

Wenziger

Women's Franchise.

No. 31.

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Notice to Contributors and Subscribers.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions. Subscriptions for the weekly numbers to the end of March should be forwarded to the Publisher. Back numbers can still be obtained.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,
13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

Notes.

WE could almost find it within our heart to be glad that it became necessary, owing to the want of financial and other support, to reduce our paper last week to eight pages—it has brought forth such a wealth of encouraging encomium, besides the much needed support in money and many new subscribers.

Much of the sum of money appearing this week under the heading of our guarantee fund has necessarily been expended, having been advanced by the proprietor, who had, indeed, much exceeded the limit that he could afford to lose; but he felt quite sure that all the money promised would in time be paid. This has not yet been done; but sufficient has been received to justify our resuming our twelve-page issue.

Many excellent suggestions and kindly offers of further support after March have been received. The latter the present proprietor is not justified in accepting at once, but he will be glad to hear from all interested in the future conduct of the paper.

The greatest need at the moment is to increase our sale, and this, thanks to the admirable articles contributed gratuitously to our pages, is best done by the distribution of specimen copies. In urging our readers to at once apply to us for gratis back numbers for the purpose, we would remind them that in this work they are not merely indirectly helping forward the cause by supporting this paper, but that they are very directly assisting it by such propaganda.

IT is cheering to see how the attitude of the leading daily papers is altering on the question of Women's Suffrage. Several important Conservative papers, who until lately have been "red hot" in their opposition, have now become merely lukewarm, and on occasions have even shown signs of friendliness. The Liberal papers, in spite of the hostile attitude some of the Suffragists have adopted towards the Government, are wonderfully charitable in their criticisms. The paper of neither side make reference to the part the Suffragists took in the mid-Devon campaign, when giving reasons for the Conservative victory there, but both sides have joined in the universal chorus of disapproval and disgust at the behaviour of the hooligans who ill-treated Mrs. Pankhurst and Mrs. Martel. *The Daily Telegraph* is particularly emphatic in its condemnation. At any rate, it is clear to what cause these ruffians attribute the Liberal defeat. We would point out that the Suffrage campaign was conducted on perfectly constitutional lines, so that the excuse, so often put forward, that in setting the law at defiance the members of the Social and Political Union deserve all they get, cannot be urged in this case; the behaviour to which these ladies were subjected exceeded anything they have yet experienced. We may mention, in passing, a small but significant thing: many of those papers who formerly referred to the Suffragists as "females" have now adopted the more courteous term of "ladies."

THE circular which the Scottish women graduates are issuing for funds in order to defray the expenses of an appeal to the Lords to establish a claim to a Parliamentary vote ought to meet with a hearty response from all supporters of the cause. Twice defeated in the Court of Session, their present demand will be based on the fact that in the Act enfranchising Scottish graduates, the word "person" is used, not "man," and that the names of women graduates of each Scottish university are actually on the Statutory Parliamentary Voting Register established by the Franchise Act of 1868; which, in the case of Scottish graduates, is the Register of the General Council of the University. Their action will be of use, not only to women graduates themselves, but to all women who desire the Suffrage; and, should they gain their case, it will strengthen the hands of our supporters in both Houses of Parliament and also greatly improve our position throughout the country. A sum of £700 is required to defray expenses. All women and men who want to help them in their plucky fight can do so in the practical way of sending a donation or cheque, made payable to Miss J. Chrystal Macmillan, B.Sc., Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Corstorphine Hill House, by Murrayfield, Midlothian.

WE have received a letter from a correspondent giving us an account of the "Women's Federation" meeting at the Queen's Hall. We are sorry not to have room to quote the whole letter, but we join with our correspondent in appreciation of the fact that Miss Florence Baggart aroused the greatest enthusiasm by declaring that the Government must enfranchise women; and we also sympathize with our correspondent in the applause which greeted Miss Pankhurst's name.

WE have received additional subscriptions to *Women's Franchise* from Miss A. C. G. Wright on behalf of the two following M.P.'s: Edward Beauchamp and the Hon. W. G. Beckett; from another subscriber to six of the leading High Schools; and from another a subscription on behalf of the Lyceum Club; from Miss E. H. Baenziger on behalf of the Society of Women Journalists; and from Miss Sharp on behalf of the Public Library, Rugby.

THE cause of Women's Suffrage triumphed at a recent meeting of the Glasgow Town Council, when the Independent Labour Party submitted a strong resolution. On a division, it was resolved by 41 votes to 11 to petition Parliament in favour of votes for women.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

ITALY.—The Women's Association of Rome has sent a petition to both Houses of Parliament demanding the repeal of those portions of the Civil Code which inflict serious injustice on women. The chief of these are: Loss of nationality on marriage with a foreigner, the obligation to follow the husband wherever he chooses to reside, the forfeiture through marriage of the right to dispose of property, the prohibition to sue the unmarried father for the child's support, the exclusion of women from the guardianship of their children, and, above all, from the municipal and political franchise. It would almost seem as though the order should be reversed, for if this last were remedied everything else would follow of its own accord. Italian women are just beginning to awaken to this fact, and their development, if late, is likely to be speedy and thorough. Feminism in Italy is almost a growth of the present century, but it is growing, and we are likely to hear more of it before long.

An interesting picture of the activity of Italian women in various fields is given by the monthly review *Vita Femminile Italiana*, which is just entering on its second year. The January number reviews Madame Avril de Sainte Croix's book on "Feminism" recently noticed in these columns, and incidentally touches on the rise of the movement in Italy. "There are among us," says the writer, Giuseppina Le Maire, "thousands and thousands of women, who have realized that in order to achieve complete independence they must, above all, be in a position to provide their own livelihood and enjoy the fruits of their labours, thus becoming agents of production for the community; there are thousands and thousands who long to come out of the narrow circle in which women's intellects have been confined for centuries, and enter those fields of labour which art, science, and thought open out to us; there are thousands and thousands who are fighting for the cause of justice, and whose sympathies embrace the whole of the human race."

Englishwomen residents in Rome are also active in the cause. At the beginning of the New Year the two resident lady-doctors, Dr. Bensusan and Dr. Taylor called a meeting to discuss the need of granting the Suffrage to women and the methods employed by the militant Suffragists in England. The audience was large and very representative, including not Englishwomen only, but Italian, German, and Belgian women. Dr. Taylor was in the Chair. Miss Nautet, of the London Society for Women Suffrage, reviewed the movement from its origin and showed some aspects of the injustice done to women by denying them the vote. Miss Morden, of the N.W.S.P.U., in an eloquent speech, explained the need for immediate legislation and the methods used by the N.W.S.P.U. Numerous questions followed and were ably answered; an animated discussion took place in which Frau Wederkind, a co-worker of Dr. Anita Augspurg, gave considerable help. A resolution in favour of the immediate enfranchisement of women was put to the vote by Dr. Taylor, and carried with one dissentient.

We do not know if this is the first meeting of the kind held in Rome, but we hope it will not be the last.

A. ZIMMERN.

GUARANTEE FUND TO 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE.'

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	95	15	0	Brought forward	132	4	0
Abakanowig, Miss S.	1	0	0	MacRae, Miss E.	1	0	0
Allen, Miss A. M.	0	10	0	Mair, Miss C. E. S.	1	1	0
Anonymous	2	10	0	Marshall, Mrs. E. E.	5	0	0
Atkinson, Mrs. J.	0	10	0	Martin, Miss	0	10	0
Ballyny, Miss	0	10	0	Martin, Mrs.	0	5	0
Bateson, Miss E.	2	0	0	Mason, Mrs. J. G.	0	10	0
Beddoe, Mrs. A. M.	1	0	0	Meyerstein, Miss C.	0	5	0
Bousfield, Mrs. F. M.	0	5	0	Micalta, Miss A.	0	5	0
Browster, Mrs.	1	0	0	Montgomery, Miss E.	0	5	0
Bright, Mrs. E.	1	0	0	Morison, Miss	2	2	0
Bull, Mrs. J. M.	0	4	6	Morison, Miss C. I.	0	5	0
Bulley, Mrs. A. K.	0	10	0	Morris, Mr. A. S. F.	0	10	0
Burnet, Miss M. M.	0	2	6	Morris, Mrs.	5	0	0
Carpenter, Miss S.	0	10	0	National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies	100	0	0
Chancellor, Mr. H. G.	1	0	0	Nevinson, Mrs. M. W.	1	1	0
Clarence, Miss E.	0	4	6	O'Shea, Miss N.	0	10	0
Coles, Miss A. J.	0	10	0	Overton, Mrs. A. M.	0	5	0
Corben, Miss L.	0	2	6	Packer, Miss H. A.	0	1	0
Crawford, Miss S.	1	0	0	Rackham, Mrs. C. D.	1	0	0
Davidson, Mrs. C. H. M.	0	2	6	Ramsbottom, Mrs. J.	0	10	0
Davies, Mrs. Dixon	0	10	0	Rawlings, Miss M.	0	5	0
Davies, Miss M. Llewellyn	1	0	0	Rendel, Mrs. E.	1	0	0
Dowson, Mrs. H. B.	0	10	0	Richardson, Mrs. Hy.	1	0	0
Dugdale, Mr. E.	1	0	0	Richmond, Mrs. K.	1	0	0
Duguid, Miss	0	2	6	Robinson, Miss A. R.	0	3	0
Eastland, Miss E.	0	5	0	Saxelby, Mrs.	0	1	0
FitzHerbert, Miss M.	0	10	0	Shillington, Mrs. A. M.	1	0	0
Ford, Miss I. O.	1	0	0	Smith, Miss E.	0	10	0
Frank, Miss	0	10	0	Smith, Miss M.	0	10	0
Graves, Mrs. Mrs. Spence	1	0	0	Stansfield Mrs. C. E.	0	15	0
Haig, Miss F. E.	0	10	0	Stopes, Mrs.	0	3	0
Hecht, Miss D. E.	0	10	0	Strachey, Lady	1	0	0
Heitland, Mrs. M.	1	1	0	Swaine, Miss C. E.	0	5	0
Herringham, Mrs.	0	10	0	Talbot, Mrs.	0	5	0
Hughes, Miss F.	0	10	0	Underwood, Mrs.	0	5	0
Hughes, Miss E. M.	0	10	0	Vickery, Dr. Alice	0	10	0
Shannon, Miss A. M.	0	10	0	Wainwright, Miss	1	1	0
Jeremy, Mrs. A. S.	1	0	0	Wilkinson, Miss F.	1	1	0
Joyce, Mrs. C. V. F.	1	0	0	Williams, Mrs. F. E.	0	5	0
Knowles, Mrs. C.	1	0	0				
Lewis, Miss E.	0	5	0				
Carried forward	£132	4	0	Total	£267	14	6

[For "Miss M. Pennton" in January 16th issue, read Mrs. F. Pennington.]

Woman's Right to Work.

An address was lately given by Miss Abadam to the Co-operative Women in their Hall at Penge on the subject of the restrictions which Mr. John Burns hopes to place on women's right to work. The meeting decided by a majority to address a letter of protest to him which was drafted by the speaker, signed by the Chairman, and runs as follows:—

SIR,—At a meeting of Co-operative Women held at the above Hall it was decided to address a protest to you in relation to a passage in your speech at Leeds on December 9th, 1907, to the effect that *Women's labour, especially married women's labour, must be enormously curtailed.*

This autocratic pronouncement, worthy of a Russian *Ukase*, has aroused indignation amongst men and women alike, and I beg to lay the following reflections before you:—

1. That no Government, however illiberal, has the moral right to deny to adult women who are neither insane nor criminal the right to work for wages if they see fit.
2. That it would be an interference with human liberty, as understood by modern civilization, which recognizes that the right to earn, being the right to live honestly, is a human, and not only a male right.
3. That a Government carrying out such a proposal would deserve and receive the rebuke of the Colonies, would become a byword among foreign nations, would alienate the consistently liberal and humane members of its own party, and would further to an amazing extent the interests of its political opponents.
4. That it would force women back into a helpless and unintelligent dependence, which would make of them the worst mothers.
5. That without the right to earn, women cannot be held responsible for any state of wretchedness to which their children may be reduced.
6. That without this free right they cannot with logical consistency be punishable for any illegality which can be proved to be productive of a living.
7. That the logical sequence of the suggestion and its *reductio ad absurdum* would be that you should undertake to safeguard women from widowhood (with its financial responsibilities), and should make a State provision for those women who outnumber men.
8. That as mothers have no means of claiming a sufficient

share of the father's wages for the family support, and have rights only over their own earnings, if mothers may not earn, the children will suffer, it being a fact well known to inspectors that women devote their wages more exclusively to the benefit of their children than do men.

9. That women will, even more than at present, shun wifehood and motherhood as being a state bristling with disabilities, with the added inconsistency attached to it, that the more need of wages the less power to earn them.

10. That if a poor woman has not the habit and practice of wage-earning, and is suddenly widowed, she must either steal, starve, go to the workhouse, or the street.

11. That it would force thousands of women into this terrible trade of the streets, who are now earning a bare, but honest living. This would be the "Blackest Stain" of all.

12. That it might be salutary for you to witness the painful death of one of these victims of disease before condemning an increased number of your countrywomen to it. But these wholesome sights are hidden away in Lock Hospitals.

13. That as women are so sex-penalized at present as to have to take for the same work a third of the pay given to men, it would better behove a Liberal Statesman to initiate the fine principle of payment by results, irrespective of sex, than to filch from women the power of earning even that pitiful third.

14. That doctors compute that already 45 per cent. of the infant mortality is due to a scourge for the introduction of which into family life a great specialist has lately said "Cherchez l'homme." This fact is too inconvenient to be referred to by a paternal Government or a fraternal Press; but your suggestion now makes it imperative for us to point out that any increased difficulty thrown in the way of women earning honest wages will increase the cause of this scourge, and automatically heighten the rate of infant mortality.

15. That to make one class, and that class a sex, and that the female sex, economically dependent on the goodwill of another class, and that class a sex, and that the male sex, is to invite an increased immorality which must affect the health of the nation and lower the birth rate.

16. That this suggestion would make of men a privileged, monopolist, upper class; and of women a dependent, helpless, lower class, even more so than is at present the case.

17. That by thus constituting sex the dividing line between privilege and non-privilege, and making of sex a class, you would be responsible for a class war between the sexes.

18. That if the House of Commons could possibly follow this reactionary lead towards despotism, then the House of Lords would become, *facile princeps*, the popular representative House, and the bulwark of national liberties!

19. That the suggestion contains the principle of Protection applied to Labour, the counterpart to Free Trade being Free Competition in the Labour market for women and men alike.

20. That it is a proof, were any needed, that men do not represent women's interests, and that women need to represent their own, since such legislation far from being even handed, is actively hostile to women's best and highest interests.

21. That any modern statesman who, belonging by rights to the Star Chamber period of monopolies, desires to create a male monopoly of bread earning, can only do so on a principle which has been discredited since Liberalism became a force.

22. That a monopoly of the means of obtaining the necessities of life is a criminal monopoly.

23. That if the suggestion were carried out it would prove to those who have hitherto repudiated the prophecy, that the working man in power is the working woman's worst enemy, using his power as a rival and not as having that fellow feeling which makes one "wondrous kind."

24. That this effort to more than enslave the English working woman, throws an illuminating ray on the reality of your professed desire for Adult Suffrage.

25. That doubtless you see your way to eliminating the woman's share of that measure, and that such Adult Suffrage stands confessed as Manhood Suffrage in a convenient disguise.

26. That this suggestion shows that you neither realize the dogged determination of the demand for enfranchisement on the part of English women, nor that by threatening their right

to live honestly you may precipitate an organization and a form of pressure based on their natural monopoly and prerogative.

27. That finally, if Liberal Ministers can only continue in power by wage bribing the worst type of elector through a measure tampering with the woman's right to honest work and involving the forced prostitution of thousands of women now honourably employed, then we can only conclude, as the best elements of the electorate will also conclude, that the nation would be paying, in the degradation of its women, too high a price for such an inestimable blessing as the continuance in office of the present "Liberal" Ministry.

Correspondence.

[The Proprietors of "WOMEN'S FRANCHISE" do not necessarily identify themselves in any way with the opinions expressed by their Correspondents.]

SIR,—I too was interested in the letter of "A Dame of the Primrose League" in the *Women's Franchise* of January 2nd, and hoped that one of our leaders would reply to the lady to assure her that Women's Suffrage is not a party question. I admit that her experience has been very unfortunate, and it is to be regretted that party politics should ever be brought forward at a Suffrage meeting. I am a member of the committee of the society to which I belong, and we have all shades of politics represented there, from the bluest of Tories to the Socialist. Some of the members are undoubtedly influenced by their politics, but I have never heard party politics brought forward at a drawing-room or a public meeting. I think it is a great pity that women attach themselves to any particular party whilst they are voteless, as party or colour cannot possibly mean anything to them. I know that we cannot help forming opinions on the chief questions of the day; but I am sure our cause would progress much more rapidly if all women would make Suffragism alone their politics, and I might add their religion also.

I know that many Liberal women are withholding their support from the Women's Suffrage movement because of the actions of the militant party; but is that logical? Should they not rather the more strongly support the society that works on strictly constitutional lines to show that decency and order do count for something?

I have heard that reason, "the time is not ripe," given by Liberal women too; but has ripeness or fitness ever been a qualification for enfranchisement? Was the working man ripe when for about twenty years he used his vote to return the capitalist to Parliament? Is the middle-class man ripe to-day when so many of them tell women that "the vote does nothing for you"?

I am afraid there are only too many women who "will reap where they sowed not," for if they withhold their support until men tell them "the time is ripe," or until every section of the Suffrage Movement acts according to their ideas of propriety, they will withhold it for ever.—Yours truly,

January 17th, 1908.

NON-PARTY.

SIR,—I should feel obliged if you will allow me a small space in your paper to correct a mistake into which Mrs. Despard has fallen, no doubt quite inadvertently. On page 324 of your issue of January 9th Mrs. Despard, at a meeting at Essex Hall on the 4th inst., is reported to have spoken on the subject of the unemployed women, and protested "against the unfair manner in which the Unemployment Fund was allotted; 28,000*l.* being spent in connexion with men, and only 750*l.* being applied for women."

Mrs. Despard takes no account of the time over which this money has been spread, which puts a very different complexion on the accusation. The 28,000*l.* in rough figures is the sum expended on the Hollesley Bay Colony for men in *twelve months*, the 750*l.* Exchequer grant for women *three months!*

Yours obediently,
ELLEN C. MCKEE,
Member of the Women's Work Committee "C.U.B."

[Much correspondence and other matter is held over for want of space.]

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OBJECT.—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men.
The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. **Secretary:** MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A. **Treasurer:** MISS BERTHA MASON.
Hon. Secretaries: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. MISS FRANCES STERLING. **Parliamentary and Organising Secretary:** MISS EDITH PALLISER.
Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON." **Telephone:** 1960 VICTORIA.

OFFICES: 25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

The Union will send Organising Agents, Speakers, or Literature to any place requiring them, its desire being to form a Women's Suffrage Society in every County and Borough. All persons interested in the movement, or desiring information about it, are requested to communicate with the Secretaries. Increased Funds are needed for the growing work of the Union, and Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. McLAREN.
MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT, M.P. **MRS. PEGHEY PHIPSON, M.D.** **LADY STRACHEY**
MISS EDITH DIMOCK **MRS. BROADLEY LEID** **And the Hon. Officers,**
MISS I. O. FORD **HON. BERTRAND RUSSELL** **ex officio.**
MISS MARTINDALE, M.B., B.S. **MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN**

Current Topics.

WE are sure that all those who have worked with our societies during the last fourteen years will be very sorry to hear of Miss Palliser's resignation, owing to ill-health, and will most sincerely endorse the resolution passed by the Executive Committee, expressing their deep regret at this step and their keen appreciation of the splendid work she has done for the cause. A further resolution, passed on the same occasion, will particularly appeal to the readers of *Women's Franchise*: "That the Committee desire to place on record its deep appreciation of the excellent and conscientious work Miss Palliser has done in connexion with the Mid-Devon by-election and of the articles which she has written for *Women's Franchise*."

Mr. Ford Madox Hueffer will give a lecture on 'The Women of the Novelist,' at 10, Linden Gardens, Notting Hill Gate, W., by kind permission of Mrs. Lewis T. Wright, at 5 P.M. Tickets 2s. 6d., numbered and reserved, and a few at 1s., can be obtained from Miss F. Gladys Wright at the above address. The lecture is given in aid of the funds of the London Society for Women's Suffrage.

The 5,000 Guineas Scheme.

IT is encouraging to report that already contributions have begun to come in, in response to the appeal for a by-election fund which appeared in last week's *Women's Franchise*.

One friend, in sending donations from herself and her two daughters, writes: "If only all your members who can afford will do the same, your fund will soon be raised. I do not think the doctrine of self-denial for the cause is half enough preached in our societies. I must say for myself and my daughters that every penny we can manage to spare goes to this cause. It is no self-denial in our case, it is a true pleasure."

If all our members will act in the same spirit, the money will flow in; and if friends will accompany their gifts with words of cheer similar to those quoted, and will also send any suggestions which may occur to them which will further the scheme, they will be gratefully received and considered by your Treasurer.

We have pleasure in announcing that the following sums have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Shillington	1	1	0
Miss Shillington, M.A. ..	1	1	0
Miss Violet Shillington, D.Sc. ..	1	1	0
Miss Helen Ward	1	1	0
Mrs. Sanger	1	0	0
Miss Methven	1	1	0
Mrs. Weiss	1	1	0
Prof. Weiss	0	10	6
Mrs. Bulley	1	1	0
Mrs. Frankland	1	0	0
Anonymous	1	1	0
Miss T. Ella L. Walrond ..	1	1	0

Poster Competition—Result.

THE 1st prize (6l.) is awarded to "Jacques"—Mrs. Coates, Trafalgar Studios, Chelsea—for an excellent poster entitled 'Political Help.'

The 2nd prize (5l.) is divided between "Hope"—Mrs. Harding Andrews, Bolton Studios, and Miss Williams, Wentworth Studios, Chelsea. The judges found it impossible to decide on which was the better, Miss Williams's design being the more artistic, while Mrs. Andrews's would reproduce better.

The following were highly commended:—"Collie," an excellent sketch but not drawn in such a way as to reproduce without further work; "Jacques" (poster entitled 'Women need Votes'); "Nil Desperandum"; 'Freedom,' a clever humorous poster, though not quite suited to the purpose.

Piping Times of Peace.

Oh Tom is in the Army,
To swagger and look fine,
And Jack is cruising with his ship
Where summer suns do shine;
But those who bear the soldiers still
Stand in the fighting line. M. L.

The above lines are particularly appropriate when we realize that up to September, 1900, the casualties in the South African War of officers and men who were killed in battle or who died of wounds or of disease amounted to 9,451, while, according to the Registrar General's last return, it appears that over 5,800 women die in child-bed annually in the United Kingdom. Therefore, during the five years since the war was ended, upwards of 29,000 have died from this cause alone. This number is considerably under the mark if we include the deaths due to fever and other indirect causes incident on child-birth.

Worcester By-Election.

I WENT down to Worcester to-day and saw Mr. Elverston. There is a wonderful unanimity between him and Mr. Goulding. He replied to my questions as follows:—

1. Will you put Women's Suffrage in your election address?—No. It is already in print.

I pointed out that we had notified him of our Manchester resolution on that subject on December 27th, and he said that his election address was then made up.

2. Will you mention it in your speeches?—Yes. (With some qualifications about being asked).

3. Will you ballot for a Bill?—No. If I ballot for anything it must be for something in connexion with Worcester. They are very keen about canals.

Before saying this, he had asked where he came in? What would we do for him in return? As I could not promise him anything, he discovered his canals. Before I left, he and his agent answered me that they would make opportunities to

mention Women's Suffrage in speeches, and he said he would always vote. I think that he is more lukewarm than Mr. Goulding.

I have also seen Mr. Goulding (Unionist), who replied as follows to the questions:—

1. Will you put Women's Suffrage in your election address?—No.

2. Will you speak about it?—If asked—perhaps sometimes without.

3. Will you ballot?—No.

His reasons, so far as I could discover were—(1) That he wanted his address to be short; (2) That if the electors were instructed they would ask; (3) He had promised "Old Age Pensions," and refused many others.

He assured me several times how much in favour he was, and that he had always made a special effort to come and vote for us and always would.

I have taken the committee-rooms for two weeks. A room at the back will be useful for meetings; it will hold about fifty people. I was told that the election was to take place, probably, on February 7th. If it is later, I do not think there would be any difficulty in keeping the shop a little longer. I should be glad to get the posters and notices up, as the time is so very short in any case. It is a splendid little shop, which used to be a cake shop, so it has wooden panelled walls on which we can display any number of posters. The door is between glass windows, so there is room for a good display. I have secured some one to take charge during the day, address circulars, &c. This was absolutely essential. Speakers and helpers of all kinds will be cordially welcomed there. Letters likely to reach me by the first post had better be addressed to me at 136, Portland Road, Edgbaston; parcels to me at 45, Foregate Street, Worcester. I shall be in Worcester at the following hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11.30; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, 10 or 11; Fridays, 2. I shall remain there most days till the 9.40 train. E. M. GARDNER.

Correspondence.

DEAR MADAM,—Though agreeing with the letter of 'A Dame of the Primrose League' of January 2nd, as to the manner in which, whilst professedly belonging to a non-party organization, speakers and members continually wave their own private flag and use the party organization to further the views of their political party, my experience is that though the branches may offend in this way, the Union itself does not.

Instead, however, of sitting down with folded hands to see what our own party may chance to do for us in the future (which we may be quite sure will be nothing, if they find that there are only Liberal, Labour, or Socialist women demanding the vote), we ought to join all non-party organizations for

Women's Franchise, and urge our cause as well as theirs; if we do so I think we shall find, after the reminder order "no politics" is called, where the reprehensible practices cited are indulged in, that they will fall into disrepute; if not, the speaker should be requested to join some other society.

But beyond this it would be well for us, members of the Primrose League (who believe in the justice of our claim to vote), to do as the Liberal women have already done, band ourselves together (including other Conservatives and Unionists), remembering that though it is easy to break a stick, it is impossible to break a bundle, so the unit carries little weight, but banded together is a force which has to be reckoned with and cannot be brushed aside.

Another way in which we can help the cause is to bring before our Habitations the prudence of taking this movement in time, and the extreme danger to the Conservatives of leaving it to be supposed that it is hopeless to ask them to do anything for women; and the danger (if they neglect to do

anything to show their intention to act uprightly) of throwing them on to the side of the Labour and Socialist parties, which promise to give the vote to women.

I shall be glad to hear from anyone of my party who may agree with these views, with the object of forming such an inner League; but I urge equally the wisdom of belonging to a non-party suffrage society at the same time, as in this way they will keep in touch with the general course of the movement, and be able to bring before their Habitations any phase of it (e.g. general statistics) of which it is advisable for them to be informed.

Yours truly,
DAME WARDEN
PRESTBURY,
Cheltenham.

MID-DEVON BY-ELECTION.

N.U.W.S.S. HEADQUARTERS.



[Reproduced by kind permission of the WESTERN DAILY MERCURY.
MRS. COOPER, MRS. STANBURY, MISS PALLISER, MISS GARDNER.]

Branch Societies.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Between eighty and ninety members and friends were present at the At Home given by this Society on January 22nd. Miss Lownes, herself a Poor Law Guardian, gave an address on 'The Poor Law as it affects Women and Children.' Dr. Mary Jeremy spoke on the Women's Movement, and Mrs. Hume read an amusing skit on the same subject. Between the speeches songs and recitations were given. Several new members joined.

The Speaker's Club is becoming very popular: its next meeting is on January 31st, at 5 P.M., at the house of the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Warren, 4, West Cliff Road.

BRISTOL.—The first of a series of fortnightly meetings arranged by this Society was held on January 15th, at the Redland Park Parlour. Mrs. Randall-Vickers presided, and the speakers were Miss Vickers, Mrs. Nicholetts, Miss Sturge, and Miss Tanner.

The refusal of taxes and the by-election policy were discussed. With reference to the latter, Miss Tanner gave a most interesting account of the propaganda work carried on by the Union at the Mid-Devon by-election, from which she had just

returned. She reported that much interest and surprising knowledge of the subject was shown by many of the country people, as evinced by the keen questions asked.

CHELTHENHAM.—The third monthly social meeting was held on January 25th at the Model Dairy Promenade. The attendance was the largest of the season. The President, Mrs. Swiney, was unfortunately unable to be present, and Mrs. M'Ilquham, the lecturer of the afternoon, was also unavoidably detained. Her paper 'Women's Suffrage in the Early Nineteenth Century' was read for her by the Hon. Sec., Miss Theodora Mills, and was much appreciated. Tea was served at a charge of 4d., and a Suffrage song and other music was given. The collection nearly covered expenses.

FLEET.—The *Fleet News*, January 24th, devotes a column and a half to the first annual general meeting of the society, which was held on January 22nd, and was largely attended. Miss Macleod took the chair, and was supported by Mrs. Kayser (Hon. Sec. of the society), Mrs. Benson, Mrs. Craig, and Miss Cayley (members of the Committee).

Congratulating the members of the Fleet Women's Suffrage Society which has only been in existence six months, upon doing real steady work in the neighbourhood, Miss Bompas stated that it was only by quiet methods of education, and of appeal to the innate sense of justice existing in the majority of men, that women could obtain the Parliamentary Franchise. The experience of Suffragist speakers at by-elections was that if the case for the women was stated entirely aside from party politics, on the ground of justice and liberty, the question was at once regarded by the voters as a serious one. It was Prof. Ramsay who had said that no nation can rise permanently above the level of its women.

HULL.—A mass meeting of Suffragists was held in the Royal Institution, Hull, on January 20th, under the auspices of the Women's Trades and Labour Council, the Women's Textile and other Workers' Representation Committee, and the Lancashire and Cheshire Women's Suffrage Societies, in conjunction with the Hull Women's Suffrage Society.

Dr. (Miss) Murdoch, president of the Hull Society, presided, and among those present were Mr. G. H. Roberts, M.P., Mr. James Holmes (late Labour candidate West Hull), Miss Eva Gore-Booth (Manchester), Miss Esther Roper, B.A. (Manchester), Mrs. Fred Richardson, Miss Annie Jackson, Mrs. H. W. Kirk (hon. secretary), Mrs. Longman, Councillor F. Booth, and the Rev. J. G. Patton.

LONDON.—In the three months before Christmas we had fifteen Drawing-room meetings, and though the work is quiet, it goes steadily on and is very useful. I come into touch with so many people who would not for the world go to a Public Meeting, yet when they are induced to come to a friend's house, they listen to a short address on the need for the vote, perhaps join in the discussion, become interested, confess that they had not thought about the subject before, and then ask to be given opportunities for hearing more; so one sends them on to similar friendly little gatherings, and each of these new converts becomes in her turn a centre of influence and is able to take up the cudgels for the cause.

Eighteen months ago it was hard to find any one willing to give an "At Home" for talk on Women's Suffrage, and still more difficult to find an audience; but all that is changed now, and I am constantly receiving letters asking for cards of invitation to these informal meetings. I am glad to notice also that fairly often men appear at these Drawing-room meetings, and the short conversations one has with one and another are interesting and not without amusement.

D. E. BERTRAM, District Secretary.

South Kensington.—The Committee has decided to hold a big meeting in the Town Hall on Feb. 25th. The chair will be taken by Miss Mason, and the following speakers have already promised their assistance: Mrs. Snowden, Mr. Fletcher, M.P., Mr. Freeman, K.C., Mr. O'Dell, and Mr. Raphael. Helpers are badly wanted. Those who are willing to assist, either in clerical

work, in the distribution of bills or otherwise, are requested to communicate without delay with Miss H. D. Cockle, 34, De Vere Gardens, S.W.

NEWCASTLE.—The first of a series of fortnightly meetings took place in the Drawing-room Café, Northumberland Street, on January 13th. Mrs. Atkinson and Miss M. Atkinson performed a dialogue, dealing with the Suffrage question, called "He, She, and the Rest." This was followed by short addresses from Miss Phillips, Dr. Ethel Williams, and Mrs. Harrison Bell. A collection was taken, which more than covered expenses. On January 27th, a short musical programme will be given, followed by an address from Miss Atkinson, M.A. The third meeting will take place on February 10th. After an address from one of the members, progressive whist will be played; a prize will be given by Mrs. Atkinson.

WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON.—At a drawing-room meeting, held, by kind invitation of Miss Harrison, on January 23rd, Miss Blanche Leppington and Mrs. Dykes spoke to an almost entirely fresh audience, who listened with the deepest attention. Many of those present afterwards expressed themselves as having been much enlightened. One lady said she should certainly go home and expound it all to her husband. The resolution, "That this meeting is desirous that the Government should introduce a measure admitting women to the Parliamentary Franchise," was passed, and has been forwarded to the Prime Minister and to the local Member. These informal drawing-room meetings are found to be very useful in this neighbourhood.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

January and February Meetings.

			P.M.
JANUARY.			
30th	Redhill, Drawing-Room Meeting	Miss Abadam	3
31st	Debate in Wimbledon Parliament, Crompton Hall, Crompton Rd. Chislehurst, Drawing-Room Meeting	Lady Grove	8
	Ealing, Drawing-Room Meeting	Miss Bompas	3
	29, Uxbridge Road		
FEBRUARY.			
1st	Clapham, Eagle House, S. side Clapham Common (corner of Narbonne Avenue)	Hostess, Mrs. Sutherland, M.D. Speaker, Miss Bompas	8
	Ealing, Rummage Sale, Drill Hall, Churchfield Road		5
	Oxford, Town Hall	Mr. H. A. L. Fisher Mr. Israel Zangwill Hon. B. Russell Miss Emily Davies, LL.D.	8
3rd	Marylebone, Drawing-Room Meeting		
5th	Birmingham, Drawing-Room Meeting	Hostess, Mrs. Ryland Speaker, Hon. Mrs. Russell	3.15
	Birmingham, Drawing-Room Meeting	Hostess, Mrs. Dixon Speaker, Hon. Mrs. Russell	8.30
	Wandsworth, Monthly Meeting, 31, Spencer Park	Miss Jenner	.30
	Brixton, Effra Road Social and Literary Union	Lecturer, Miss E. Hill	8
	London, Lecture, 'The Women of the Novelist,' 10, Linden Gardens, W.	Mr. F. M. Hueffer	5
6th	Bucks, Monthly Meeting, Guildhall, High Wycombe, 'Women's Suffrage and Democracy'	Lecturer, Mrs. Dixon Davies	3.30
	Tickets for non-members 6d., to be obtained at the doors.		
	Croydon, Public Meeting, Parliament Hall	Mr. Raphael	
	London Society, "At Home," 25, Victoria Street, S.W.		4-6.30
7th	Birmingham, Drawing-Room Meeting, Moseley	Mrs. Rackham	
	London, Invitation Meeting, 31, Bedford Square, W.C.	Hostess, Lady Grove Speakers, Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D. Mr. Cecil Chapman Mr. Leo Turner	8.30-10.30

* * * Kindly address all communications relating to the work of Societies in the N.U.W.S.S. and all paragraphs intended for these columns to Miss Hardcastle, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.; to reach her by first post Monday.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League (late W.S.P.A.).

OFFICES: 18, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C.

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.
MRS. COATES HANSEN
MISS HODGSON
MISS IRENE MILLER
MISS FITZHERBERT

Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.
MRS. DRYSDALE
MRS. EILEEN MITCHELL
MRS. WINTON-EVANS
MRS. CLAYTON

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.S.C.
MRS. SANDERSON
MRS. BELL
MRS. HOLMES
MISS MANSELL

Sandwich Boarders.

OUR meeting on February 1st at the Memorial Hall was advertised by the sandwich-board corps. Two of the sandwich ladies met friends on the route who are probably now sadly lamenting the insanity of women whom they had previously thought thoroughly balanced. It must be a shock for a really well-bred person out for a morning's shopping to meet her friends unconcernedly strolling up Regent Street between sandwich boards; but to those of us who are accustomed to these forms of activity and usefulness shopping parade seems not only infinitely more insane, but actually criminal, in that it wastes time, money, and brains. We invite our shopping sisters to join the sandwich corps, confidently assured that when they look upon the above picture they will require no second invitation.



Reproduced by kind permission of the DAILY MIRROR.

meeting of our society will take place at 18, Buckingham Street, on Monday next, February 3rd, at 8 P.M., when Mrs. Toyne will open a debate on 'The Law in Relation to Women.' Mrs. Nevinson will take the chair.

The announcement of last week that the meetings would be on the first and third Mondays in the month is incorrect, the Committee having decided to hold the meetings on Mondays fortnightly.

MEMORIAL HALL MEETING, FEBRUARY 1ST.

It is hardly necessary to remind members and friends that the great demonstration to be held in the Memorial Hall will take place on Saturday. Members are requested to return immediately all unused tickets, in order that the organizers of this meeting may have some guide in the allotting of free seats.

TO MEMBERS.

All contributions for these columns must be sent to 18, Buckingham Street not later than Saturday.

may yet see some of our Liberal friends in the Second Division, paying for their absolutely unwarranted faith in male politicians by a course of shuffling round the prison yard in shoes, one "fives" and one "sevens" (both left foot), hung about with impossible clothes made for impossible figures, eating their food with a wooden spoon, invented before aseptic materials were thought of, out of unsavoury tins the sight of which would disgust a pig, doing their hair with a blacking-brush of doubtful antecedents, listening to many words of harshness but none of kindness, hearing much theology but no religion. We do not express this hope unkindly, but this is the enlightened method by which men are seeking to reform and refine the drunkard, the thief, and the Suffragist, and we should like to see it tried on Liberal women. Their faith in masculine efficiency would surely receive a severe shaking. The blacking-brush would begin it, the septic wooden spoon would continue it, the non-religious sermons would deal the final blow. Meanwhile, we may congratulate them on the little step they have taken to assert the claims of their womanhood.

ORGANIZATION.—It is pleasant to be able to assure those members who have heard that Mrs. Billington-Greig's funeral will take place on Wednesday week that the rumour, like that of Mark Twain's death, has been greatly exaggerated. It is true that Mrs. Billington-Greig has been doing the work of five organizers, and that she cannot be expected to continue the strain for an indefinite period without loss of health, but there is no reason to fear her immediate decease. At the same time, it must be realized that if the League is to carry out its policy more organizers are absolutely necessary. We must pay them, so as to command the whole of their time. It is a sad fact that many people and societies who formerly looked askance at us are now beginning to smile upon us, thinking we have given up our militant policy, and are going to be good now. We beg to assure all such people and societies that we are not thinking of being good yet, we are only waiting to be organized.

The "Protected" Woman.

SOME interesting facts may be gathered from the *Daily Mail* Year-Book on the above subject under the heading of 'Murder: the Crime of Men.' It appears from statistics there quoted that out of "552 persons sentenced to death in England and Wales since 1885, 488 or 88.26 per cent. were men. Of these 488, 124 were murders of wives by husbands, and if mistresses (76) and sweethearts (39) were added, they make a total of 239, or nearly one-half of the whole."

These figures should remind women of the danger of a complete economic dependence on men; nothing develops an inherent brutality more than the presence of a helpless victim; while the converse holds good when woman is materially independent of the would-be tyrant. Then the natural and only desirable restraint on brutality comes into play, and that is mutual affection and mutual desire for the society of the other. It seems to me there is little doubt that the economic question is the real factor in many of these murders of women. Who can doubt but that most women would have left men of this kind had not the terrors of starvation for themselves and their children made them brave the known rather than face the unknown? We know that the majority of these cases were among the very poor, and that for them the chances of making a living at the wages women can command would be very small indeed. So the working woman of the lower classes stands between the Scylla of a husband's questionable protection and the Charybdis of independence with almost certain starvation.

The Kaiser has, however, no doubts at all as to the perfection of the present arrangement of feminine dependence. He says that the woman's life may be summed up in four K's—*kinden, kirche, kuchen, and kleider*. Does the Kaiser, or, indeed, do our own legislators realize that most women never have a chance to bask in the sunshine of even this limited outlook? "Food—clothes": how many women in this country, aye, and in Germany, too, would be only too thankful if they could be certain of even a small share of these necessities? "Children": they are gifts which to the people of whom we speak are more often curses, as implying an extra demand on the necessities of life. As for the leisured life which "church" implies, we can only say that the Kaiser spoke for a very limited class of women.

Yet his ideals are interesting, as summing up the position which most men take in regard to the status of women. The middle and upper class men assert that women are "protected," and therefore do not need a vote to protect themselves. They state for all women what is true—and only then to a limited extent—of a small minority of women. And how immoral the effect of this "protection" of the more favoured women is, is shown in the reluctance of so many of them to try and exchange "privilege" for "rights and responsibilities." Marriage, men tell us, is the ideal and the honoured state. Yet for many marriage is impossible, and for those who marry the "protection" implied by men resolves itself often into an excuse for every kind of brutality and subjection. But a better economic position for women can never be effected without the political weapon of a vote. Till they can influence the legislature, their case may safely be left to their husbands and other male "protectors"; it will not attract the interest of Parliamentary candidates!

BESSIE DRYSDALE.

Compliment to a Woman Councillor at Hampstead.

A PLEASING sequel to the recent election of Miss Lawrence at Hampstead is reported. She had expressed a wish to serve on the Public Health and Baths and Washhouses Committees of the Borough Council, but it was found there were no vacancies on either, and by the Standing Orders the numbers are fixed. Thereupon, Alderman McMillan, a former Mayor, tabled a motion, which was carried, suspending the Standing Order, so far as it related to those committees, "for the purpose of holding the name of Miss Councillor Lawrence to those committees."

Some Maxims for the Average (and below the Average Man.

In past ages, and out of the depths of his inner consciousness, man evolved for himself an ideal woman.

Since then he has wasted a great deal of valuable time in looking for her.

The ideal woman is an angel with a cookery-book under her wing.

The combination is rare; but man is incurably optimistic. Sometimes he actually imagines that he has found it; later, he imparts his views on the failure of marriage to the daily press.

There is no reason why man should not amuse himself by hunting for his ideal woman; nor is there any reason why he should not write pleasing novels about her: but he must not expect the human woman to attain to the standard of that radiant and useful creature.

Some day man will discover that the human woman is various, and that, while some of her can do a joint to a turn, some of her can only boil an egg by guess-work.

The day on which he makes this discovery will be a good day for him; it will save him from much disappointment. It will also be a very good day for us.

To feed the brute is not the whole duty of woman; sometimes she has to earn enough to feed herself.

Man's principal objection to Votes for Women is based on the fact that there will be no accommodation for a ballot-box in the combination of heaven and kitchen in which he intends to place the ideal woman—when he finds her.

(When found she will have a very dull time. So will he.) Meanwhile, there are no ideal women; but there are others. It is the others who want Votes.

CICELY HAMILTON.

Gospel Oak Meeting of the W.F.L.

UNFORTUNATELY the worst fog of the year coincided with the date of this meeting. The excellence of the speeches was worthy of a splendid audience—and here was only a sprinkling of listeners. However, they listened well, sympathizing with Mrs. Hicks in her long and, as it sometimes appeared, almost hopeless struggle with Cabinet after Cabinet to obtain a dignified hearing, laughing with Mrs. Nevinson on her thankfulness at being able to speak without being distraught by mice or smells, and growing graver when she said that the men voters were themselves slaves, since they were the sons of the bondwoman and not of the free. Mr. Joseph Clayton went to the root of the Woman's Movement in a speech of remarkable pith and wit and force. Miss Aphra Wilson told of the educative effect of the vote on the New Zealand women, and thanked the members of the Men's League who had come to defend the meeting, if necessary; but they and every one seemed to enjoy the peace.

LITERARY CLUB			
	London, Lecture, 'The Women of the Novelist,' 10, Linden Gardens, W.	Mr. F. M. Hueffer	5
	Tickets, 2s. 6d., can be obtained from Miss G. Wright.		
8th	Bucks, Monthly Meeting, Guildhall, High Wycombe, 'Women's Suffrage and Democracy'	Lecturer, Mrs. Dixon Davies	3.30
	Tickets for non-members 6d., to be obtained at the doors.		
	Croydon, Public Meeting, Parliament Hall	Mr. Raphael	
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Literature.

It may interest our readers to know that we have just issued two new penny pamphlets, 'Women's Suffrage and the Social Evil,' and 'Suffrage Tactics Past and Present.'

The first of these, for which we are indebted to the Rev. R. J. Campbell, is the speech he delivered at the memorable Men's League meeting last month. In it he deals boldly with the problem of prostitution, showing it to be an economic one, and as such requiring an economic solution which will not be forthcoming while women are men's political inferiors. Our members should see that this pamphlet is brought under the notice of all organizations that are working for social purity.

'Suffrage Tactics, Past and Present,' by Mrs. Billington-Greig, is a reprint of an article which appeared in the *Fortnightly Review*, and is as readable as her book 'Towards Women's Liberty,' for which we have such a demand. Here I should point out that 'Towards Women's Liberty' (4d.) is a book with which all debaters should provide themselves, as it contains a clearly-written history of our Suffrage movement, and enough data and arguments to convert the most sturdy opponent. One page of it I found particularly rousing; it is the page on which is given in chronological order the long list of Women Suffrage Bills and Resolutions before Parliament since the Reform Bill, and the methods politicians used to stifle them. I think it would be an excellent thing to circulate these facts widely.

Besides these, and a number of penny pamphlets, we have in stock all books which are Suffrage classics—e.g., 'The Subjection of Women,' by John Stuart Mill, 6d.; Mrs. Gilman's 'Women and Economics,' also 6d.; 'The Awakening of Women,' by Mrs. Swiney, 1s.; and Mrs. Stopes's works.

Literature, or a full list of what we have on sale, will be sent to any one who applies to the Honorary Literature Secretary.

E. M.

Correspondence.

DEAR MADAM,—It may interest your readers to hear that when the new regulations for the medical inspection of school children were passed it was pointed out that medical women would in many cases be specially suitable for the new appointments which would be made. Nevertheless, several of the provincial Councils advertising for women to fill such posts have offered them salaries which no man would think of accepting. I am, however, glad to report that the London Association of Registered Medical Women have passed a very strong resolution deprecating this action, and urging all medical women to refuse all posts where fair remuneration is not offered.

W. S. PATCH, M.D., B.S.

Notices.

THE DESPARD DEBATING SOCIETY.

THE next meeting of the above society will take place at 18, Buckingham Street, on Monday next, February 3rd, at 8 P.M., when Mrs. Toyne will open a debate on 'The Law in Relation to Women.' Mrs. Nevinson will take the chair.

The announcement of last week that the meetings would be on the first and third Mondays in the month is incorrect, the Committee having decided to hold the meetings on Mondays fortnightly.

MEMORIAL HALL MEETING, FEBRUARY 1ST.

It is hardly necessary to remind members and friends that the great demonstration to be held in the Memorial Hall will take place on Saturday. Members are requested to return immediately all unused tickets, in order that the organizers of this meeting may have some guide in the allotting of free seats.

TO MEMBERS.

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Branch Notes.

Central Branch.—The Secretary directs the attention of members to the following meetings:—

To-night (Thursday). Business meeting at 7 P.M. for further consideration of the Conference Agenda. Social Meeting at 8 P.M. (Mrs. Toyne on "Man's protection.")

Thursday Feb. 6th at 8 P.M. Miss Amy Otter will speak on "The position of women and girls in shops."

Members are requested to kindly make these social meetings known amongst their friends.

Clapham Branch.—News from Clapham is cheerful. We had one of our brightest meetings last Monday, when at the house of Mrs. Alvey we discussed the matters in the King's Speech, in relation to women's points of view. Our numbers are creeping up, our bazaar work, under the stimulating organization of Mrs. Cackett, is going on like wildfire, and Miss Wheaton is undertaking Women's Franchise work on the lines laid down in this week's issue.

The Islington Branch held a members' meeting at 10, Highbury Hill, on the 23rd in order to instruct our delegate at the coming Conference on February 1st. At the last Conference several of us were merely hangers-on of district branches the meetings of which we were rarely able to attend. The last Conference, however, inspired us to band together and drew in other members, and we feel proud that we are now qualified to send Mrs. Arkley to represent us next Saturday.

W. S. P.

The Southall Branch has been obliged to postpone its first public meeting, owing to the difficulty in obtaining a hall; but the committee hope to be able to arrange to hold one before long. Meanwhile the members are doing good work for the cause in other ways.

The Battersea Branch has started its working-party.

Advice to Suffragists.

She who knows not and knows not she knows not
She is a fool; shun her.
She who knows not and knows she knows not
She is simple; teach her.
She who knows and knows not she knows
She is asleep; wake her.
She who knows and knows that she knows
She is wise; follow her.

ARAB PROVERB.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.
From January 30th to February 13th.

			P.M.
Thurs. 30	Social Meeting, 18, Buckingham Street, Strand	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Despard	3.30-6
	Central Branch Meeting, 18, Buckingham Street, Strand		7
Fri. 31	Social Meeting, Central Branch	Mrs. Toyne	8
	Private Conference of Delegates, 18, Buckingham St.		
Sat. Feb. 1	Annual Conference, Caxton Hall		10 A.M. to 6 P.M.
	Demonstration, Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street		8
Mon. 3	Clapham	Miss Hamilton	8
Wed. 5	Debate, 43, Rosebery Gardens, Crouch End	Miss Ridler	8
Thurs. 6	Social Meeting, 18, Buckingham Street	Mr. Whybrow	3.30-6
	Central Branch, 18, Buckingham Street	Miss Amy Otter	8
Sat. 8	Meeting, 134, Portsdown Road, Maida Vale	Mrs. Toyne	8
Sun. 9	Partick	Mrs. Billington-Greig	3
Mon. 10	Public Meeting, Lanark	Mrs. Billington-Greig	8
Tues. 11	Meeting to form Men's League, Edinburgh	Mrs. Billington-Greig	8
Wed. 12	Meeting of Post Office Clerks, Glasgow	Mrs. Billington-Greig	8
Thurs. 13	Co-operative Guild, Kinning Park, Glasgow	Mrs. Billington-Greig	8

* * * All communications intended for the Women's Freedom League columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.F.L., 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 38, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Notes and Comments.

THE Steward Corps has during the past week been represented at three meetings:—at Gospel Oak (Women's Freedom League), at Chelsea Town Hall (N.W.S.P.U.), and at the Queen's Hall meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation.

The Queen's Hall meeting, though not so imperative in tone as we might have hoped, must have served to remind the Liberal Government that its most cherished principles are precisely those on which women, Liberal and other, are basing their claim to enfranchisement. A great number of Liberals are becoming uncomfortably conscious that the discrepancy between their protest against certain provisions of Mr. Balfour's Education Act and their indifference or hostility to the women's claim is creditable neither to their intelligence nor to their sense of justice.

Apropos of the Queen's Hall meeting, we note that *The Daily News* in a leaderette on the subject drew attention to the fact that the Downing Street prisoners are placed in the second class, and asserts that this is contrary to all precedent in political cases. There may, indeed, be a technical distinction between demonstrations under the shadow of St. Stephen's and those in Downing Street—there is often a great deal of difference between Downing Street and St. Stephen's!—but there can be no doubt in the mind of any one that these women are political prisoners just as truly as their predecessors of last year.

An odd thing is that *The Tribune's* report omitted all reference to Miss Florence Balmagne's speech, which was among the best received. Possibly this was due to the fact that Miss Balmagne hinted broadly that the Liberal women had been long enough "hewers of wood and drawers of water" for their party. This is a point which Liberal women alone can decide; all we would say is that if there is to be a revolt among the Liberal women it is imprudent on *The Tribune's* part not to give warning to its readers. Unquestionably there was an undercurrent of rebellion in the meeting.

The same spirit was markedly present at the meeting of the Tulip (Young Liberals) League of West Islington last Tuesday week. Whatever may be thought of the policy of revolt, there is no doubt whatever that the continued inactivity of the Liberal Government will in time create widespread dissatisfaction among its women workers, and no practical politician is blind to the fact that women's work in the constituencies is an invaluable asset.

An Essay in Defence of the Female Sex.

WRITTEN BY A LADY.

By Mary Astell—1668-1736 (continued).

You will excuse, I know Madam, this short, but necessary Digression. I call it necessary, because it shews a probable Reason, why We are at this time in such subjection to them, without lessening the Opinion of our Sense, or Natural Capacities, either at present, or for the time past; beside that it briefly lays open without any Scandal to our Sex, why our Improvements are at present so disproportion'd to those of Men. I wou'd not have any of our little, unthinking Adversaries triumph at my allowing a disproportion between the Improvements of our Sex and theirs; and I am sure those of 'em that are ingenious Men, will see no reason for it from what I have said,

After having granted so great a disparity as I have already done in the customary Education, and advantagious Liberties of the Sexes, 'twere Nonsense to maintain, that our Society is generally and upon all accounts as Beneficial, Improving and Entertaining, as that of Men. He must be a very shallow Fellow, that resorts to, and frequents us in hopes by our means to make himself considerable, as a Schollar, a Mathematician, a Philosopher, or a States-man. These Arts and Sciences are the result only of much Study and great Experience; and without one at least of 'em are no more to be acquir'd by the Company of Men, however celebrated for any or all of them, than by ours.

Schollars are great hunters of ancient Manuscripts, and have in great Veneration any thing, that has scap'd the Teeth of Time and Rats, and if Age have obliterated the Characters, 'tis the more valuable for not being legible. But if by chance they can pick out one Word, they rate it higher than the whole Author in Print, and wou'd give more for one Proverb of *Solomon's* under his own Hand, than for all his Wisdom. These Superstitious, bigotted Idolaters of time past, are Children in their understanding all their lives; for they hang so incessantly upon the leading Strings of Authority, that their Judgments like the limbs of some Indian Penitents, become altogether cramp't and motionless for want of use.

But as these Men, will hardly be reckon'd much superiour to us upon the account of their Learning or Improvements, so neither will I suppose another sort diametrically opposite to these in their Humors and Opinions: I mean those whose Ancestors have been wise and provident, and rais'd Estates by their Ingenuity and Industry, and given all their Posterity after 'em Means, and Leisure to be Fools. These are generally sent to School in their Minority, and were they kept there till they come to Years of Discretion, might most of 'em stay, till they cou'd tuck their Beards into their girdles before they left carrying a Satchel. In conformity to Custom, and the Fashion, they are sent early to serve an Apprenticeship to Letters, and for eight or nine years are whipt up and down through two or three Counties from School to School; when being arriv'd at Sixteen, or Seventeen Years of Age, and having made the usual *Tour* of Latin, and Greek Authors, they are call'd Home to be made Gentlemen. As soon as the young Squire has got out of the House of Bondage, shaken off the awe of Birch, and begins to feel himself at Liberty, he considers that he is now Learned enough, (and 'tis ten to one but his Friends are wise enough to be of his Opinion) and thinks it high time to shake off the barbarous Acquaintance he contracted, with those crabbed, vexatious, obscure Fellows, that gave him so much trouble and smart at School, Companions by no means fit for a Gentleman, that writ only to torment and perplex poor Boys, and exercise the tyranny of Pedants and School-masters. These prudent resolutions taken, his Conversation for some years succeeding is wholly taken up by his Horses, Dogs and Hawks (especially if his Residence be in the Country) and the more senseless Animals that tend 'em. His Groom, his Huntsman, and his Falconer are his Tutors, and his walk is from the Stable to the Dog-kennel, and the reverse of it. His diversion is drudgery, and he is highest satisfaction when he is most tir'd. He wears you in the Morning with his Sport, in the Afternoon with the noise Repetition and Drink, and the whole Day with Fatigue and Confusion. His Entertainment is stale Beer, and the History of his Dogs and Horses, in which he gives you the Pedigree of every one with all the exactness of a Herald; and if you be very much in his good graces, 'tis odds but he makes you the Compliment of a Puppy of one of his favourite Bitches, which you must take with abundance of Acknowledgments of his Civility, or else he takes you for a stupid, as well

as an ill bred Fellow. He is very constant at all Clubs and Meetings of the Country Gentlemen, where he will suffer nothing to be talk'd or hear'd of but his Jades, his Curs, and his Kites. Upon these he rings perpetual changes, and trespasses as much upon the patience of the Company in the Tavern, as upon their enclosures in the Field, and is least impertinent, when most drunk.

His grand Business is to make an Assignation for a Horse Race, or a Hunting Match, and nothing discomposes him so much as a Disappointment. Thus accomplish'd and finish'd for a Gentleman, he enters the Civil Lists, and holds the Scale of Justice with as much blindness as she is said to do. From hence forward his Worship becomes as formidable to the Ale-Houses, as he was before Familiar; he seizes an Ale Pot, and takes the dimensions of Bread with great Dexterity and Sagacity. He is the terrour of all the Deer and Poultry Stealers in the Neighbourhood, and is so implacable a Persecutor of Poachers, that he keeps a Register of all the Dogs and Guns in the Hundred, and is the scare-Beggar of the Parish. Short Pots, and unjustifiable Dogs and Nets, furnish him with sufficient matter of Presentments, to carry him once a Quarter to the Sessions; where he says little, Eats and Drinks much, and after Dinner, Hunts over the last Chace, and so rides Worshipfully Drunk home again. At home he exercises his Authority in granting his Letters Patents to Petitioners for erecting Shovel Board Tables, and Ginger Bread Stalls. If he happen to live near any little Borough, or Corporation, that sends Burgesses to Parliament, he may become ambitious and sue for the Honour of being made their representative. Henceforward he grows Popular, bows to, and treats the Mob all round him; and whether there be any in his Discourse or not, there is good Sense, in his Kitchin and his Cellar, which is more agreeable and edifying. If he be so happy as to out-tap his Competitor, and Drink his Neighbours in an Opinion of his Sobriety, he is chosen, and up he comes to that Honourable Assembly, where he shews his Wisdom best by his Silence, and serves his Country most in his absence.

I give you these two Characters, *Madam*, as irreconcilable as Water and Oyl, to shew that Men may, and do often Baffle and Frustrate the Effects of a liberal Education, as well by Industry as Negligence. 'Tis hard to say, which of these two is the more Sottish; the first is such an Admirer of Letters, that he thinks it a disparagement to his Learning to talk what other Men understand, and will scarce believe that two, and two, make four, under a demonstration from *Euclid*, or a Quotation of *Aristotle*: The latter has such a fear of Pedantry always before his Eyes, that he thinks it a Scandal to his good Breeding and Gentility to talk Sense, or write true *English*; and has such a contemptible Notion of his past Education, that he thinks the *Roman* Poets good for nothing but to teach Boys to cap Verses. For my part I think the Learned, and Unlearned Blockhead pretty equal; for 'tis all one to me, whether a Man talk Nonsense, or unintelligable Sense, I am diverted and edified alike by either; the one enjoys himself less, but suffers his Friends to do it more; the other enjoys himself and his own Humour enough, but will let no body else do it in his Company.

Two Gentle Sisters.

AN interesting work has just been published, at the moderate cost of 1s., showing that women's suffrage is intellectually ridiculous and physiologically preposterous. We do not know which to admire most, the title, the picture on the cover, or the description of the anonymous authors.

The title is *Anti-Suffragette-itis*, which might mean "An antidote to the disease of being a Suffragette" or "The disease of being an Anti-Suffragette." Having read the book, we fancy that the former is intended, though the latter is the more appropriate. The picture on the cover is the strongest of our reasons for coming to this conclusion. It shows four women in a garden, three gracefully garbed in summery—and,

we should imagine, expensive—attire, and one in slovenly costume carrying a placard, "Votes for Women," in her right hand, and a gamp in her left. The fourth woman is vainly endeavouring to entice the three Graces from their garden, while one of the latter is manipulating a hose-pipe—whether on to the flowers or the hat of "Votes for Women" is not clear.

The description of the authors is very fascinating. *Anti-Suffragette-itis* is "A Protective Preparation for the Gentle Sisterhood compounded of Truc Womanliness and Common Sense by Two of Themselves." Were it not ungallant to doubt that may be the perfectly true statement of two such "Virtuous Women," we confess that we should have suspected from a study of the work that it was the *magnum opus* of a retired colonel, dyspeptic, divorcé and derelict.

But what of the arguments? Frankly, our perusal of the work is so recent that we have not recovered our gravity; moreover, our fear lest a large sale should induce these Gentle Sisters to plunge into the perils of authorship once more inclines us not to develop the full humour of the work. *The Times* in its Literary Supplement says that the book contains "some sensible remarks," and this is perhaps the most courteous summary. It reminds us, however, of the man who, having been called upon to withdraw the assertion that he had never seen Mr. A. sober, did so by admitting that he had seen Mr. A. sober—*twice*. "Most generalizations are unhappy and misleading," say the Sisters on p. 13—an admirable motto, of which, however, their own arguments take all too little account. There are other equally incontrovertible truths in the book. But we confine ourselves to two illustrations of the particular arguments.

"In the earlier forms of life (quoting Haeckel) the essential difference between male and female cells is that the former are very mobile and swim about in search of food, but the latter are inert and store up food in themselves. Clearly, my sisters, your 'strength is to sit still.' But what would the average man say if his wife carried this advice literally into practice?"

Even more daring is the argument contained in a chapter on "Woman as Worker." Sister "Grace," the author of this chapter—admits that women have been driven into the labour market by necessity. She then argues that "women fancied they saw that only by working as men worked could they gain an independent position. And so we arrive at our chief point that the spirit of woman's work, being in opposition to man, was on the wrong lines from the first, and not likely to succeed." Further on we read ".....women not being by nature bread-winners, the impulse to work is for them the need to work, whether there be financial necessity or not. The best work of women will always be unpaid work, for it is comparatively a new thing for women to earn their living, and Nature is conservative in these respects."

It would appear, though the connexion of all this is abstruse, that when women are driven to work for their living, they ought to work for nothing, and try not to be independent because Nature did not intend them to earn their living (or that of their children presumably). Twenty-five pages later the same Sister brushes aside John Stuart Mill as "sentimental." (In that passage, *ad nauseum* is presumably a printer's error.)

"In the beginning Eve desired the apple, which is only another name for the Vote," "It is sheer waste of time for both (*i.e.*, men and women) to insist on doing exactly the same thing," are other striking instances of the logic displayed in this amazing work. How far this doctrine is to be pushed we are not told, but the authors presumably do not mean that the male sex should have a monopoly of eating, sleeping, or even of argument.

Taken as a whole, *Anti-Suffragette-itis* is, in its lighter moments, an excellent companion for a brief railway journey. On its more serious sides it is a bewildering medley of sex-prejudice and socialism, thoroughly representative of the type of reasoning with which Suffragists are called upon to grapple.
J. M. M.

* * * All communications intended for the Men's League columns should be addressed to the Editor, 38, Museum Street, W.C.

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