He subsequently prevented us from going in when our fellow-member was being tried, and in this was aided by the inner doorkeeper. The first one then went and brought some other official (in plain clothes), and was so good as to say that he had got "permission" for us to enter the court. By the time we were admitted the case in which we were interested was over and was receiving sentence. There was ample room in the court.

In the former "indecent" case a number of men were admitted while women were excluded.

We desire to call your attention to the following facts:—Mr. Fordham, at the West London Police Court, under almost similar circumstances, informed Mrs. Fagan, of the Women's Tax Resistance League, that he had "no power" to exclude her from the court if she would not go willingly. Mr. Paul Taylor, at the Marylebone Police Court, made the same statement to Mrs. Meredith Macdonald, after he had given an order for women to leave the court. And at the Clerkenwell Sessions the following statement was recently made by Mr. Spokes, the Recorder of Reading, as the result of improper attempts of the same nature:

This is a case of indecent assault. A difficulty has arisen because at the last Sessions, in one of these cases, when the prosecutrix was being examined, a card was handed up and put on my desk, and I understood a lady wished to make a complaint. I could not interrupt the evidence of the prosecutrix at the time my attention was called to it, and therefore I did not inquire into it at the time. At the end of the evidence of the prosecutrix I inquired into the complaint and I found that the lady, who represented some society, wished to be present to take a shorthand note or make a report of the proceedings. I at once, in accordance with the practice that has obtained for many years, directed that she should be admitted. She has made a tremendous complaint to the Home Office that she was not admitted till after the evidence for the prosecution had been finished. If she had sent in her card before it had begun she would have been admitted at once. I wish to make that quite plain. My own view has been—and I have acted on it myself for many years—that no man

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who wishes to be present when a charge is heard affecting another woman, can be excluded from the court, and if any woman desires to be present at the hearing of a case of indecent assault she has a legal right to be present. In this case if any woman desires to be present while the case is being tried she is to be present. If she does not desire to be present it is better that she should not be present. If she wishes to be present she is entitled to be present.

It is hardly necessary to recall to your memory the recent successful appeal to the House of Lords against the illegal powers claimed by His Majesty's judges to hear cases privately.

My League views with great indignation the granting as a favour and by special "permission" the "legal rights" which women as well as men are entitled to exercise without question; and in view of these constant attacks on the rights of the public feels impelled to take definite action. The practice of excluding women from the hearing of "indecent" cases inflicts cruel wrong on many helpless victims, and must be broken down at all costs; and it in itself is a danger to the public, seeing that determined attempts have been made to extend it to the hearing of Suffrage cases.

We are advised that an action will lie against you and your doorkeepers, Police Constables C.304 and C.164, and that by such an action the rights of women as an inseparable portion of the public will be placed above dispute.

We should be glad to hear from you whether you defend this practice, or whether after hearing our point of view you will give definite instructions to your Court officials to abstain from illegal interference with the liberties of women.—I have the honour, Sir, to be, your obedient servant,

C. NINA BOYLE,
Head of Political and Militant Department.

II.

Marlborough-street Police Court,
Francis-street, W.C.

October 11, 1913.

Madam,—I am desired by Mr. Mead to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 10th inst., and to inform you that he adheres to the opinion that he is acting legally and properly in preventing the indiscriminate attendance of women during the hearing of cases involving details of an indecent nature. As he explained to a lady, presumably a representative of your Society, who made an application to him this morning, he will at all times give facilities for the presence of ladies having a bona-fide interest in such cases.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) H. C. BEAMISH.

Miss C. Nina Boyle.

III.

October 13, 1913.

Sir,—I am in receipt of your communication stating that Mr. Mead adheres to his pretensions and persists in foisting "facilities" instead of their public rights, on women citizens.

The letter will be of extreme value in the case which our League contemplates bringing against Mr. Mead.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) C. NINA BOYLE,
Head of Political and Militant Department.

H. C. Beamish, Esq.,
Marlborough-street Police Court,
Francis-street, W.C.

WOMEN'S HANDICRAFT.

The Exhibition to be held by *The Englishwoman* at the Maddox-street Galleries, W. (close to Regent-street), from November 5 to 15, will appeal to all interested in the revival and practice of handicrafts in these days of machine-made material and ornament. The old English art of the weaver, never wholly abandoned and now revived, will make its appeal. The Somerset weavers from Clevedon will hold a stall, under the able management of Miss Grayson, their energetic secretary, who has succeeded in teaching the women and girls of her district the art of tapestry weaving, as well as the production of tweeds and linen; and the Cullompton weavers, under Mrs. Gidley, will have a fine exhibition of their hand-made woollen and silk manufactures, offering an opportunity for acquiring woven and durable stockings and other garments at a most moderate cost.

The Exhibition will be particularly rich in lace, English and foreign. The Diss village industry will be well represented; fine specimens of Honiton, Buckinghamshire and Irish lace will find a place on the stalls; and a beautiful exhibit of filet lace worked in the original manner from ancient Italian designs will be of special interest. There will also be a fine exhibit from Florence, including some of the work of the Society of the Arte Femile, rarely seen in London. Specimens of the ancient handicrafts of Italian women will be shown side by side with work produced by their descendants to-day.

A large number of other arts and handicrafts will be well shown, and the Exhibition will afford an opportunity for purchasing Christmas presents marked with the individual note of the craftswoman.

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THE FUTILITY OF REGULATION.

In view of the promised Government inquiry into the prevalence and prevention of venereal disease, it is of the utmost importance that everyone should clearly understand that State regulation of vice has been, and is always bound to be, a complete failure from every point of view. When Mrs. Josephine Butler commenced her great campaign against the Contagious Diseases Acts of 1883 she was called a sentimentalist. That campaign was fought largely on utilitarian as well as ethical grounds, but now that a generation has elapsed, and the old arguments have been forgotten, there are thousands of men and women to-day who firmly believe that the registration and regulation of prostitutes is a simple remedy for minimising venereal disease and that the repeal of the C.D. Acts was merely a yielding on the part of the Government to ignorant and sentimental puritanism. In spite of the strong denunciation of regulation by the recent International Medical Congress recently held in London, and the important Report on Venereal Diseases just issued by the Local Government Board, the idea of its efficacy is still held tenaciously. We therefore call attention to the advertisement on p.416 of the literature and excellent quarterly organ—*The Shield*—of the International Federation for the Abolition of State Regulation of Vice. This is the Society so long connected with Mrs. Butler in her international work; it has been quietly accumulating facts and statistics from all over the world on regulated vice. The information is now available in pamphlet form, and also in *The Shield* (price 3d.), which is edited by Dr. H. M. Wilson.

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POLITICAL NEWS.

Forcible Feeding Revived.

The Home Office issued on October 9 the following announcement respecting two of the Suffragette hunger strikers:—

"The Home Secretary has decided that Mary Richardson and Rachel Peace, alias Jane Short, who are charged with arson at Hampton, and who have refused food in prison, are not to be released under the Prisoners' (Temporary Discharge for Ill-health) Act.

"This decision is in accordance with the statement made by the Home Secretary in the House of Commons on the second reading of the Bill that, while the Bill would make it possible to abandon forcible feeding in ordinary cases, it would not apply to the case of a prisoner whose offence was of such a kind or whose determination to repeat the offence at every opportunity was so pronounced that it would be unsafe in the public interest to allow such a person to be at large.

"Instructions have been given to the prison authorities to take all proper medical measures, including, if necessary, artificial feeding, to prevent the prisoners from endangering their lives or health by their voluntary starvation.

"The decision does not imply any change of policy in the administration of the Act, which will continue to be applied in the case of minor offenders of the Suffragist class, and those whose crimes do not include actual acts of serious violence."

Miss Annie Kenney was released from Holloway on October 13, in a most serious condition, after a hunger and thirst strike of a week.

"Man the Master."

Professor J. Arthur Thomson, of Aberdeen, moved a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage at the concluding session of the Scottish Liberal Conference at Kilmarnock on October 11. Sir Almoth Wright, in his unexpurgated case against Suffrage, brought forward, he said, a series of accusations without proof, failing to recognise that women's claims were based on economic development. The anachronism which soiled the whole volume was the declaration that man was the master. There could be no movement more congruous with Liberalism than the extension of the Franchise to women. The resolution was carried by a large majority.

Miners Support Woman Suffrage.

A meeting was held by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in the Londesborough Theatre, Scarborough, on October 9, at which a number of delegates from the Miners' Federation and several Labour members of Parliament were present.

Mr. Brace, M.P., speaking to the resolution demanding a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women, said they felt, on behalf of the Federation, the Women's Cause was not only spiritually founded, but was absolutely necessary for the uplifting of democracy, whether it be made up of women or of men. If women were in the House of Commons it would be a very different place.

Mr. Albert Stanley, M.P., said that the overwhelming majority of the Miners' Federation had decided to join the Women's Cause and to use all their efforts to bring it to success as soon as they possibly could.

Sir Edward Grey and Men Suffragists.

Sir Edward Grey has decided to receive a small deputation from the Berwick Centre of the Northern Men's Federation for Woman Suffrage on the occasion of his visit to Berwick on the evening of Monday, October 27. While Sir Edward is prepared to hear the views of the deputation, and to state his own to them on the question of Woman Suffrage, he indicates that he cannot undertake to make promises on behalf of the Government.

Mr. Churchill: About Men.

Speaking at Dundee, on October 8, Mr. Winston Churchill said with regard to the threatenings of Ulster: "I do not agree with those who say we cannot parley with men who threaten violence and illegality. Liberalism is successful because it does not treat the symptom but always seeks the cause." (Cheers.) "There is rarely violence without some cause. When the cause is abated, the violence and other ugly symptoms disappear. Liberalism has been successful because in all its quarrels it tries patiently to understand and make allowances for the sincere point of view of the other side."

And at Lochee, on October 9: "The hand of friendship and

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co-operation will not be refused to any who seek the enduring peace and welfare of Ireland and her people. But it is no time for manoeuvring. We speak earnestly to men who are in earnest, and on behalf of men who are in deadly earnest."

Mr. Churchill: About Women.

The following day, after interruptions from women Suffragists (though extraordinary precautions were taken to keep them out), which reduced to ridicule his address to Women Liberals, he observed: "I am sorry that there should be these interruptions. I am sorry that you should have these difficulties in holding a meeting. I think it is very unfair to the women of Dundee that when they take such trouble to organise a meeting, and make all their arrangements, they should be subjected to such petty persecution. This form of disorderly—foolish, weak disorder, is a disease—(laughter and cheers)—which the women of Britain have got to shake off and drive out of the system of their politics before they can make these politics advance in a truly effective fashion."

Are Votes Worthless?

This is what Mr. Churchill says, boasting of the records of the Liberal Government during the last eight years: "We have prevented any undue burden being placed upon the food or industry of the people; we have tried to consolidate the position of trade unions before the law; we have endeavoured to regulate in important trades the hours of labour; we have restricted them, notably in the case of the coal miners. We have not hesitated to come forward and in regard to this great industry to establish the principle of the minimum wage. We have established in regard to minor industries the whole elaborate machinery of the Trade Boards Act. We have been setting free and liberating, as far as we can, the energies of the people and trying to remove the causes and sources of friction, of the purposeless friction and obstructions and barriers to progress."

Et tu, Brute?

Mr. R. L. Outhwaite, Liberal Member of Parliament, speaking at a meeting of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values on October 6, declared: "It is not that the Liberal Government wants to tax land, or that the Liberal Party desires to do so. I prefer to put it that the Liberal Ministers want to remain Liberal Ministers, and the Liberal Party desire to remain the Liberal Party. The fact is, the Liberal Government desires to remain in office. The time has come when it has to find a new policy with which to get votes."


Lord Robert Cecil's Championship.

From a most able and lengthy speech on Woman Suffrage, by Lord Robert Cecil, at the opening of the Glasgow Parliamentary Debating Association on October 11, we take the following extracts:—

Lord Robert Cecil said he was anxious to speak about Women's Suffrage not only because of its intrinsic importance, but because he thought it very desirable that all politicians should arrive at a clear understanding of what they really did intend upon that matter. (Hear, hear.) He had been in Parliament a comparatively short time, but he must say that of all his experiences there that which he looked back upon with least satisfaction was the dealing of the House of Commons with the subject of Women's Suffrage. . . . He was sure that there had been no single set of incidents which had done so much harm to the reputation of the House of Commons as the kind of idea that they could play fast and loose with pledges unless they were given to those who actually had votes. That was a disgrace. Why was it in times past men had asked for the vote? If he read history rightly, because they thought the possession of the vote protected them from injustice. That was the great ground on which all the agitation in 1832, 1867, and 1884 proceeded. They were told that women were admirably protected by existing voters, that they suffered no injustice. That was always the answer that had been made to the claim for the franchise whenever it was put forward. He was not satisfied that women had got complete justice under the existing system.

Referring to the situation in Ulster, he said: Women had all other rights of citizenship. They had just as strong need at least to the protection that the vote would give as men, and they had surely just the same interest in the more spiritual side of politics that men had. They had precisely the same interest in their country's life and prosperity. He saw an interesting example of how that feeling was generally admitted when they got to the actual facts of life. They had heard a good deal recently about a Provisional Government in Ulster, and they knew that those who were intending to set up that Government had provided that women should vote as fully as men for that Government. (Applause.) That was interesting in itself, but what was to him much more interesting was the reason given—that their interests were as much at stake as those of men. (Applause.) That was the reason given by, among others, Sir Edward Carson, who was a very convinced Anti-Suffragist.

Concluding a most comprehensive and impressive address, Lord Robert said: "Was not the real way of meeting materialism, if that was what we were threatened with, not by neglecting and disregarding the material needs and wants of the poorer members of the community, but by bringing forward also the spiritual side of human nature, and how were we to do that better than by calling the women of this country to our aid?"



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The "Picardy."

THE "PROTECTED" SEX. AT THE CRIMINAL COURTS.

At the Old Bailey.

Before Mr. Justice Rentoul, on Wednesday, October 8, Edward Martlock was charged with committing a criminal assault upon Edith Hartley, aged 15. Prisoner pleaded that he did not know she was not sixteen, and said he would marry her if he was dealt with leniently. On this understanding he was bound over.

[Apparently the judge thought the man was expiating his crime by marrying the girl. What happens really is that after thrusting motherhood on a mere child he adds the duties of wifehood to the load on her poor little shoulders.]

Before Mr. Justice Rentoul, on Friday, October 10, Sidney Batsford was tried for committing a criminal assault on Florence Tolson, aged 11. An elderly man stated that on August 26, in the afternoon, he saw prisoner committing the assault on Hampstead Heath, and hailed a policeman, who pursued the man and arrested him. The little girl and the constable corroborated this evidence, being cross-examined by the prisoner, who showed a good deal of legal cunning. He tried to prove an alibi, but was found guilty. Mr. Justice Rentoul seemed anxious to make all sorts of allowances for him, asking his mother if he was delicate or weak-minded and offering to postpone sentence so that inquiries could be made which might give an excuse for leniency. Prisoner's manner seemed to suggest that the inquiries might not be advantageous, and the judge finally decided to be lenient without an excuse. Among other remarks, the judge said: "If it had not been for the elderly witness's evidence we could not have convicted on the child's evidence alone. . . . The child's evidence was as clear as possible. . . . I will deal with you in the most lenient manner possible. This sentence will not do as an example of sentences passed on other men. There ought to be a severe and extreme sentence for every case of this sort." **Six months, second division.**

At Clerkenwell.

At Clerkenwell, on Thursday, before Mr. Allen Laurie, K.C., an unusual case was heard. Sigmund Tulper was charged with soliciting women for an immoral purpose. Two police officers said they watched him smile at and accost a dozen women, some of whom were offended or alarmed. One of the policemen heard him say to two young women, "Let's call a taxi, and go to my flat," and to another, "Hallo, darling." Mr. Huntley Jenkins, who defended, was quite violent to the police witnesses. "You be careful what you're saying," he said threateningly. "This is a very serious thing. This is the first time a charge of this sort has been sent for trial." Four young women gave evidence on prisoner's behalf. Prisoner said he was married, and denied the policeman's statement that he had tried to bribe him to let him go. Huntley Jenkins, speaking to jury, said: "Suppose it to be absolutely true, suppose you believe every word of those two young officers, I maintain no offence under (this) Act has been committed. Suppose a man does wink at a woman, suppose he does accost a woman as thousands have accosted women, it mustn't be by way of a joke, I suppose? Or because you admire her or want a chat with her? God help the prisoner that is to be convicted on the evidence of those two young policemen. . . . The officer has exaggerated, he has been led away by this case. A little

Chapter 9

The Quickest Way to Wear Out Clothes

Suppose you always wore your clothes as roughly as you rub them on a wash-day.

How long would they last?

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bit of colouring has been added, P.C. Lomas is a remarkable witness. Even if there is evidence you can't rely on it, because of the unsatisfactory manner of the officers." (Suffragists had better brief Mr. Huntley Jenkins when police evidence is to be combated!) Mr. Laurie summed up rather in favour of the prisoner, who was acquitted. During this trial a case was mentioned where a man received a heavy sentence for soliciting men, although no single person was accosted and no word spoken.

Before Mr. Allen Laurie, Elizabeth Mills, for soliciting, **three months' hard labour**; Mabel Ford, soliciting, **three months' hard labour**; K. Harvey, soliciting, **five months' hard labour**; Annie Morriss, soliciting, **bound over**.

EDITH M. WATSON.

IN THE POLICE COURTS.

Killed.

Mrs. Shaw, Leeds, killed by her husband with the blunt end of an axe. Died of serious injuries to head; husband attempted suicide. The motive was jealousy.

Mrs. Ryder, Wakefield, found when dead in emaciated and filthy condition. She was described as a mere skeleton, verminous, and parts of the head and hair eaten away. Was phthisical and had been ill a long time. Husband, an insurance agent, said his wife "did not like doctors," so had not sent for one. The jury found the death had been "greatly accelerated by the most inhuman conduct of the husband, which conduct almost amounted to criminality." The coroner told him that "morally he had been guilty of manslaughter," but left him to his conscience.

Assaults on Children.

Alexander Lawrie, indecently assaulting a child of four years old, sentenced at the Southern Police-court, Glasgow, to **two months**.

Donald Grant, Govan, at the police-court, before Baillie Young, convicted of behaving in improper manner in a house in McLellan-street, and on October 1 assaulting his three little daughters, was told it was "a very bad case," and got **two months**.

From Weckpool comes a hideous story. A child of seven, of respectable parents, was criminally assaulted when sitting on the knee of a friend of the family while the mother was out of the room. Brutal injury was caused, and the frantic mother brought an action. The magistrate ordered all women to leave the court, reduced the charge to one of common assault, and **fined the inhuman brute £1**.

Contrast this with a local case in which a woman was charged with receiving stolen goods. There was very little evidence against her, but she was sentenced to **six months' hard labour**. She had an unweaned infant, which was taken from her. When we remember what this means in physical distress to the mother as well as to the child, and that there are *no trained nurses* in prisons, the full cruelty of it will be apparent to women.

The Usual Thing.

Mrs. Flint, Islington, stabbed by her husband when bathing the baby. Struck her rapidly several blows on the head and then attacked her face with shoemaker's awl. Could not defend herself because of the baby on her lap. Had threatened her frequently and attacked her before with knife. Did not work. Had attempted suicide after the deed. Woman had ten serious wounds. Defence, that she "nagged." Mr. D'Eyncourt seemed inclined to accept the defence, and asked her if it was true.

Violence.

At Lambeth Police-court, in answer to Mr. de Grey, a woman said her husband allowed her "sometimes a shilling, sometimes sixpence, sometimes nothing, sometimes a good hiding." There was "laughter" in court.

Thomas Marle, Edmonton, indicted for cruelty to a fowl, which he plucked alive. Attention was drawn to it by a policeman who had come in to save his wife from violent assault. The man was prosecuted for the fowl, not for the wife!

A Leyton man was charged at Stratford Police-court with assaulting his wife. On his way to answer the charge, he was knocked down by a motor-cycle and appeared in court bandaged. The Bench discharged him and insolently told his wife to "take him home now and nurse him."—*District Times*, Walthamstow, Oct. 26.

Cruelty to Children.

Margaret and James Smart, Southwark, charged before Mr. Horace Smith with neglecting their children, who were found wandering in ragged and deplorable condition. The inspector of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children showed the usual shameful bias when he said, "the female defendant was the person responsible," the husband's position being that "he had not appreciated the position." In the teeth of the fact that the woman supported the family by making and selling artificial flowers in the street (and would have been rigorously prosecuted if she had taken the children with her). The man was **bound over** and the woman got **six weeks' hard labour**.

Contrast above with the Southend case reported by *The Child's Guardian* of September. A father was charged with giving his little such son unmerciful beatings that he was "black and blue" all over, and often stayed away all night for terror of his father. Beatings were inflicted with a strap with a buckle. **Fined £2 any 4s. costs.**

WOMEN IN COUNCIL.

CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN WORKERS, HULL, OCTOBER 6 to 10.

The subject of this year's Conference was "The Children of the Nation."

Proceedings opened by a large meeting in the Assembly Rooms, when Mrs. Lillington, President of the Hull Branch, gave an address of welcome to the Conference, and Mrs. Allan Bright, President of the Union, delivered her presidential address. A speech from the Archbishop of York followed on "The State and Parental Responsibility." A tremendous outburst of applause greeted his Grace's declaration that women should have a share not only in administering, but, directly or indirectly, in shaping the laws. He tried to qualify this in the next sentence by saying that women should have a place where they can meet together. This anti-climax evoked peals of irrepressible and quite spontaneous laughter. Tuesday morning and afternoon were given over to the reading of some very interesting papers on "The Care of Children," "Baby Clinics," and "The Moral Education of the Young," by such experts as Dr. Mary Murdoch, Mrs. Player, the Hon. Mrs. Franklin, Miss Gray, M.A., Head Mistress of St. Paul's Girls' School, London, and Mr. J. L. Paton, M.A., Headmaster, Manchester Grammar School. The evening session was particularly interesting, being mainly concerned with the opportunities for children in our Overseas Dominions and the Emigration of State Children. A lady from the Child Emigration Society (who evidently did not possess the saving grace of humour) drew a graphic picture of a typical day in a State emigrated child's holiday in Canada. It was so strenuous that it made me tired just to listen to her description, and many of us wondered what her idea of hard work would be.

After another lady, a Poor Law Guardian, had dilated on the numerous advantages to State children by shipping them off to Canada, a Canadian, Miss Leathes, mounted the platform, and gave us the point of view of the Canadian women. Her speech was most interesting, and threw much new light on the subject. It was delivered with great charm of manner, to which a slight French accent added piquancy. She pointed out the danger of flooding a new country like Canada with more people than its resources in their present state of development can support, and showed how, when the short summer is over, the immigrants flock into the towns in order to get employment in the factories. This flood of unskilled labour naturally tends to lower wages and produce over-crowding in the poorer districts. The housing problem is becoming quite acute, and slums are fast springing up in the big towns. Miss Leathes said plainly that the women of Canada do not want English Poor Law children. (Probably employers do not object to cheap labour.)

At the end of her speech the Local Government Board Inspector for Yorkshire sent up his card, and was allowed to speak from the platform. He gave a most indignant denial to many things the lady had *not* said. He spent about five minutes beating the air and refuting arguments which had never been brought forward. And yet we used to be told that the male was the logical sex!

On Wednesday the business part of the Conference began. The morning was spent in the election of the Executive Committee, reports of the Secretary, Treasurer, and of the Sectional and other Committees.

In the afternoon we had to consider three resolutions. Two dealt with the necessity of having more Women Inspectors under the Trade Board, the Local Government Board, and for British immigrant children in Canada. The third resolution, proposed by Miss Chrystal MacMillan, was in favour of opening the legal profession to women. I made a short speech in support of this resolution, which was carried without a single dissident.

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Thursday was the fateful day of the week, as it was given up to the Revision of the Constitution. Although there was keen feeling on both sides, the debate was conducted throughout with great dignity and decorum; there was a strong desire to safeguard the rights of the minority as far as was possible and consistent with a democratic Constitution. However, at the end of the morning session, Mrs. Humphry Ward announced that a meeting would be held during the luncheon interval to consider what steps the minority would take. Next morning a letter appeared in the local Press over her signature stating that there would probably be a large number of resignations from the National Union of Women Workers, and that a new Union might be formed. This is, of course, to be regretted. Yet I think most of the delegates who voted with the majority feel they could not have done otherwise without stultifying the power of the Union. Naturally, at a Conference of this kind one feels more and more keenly how women's power for good is atrophied for want of the means of directly influencing legislation.

On the whole the Conference was very enjoyable; it was certainly a triumph of organisation. Over 600 delegates attended, and the arrangements worked without a hitch. There were the usual social functions and opportunities for visiting the interesting features of the neighbourhood.

KATHLEEN TANNER.

"THE MERRYMAKING" (see "Forthcoming Events").—The organisers can promise visitors a jolly evening on Thursday, October 30, at Oriel Hall, Heath-street, Hampstead, at 7.0 p.m. There will be dancing, games, psychic delineations, competitions, Morris dancing and other amusing features. Mrs. Walter Carey has very kindly promised to provide a food reform stall. There will be other refreshments, for which members are asked to send cakes, &c. All proceeds will be devoted to the Cause. Tickets, 1s., can be obtained from Headquarters and from Mrs. van Raalte, 23, Pandora-road, West Hampstead.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 2, Robert Street Adelphi, W.C.
Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, October 17, 1913.

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

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EDITORIAL.

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

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A GRAVE ABUSE.

The "New Crusade" heralded in our last issue is taking organised and coherent form; and the more one studies the amazing tales brought by our Special Correspondent from the Courts, the more women of all kinds and conditions will rally to its banner. Beyond question, the open discouragement and actual coercion of women who dare to show themselves near the high altars of male prerogative have borne fruit—and that fruit is of an astonishing flavour. For many a long day Suffragists have complained of the open immorality of the Courts of Justice: the sex bias, the tenderness to male ruffians who inflict the "reverberations of their physiological emergencies" upon women and children, the wholesale perjury, the complacent Bench, the Bar—but there is no way of classifying the Bar without bringing ourselves within reach of the law which the Bar distorts and perverts to its own uses. And slowly, very slowly, others are coming to see it, too. Rubbing eyes and blinking at the unaccustomed light, some of our fellow-citizens and sufferers are at last beginning to sit up and take notice.

A weekly paper of wide circulation has begun to publish some special articles on "Justice" in the police-courts. East and west this perspicacious special observer peregrinates, seeing and noting—now he looks for them—the things to which we have clamorously called attention for the last eight years, ever since our Cause and our courage took us into the places where they mete out man-made judgment. Nothing Mr. Alan Stephens says is new to us; we have said it till we are tired. The things that strike him outstandingly are the direct conflict of evidence on oath—evidence of a diametrically opposite kind, in which either one side or the other *must* be lying freely; and the almost hopeless chance of the citizen if the police story is reasonably probable. Also the helplessness of the ordinary witness or complainant or defendant in framing a tale or putting a case. They are so plainly at the mercy of the trained, keen, accustomed wits of the official element, legal and police.

We have again and again protested against the disregard of all evidence except police evidence and the set determination of the police (supported by the Bench) never to call independent witnesses if it can be avoided. We have called attention to the tongue-tied, brow-beaten public, and demanded of the Home Secretary that Public Counsel as well as Public Prosecutors shall be provided at each court. We have pointed out how the hideous machine, which not only goes on grinding out its daily allowance of criminals, but also provides unceasing grist for the grim job, must be grievously at fault somewhere. "Making criminals," says Mr. Stephens! It is an old cry. Mr. McKenna is bringing in another Bill—another cheap-jack panacea—to treat the symptoms he notices; but no one troubles to call in a surgeon to cut out the malignant growth that is the cause of those symptoms.

We hold, and with sound reason, that the lack of the woman's head and heart in the nation's government is the fatal deficiency. We have watched the treachery and dishonesty of politics and the abuse and tyranny of the administration of the law until we are sick and sore with the shame and the vileness of it. Whether we think of the loathsome creatures who sniggered in court during the hearing of the Wetherall case; or of the indecent details wrung from little children in rooms full of evil-minded men while women are excluded; or whether we think of the legal tricks by which offenders are saved or of the insufficient sentences given to those convicted, our anger is equally roused. We know it would not, could not happen with women on Bench, at Bar, in the jury box.

We know that, with administrative power in the hands of women it would not be possible to protect the *alias* of procurers nor conceal the identity of their patrons. We have seen the new Criminal Law Amendment Act reduced to waste paper, in the Piccadilly and Glasgow cases, by the simple expedient of getting the prosecution to refrain from bringing the charge of procuring and limiting it to "living on the proceeds of immorality" or keeping improper premises.

We note the wild indignation of the male person when for the first time "soliciting" is under this Act made a male as well as a female offence. The callous admission of Mr. Huntley Jenkins that "thousands of men" annoy and molest women and that it is preposterous to consider it an offence; the contention that "two young officers" (police) must on no account be considered witnesses sufficient to bring home a charge like this to a man—although some 9,000 women are convicted every year on less; and the triumph of sex bias over even the police evidence ending in the acquittal of the accused against the clearest evidence. All this shows us how much satisfaction the new law will give us when administered by men only.

These things are possible because women have no power and have never been allowed to exercise the "influence" which is their meagre portion, by being present during these trials. And we are determined to take action. Correspondence with Mr. Mead (in another part of this issue) will show what that action is intended to be; and we will find out whether Mr. Mead, or Messrs. Fordham, Taylor, and Spokes have the right estimate of what is "legal and proper."

A test action to recover our public rights illegally filched from us should be of far-reaching influence; but we must remember that no matter what we win back, we can never hold it securely without the Vote to protect it. We can never fight masculine arrogance until we are equally equipped as citizens. We may win free access to the courts, but inevitably we shall lose it again unless we have power to protect our rights from masculine encroachments. The Women's Freedom League will bring an action against Mr. Mead for improperly closing his court to them and making a favour of "facilities" for exercising their rights; but the demand for the Vote will be made with increased vigour and energy because of the necessity for bringing that action.

C. NINA BOYLE.

JAM REDIT ET VIRGO, REDEUNT SATURNIA REGNI

Thus of Astræa and the Golden Age,
With burning soul the mighty Mantuan sings.
He strikes his lute, and those vibrating strings
Fill all our poets still with noble rage.
Come now, Astræa, break the iron cage
That holds your mortal sisters! Give us wings
To soar with Virgil to sublimest things,
And power with evil forces war to wage!
Ah, could another sing such songs as his,
Who should resist the growth of things divine?
Who should stand back a laggard in the fight?
Such was his vision of high mysteries
That still his words warm mortal hearts like wine,
And glow as never may the stars by night!

E. URWICK.

SUPPORT THOSE ADVERTISERS WHO SUPPORT US.

THE "DANGER OF SELF-EXPRESSION" FOR WOMEN.

There has been much said and written, these last few days, upon the vexed subject of women. Not only has the Church Congress furnished the Press with material, but again has Sir Almroth Wright flung down the gauntlet, and wages war against the sex for whom he seems to have no good word. But though much has been said, and well said, and though we may take to ourselves encouragement from the fact that the Church Congress has finally allowed the subject to be of sufficient importance to dedicate to it one of its days—a day of great interest so it would seem—yet it is mostly old ground that has been covered. We have heard before Bishop Welldon's kind recommendation of "chivalry" for the "weaker sex," though where in the teaching of Christ he finds this kindly patronage it would be difficult to say; and Dean Henson's and Mr. Arnold Ward's fears for the future of mankind are not new, should the hand that "rocks the cradle" dare to raise itself in the task of helping to "rule the world."

One observation, however, gave me to think. It was made by a woman, a well-known head-mistress of one of those successfully large schools for the daughters of the well-to-do, over whom it is said she exercises much influence. Now what has this successful Head-mistress, Miss Lucy Soulsby, to say about the woman's movement to which she is, incidentally, much indebted for the success life has brought her? For had not other women paved the way, fought the battle, made possible the outlet for women as doctors and, in the wider sense, teachers, why then Miss Soulsby would have had a much harder row to hoe when she started on her successful career. She is reported to have said—and knowing her to be one of those "exceptional women" found among the ranks of the Anti-Suffragists, we can believe that the paper does not belie her:—

"In describing the woman of yesterday, Miss Soulsby pointed out that the Victorian woman's dutiful sense of self-restraint allowed no room for the danger of self-expression."

The *danger* of self-expression! What kind of a girl then does Miss Soulsby's educational establishment turn out? Does the Early Victorian ideal of a self-repressed "Miss" of "Prunes and Prism" really appeal more to anyone's sense of woman, as we wish her to be, than the bright, honest, self-reliant, good comrade for men that this age is evolving? Maybe a trifle crude still in some of those excellent qualities, but at any rate she is of the open air, and whimsies and fears have flown now that she dares to think of herself as of as much value as her brother!

Self-expression must not be taken to imply a lack of self-control, for truly without self-control no true self-expression is possible. Unless education—and life is in this the best educator—has taught one the preservation and re-servation of power, which *is* self-control, self-expression becomes a mere scattered wasting of ill-regulated force.

To use a homely illustration, it is like a defective tap, in need of a new washer, water squirting out at all times and in all directions, and a steady, controlled flow impossible.

Self-expression! The need of and the gift to every human creature, be they poet, painter or musician, writer or teacher, engineer or dressmaker, worker with head, or worker with hand, to each one is the daily work dignified, and made of enjoyment and value only when some part of the personality of the worker finds expression and self-utterance.

And is this vital, this soul-developing quality, to be refused to the whole of one sex? Is the world to be but the expression of the man's individuality? Is there real *danger*, not only to woman, but to the world at large in the prospect of the full development and expression of that development—for why develop if expression is a danger?—of the whole gamut of human possibilities, the masculine and the feminine, and all

the variety that the Creator gave to each one when He formed His perfect plan?

This strange idea of suppression or repression, we can partly understand in the purely muscular man, but when will women cease to fear for their own sex what they have boldly claimed, and made good their claims, for themselves individually?

It is fear lurking somewhere in the background of even able and in many respects courageous minds. Fear of other women, of a lessening for *other women*, of true womanliness; other women straying from paths that seem well-beaten and desirable; of power in the hands of other women!

Ignoble fear! that has not yet learnt to trust supremely the divine in woman as in man; fear that the Fatherhood of God is of so purely a masculine character that the "woman" given to be a "helpmeet" has somehow missed fire and cannot express her divine origin.

But as well make dumb all the white or all the black keys on a piano-board and expect to obtain from the instrument a perfect harmony in all keys as seek to suppress the self-utterance of one-half of the human race and obtain from the other half the power, wisdom, and love of the whole.

In all modesty—for we lay no claim to be exceptional women—in all honesty, and with a profound belief in the righteousness of our desire to work and self-express ourselves in all matters that touch our common humanity, we Suffragists seek the power given by the vote.

We believe that this means of self-expression, in other means, is for the good and upraising of the individual, and therefore—better units forming a better whole—for the benefit of the community.

When our weary little world has turned her face fully to the sun, and the whole creation is ready to join the "Song of the Morning Stars" and "shout for joy" with "the Sons of God," then shall the daughters and sons of man together have banished the darkness that still holds us "Groaning and travailing, waiting for the redemption."

MARY MAUD.

THE EXPERT.

Miss Robinson slipped upon her aunt's doorstep and fell from the step to the pavement below. When she tried to get up her foot hurt her so much that she cried out. Somehow she managed to reach the bell and ring it, and was helped back into the house by the parlourmaid.

Her aunt quite approved of the accident; it was feminine and respectable, altogether different from bodily injury inflicted by policemen.

"I think I must have strained a tendon or a muscle, or something," said Miss Robinson. "Perhaps if I bathed it, or a cold water bandage—"

"Certainly not," pronounced Aunt. "You must have proper advice. All women want advice, and in *my* house you shall have the best."

So she sent for Sir Fullmouth Wrong.

Sir Fullmouth was a very big wig; he knew all about medicine and all about women. He came into the room with a charming air, and asked Miss Robinson what she complained of.

"I do not complain," replied Miss Robinson, "because, of course, it was more or less my own fault, but I slipped and fell, and I think I must have sprained or strained or broken something."

"We shall see, we shall see," said Sir Fullmouth. He passed his hand over her ankle. She winced. "You think that hurts?" inquired Sir Fullmouth.

"I know it does," returned Miss Robinson.

The big wig shook his head and smiled blandly. "Mere fancy," he decreed; "the outcome of suggestion. Our young friend," he said, turning to Aunt, "is a little

hysterical. Oh, nothing to alarm you, madam; all women are hysterical."

"So I have read in your wonderful writings," answered Aunt. "Still, if she slipped—"

Sir Fullmouth waved a commanding hand. "She states that she slipped, and it may be so. But woman's mind attends, in appraising a statement, primarily to the mental images which it evokes, and only secondarily—and sometimes not at all—to what is predicated by the statement. It arrives at conclusions on incomplete evidence, has a very imperfect sense of proportion, accepts the congenial as true and—"

"I assure you that to have your ankle hurting like blazes is not at all congenial," interrupted Miss Robinson.

"You think it hurts, of course, but I know from exhaustive studies that woman's mind builds up for itself, when biased by predilections and aversions, a very unreal picture of the external world. I know that woman does not look upon her mind as an implement for the pursuit of truth, and I know that unsatisfied sexuality is an intellectual disability."

"I assure you," said Aunt, with a face full of pink perplexity, "that my niece—"

Sir Fullmouth Wrong patted her hand with soothing touch. "Nothing out of the ordinary, dear lady, I mean, nothing that need offend or upset you. Don't you know that all pure unmarried women suffer from what I have indicated? That is why they join the Suffragé movement. Simple, ve—ry simple, to the medical expert." He rose. "Well, well, good-bye, my young lady. I will look in and see how you are going on to-morrow."

"Why should you look in if there is nothing the matter with me?" asked Miss Robinson.

"I did not say *nothing* the matter; only not the ankle, not the ankle."

When Sir Fullmouth Wrong had gone Miss Robinson rang the bell. "Jane," she said to the parlourmaid, "send for Dr. Jones round the corner."

"My dear," began Aunt, "Sir Fullmouth—"

"I absolutely refuse to have anything more to do with that mouthfull of a Fullmouth," said Miss Robinson.

"Dr. Jones comes to me, or I go to Dr. Jones."

Aunt's cheeks had paled again, but she was still a little pink inside, so she gave way.

"The matter?" said Dr. Jones. "You have strained a muscle. Put on a cold water bandage."

G. COLMORE.

WOMEN DOCTORS FOR INDIAN WOMEN. A CRYING NEED.

As a woman doctor who has spent the last nine years in India, I should like to draw attention to the needs of Indian women. The population of the Indian Empire is estimated at 315,000,000, and more than half of these figures would represent women and children.

The Government has organised a Medical Service primarily to attend to its own officials, and incidentally to manage hospitals, supervise gaols, and to give evidence where required in medico-legal cases, besides supervising a vast number of subordinates, who minister to the mass of the population when ill. The Indian Medical Service contains some eight hundred officers with English qualifications to practise medicine and surgery, about eight hundred assistant surgeons, four thousand sub-assistant surgeons, and numerous other assistants of lower grades. The majority are Englishmen, the other grades consist of Indians and Eurasians. The Indian Medical Service has rendered a great service to India; it has made the bulk of the population acquainted with European medicine and brought medical and surgical relief to the people at large. It has maintained a high standard of efficiency, and is probably one of the finest medical services in the world.

As is generally known, the majority of Indian women are in purdah and are not allowed to be seen by any man except their immediate relations. This custom

varies in strictness in different parts of India. In the South purdah restrictions are hardly observed, whereas in the North-west no respectable woman is seen out of doors unless she is covered from head to foot in a drapery which, of course, conceals the face. Many women of the lower classes, when ill, avail themselves of the Government hospitals, but even of these the larger number are not seen by those who prescribe, as they remain closely veiled. In many cases the name of a patient is entered in the hospital books who never comes to the hospital, but whose husband or son receives medicine for her after describing her symptoms to the doctor in charge; others will freely consult a man for cough, fever, &c., but would not think of being attended by him for any disease peculiar to her sex. Therefore, in nearly all hospitals where women are treated, a "lady doctor" is supposed to be present. In many cases, as in one large Government hospital in a strictly purdah district, she is simply an Indian midwife, with but three or six months' training. She sees and prescribes for many patients, but is expected to persuade the more timid to see the men doctors, when they have diseases beyond her skill. Over the whole of India, where purdah is strict and where it is almost non-existent, from the highest to the lowest class, no Indian woman will willingly consult a man doctor about diseases peculiar to her sex, if she can obtain the services of a competent medical woman. I do not think that the disappearance of purdah or the emancipation of Indian women will affect this. In Europe the woman doctor finds many of her patients drawn from the class of women who are well educated and accustomed to think and decide for themselves; so it will be in the East.

The special needs of Indian women—many of whom die because they will not consult a man doctor—have not been sufficiently realised. Hospitals for women attached to missions and managed by medical women, were the first step in the right direction, followed by Lady Dufferin's Fund, which was to provide medical aid to women throughout India by means of hospitals organised and officered by women doctors. No interference with existing institutions was intended; her scheme expressly stated that the affiliation and co-operation of all societies interested and engaged in the same work was invited, and the first report gives the names of various medical women, chiefly missionaries who were to be thus united in the one object, namely, in the alleviation of the sufferings of Indian women. Provision was also made for the education of Indian women as doctors, nurses, and midwives. No further reaching scheme could be imagined, nor one that appealed more to the enthusiasm of the Indian people. Subscriptions poured in; rulers and people declared it was the thing that India wanted, that the care of the women and children was the care of the race, and that the neglect of past centuries was now to be remedied. (Vide Report I. of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund.)

KATHLEEN VAUGHAN, M.B., London.

(To be continued.)

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MIDDLESBROUGH'S ENTHUSIASM.

I cannot let this issue of THE VOTE go to press without offering my tribute to the Middlesbrough Branch for the very fine work they are doing. I have spoken here and there of the spirit of enthusiasm and comradeship that is animating our League and by its magnetism drawing in many to our ranks. In Middlesbrough I found this spirit in full force.

Mrs. Schofield Coates has drawn round her a band of gallant workers who give their time and their energies unreservedly to the Cause, and who feel for her the devotion of soldiers to a capable and tested general. The result is admirable.

On an empty treasury (they made £60 and spent it last year) they took the large Town Hall, advertised their meeting, and sold their tickets. It was for Tuesday. I arrived in pouring rain, and as we drove to the hall in a peculiarly heavy downpour my heart sank. All that splendid work to be spoiled by the weather! But I had not reckoned with the enthusiasm of Middlesbrough. We went on to the platform to find a well-filled hall. If the weather had been good still more would have been present, for we heard later that some were put back by the rain. We think the audience numbered about a thousand persons.

I was in the chair. Mrs. Pethick Laurence, who made an admirable speech, instinct both with logic and good feeling, proposed the resolution. Our friend, Mr. Harben, in fine fighting form, seconded it, and it was carried enthusiastically. Only three were found to vote against it.

On October 9th the Branch gave a social, and again we had an extremely successful evening. Mrs. Schofield Coates took the chair. There was some music and then I spoke on the policy, work, and principles of the Women's Freedom League. Refreshments and a little conversation followed. Vigorous small meetings were

held in different parts of the room and many names were taken. I understand that at least twenty new members have joined the Branch. This is a fine result. Miss Eunice Murray is expected next week. Everyone is looking forward to her visit. Knowing her, I feel certain that she will give the branch another push forward. Our social evening ended with a good and most amusing rendering of the favourite Suffrage play, "A Chat With Mrs. Chickey."

I congratulate the Middlesbrough Branch and wish for them further success. It is confidently prophesied that they will presently number no less than 500 members.

C. DESPARD.

CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAYS."

The special interest of the gathering on October 8 was an exceedingly interesting lecture by Mrs. E. M. Moore on "A Woman's Utopia." Taking Sir Thomas More's "Utopia," written 400 years ago, as her text, she pointed out its advanced ideas of social and economic conditions and the liberty accorded to women, but showed how women must go even further to gain their full freedom and the power to fight malice, injustice, and prejudice. [As Mrs. Moore has most kindly given permission for the reproduction in THE VOTE of her stimulating paper, we simply indicate the line of her argument. Ed.]

Miss Nina Boyle dealt with the present situation, exposing recent injustices in the law courts, especially the proceedings under Mr. Mead the previous day, and dealt with the latest public pronouncements of politicians.

HE, SHE AND IT felt the cold so badly that SHE went seeking protection. SHE stopped at 126, Regent-street. Why? It was Jaeger's famous West End establishment, and SHE found it unnecessary to go further; SHE went in. Her first purchases were not only blankets, but sheets for all three. HE must have a Jaeger 'United,'" said SHE. SHE decided to experiment with a golf set, coat, cap, scarf in artistic green with white border. Then there was IT. IT was delighted with a cosy sac in which IT's feet were warmly tucked up in the pram. "And this is only a beginning," said HE, SHE and IT; "We want more Jaeger!"

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WOMAN'S POSITION—A RELIC OF BARBAROUS TIMES.

Those of us who are working for Woman Suffrage in the north (writes Miss L. Mahoney, our energetic and enthusiastic Middlesbrough member) have found an earnest and powerful advocate of our Cause in the Rev. A. Scruton, who a few months ago was appointed minister of the Stockton Unitarian Church.

On Sunday, October 5, in a very outspoken sermon, which was both eloquent and inspiring, he revealed his splendid faith in women and their future possibilities. His text was taken from Numbers xxvii. 6 and 7, in which the claim of the five daughters of Zelaphehad to their father's inheritance is granted by Moses, and in the course of his sermon he said that though there had been progress going on around us in many ways, yet with regard to the position of women there had been no progress. It remained still a relic of barbaric times. In the past men had always been jealous of clever women, hence the tragic fate of Hypatia and Joan of Arc.

In the Middle Ages, when the power of the Church had been at its strongest, the position of women had been at its lowest.

Just before the time of the Revolution there had been a wonderful awakening among women in France, and in 1792 had been published Mary Wollstonecraft's "Vindication of the Rights of Women."

He believed in the Vote for Women because it would open the door to a wider freedom and give them equal opportunity with men to prove their mental aptitude, their intellectual capacity, and moral worth. Until woman was given her true status of citizenship there could be no real progress. We must fight for the vote not because it would bring the immediate solution of all the difficult social problems of the day, but because it is the first step to this solution, and because it is the nearest thing to us.

STANDING TOGETHER.

One of the most impressive of Suffrage meetings was held at the Hampstead Town Hall on October 8. All the religious Leagues for Woman Suffrage stood together to emphasise not only the justice, but the religious aspect of woman's demand. The Bishop of Lincoln, president of the Church League, journeyed purposely from Lincoln to London to preside at the gathering. "We want a big bracket," he said. Dr. Horton represented the Free Church League, and Rabbi A. A. Green the Jewish League. Mrs. Ford Smith spoke for the Friends' League, and Miss Smith Piggott for the Roman Catholic League. There was one purpose in all the speeches, emphasised remarkably because of the different religious beliefs of the speakers—that woman's influence in public affairs, in the larger home of the State, was as necessary as within her own home. Similar meetings all over the country would do excellent service to the Woman's Cause, showing how it can unite on one platform, because of its inherent justice, those whom religious differences are apt to keep apart. It is to be hoped the excellent example set by Hampstead will be widely followed.

MORE PROTESTS FROM AMERICA.

The National Union of Woman Suffrage Societies has received the text of a resolution which has recently been unanimously passed by the Convention of the National Women's Trade Union League of America at St. Louis, Missouri. This resolution deals with the Woman Suffrage movement in Great Britain, and a copy has been sent to Mr. Asquith and the principal Suffrage societies in England. It runs as follows:—

"Whereas the democratic movement for freeing women from their political and economic shackles is in all lands one, and whereas we feel the deepest sympathy with our British sisters in the long and arduous struggle which has now extended over half-a-century to obtain the ballot, and

"Whereas the bringing of this all-important question before Parliament is persistently delayed and blocked by the action of the British Government, be it

"Resolved that we, the delegates to the National Women's Trade Union League of America, in Convention assembled, do protest against the attitude of the British Government as opposed to those Liberal and Democratic traditions which they and we alike inherit, and for which in the eyes of the world Great Britain stands, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the British Prime Minister and to the principal Suffrage Societies of Great Britain."

Comfort in Motoring.—How to be comfortable while motoring in spite of cold winds or rough weather is a problem which has been cleverly solved by Messrs. Dunhill and Co., 2, Conduit-street, W. For women the "Clive" coat in sheepskin leather is ideal; it is soft, supple, warm, being lined with a woollen material, and the sleeves are fitted with wind cuffs. Made in tan or charming shades of green or blue, it is excellent value in comfort and cut for 6½ guineas. With it goes a very chic Dutch bonnet in leather with appliqué suede violets. Other headgear is to be found, suitable also for any kind of sport. There is plenty of choice also in woollen materials, and "satisfaction" is the badge of Dunhill. For men there is an equally wide range of everything needful, and the firm is noted for its outfits for chauffeurs.

WOMAN'S THEATRE WEEK.

Great enthusiasm and interest are being aroused in the Co-operative Woman's Theatre scheme to which the Actresses' Franchise League is devoting so much energy and hard work. The inaugural week will be from December 8 to 13 inclusive, at the Coronet Theatre, Notting Hill-gate, London, W. There will be five performances of Brieux's *La Femme Seule*, translated by Mrs. Bernard Shaw, and three performances of Björnson's *A Gavellet*. Star actresses are giving their services and a record week is confidently expected. The scheme is intended particularly to make profits for the Suffrage societies, and an excellent co-operative plan has been devised to put the scheme on a sound financial basis. Miss Inez Bensusan, hon. organising secretary of the Actresses' Franchise League, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, will be glad to send full particulars to all who desire to have the enterprise explained in greater detail. The week will not only attract special attention to the Woman Suffrage cause, but will open the way to important developments. The Actresses are thus adding in a noteworthy manner to the splendid services they have already rendered to Woman Suffrage.

AT THE SUFFRAGE CLUB.

On October 10 the Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, St. James's, held its third club dinner, followed by an entertainment. Among the artistes who contributed to the evening's success were Miss Wilma Sanda, Miss Sylvia White, Miss Daphne Everett. Coming meetings at the Club:—Friday, October 17, at 3.30 p.m., Miss Royden on "The Family and the Individual"; chair, Mrs. Auerbach; Tuesday, October 21, at 8.30 p.m., Mrs. Walter Gallichan on "Some Problems Concerning Women"; chair, H. D. Harben, Esq., J.P.

"I DO NOT THINK the polling booth is very defiling, but there is something defiling in canvassing in certain parts. This, however, is just what 'the angel in the house' is expected to do when she has finished her knitting."
—LORD ROBERT CECIL.

IN THE PARKS.

Regent's Park: An Appeal.

On October 12 the Mid-London Branch held its usual Sunday morning meeting in Regent's-park. Miss Constance Andrews was the speaker. The interest aroused through her speech was evinced by the questions asked. At the end of the meeting Mrs. Hyde appealed from the chair for members and associates. Three ladies at once filled in membership cards, two others promised to do so during the week. Two unfailing attendants at these meetings are a lady of eighty years of age and a young girl of sixteen. We have to thank the member who so successfully sold THE VOTE. The hon. secretary of the Branch is most anxious that as these Sunday meetings are so much appreciated, they should continue throughout the year, but as the grass in Regent's-park is not kept cut it is unreasonable to ask the audience to risk standing in it when it is wet. She would, therefore, like to secure a portable platform which could be stored at one of the lodges. The cost would be about £1. Will anyone kindly contribute towards this outlay? With a platform the meetings could be held on the gravel.

[We regret that through a mistake the speaker last Sunday was given as Mr. Nevinson. It should have been Mrs. Nevinson. We hope she has now recovered from the sore throat which resulted from her devotion to the Cause of Woman Suffrage in speaking in most inclement weather.]

Hyde Park.

A large audience listened with evident interest to Miss Munro's excellent address in Hyde Park on Sunday last, in spite of the fact that another Suffrage meeting was proceeding almost within earshot. It is particularly noticeable how well the Park audiences have kept up their attendance. The speaker on Sunday next will be Miss Nina Boyle.

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Brockwell Park.

An excellent meeting was held in Brockwell Park on Sunday morning last, when Miss Nina Boyle was the speaker. A large and interested audience listened with deep attention to Miss Boyle's indictment of the "man-made world," and were impressed by the terrible examples she gave of girl-slavery in various parts of the world. Miss Boyle also dealt with the double standard of morals, and pleaded for a better understanding and more real comradeship between women and men, showing that nothing but good can result from women having the right to protect themselves and their children. The audience seemed quite convinced by her powerful arguments, and there was no opposition. THE VOTE was sold out.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

"The Traffic in Women": Unchallenged Facts and Figures. By C. Nina Boyle. Price 1d., post free 1½d.
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W.F.L. Enamel Badges. In round shape and shield shape, brooch or pin. Price 1s. each, post free 1s. 1d.

NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION.

Last Sunday it seemed that, for the first time, the weekly meeting of the Federation would have to be abandoned owing to heavy rain and wet grass. But an audience quickly gathered round the banner and patiently endured wet and discomfort for nearly two hours. Able speeches were delivered by Miss McLaren, Miss Macdonald, Mr. Wilson McLaren, and other members of the Federation, and new members joined the Federation.

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BRANCH NOTES.

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

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

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Croydon.—Office, 32A, The Arcade, High-street.

The "Competition Tea" on October 9 took the place of the usual weekly "At Home," and was greatly enjoyed; the profit was added to the Birthday Fund. Although the crowd was not very big at the open-air meeting on October 10, Miss Neilans aroused the deep interest of her hearers by her clear statements concerning the political demands of women. New members are joining our Branch. Will all members and friends make known that Surgeon-General Evatt, C.B., will give a lecture on "Florence Nightingale" at the Braitwaite Hall on Thursday, October 30, at 8 p.m. No afternoon meeting will be held on that day. We wish to hold the Jumble Sale before the end of the month, so will members and friends send parcels as soon as possible?

Clapham.

A meeting was held last Monday evening at 1, Imperial Mansions, Bromley-road, the speaker being Mrs. E. M. N. Clark, on "Woman and the Social Conscience." Mrs. Clark reviewed the struggles of public-spirited women during the last sixty years to take part in social work. Many of the names of these women are now forgotten, but the work lies at the basis of women's present demand for political liberty. A very cordial vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Clark for her very interesting and informative address, which was followed by a discussion. Members and friends of the Clapham Branch are cordially invited to come to 113, West Side, Clapham-common (by kind permission of Mrs. Sutcliffe), Wednesday, November 12, at 8 p.m., when the speaker will be Miss Nina Boyle.

Herne-hill and Norwood.

A Branch meeting was held on October 8 at 161, Croxted-road, by kind permission of Miss Davis. Mrs. Presbury was appointed Organising Secretary of the Branch, and it is felt that her help in this direction will be very valuable. Plans for the winter were discussed, including a public meeting at an early date; Miss Davis kindly volunteering to be responsible for the hire of the hall. The Branch is keeping the flag of Women's Freedom flying in this benighted district, and we shall be glad of the support of all our members, old and new. Subscriptions for 1913 still outstanding will be very gratefully received by the Treasurer, Miss Lucy Jenks, 170, Peckham Rye, S.E.

Mid-London.

There was not a large attendance at our quarterly members' meeting on October 7. Owing to the long, damp grass in Regent's Park we are obliged to discontinue our Sunday meetings there after this month, but when the weather is fine we hope to be able to have them on the gravel. During the winter we must also get up some indoor meetings.

Streatham and Thornton Heath.

A Whist Drive will be held at 32, Buckleigh-road, Streatham-common, on October 29, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets to be obtained at above address or at Robert-street, 1s. each, including refreshments.

PROVINCES.—Ipswich.

At our Branch meeting, Mrs. Hossack gave a report of her visit to Headquarters, and afterwards read a paper on the Southampton Church Congress, and spoke of the Suffrage work done in connection with it. She made special mention of the Women's Day, the Suffrage Procession and Meeting in the Palace Theatre. Next Thursday we hope to have a Hard-up Supper.

Middlesbrough.

We have had a very strenuous week in Middlesbrough, and are very pleased that our first public meetings of the autumn session have been so successful. Everyone has worked very hard, and we are particularly grateful to Madame Belle Richardson and her pupils for the delightful musical programme and the sketch they gave at our "At Home," which were highly appreciated by all present; also to our associates, Messrs. Barrett and Spencer for the huge advertisement posters they painted for us. We are very proud also of our juvenile supporters. Ernest Cattermole, a keen Suffragist of thirteen.

WE VOTE FOR "THE DUTCH OVEN"!

The spirit of enterprise on the part of women always appeals to members of the Women's Freedom League and to readers of THE VOTE. Consequently, we fully expect that "The Dutch Oven," 39, Baker-street, W., will be a favourite rendezvous, at lunch and tea-time, for those who wear the green, white and gold badge during the coming autumn and winter months. "If you want a thing to be well done, ask a Suffragist to do it," has become an axiom, and certainly "The Dutch Oven" is an every-day exemplification of its truth.

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rendered splendid assistance by chalking the pavements for several successive mornings, and he and his younger sister proved themselves very helpful aides-de-camp of the literature secretary. The Vote has sold well. Twenty new members have joined us. Above all, we have roused a great deal of interest and enthusiasm which promises well for our winter campaign. Will everyone please remember Jumble Sale on October 18?

Portsmouth and Gosport.

Mrs. Taplin has done a splendid week's work in Portsmouth and District. On Monday, October 6, at a meeting of members at 17, Lombard-street the plan of campaign was arranged. Specimen copies of THE VOTE have been distributed to the girls at the corset factories at the dinner-hour and eagerly accepted by them. A meeting was held at Baker-street factory at 6 p.m. Very successful open-air meetings have been held on the Town Hall-square every evening except Wednesday, when we paid a visit to Gosport. Here great excitement prevailed owing to our being moved on to another pitch by a friendly policeman. Hundreds of children followed us to the meeting, where a crowd soon collected, and owing to Mrs. Taplin's tact listened attentively to her address. Mrs. Midderigh kindly lent us her room for an afternoon meeting on Thursday. The room was packed, many strangers taking advantage of our invitation to meet and hear Mrs. Taplin. Mrs. White made an admirable chairman, introducing Mrs. Taplin in a charming little speech. A good collection was taken and new members were made. Five of us, including Mrs. Taplin, spent Friday afternoon advertising and selling THE VOTE. Our members have worked splendidly, helping Mrs. Taplin in every possible way. We hope she will visit us again in the spring.

Please remember the whist drive on October 22 at Mrs. White's, "Derynane," Aston-road, 7.30 prompt. Tickets 1s. each.

SCOTLAND.—Dundee.

The usual Branch meeting was held in the Art Society's Rooms on Thursday, October 9. Miss Husband presided. The speaker for the evening was Miss Deas, whose subject was "Bible-Reading and Votes for Women." Miss Deas read passages from both Old and New Testament (among them Numbers xxvii. 1; Judges iv. 8; Psalms lxxviii. 11; Corinthians xi. 5) to illustrate her point, that from the beginning of time women have claimed their rights—and got them. The speaker also alluded to the present unrest among Indian women. Miss Broughton, who has been in Scotland for some time, then gave an account of her work and the sympathetic response she had received from all kinds of people. Arrangements were made for her to visit members, and conduct factory-gate and other open-air meetings. Members are requested to help.

Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road.

On Wednesday, Councillor Crawford gave to our Branch a most interesting account of the Northern men's deputation to Mr. Asquith. He related many amusing episodes which had not been chronicled by the Press, and expressed the opinion that the Premier's refusal to receive the deputation had been of the nature of a blessing in disguise, as it had roused in the men indignation against the autocratic behaviour of the Government. One excellent result has been the formation of the Northern Men's Federation for Woman Suffrage, which is very active locally. Miss Nannie Brown, secretary of the Midlothian Federation, was in the chair, and spoke of the excellent work that had been done by Councillor Crawford both on the deputation and on the Federation. Members are reminded of the whist drive on Saturday evening, when Mrs. Despard will be present and speak, and of the open-air meeting at the Mound in the afternoon, also to be addressed by Mrs. Despard.

Paisley.

The monthly Branch meeting was held on October 6. Miss Buntin of Glasgow, kindly visited us and spoke of the great need of political power for women. Her account of her prison experiences amused all present. The meeting was both helpful and inspiring.

NOTE.—For addresses of Branch Secretaries apply to Headquarters, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

NEW BRANCHES.

East London.

The inauguration of this new Branch took place on Monday evening last at the house of Miss Adams, 37, Wellington Buildings, Bow, E., who has kindly undertaken the work of hon. Secretary. Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Huntsman encouraged the members by their presence. Mrs. Mustard spoke on reasons for the woman's movement, outlining the policy and work of the Freedom League. Mrs. Huntsman told how the new Branch could get to work, asking for volunteers and for a poster parade to advertise the public meeting in Stratford on October 20. All willing to help are asked to assemble at Miss Adams' house on Wednesday, October 22, at 8 p.m. The enthusiasm of Miss Adams and her fellow members of the new Branch promises well for its success.

Lochgelly.—Organiser: Miss Ada Broughton.

An interesting and enthusiastic meeting took place in the East Schools, Lochgelly, on Thursday evening, October 7, to inaugurate the new Branch which has been recently formed in the district. There was a good attendance of ladies, presided over by Miss A. Broughton. Miss A. B. Jaek, of Edinburgh, in an eloquent address, outlined the League's policy, and earnestly appealed to the women present to associate themselves in the women's fight against the injustice to women which results from the government being in hands of men. Through the kindness of Miss Eunice Murray refreshments were served, and Miss Joan McCallum recited "The Highland Woman," which was greatly appreciated, and new members joined the League. A short business meeting was held to appoint the officials, and it was resolved to commence the winter's work of the Branch with fortnightly meetings.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

VOTES FOR WOMEN **W.F.L.**
DARE TO BE FREE.

from 37, Wellington Buildings, Bow, 3 p.m.
Thurs., Oct. 23.—CROYDON OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade, 3.30 p.m.—“At Home.” *Speaker:* Rev. W. Moritz Weston.
Fri., Oct. 24.—HARROW, “Fairholme,” Greenhill, 3 p.m., Drawing-room Meeting (by kind invitation of Mrs. Atkin Higgins). *Speakers:* tea. MORLAND-ROAD, CROYDON, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Mustard.
Sun., Oct. 26.—HYDE PARK, noon. Miss Eunice Murray and Miss Underwood. BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m. Miss Alison Neilans.
Mon., Oct. 20.—Caxton Hall, 8 p.m. *Lecture* by Laurence Housman, Esq., on “Petticoat Government.” *Chair:* Miss Eunice Murray. Admission by ticket, 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., from W.F.L. Office. Discussion invited.
Wed., Oct. 22.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Miss Eunice Murray and Miss Nina Boyle. *Chair:* Mrs. Tanner. Admission free. EAST LONDON, Poster Parade, Start Branch Meeting, 8 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 29.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Nevins, L.L.A., “Recent Legislation for Women,” and Mrs. Despard. *Chair:* Mrs. Hyde. Admission free. STREATHAM AND THORNTON HEATH, Whist Drive, 32, Buckleigh-road, Streatham-common, 7.30 p.m. (see Branch Notes, p. 412). STRATFORD TOWN HALL (Committee Room), 8 p.m., Public Meeting.
Thurs., Oct. 30.—BRAITHWAITE HALL, CROYDON, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. *Speaker:* Surgeon-Gen. Evatt, C.B., on “Florence Nightingale.” ORIEL HALL, HEATH-STREET, HAMSTEAD, 7 p.m.—“A Mery-making,” arranged by the West Hampstead Branch. *M.C.:* Miss Nina Boyle.
Fri., Oct. 31.—CAXTON HALL, Special Political Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Eunice Murray, Miss Nina Boyle.
Sat., Nov. 1.—HERNE HILL, Public Meeting. *Speakers:* Mrs. Despard and Miss Nina Boyle.
Wed., Nov. 5.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, “The Child in Hungary.” Admission free.
Thurs., Nov. 6.—CROYDON OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade, 3.30 p.m.—“At Home.” *Speaker:* Miss Miller.
Mon., Nov. 10.—BOWES PARK, Miss Eunice Murray and Miss Nina Boyle.
Tues., Nov. 11.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., Mid-London Branch Meeting, 7.45 p.m. SPENCER HALL, Spencer-road, Dartmouth Park Hill, N.W. (by kind permission of St. Pancras Branch I.L.P.), 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. Mustard. *Subject:* “Freedom for Women.” Admission free.
Wed., Nov. 12.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Mr. G. Lansbury and Miss Eunice Murray. Admission free. 113, WEST SIDE, Clapham-common. Drawing-room Meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Sutcliffe), 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Nina Boyle.
Thurs., Nov. 13.—CROYDON OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade, 3.30 p.m.—“At Home.” Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc.
Sun., Nov. 16.—CAXTON HALL, “At Home,” 3.30—5 p.m. Members and friends cordially invited. Tea, music.

PROVINCES.

Fri., Oct. 17.—Birmingham, Bull Ring, mid-day, Open-air Meeting. Miss Nina Boyle. Rennie Institute, Erdington, 8 p.m. Public Meetings. *Speakers:* Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Elphick.
Sat., Oct. 18.—Middlesbrough, Jumble Sale. Manchester, 45, Sidney-street, 3 p.m., Jumble Sale.
Mon., Oct. 20.—Gravesend, I.L.P. Hall, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Nina Boyle.
Wed., Oct. 22.—Southsea, “Derryane,” Aston-road, 7.30 p.m. prompt, Whist Drive. Tickets 1s. each. Manchester, 46A, Market-street, Branch Meeting. Miss Andrews.
Thurs., Oct. 23.—Grays, Miss Nina Boyle. Winchester, Miss Eunice Murray.
Fri., Oct. 24.—Southampton, Morris Hall, Commercial-road, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. *Speaker:* Miss Eunice Murray. *Chair:* Mrs. Perriman.
Tues., Oct. 28.—Sale, Drawing-room Meeting, afternoon. *Speaker:* Miss Nina Boyle. Manchester, Gaskell Hall, Longsight, Public Meeting. *Speakers:* Miss Andrews and Miss Nina Boyle. *Chair:* Miss Neal.
Wed., Oct. 29.—Birmingham, Bull Ring, Mid-day, Open-air Meeting. Miss Nina Boyle. Priory Rooms, 8 p.m. Public Meeting. Miss Nina Boyle.
Mon., Nov. 10.—Middlesbrough, Annual Meeting.
Wed., Nov. 12.—Liverpool, Aintree Institute, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. Mrs. Despard. *Chair:* Mr. John Edwards.
Thurs., Nov. 13.—Chester, 45, St. Werburg’s-street, 3 p.m. Suffrage Shop, opening by Mrs. Despard.
Fri., Nov. 14.—Manchester, Clarion Café, combined Meeting of Branches. *Speaker:* Mrs. Despard.

SCOTLAND.

Fri., Oct. 17.—Dundee, High School Gate, 8 p.m., Open-air Meeting. Miss A. Broughton.
Sat., Oct. 18.—Edinburgh, Mound, 3 p.m., Open-air Meeting. *Speakers:* Mrs. Despard and Miss A. B. Jack. Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 7 p.m., Whist Drive. *Hostess:* Mrs. Wilson. Mrs. Despard will speak. Tickets 1s. 6d. Dundee, Panmure-street, 3.30 p.m., Open-air Meeting. Miss A. Broughton. Glasgow, Well-shot-road, Shettleston, 7 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Shennan.
Tues., Oct. 21.—Glasgow, Philosophical Society’s Rooms, 207, Bath-street, Public Meeting. *Speakers:* Mrs. Despard and Miss Jack.
Dundee, The Clock, Lochee, 8 p.m., Open-air Meeting. Miss A. Broughton.
Wed., Oct. 22.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road,

Lantern Lecture, “Is Woman Human?” Miss G. H. Jacob, B.Sc.
Thurs., Oct. 23.—Dundee, Panmure-street, 8 p.m., Open-air Meeting. Miss A. Broughton.
Sat., Oct. 25.—Glasgow, Queen’s-park Gate, 7 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Shennan.
Sat., Nov. 1.—Glasgow, 70, St. George’s-road, Jumble Sale.
Thurs., Nov. 6.—Dunfermline, Y.M.C.A. Rooms, 8 p.m., Branch Meeting.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Thurs., Oct. 23.—NORTH HACKNEY CONSERVATIVE CLUB, 120, Stamford-hill, N., 8 p.m., Debate on “Women’s Suffrage.” *For:* Mrs. Mustard W.F.L.; *Against:* Member N.L.O.W.S.
Mon., Oct. 27.—MACCLESFIELD, Town Hall, N.U. Meeting. *Speaker:* Miss Nina Boyle.
Tues., Oct. 28.—WESLEY GUILD, New North-road Chapel, N., 8 p.m. Mrs. Mustard (W.F.L.) on “Woman as Helpmate.”
Tues., Nov. 4.—ST. ALBANS DEBATING SOCIETY, Deans Hotel, London-road, 8 p.m. Debate, “Is the Militant Suffragist Policy Defensible?” *Affirmative:* Miss Eunice Murray (W.F.L.).
Tues., Nov. 11.—EASTERN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF ADULT SCHOOLS, Barclay Hall, Green-street, Upton Park, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner (W.F.L.) on “The Economic Position of Women.”

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