

THE COMMON CAUSE, DECEMBER 29, 1910.

# The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

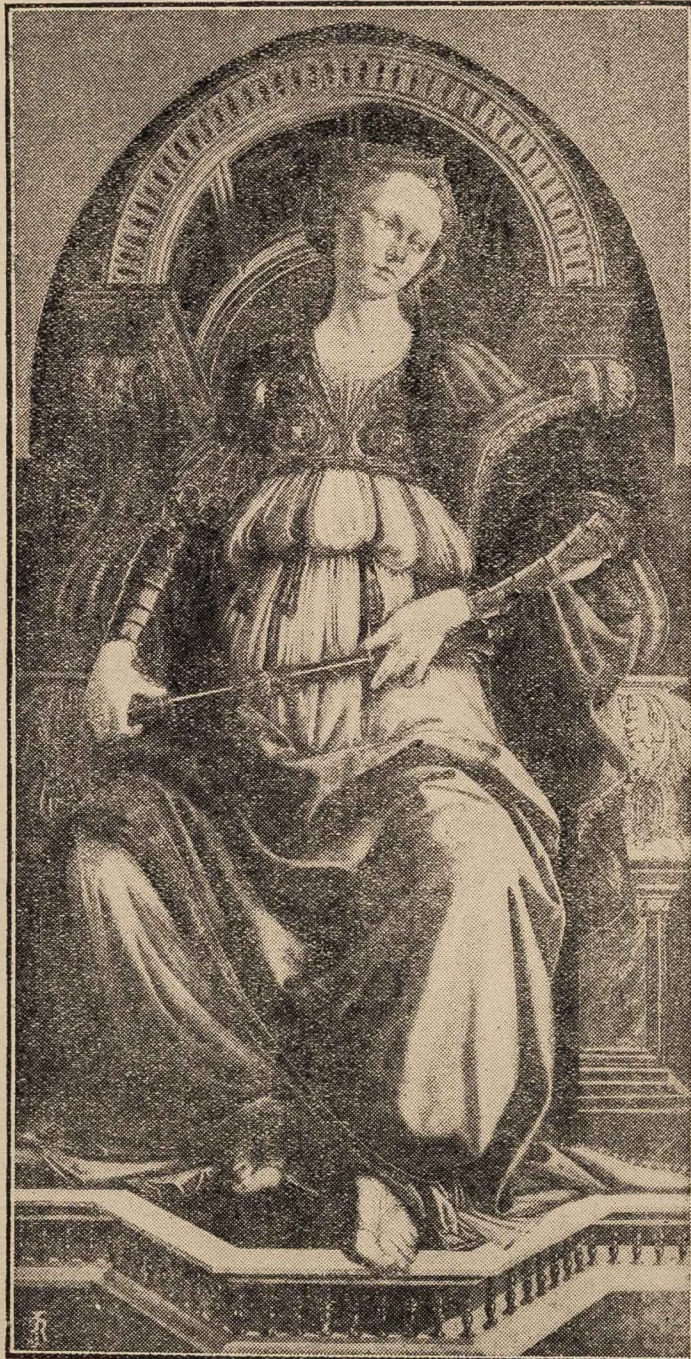
# Women's Suffrage

Societies.

VOL. II. No. 90. Registered as  
a Newspaper.

DECEMBER 29, 1910.

ONE PENNY.



### LA FORZA.

Stern daughter of the voice of God!  
O Duty, if that name thou love  
Who art a light to guide, a rod  
To check the erring and reprove;  
Thou who art victory and law  
When empty terrors overawe;  
From vain temptations dost set free,  
And calm'st the weary strife of frail humanity!

### The News of the Week.

#### The New Year.

We wish all our kind friends and readers a very happy New Year. We are all at one in wishing that the New Year may bring us the end of a weary and arduous struggle, and there are signs on all hands that nothing can long delay the granting of the Suffrage to women.

#### The Stumbling Block.

The true stumbling blocks are, of course, the Liberal women. It is humiliating to read what Mr. Asquith said in East Fife to his workers. He said it was "extremely gratifying to him that this welcome should have been made by the Liberal women of Leven. He believed he was supposed to be heterodox and unsympathetic in regard to the political aspect of women's activity, but they had always in East Fife had the best sympathy, strongest effort, and most strenuous co-operation from their women Liberal friends. They were indebted very much to them for the magnificent continuance and development of their political activity. He had not known how to express, because it went very near the heart, his feelings in regard to the support and sympathy which he had always had in Leven. He owed them every acknowledgment for what they did the other day, and he was certain they would continue to be strong in the faith, zealous in good works, active in propaganda, always aspiring for better things in future."

Faith—in their own incapacity! Zealous—to put a rod in pickle for themselves! Aspiring—never attaining!

#### Riveting Chains.

Now it was Mr. Asquith who said (being a man of small imagination) that women did not want the vote, and further (being what is vulgarly called a "practical man") that the only expression he cared for was the vote of the elector at the poll. The Liberal women of East Fife, therefore, in working for Mr. Asquith without making any terms with him, are actually sending back to power a man who honestly confesses he means to keep them in subjection.

#### Friends and Foes.

Again, we find Mr. Churchill, in his letter of thanks to his workers, writing: "Among these the Liberal women of Dundee have played a conspicuous part." Women who, like these women, do nothing to free their sex, have forfeited any right to criticise the methods of those whom they have deserted. The Liberal women of Cardiff, on the other hand, have plainly shown that the heart of Liberalism is in them, and that when their leaders forget, the women can be trusted to remember. Some 800 Liberal women here struck work, with the result that the Anti-Suffragist Liberal lost the seat; many of these women went and worked for our good friend, Sir Alfred Mond, who got in by an increased majority.

#### First Claim.

We all know that when the House reassembles the question of the Lords must come first. But rumour is being very busy with "what next?" The Chief Whip has been talking of another Plural Voting Bill; we all know what the Labour party and the Irish party want, and we have nothing to say about the merits of these various questions. But upon the nature of their claims as compared with ours we have much. Our reform is long overdue. It has been agitated for forty-three years, and some forty measures have been drafted and killed at various stages by "The People's House"; six times has a Women's Suffrage Bill passed its second reading, only to be smothered by the Government of the day. Of no other measure can this be said.

Finally this Government owes us some reparation, for it has two broken pledges to atone for. Without exaggerating a politician's liability to redeem his pledges, we do say that, unless he makes amends pretty soon, Mr. Asquith will have as bad a reputation as any for breaking the spirit of a pledge when not actually the letter.

#### The Home and the Vote.

A lady who has worked in an "Infants' Health Society" in one of our great industrial towns for three years past, writes: "We have had over 1,800 babies under twelve months of age through our hands in that one ward, and if anyone needs converting to Suffrage work they only have to study the condition of things under which the mothers and women have to work. We see into the home life in a way few can, as we have regular and continual visitation in the homes whether the mother can come to the consultation or not."

We think this is interesting testimony from one who is doing "womanly work," if ever there was any such.

#### Women's Progress.

Miss Janet Hogarth, at the dinner given on December 13th in honour of the women who had contributed to the new edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica, made a witty and charming speech, in which she described the progress that women had made of late years, so that it was now as absurd to have a heading, "Women's Professions," as it would be to have one of "Men's Professions." Women pervaded the whole book.

#### What is Cruelty?

Sir Samuel Evans stated in the Divorce Court recently: "Up to now the Legislature has never said that the effect on a wife of her husband's having committed adultery constitutes cruelty. Otherwise cruelty could be established in every case where the wife was a sensitive woman."

The Legislature in its wisdom and humanity has legislated on the assumption that women are not sensitive. It is well known, is it not, how callous and indifferent women are!

#### Who will Pay the Midwife?

Mrs. Eddie, herself a trained midwife, has written to the "Co-operative News" a letter in which she points out the curious and instructive fact that the precious Midwives Bill, which has had such a chequered career, and is fortunately now dead with the dead Parliament, while it makes legal provision for the payment of doctors makes none for the payment of midwives. Yet the Midwives Act, as it now stands, insists on the employment of doctors or trained midwives, and "this is a democratic Act, of a democratic Government, for a representative electorate!" No wonder the midwives are forgotten! The Midwives Board has no representative of the midwives on it! Could absurdity further go!

#### A Voter from Portland.

Under this heading the "Standard" had a report of what it called "amusing evidence" at a libel case arising out of certain proceedings at an election. A man serving a sentence of penal servitude gave evidence of how he had voted. Asked about the municipal election of last November, Strange said he did not know the difference between a municipal and a general election.

Mr. Justice Darling: Many people who do haven't got a vote. (Laughter.)

Mr. F. E. Smith: *Vox populi, vox Dei!*

The witness said he remembered being asked by Mr. Steer to "give him a vote."

Counsel: Do you remember whom you voted for?—No. The one I voted for was the one Mr. Steer told me.

His Lordship: Don't you remember his political principles?—No. (Laughter.)

And who was Mr. Money?—I believe Mr. Money belonged to Free Trade. (Laughter.)

#### Men's "Unfitness."

At innumerable places up and down the country men have been (as usual) showing their "unfitness for the vote" by rioting, more or less seriously, and by breaking up meetings. Strange to say, the press on the whole rejoices when its own side has been guilty of the rowdyism. At Pwllheli, Welsh Liberals, at Louth, Nationalists, at Hitchin and Lincoln Conservative and Liberal men have been guilty of disorder of a disgraceful nature.

## The A. B. C. of Women's Suffrage.

Our picture this week shows a pair who seem at first sight to have

LITTLE IN COMMON

—a convict and a college girl.

HE has committed some crime which has caused him to be regarded as a

DANGER TO SOCIETY.

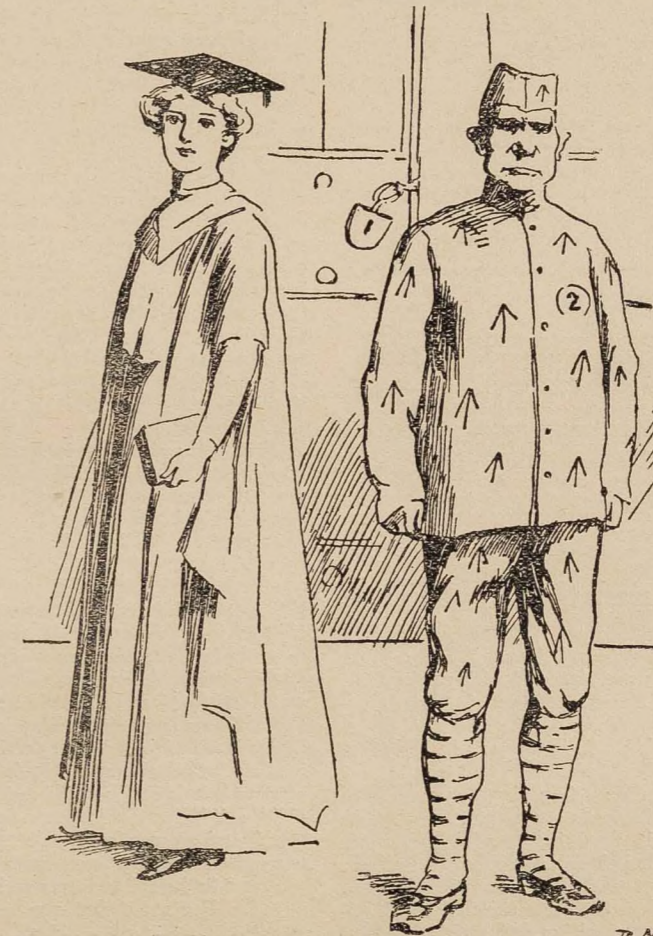
SHE has gone to the University, studied, passed the regular examinations, and taken her degree. She can now write B.A. after her name, and she is, probably, TRAINING

MEN in our prisons to EVERY ONE WOMAN.

Why, then, do we see them here side by side? Because THE LAW classes women and convicts together as being incapable of exercising a Parliamentary vote for the good of themselves and their fellow-countrymen. It is, however,

MORE MERCIFUL TO THE CONVICT than to the woman. Only during his term of imprisonment is he disfranchised, whilst the prison which disqualifies her is HER SEX,

POLLING BOOTH.



Companions in Disgrace.

Convicts and Women kindly note, When once the harmful man of crime, Are not allowed to have the vote; In Wormwood Scribbles has done his time, The difference between the two He at the poll can have his say, I will now indicate to you. The harmless woman never may.

C. H.

Printed and Published by the Artists' Suffrage League, 259, King's Road, Chelsea.

UP FUTURE CITIZENS in one of our great schools or colleges.

Obviously she has worked hard, submitted to strict discipline, and finally proved her intelligence and capacity. In what way does she resemble the man who stands beside her?

Are women, on the whole, so much

MORE CRIMINAL THAN MEN

that women and convicts are rightly classed together? No! As a rule there are FIVE

which men honour with their lips, but in their actions treat as

A DISGRACE DEEPER THAN PORTLAND.

The riddle which the women are asking now is: "Why is a woman like a convict?" They are still waiting for its solution.

THE WEEK'S MOTTO.

"The greatest martyrs are not those who suffer for a cause, but those who have none."

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday.

LONDON AGENT.—Communications referring to advertisements may now be addressed to our London agent, Mrs. H. A. Evans, 10, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C. Friends in London desirous of helping to get advertisements will kindly communicate with her.

THE PAPER WILL BE POSTED to any address in Britain or abroad for the following prepaid payments:—

3 MONTHS	...	1 9
6 MONTHS	...	3 3
12 MONTHS	...	6 6

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, accompanied by a stamped envelope addressed if it is desired that they should be returned. The Editor accepts no responsibility, however, for matter which is offered unsolicited.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices, and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents, however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long beforehand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last possible day, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, giving the name and address of the newsagent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

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## The New Year and the New Force.

It is one of the great qualities of Botticelli's work that he makes us think. No "Annunciation" has a more wonderful significance in expression and gesture than his, and surely no picture of Force or Power is further removed from obvious impersonation than the one we so imperfectly reproduce to-day. This woman, in her robes of state, whose delicate pieces of armour appear merely symbolic, with slim, eager hands fingering her mace, and eyes whose intense watchfulness reveals at once that no incident of the fray she is observing escapes her, while her busy brain all the while judges, comprehends, decides, and her lips and cheeks are drawn into wistful lines, tremulous with ruth,—what does she stand for? Vigilant, thrilling with feeling, sensitive and mobile, yet infinitely calm and majestic, raised on her sumptuous throne above the strife which she may have to decide,—what a contrast to the brute, unthinking cruelty of force as put forward by the school of blood and iron and acquiesced in, half despairingly, by many who have lost their faith.

Women asking for their liberty have been confronted with a recrudescence of the physical force theory in its crudest form: the Force that threatens them might well be typified in Watts' horrible picture of Mammon; the Force they acknowledge has the eyes and hands of Botticelli's figure.

We may begin by saying that suffragists, at least as much as Anti-Suffragists, admit the importance and necessity of physical force. In our school days we were met by the wonderful discovery that all physical labour resolved itself into moving things from place to place, and that even when we flattered ourselves we were

"making" bread, we were only moving the yeast and the flour and the water from place to place; and then we were led to see how the informing power of all this "physical force" was the "making mind" which directed it. Now because the Anti-Suffragists have discovered that Physical Force has its indispensable use in the world, they are tempted quite to forget that unless it is harnessed and directed by the will and conscience of mankind it will drag us to ruin. We find the most unthinking application of the phrase, "Survival of the fittest," some people quite overlooking the fact that ingenuity as much as muscle may fit a creature to survive; that the temperate and austere outlive the riotous; that wars kill off the "fittest," and the causes of infant mortality sap the vitality of the survivors. The Anti-Suffragists have not the courage of their convictions, and most of them do allow that laws curbing brute anarchic force should exist, and that (to an extent unspecified or variously delimited) the weak should be protected. But they maintain that laws of such a nature only have stability when passed by the votes of those who actually, in their own persons, hold the balance of physical force, quite forgetting that before the last extensions of the franchise the bulk of physical force rested with the disfranchised, and that, in countries where a tyranny or an oligarchy obtains, the physical force of the army, navy, and police is put into action by a handful of men or by one man.

The fact is that in a modern state like England the stability of the laws depends in the main upon their general acceptance by the whole people as broadly just, or if not just, then alterable by consent. When certain sections of the people, by a widening of interest and increase of knowledge, become convinced that laws and their administration are not just; when vast changes in their lives and conditions have not been met by corresponding changes in legal and political status, the clamour arises that these changes should be initiated, and if this is not done within a reasonable time, by consent, trouble grows.

That is the situation in England to-day with regard to what is known as the "Woman Question." The development in women's education has shown women where they stand in the body politic; the growth of the knowledge of physical facts has helped women more than anything else to stand on their feet and look life in the face, and understand what there is yet to do. Side by side with this growth of knowledge in women has come a vast change in their economic position, in their need and capacity for becoming wage-earners, and with the growth of economic independence for some, there has arisen the awful state of sweated labour for others. Women see these things and feel them acutely, and are at first amazed to find how little, on the whole, the average man is disturbed by them: "It is sad, but women are not worth their keep"; "It is pitiful, but it is a necessary evil"; "We wish it were not so, but force rules the world and women are weak"; and they are tempted to cry out to these faithless ones:

"So be it! and ever so be it

For souls that are bestial by birth!"

But then comes the reminder that it is natural enough, where only the physically stronger are represented, that only the physically strong should be heard. It is not that men have *only* muscle! They have mind and conscience too, but they do not hear the women or understand the women, because they have muzzled the women. All this vast revolution that has come over women and changed their point of view and their needs and lives has made comparatively little impression on men, especially of the ruling classes. These men have been reared away from their mothers in their semi-medieval monastic boarding-schools, and they bring to the consideration of the woman's problem minds which are fantastically remote from reality. The working-man, who is never so entirely removed from his womankind, is much nearer comprehension, and any opposition he may offer to the development of women is due to a frankly expressed selfishness or trade-jealousy, of which he can be made as frankly ashamed. It is more easy for most women to

tolerate this very elementary exhibition of the old Adam than the ignorant patronage of our "educated" law givers, legislating "for our good."

Women are one-half of humanity, and cannot in the nature of things have interests opposed to men; but men are not imaginative enough to conceive a woman's life as they conceive their own, and few more ludicrous exhibitions are made than when a clever man (like Sir Edward Clarke, for instance) arises to express "What women want," "What women think," "What women feel or don't feel." These absurdities might easily be avoided by letting women speak for themselves, and we commend to our readers, when the report is published, a careful comparison between the first-hand statements of Co-operative Women and the second-hand statements of certain lawyers before the Divorce Commission.

There is one serious implication that is often made, but generally in an indirect manner, which is difficult to meet. It is this: that a state where women had a direct voice in the councils would of necessity be "effeminate." We take it that by this word is meant soft and luxurious, cowardly and liable to panic.

Now it is certain that only among the ruling classes do we find some women soft and luxurious, and this precisely because their men keep them so. Effeminate women make effeminate men, as the history of the decay of the great civilisations of the past show. In the Elizabethan age, where women were more on an equality with men, they and the men were robuster by far than after the Restoration, when women were degraded to their lowest. By giving women a voice in the government of their own country you do not take away any virility there may be in men; on the contrary, you strengthen it, first by hardening the women to a finer temper, and second, by abolishing the true causes of national decay: these are not "Mercy, Pity, Love, and Peace"; they are "the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil." It is not the tender heart which wrecks a nation; it is vice, luxury, idleness, and unpreparedness. Women are not more vicious nor more idle than men; women are more prudent and provident. It is as certain as anything can be that the greater power of women would mean an increase in temperance, soberness, and chastity, and it is only a very false and unscientific notion of virility which supposes it to be associated with the opposite qualities.

We do not think there is anything in the statement so frequently made that women are by nature better than men. In any case it is a statement incapable of proof. What is plainly evident is that it is cruelly demoralising for any human being to have unlimited power over other human beings, and men have been and are demoralised by possessing such power over women. In the voluntary abandonment by men of such demoralising power we see the greatest hope for the future of England: the hope that not only will England some day be really free because her women will be free, but that men themselves will have at last escaped from the bondage of their own lusts and be the cheerful servants of that power which doth "preserve the Stars from wrong."

### Correction.

By a printer's error on p. 609 of our last week's issue, 1884 was printed as 1887 in a few copies before the error was noted. It was Mr. Woodall's amendment to the Reform Bill of 1884 which was wrecked by Mr. Gladstone.

### Unfortunate Sisters.

It arose originally out of curiosity: the curiosity of a spoiled beauty who is slightly bored with her own surroundings. Something—a book, a magazine article on the "white slave traffic"—turned Lady Anne's thoughts towards her fallen sisters, of whose existence she had hitherto been scarcely aware.

Old Lord Crayton, her father, could have enlightened her. He had sown the oat field plentifully with wild

grain in his youth, and knew—no man better—of the life led by the sad throng of women who nightly walk the streets in search of a livelihood. But Lord Crayton preserved a strict reserve on the subject. Perhaps, in common with his kind, he held the theory that one's daughters should not know of such things. It unsexes them. Or, it may be, he feared to stir the ghosts which, on small provocation, walked the dark chambers of his memory.

But Lady Anne, having heard of the problem that social reformers grow grey and worn over, determined to see things with her own fine eyes. She would meet and speak to these waifs who are buffeting the world—a world cruel as the sea that tosses and plays with its victims, and sometimes sucks them down out of sight, and sometimes dashes them to pieces on its shore. There was no one to prevent the girl from doing as she chose. By silent consent she and her father never interfered with one another. Her mother—a trusting, helpless creature—had long ago found the ways of God and man too much for her. She lived but a few weeks after the birth of her little daughter, and then quietly departed to that place where troubles cease.

Lady Anne planned her first move with a logical appreciation of circumstances. "I cannot," she said to me, "go to Piccadilly and speak to women I do not know. They would not have anything to do with me. Besides, it would look like interference. Therefore I must go where visitors are admitted. I have heard of a hospital where they treat these unfortunates. There I shall see the effects of the life. I want to grasp the effects."

The journey to the hospital was made by motor through familiar streets, past a squalid wilderness of small shops leading into a long, noisy road, muddy and thronged with wayfarers. Lady Anne contemplated their faces with the eye of an explorer, faces that were masks of misery, faces of lost souls, sharp and piteous and hopeless; sad and vacant countenances that seemed to tell of hunger of body and mind.

The motor drew up before a vast, sombre building set away behind the little shops, and surrounded by a grey stone wall.

"Visitors?" the doorkeeper asked; "oh, certainly." The Matron would be pleased. If the ladies would walk this way—We were shown into a waiting-room furnished with a round table and leather-covered chairs, and sat down to await the Matron's appearance. Soon she came—a graceful, middle-aged woman with a strong face which expressed tireless patience and sympathy. Under her guidance we explored the hospital.

The place was extraordinarily silent and cool, and spotlessly clean. We went into the big dining-hall equipped with long tables and benches running the length of the room. Then up gaunt, whitened stone stairs, through a surgery to the first-floor wards, where we were introduced to the sister in charge.

The Matron opened a door, and there, in a lofty room hung with pictures, narrow beds were ranged in rows on a spotless deal floor. Many were occupied by dull-eyed sufferers, some with their heads shaved. On other beds a garment folded neatly on the pillow pointed to the fact that the patient was up and convalescent. Round a table in the centre of the ward six or seven girls sat sewing. At our entrance they paused in their work and stood, turning their eyes our way. They were all dressed alike in blue and white check uniforms with linen aprons, and had a shapeless, ill-formed appearance.

Lady Anne walked to the table, and laid her hand on the arm of the nearest patient.

"How old are you, dear?" she asked gently.

The girl stared at the visitor, not at her clothes, though those were of a description seldom seen in the hospital, but at her face, in which pity shone like a soft light. "I am seventeen, lady," she answered, at length finding her voice.

The answer seemed to strike a chill upon Lady Anne's heart. She looked at the Matron. "So young?" she faltered, half hoping to hear the statement refuted.

The Matron nodded, and put a question to the group. "Hands up those who are over twenty."

One hand went up: "I am twenty-two, Matron," was the information vouchsafed in a dull, listless voice.

We left the group of girls, who immediately resumed their sewing, and went up more whitened stone stairs into another ward. Here, those of the patients who were not in bed were variously occupied. A little child of ten, with thick golden hair and watchful blue eyes, sat laboriously writing a letter. She had already been in the hospital more than a year. Near her were two older girls, victims rescued from a nursing home which professed to take patients for massage treatment.

"What will become of them all?" Lady Anne asked.

A grave look crossed the Matron's face. "It depends," she answered slowly. "Each one is given a chance, but many will drift back into the old life. You may have heard of the 'white slave traffic,'" she continued, "and know that girls are being sold all over our land to traders in women's bodies." We had entered a small, isolated room where a young girl sat alone before a bright fire—a French girl, with drooped eyelids and masses of black hair. Her hands hung down in front of her; her face was absolutely devoid of expression.

"A white slave," the Matron explained, "rescued from a procurer and sent to us by the Vigilant Society. To-morrow she goes to the police courts to give evidence against the *souteneur* who drove her into bondage."

Into Lady Anne's face there crept an expression very like terror. "God, that such things can be," she whispered to me over her shoulder, as our guide led the way upstairs to the top of the building.

We entered a bright room lined with twenty or so cots, each occupied by tiny sufferers, examples of the awful law of nature which decrees that innocent children shall suffer for the sins of their fathers.

Behind a screen an elderly nurse was bathing a baby boy of three months. Lady Anne knelt down and touched the little round-headed thing eagerly. "What a bonny child," she cried, "and what fine eyes."

"But blind," said the nurse without pausing in her task, "quite blind; his mother died, as the result of a poisoned system."

There was a line on Lady Anne's forehead; her mouth was drawn down at the corners. She rose to her feet and followed the Matron round the cots. Here was a crippled mite, its face distorted with pain; another lying near, a living skeleton with face like a mask of clay; one deformed; one half-witted; and yet another blind, its poor little eyes sunken deep into their sockets. Some slept, others wailed feebly; one baby sat up and smiled up at us—it was the saddest smile that I have ever seen.

The gates of the hospital clanged to behind us, and we were out in the muddy street once more.

"Those babies," Lady Anne said, with tears in her voice. "Oh, I never saw anything so dreadful! And how can God ever expect to rear children without their mothers."

"But you forget," I said; "their mothers are —"

"Our unfortunate sisters," my companion broke in quickly, "and I am sure, deep down in their hearts they still have woman's feelings."

Lady Anne did not talk much more on the subject; few of her friends were aware of the moral revolution which was taking place under their very eyes. But she did more than change her opinions. She undertook the future care of the motherless, blind baby.

CONSTANCE ROMANNE-JAMES.

## Our Election Policy.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—May I be allowed to say a few words and to call attention to some facts in support of the election policy described by Miss Marshall in to-day's issue of "The Common Cause."

Miss Marshall suggests a reconsideration of our policy while recent experiences are still fresh in our minds. May I add the suggestion that earlier experiences should also be taken into account. Those who have not watched the progress of our agitation during past years may be under the impression that the running of Women's Suffrage candidates is a new policy. This is not, however, the case, experiments having been begun several years ago. The first was at Wigan, mainly, I believe, under the direction of our friend Miss Reddish. In that constituency there was a large proportion of women among those who contributed to the support of Labour members, and it was considered to be reasonable that their views should be specially represented. At first the preliminary work was entirely at the charge of those on the spot, but a bad time in the cotton trade having arisen, an appeal was made for help from friends at a distance, and to this there was a liberal response. After two or three years of work the selected candidate withdrew, and another who seemed likely to be more acceptable to the constituency was brought forward. He stood for Women's Suffrage and Labour, and though he was defeated by a large majority, he secured some thousands of votes. How many of these were given for Women's Suffrage and how many for Labour it was, of course, impossible to ascertain.

The next attempt was at Wimbledon, the seat held by one of our most determined opponents, Mr. Chaplin. Our friends were singularly fortunate in securing as their candidate the Hon. Bertrand Russell, whose ability and straightforwardness were alike undisputed. In that case the "official Liberals," as they were called, were offended, as they considered that bringing forward an independent candidate at that moment was likely to damage their chances at a future election. On the other hand, the announcement by one of our friends at a public meeting that Mr. Russell was being supported as a Liberal and a Free Trader was not likely to propitiate the Conservatives, and Mr. Chaplin was returned, with an increased majority. After the election Mr. Russell wrote to the National Union, giving his views, founded on experience. I was not present at the meeting at which his letter was read, and it has not been published, but I understand that it was strongly against the policy in question. It was not, however, abandoned. I need do no more than refer to the Rossendale campaign, as it must be well known to attentive readers of "The Common Cause." Here again the adverse majority was, I believe, somewhat increased.

We come now to South Salford. Here the success of the policy, ably and energetically carried out, appeared to be very marked, and we must all rejoice in the disappearance of Mr. Belloc. It must, however, be admitted that the result of the election gave colour to his contention that support of Women's Suffrage would be damaging to a candidate. In January a peculiarly violent Anti-Suffrage Liberal was elected; in December a Pro-Suffrage Liberal, who had accepted all our conditions, was rejected. This does not prove that Mr. Belloc was right, and probably none of us believe that Mr. C. Russell's defeat was due to his support of our cause, but to a superficial observer the facts may seem to bear that interpretation.

In explanation of the Rossendale defeat it was said that it was due to the mistake made in running a candidate of a different party from the Anti-Suffragist, and that the right tactics would be to choose a constituency with only a small majority for the successful candidate, and then to organize a split in the party. This plan was adopted by the Executive Committee of the London Society. A special sub-committee was appointed to choose one or more suitable constituencies and to find candidates. After some months of careful investigation

a constituency was chosen in which the Anti-Suffragist had been returned by a not very large majority, with the further advantage that the opponent, whose return might possibly result from the creation of the split, was Pro-Suffragist, so that in any case an additional adherent might be gained. The committee had the good fortune to find a thoroughly trustworthy candidate, who was joyfully ready to make the necessary sacrifices in supporting our cause. The policy commended itself to friends who were able and willing to supply funds, and of money there was no lack. The members of the Society were urged to concentrate on East St. Pancras, and to this appeal there was considerable response, while friends also came from a distance to share in this supreme effort. They found the work, in spite of the hardships endured, inspiring and encouraging. Their meetings, when not broken up by roughs, were successful, their speeches were listened to, their literature was gladly accepted, and they had interesting talks with electors and working women. Sympathy was evoked, which it is hoped may be fruitful in the future. In the Camlachie Division of Glasgow the experience seems to have been of a like nature. The immediate results we know.

It has been said that we ought not to be afraid to show our weakness, but to go out of our way to proclaim aloud, as has been done by these two failures, a degree of weakness which is more apparent than real, is surely a mistake. It seems to be specially unwise, as there is reason to believe that our success largely depends on a wide diffusion of the expectation that "it will come." How often do we hear from those who do not care about the matter either way, "Oh, it will come; there is no doubt it will come." And as soon as politicians are convinced that it is coming, with not much more delay, we may be pretty sure that they will not be slow in ranging themselves on the winning side.

We are told that the defeats can be accounted for by the want of time for previous preparation, and in respect of the magnitude of the disaster the explanation may be accepted. Spade-work, or the nursing of the constituencies beforehand, is of the first importance in any election policy. But could not such work be more profitably carried on under more favourable conditions and in

a wider area? The concentration practised in London had the grave disadvantage that while workers were poured into one of our fifty-eight constituencies, the remaining fifty-seven were for the time left almost untouched. Our force is far from being equal to the demands upon it, and we need so to arrange matters that every particle of it shall be employed to the best advantage. This seems to be met, as far as possible, by the wisely devised scheme described by Miss Marshall. As she has pointed out, it secures to the workers the spur to activity to be found in helping at the same time the party to which they belong and their special cause of Women's Suffrage, and spares them the harassing doubt as to which has the strongest claim to their allegiance. They may be dispersed over different parts of the country, wherever they can be most useful, and by the letters written to candidates and their agents their activity will be made known to a considerable number of influential persons. It is satisfactory to hear that the scheme has already been successfully carried out in the area to which Miss Marshall refers, and no doubt the plan has been adopted in individual cases elsewhere. A Unionist member of a local committee to which I belong, who felt that she could not work for a Liberal, went to King's Lynn, and helped to return a Unionist Pro-Suffragist in the place of our old enemy, Mr. Bowles. Two Liberal members of the same committee worked for a Liberal supporter of Women's Suffrage, in opposition to a Unionist Anti-Suffragist. These, however, are isolated cases, and some organisation of the plan of campaign, as recommended by Miss Marshall, appears to be most desirable.

The alternative policy has been ably and enthusiastically worked. The zeal, the patience, the self-sacrifice, shown on the battle-fields of East St. Pancras and Glasgow will not soon be forgotten. But of these heroic charges, may it not be said, *C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre?*—Yours,

EMILY DAVIES.

17, Glenmore Road, Hampstead, N.W.  
December 22nd, 1910.

[We print Miss Emily Davies' interesting letter, not as official, but as a valuable contribution to the discussion.]

## NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

OBJECT: To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

METHODS: (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in this country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

Hon. Secretaries:

MISS EDITH DIMOCK.

MISS BERTHA MASON (Parliamentary).

Telegrams: "Voiceless, London."

President:

MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Secretary: MISS T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Hon. Treasurer:

MISS BERTHA MASON (Pro Tem.).

Telephone: 1960 Victoria.

## Election Work.

### North Herts.

A very enthusiastic and crowded meeting was held at the Public Hall, Stevenage, on Friday, December 9th, to hear the Earl of Lytton speak on the question of Women's Suffrage. The meeting was a non-party one, and called together with the object of urging upon the two candidates the necessity of pressing forward the cause of Women's Suffrage. Mr. F. Villiers, C.M.G., a well-known local Liberal, occupied the chair, and stated that he was supporting the candidature of Mr. Greg, while Lord Lytton was working for Dr. Hillier. Mr. Greg's replies to the National Union questions had been on the whole satisfactory, but Dr. Hillier, who last July voted for the second reading of the Conciliation Bill, had refused to give any pledges or do anything more to further the cause.

Lord Lytton said he was not quite satisfied with the answer of either candidate to the questions which had been put to them, and pointed out that in the matter of making their demands known to candidates women suffered from the fact they had not got votes behind them. The tendency of candidates, he said, in this, which was a non-party question, was to take refuge in a form of words which attempted to please both sides.

Lord Lytton proceeded to show that Mr. Greg's fear of the creation of faggot votes was without foundation, as men do

not to any great extent create such votes for their sons, and would be most unlikely to do so for their daughters. He then gave the history of Dr. Hillier's attitude towards the question: beginning as an Anti-Suffragist, he had "voted according to his convictions at the time of the debate," but now hesitated to commit himself to the principle, and declared he was not sure that the women of his constituency wanted the vote.

Lord Lytton dealt with these objections very effectively, pointing out that it was the refusal to "drive in the thin end of the wedge" when it was demonstrated to be necessary that brought about the driving in of the thick end of the wedge with irresistible force. The refusal, not the granting, of moderate and reasonable demands when they were made brought countries to the verge of a revolution. He proceeded to say that since women had no vote the only means of making their demands known were by public meeting, by petition, by demonstrations, and by organisations, and he gave an account of the use women had made of these various means. He quoted Mr. Gladstone in support of the argument that whether women wanted the vote or not "the State wanted it for them."

In conclusion, his Lordship urged upon all Suffragists the necessity for increased activity. He pointed out the danger involved in the passing of a measure for payment of members before women were granted the vote, and also the folly and unwisdom of applying the referendum on this women's question to an electorate composed only of men. Those who criticised without methods were themselves responsible for

them. The only thing to be done was to "take off your coats and work in the way we are doing."

Miss Geraldine Cooke and Mrs. Price, of Letchworth, spoke of the work of education in North Herts., and the resolution calling upon the candidates to press for facilities for the Conciliation Bill early in the next Parliament was carried by a large majority, amidst much applause.

Miss Cooke continued to work in the constituency with Mrs. Fordham, and Mr. Greg gave them constant opportunities of addressing meetings at which he was speaking. Dr. Hillier's greatly reduced majority may perhaps lead him to reconsider his position, and Lord Lytton's influence should help.

### Federation Notes.

#### West of England.

Activity continues in the West. At election time the Cheltenham Society approached the local candidates, and also those of Stroud, Cirencester, and the Tewkesbury Division of Gloucestershire. Not one out of the number was entirely satisfactory, but two were found to be vaguely in favour.

At the annual meeting a performance of "How the Vote was Won" was enthusiastically received.

At Gloucester, though no very active part was taken in the election, Conciliation Bill leaflets were well circulated and both the candidates were written to and questioned. As neither took the trouble to reply, further questions were asked at one of Mr. Jerrell's (Unionist) meetings. He had voted for the Conciliation Bill, but refused to make any promises of future support.

The Winscombe branch is not yet strong enough to hold a public meeting. It has, however, made a banner for future big events, and given a performance of "How the Vote was Won," the play being followed by an address. It has also arranged a series of drawing-room meetings on social subjects, in order to attract a wider circle of interest than can be done by mere Suffrage work. Both candidates were approached at election time, but neither were at all satisfactory.

On December 7th, in response to an invitation from Miss Eden, organiser of the Nurses' Social Union, Mrs. Clothier, Federation treasurer, gave an address to nurses and midwives at Taunton. The audience was much interested; a stimulating discussion followed the speech, and literature was freely sold and distributed.

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### The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

On the festival of the Epiphany, January 6th, 1911, a Quiet Day will be conducted by the Rev. Samuel Healey for members of the League at St. George's, Bloomsbury (Hart Street, W.C., near British Museum Station, Central London Railway, and Tottenham Court Road, Hampstead Tube). Times of services will be announced next week. A reception will be given to the delegates attending the General Council on Monday, January 30th, at 8.30 p.m., at the Caxton House Restaurant, Tothill Street, Westminster. Tickets for members at 1s. each (including refreshments), and for visitors at 1s. 6d. each (also including refreshments), may be obtained at the offices, 11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, N.W.

### Where Hope is None.

We are those of no worth.  
To win us pleasure, or bread,  
Each of us entered that house of mirth  
Which is a house of the dead.

Waste things onto the heap!  
For who should have us in care?  
Over to-day's new ruin weep—  
Make room for the young and fair.

For music of life—a sigh,  
For glory of life—a shame,  
And we lie down in the dust to die,  
Named with the outcast's name.

What grace might we have won  
In toil for pity and truth?  
We knew man's glance of bitterest scorn  
In the blossom time of youth.

MAUDE GOLDRING.

### Correspondence.

Correspondents are requested to send their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for any statement made in the correspondence column.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only.

#### THE ETHICS OF VIOLENCE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—May I, as a constant reader of your paper, comment on certain passages in the "News of the Week" of your issue of December 8th? You deprecate the "recent outbreak" which you describe as "foolish and futile"; you see "little difference morally" between mob violence towards Mrs. Pankhurst and Mrs. Fawcett and Mr. Franklin's attempted attack on Mr. Churchill.

As regards the first point, I would not only earnestly endorse the opinion of one of your correspondents that criticism is out of place, but I would go even further and say that such criticism is damaging to the cause for which we are all working, whatever methods we may choose to employ. We may (as we do) feel convinced that *action* is the only pathway to success, but we do not therefore brand as "cowardly and inert" those who prefer the older policy of patient waiting. Might it not be well, both for the cause we have at heart and for the dignity of womanhood itself, to agree to differ in silence and to adopt as a motto the generous words of Miss Christabel Pankhurst (in connection with the action of the Liberal women of the Home Counties): "Women should be loyal to women"? Secondly, I should like to point out that the barbarous practices to which you refer are as far apart as the poles, owing to the widely differing nature of the motives underlying these acts. Mr. Franklin's own statement clearly shows the reason for his action—viz., to prove that no public position can shelter a man who heaps gratuitous insults on women. It is inconceivable that the action of such a man, who is a witness to the fact that the much-vaunted virtue of chivalry is not yet dead, should be classed with those of hooligans or bitter partisans, by whom the attacks on the leaders of the Suffrage movement are made.—Yours,

M. J. TEW.

80, Albert Palace Mansions,  
Battersea Park, December 18th, 1910.

[By "action" our correspondent apparently means "physical violence," for the "patient waiting" to which she refers is, we can assure her, accompanied by the hardest work. We agree that women should be loyal to women, but we do not interpret this as meaning that women are never to criticize women, just as men criticize men. We did not name Mr. Franklin; Mr. Churchill has been twice

slashed at with a dogwhip, and as far as we can see the only result is to make him a popular hero. We have no doubt whatever of Mr. Franklin's chivalrous motives, but we regard such chivalry as being (like duelling) out of date and barbarous. A far more effective attack on Mr. Churchill would be to prosecute the Young Liberals who broke the interrupter's leg at Bradford, and the police authorities for what they permitted in connection with the deputation to the House.—Ed. "C. C."]

#### THE NATIONAL UNION AND TAX RESISTANCE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I enclose a copy of a letter (sent by the committee of the Penarth Society to the Executive Committee of the National Union) for publication in "The Common Cause."

The committee is most anxious to secure every possible opportunity for the full discussion of the policy of tax resistance before it is brought forward for adoption by the National Union.—Yours,

CONSTANCE MAILLARD.

3, Herbert Terrace, Penarth, December 20th, 1910.

[Copy.]

Dear Madam,—The committee of the above Society has asked me to inform the Executive Committee of its determination to oppose the adoption of tax resistance by the National Union in every possible way.

We believe that there are many keen Suffragists who are convinced that it is wrong to do evil that good may come, and who hold any action to be evil which makes the peaceful government of their country more difficult. It is always open to those who approve of such methods of agitation to join the Tax Resistance League; but the strength of the National Union lies in the fact that any woman can belong to it without doing violence to her conscience. "Our weapon is Public Opinion."

The adoption of tax resistance would certainly alienate many individuals, and we believe—and are glad to believe—that whole societies would secede from the Union rather than appear to approve of the withholding of taxes which are levied in accordance with the law of England, and are spent for the benefit of the whole population.

The fact that we are working to reform the law seems to us no reason for refusing to obey it, and if there are Ministers who break solemn pledges and offer unworthy excuses we need not adopt their moral standard by agreeing that any tactics which "pay" for the moment are right.

We feel that the only possible excuse for all militant and illegal action is despair; no doubt most workers have their pessimistic moments, and it is hard to work all one's life and leave the next generation to reap the reward of one's labours. But we ask the impatient to look back through the centuries of injustice and oppression, and to rejoice at all that women have already gained—to compare the number of years during which women have worked for their freedom with the number of centuries in which they were simply slaves.—and, as Miss Wilcocks says in this week's "Common Cause," to "turn to the page of history, for our greatest comfort lies in the contrast between what we were and what we are."—Yours faithfully,

COMMITTEE, PENARTH W. S. SOCIETY.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Mrs. Kineton Parkes somewhat mistakes my position. My questions were not put for personal information, but as samples of those with which National Union organisers (should such arise) would immediately be confronted.

I acknowledge with satisfaction the advance in precision and feasibility of suggestion made in the Tax Resistance League's latest papers now supplied to me (my early inquiries about the League were not made in person, because from the other end of England post was the handier method to use); and I learn with still greater satisfaction that Mrs. Ayres Purdie is furnishing expert advice to the League. Perhaps I may venture to suggest that publication of the committee's names might be a wise step to take.

But my concern is with the National Union. I gather that this form of protest is not at present definitely opposed or condemned; that it would not, for instance, be necessary to resign membership or local office in order to become a resister. But a neutral attitude on a policy of first-rate importance and far-reaching consequences is not a strong position for a leading organisation to take up; it is to be hoped that the Executive will not leave the question to be raised by some delegate at the January Council meeting, but will be prepared to give a definite lead one way or the other.

It is not to be supposed that one secretary could by any possibility deal with the requirements of resisters all over the country. Besides one or more chief organisers we ought to have a whole army of well-informed women, at least one in each of our societies (over 300 now, I believe), able to answer questions and meet some difficulties themselves, and to say where expert advice could be had on others. And I imagine most workers in provincial and country Societies would agree with me in thinking that the protest could be accomplished with less expenditure of time, strength, and money, by means of the organisation already in working order than by developing a new and separate organisation.

For my own part I hope the bold line will be taken by the National Union, for I believe the very knowledge that this great weapon was in the forging and polishing by our long-suffering "constitutional" Societies would have an excellent effect.—Yours, A. SHARP.  
Ambleside.

#### A CORRECTION.

Madam,—Will you kindly allow me to correct a mistake which occurs in my letter in last week's "Common Cause" on "Organizing the Parties for Suffrage." In the description of the action taken by the hypothetical Liberal "X," the constituencies of the two Conservative candidates have become transposed. Paragraph (2) should refer to the Conservative candidate in A (not B, as printed), and paragraph (4) should refer to the Conservative candidate in B (not A, as printed).—Yours,

CATHERINE E. MARSHALL.

Hawse End, Keswick.

#### ELECTION POLICY.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Miss Marshall's suggestion that we should reconsider our election policy at this early stage is indeed amazing. We have run two Suffrage candidates, and two only, and to say that because their candidatures were failures it is time to retire from that line of action, is to court disaster. I can only speak of Camlachie, and although we only recorded 35 votes our policy was not a failure—but it certainly will be a failure if we drop the policy now. In Camlachie we aroused a great amount of sympathy and interest, and the only failure that I admit was that we failed to enter the constituency earlier. That certainly was unfortunate, but seeing that we began on November 20th, and that the election was on December 8th, we did well in getting even 35 votes, and we have gained a great amount of respect outside as well as in Camlachie. If the Labour party had dreamed of retiring after their first two candidatures where would they be to-day? There have been lower polls recorded in favour of men who have lived to fight again, and succeeded in entering St. Stephen's, as, for instance, in the case of Lord Halsbury, whose first poll amounted to one vote. No one for a moment dreamed that we could win at our first attempt, but it is a great thing to have begun, and it is no small gain to learn our weakness as well as our strength, and we acknowledge that our weakness was unpreparedness. We shall avoid that in future, but having put our hands to the plough, let there be no turning back at this, the very outset of this special line of action. Any turning aside would be very absurd.—Yours,

NELLIE M. HUNTER.

58, Renfield Street, Glasgow, 24th Dec., 1910.

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## Reports of Societies within the National Union.

Secretaries would simplify the work by sending in notices of FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, endorsed with those words, with time, place, and speakers legibly written, on one side of the paper only, and on a sheet of paper separate from other matter. (The following were unavoidably held over last week.)

### BRISTOL.

The annual meeting was held on December 13th at Hamilton's Rooms. The inclement weather interfered with the attendance, which was the more to be regretted as Mrs. Kineton-Parkes had come to give an address on tax-resistance. Great interest was shown, and a discussion followed. The report showed a great deal of work for the year. Sixty meetings had been organised by the branch, besides numerous invitations to speak for other Societies, many of which have come through the Workers' Educational Association.

Four special appeals for funds were reported, to all of which the members had generously responded. With so large a number of workers and speakers, it was not possible to do more than give a list of their names, but special mention was made of the two best sellers of "The Common Cause," Miss Campbell and Mrs. Duckham. Besides constant work in Bristol, the committee has been much interested in the formation of the new West of England Federation.

### DERBY.

The members and friends of the local Society arranged two amateur performances of Maurice Maeterlinck's play, "Pelléas and Melisande," in order to raise funds, and to interest the public in our Suffrage movement. The scenes were in every way a great success, both from the dramatic and artistic point of view. The scenery created just the impression necessary for the setting, and the incidental music from Debussy's opera was played with great feeling by Mr. C. A. Clay. All those who came were charmed with the performance. The principal parts were played by Miss M. V. Clay, Mr. A. G. Revill, Mr. S. Aldons, and Mrs. W. H. Bailey. Both performances were well attended.

The local Suffrage Society is grateful to Mr. C. A. Clay for the splendid way in which he stage-managed, and carried through the performance. We are hoping as a result to have a nice balance in hand to enable us to organise further work.

### EDINBURGH—SUFFRAGE SALE.

A sale in aid of the Scottish Federation Festival Fund, held in Merchiston Rooms, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, December 13th, was opened by the Lady Betty Balfour. Miss Rosaline Masson presided, and no two ladies could have created a more favourable impression. In the course of her remarks Lady Betty Balfour said she had been much impressed while in Dublin by a poster intimating that a man of title had gone down a mine to see for himself under what conditions the miners work; but she had yet to learn that a man of title had entered a den of sweated women-workers or a women's factory to learn there the workers' conditions. Continuing, Lady Balfour said she hoped Women's Suffrage would always remain a non-party question, as woman's influence is required in all parties. On the motion of Miss Mair a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Lady Betty Balfour and Miss Masson. A card party was organised for the afternoon, and a concert, at which Mrs. Kennedy Fraser and others assisted, brought the day's proceedings to a close. The amount realised was £24 2s. 6d.

### KESWICK.

A drawing-room meeting was held by the kind invitation of Lady Beatrice Kemp at Lingholm on Wednesday afternoon, December 7th. The speaker was Miss Abadam, who dealt with the Suffrage in connection with existing moral evils. At the close of an exceedingly interesting address Mrs. Frank Marshall (president) proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Abadam for her address, and also to Lady Beatrice Kemp for so kindly lending her drawing-room and sending out invitations.

### LONDON.

The Executive Committee of the London Society held receptions at the office on the evenings of November 24, December 1, and December 15, at which the speakers were Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Emily Davies, Miss Bompas, Mr. Cholmeley, Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Lowndes, and Miss Ward. The refreshment department was in the hands of Miss Forbes.

At the reception on December 15 a sale of Christmas presents was organised by Miss Newcombe, and this Christmas bazaar, which proved highly successful and remunerative, was a feature (as with the sixpenny refreshment buffet) at the final reception on Thursday, December 22nd. The speakers on this occasion were Mrs. Rackham (Ex. Com. N.U.W.S.S.), Miss H. D. Cockle, and Miss Helen Ward.

The committee offer their warm thanks to those who have so generously sent gifts for the bazaar.

### LONDON—BLACKHEATH.

Our speakers' class, which has been held by Miss Eilian Hughes, of Ealing, has been very successful. We are still meeting every week and forming ourselves into a small discussion and debating society.

### LONDON—EALING, ACTON, AND BEDFORD PARK.

A very successful rummage sale was held on Saturday, December 10th, which realised a profit of £8 1s. 6d. Good speakers are being booked for the monthly At Homes to take place after Christmas, the dates of which will be duly announced.

### LONDON—SOUTH KENSINGTON.

A meeting was held on December 13th at 7, Upper Phillimore Gardens, for South Kensington members and their friends, by kind permission of Miss Hawkins. Miss Holland was in the chair. Miss Gadsden gave a most earnest address, urging those present to put an end to the present struggle by helping women to gain the vote, so that all the splendid workers who now give all their time to this movement might be free to devote themselves to the pressing social problems, where their help is badly needed. Mrs. St. Clair Stobart made an amusing and ironic little speech, in which she said she

thought that women by reason of their training in running a household should be even more fitted to vote than men.

### LONDON—SOUTH PADDINGTON.

A very interesting drawing-room meeting was held on December 6th at 16, Queensborough Terrace, by Mrs. Witt. Miss Shore was in the chair, and introduced Miss I. O. Ford, who spoke from an intimate personal knowledge of the lives of working-women. Amongst other reasons for desiring women's franchise, she wanted it to raise the sense of personal dignity in girls. There were about thirty-five present, many of whom had not heard much about Women's Suffrage, and they were all much interested.

### LONDON—ST. PANCRAS.

On December 7th the St. Pancras Local Committee held an evening social at Gordon Hall, Gordon Square, by kind permission of Miss Glover. Miss Morison took the chair, and Miss Dawson and Miss M. Hodge were the speakers. The room was crowded, about fifty being present. All were much interested in the excellent addresses. A good deal of literature was sold, and also several copies of "The Common Cause."

### LONDON—WINDSOR.

On Wednesday, December 14th, the last of a series of classes for instruction in public speaking took place in Windsor. Miss Hughes has developed, and in some cases discovered, an ability to make a reasonably good speech in all her pupils. So good is Miss Hughes' method that it is possible some of those pupils may make their mark later. At this, the last class of the series, a lady who had flatly refused to attempt to speak at all, at last found her courage, and supported an amendment remarkably well. It is hoped that the class will be continued in the New Year.

### ORCADIAN.

A meeting was held on December 6th in the Albert Hotel. Mrs. McEwen, vice-president, took the chair, and gave a paper entitled, "Objections to the Conciliation Bill Considered." After reading the text of the Bill, and explaining its probable results were it made law, the speaker went on to point out the objections generally urged against it, and showed that they had little foundation in fact, but were mainly due to misunderstanding the scope of the Bill or the result of vague fears as to the wisdom of any enfranchisement of women. Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Mr. L. T. Hobhouse, and Sir Charles Dilke were quoted, as supporting votes for women. A lively discussion followed.

### OXFORD—LADY MARGARET HALL.

A variety entertainment was given in aid of the National Union funds, on Friday, December 9th, by the students of Lady Margaret Hall. The proceedings started with "Johnny Schmoakes," an amusing orchestral recital, in which vocal efforts were substituted for instruments, and which captivated the audience by its realism.

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Richardson's "Clariissa" was dramatised for the occasion, the scene chosen being that in which "Bella" taunts "Clariissa" with endless suggestions for patterns for a wedding dress. There was also acted a new parody entitled "You are old Mother Suffrage," and Austin Dobson's charming dialogue "Au revoir" from the "Proverbs in Porcelain." The last item on the programme was a "Morality Play," also written for the occasion; a play "wherein is shown the conversion of woman to the cause of Suffrage, as also the foolish and ridiculous hindrances and temptings of Anti-Suffragists, with the sound and convincing arguments of the Suffragists, justice, reason, and the like." The costumes were most effective, and the piece was acted admirably. The entertainment was well received, and the financial result satisfactory.

### SOUTHPORT.

An At Home was held on December 5th to meet Rev. G. E. Parkinson, of the Liverpool Men's League, and Miss Beryl Hamilton, of the Actresses' Franchise League. Miss Rigby presided.

Miss Hamilton said that 500 members of the A.F.L. had banded themselves under the Tax Resistance League to refuse to pay the tax due from them in order to give prominence to the urgency of the Conciliation Bill, and to the fact that they were done an injustice under the present electoral law.

Rev. G. E. Parkinson urged women not to lessen their efforts at this period. They must not imagine that because Mr. Asquith had given some promise the battle was won and the victory certain.

### WINCHESTER.

The cause of Women's Suffrage in Winchester has to be advocated in very quiet and unobtrusive ways. A cautious Corporation, apparently in fear of riots, has forbidden us to hold open-air meetings! However, we are allowed to sell "The Common Cause" in the High Street every week, and by this means we dispose of a dozen copies weekly, and also—a still more important thing—compel the inhabitants of this city to realise that we do exist, and do mean business.

We have lately established a small lending library, from which Suffrage literature can be borrowed. This should be most useful and educational. Also, we have arranged to hold debates from time to time, both to awaken further interest in the subject of the women's movement, and also to afford practice in speaking.

The membership of our branch is growing, and there is every reason to believe that the attitude of the public is becoming more friendly towards us.

### CARLISLE.

We held a very successful meeting on Friday, December 9th, at Eden Hey, Stanwix, by kind invitation of Mrs. Bardsley. Mrs. Marshall came all the way from Keswick to take the chair, and Miss Abadam addressed us on "Some Moral Aspects of the Law." The audience consisted of women only, and Miss Abadam gave us exactly what we wanted—a simple, unemotional account of facts as they really are. We feel sure that the information gained will arm us well in fighting for the cause, and we are glad to think that such a difficult subject is being treated in all parts of the country with absolute delicacy and from the noblest point of view.

### LLANDUDNO.

On December 19th, Miss Raw, Principal of the Bolton Training College, gave an address on "Women's Industries," with special reference to the dangers of the matchmaking trade. After a lucid explanation of the processes involved in the making of matches and boxes, and an account of the terrible cases of "phossy jaw" formerly produced by this industry, Miss Raw summarised the course of recent legislation in England and abroad which has reduced the mortality of this disease from 8 to 0 per year. In conclusion, Miss Raw urged upon Suffrage Societies the importance of the study of this and other questions of women's work in order to fit themselves for the discharge of their duty when they get the vote.

### LONDON—PADDINGTON.

On Tuesday, December 20th, the North and South Paddington Committees gave a joint "social" at St. Mary's School, Paddington. Mr. Horace Holmes kindly took the chair. He said our movement

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had come to stay, and that prophecies had been made that the Temperance movement would die out—killed by excess of zeal; but it had grown in force, and the Suffrage movement would do the same. Mrs. Phillips and Miss I. O. Ford were the speakers, and the former began by saying they had spoken together for Women's Suffrage fifteen years ago. She dealt with some of the objections usually put forward, and said that it taught boys to have no respect for women when they found they had not the same rights as citizens. Miss I. O. Ford spoke of the needs of the industrial women, and said the vote was a most important step towards the raising of wages. She spoke with the experience of ten years' active Trade Union work, and said the women had to pay the same Parliamentary levy as the men. She gave a touching account of the sufferings of women when there was a strike, and how the pinch of poverty was felt more keenly by them than the men. There was some discussion after the speeches. Refreshments were provided, all the arrangements being most capably carried out by members of the North Paddington Committee.

### PENARTH.

We closed our shop on December 17th, and, in spite of the terrible weather, which never changed during the whole fortnight, and of the hard work necessary to keep both shop and tea room going satisfactorily, we feel glad that we persevered. We hope to pay our expenses out of the money we took for teas, and we know that our Society has been thoroughly well advertised, and has gained many new friends amongst the village people. On polling day, after the booths were closed, an enormous crowd collected round the shop and gave cheers for the "Suffragettes," sang improvised songs about Votes for Women, bought "Common Causes" and pamphlets, and clamoured for free leaflets, which we distributed by thousands, and we are hoping to have a big meeting soon after the Christmas holidays to carry on the work which we have begun.

### WALLASEY AND WIRRAL.

The monthly At Home of the above Society was held on Thursday, December 15th, at 70, Rowson Street, New Brighton, at 8 p.m. Miss Eskridge presided, and Councillor Eleanor Rathbone gave a very interesting speech on "Women's Wages, and the Effect the Vote will Have on Them." An interesting discussion followed. Literature bearing on the subject, and "Common Causes," were sold.

## Other Societies.

### NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The Christmas sale on December 6th, which Miss Eva Moore opened in a charming speech, proved a great success. Specially attractive were the plum-pudding and cap and apron stalls, while the palmist and the tea stall helped materially to make up the £17 which the organisers of the sale have been able to hand over to the treasurer.

The committee are glad to be able to announce that they have secured the services of Miss Helen Ogston as their organiser.

Members and friends in London and country, who would like to arrange meetings for Miss Ogston, or who could assist her to arrange meetings in their district, are asked to communicate with the hon. secretaries without delay, as the plan of work for the New Year will shortly be drawn up.

## Forthcoming Meetings.

IMPORTANT  
To Branch Secretaries.

In order to ensure accuracy in the announcements of forthcoming meetings, and in response to the wishes of readers, the Editor of "The Common Cause" begs to announce that—

After December 31st, 1910, no announcement of a meeting will be inserted unless it includes: Full address (for a drawing-room meeting the address is optional, but the name of the hostess should be given), date, hour.

JANUARY 2.	Bedminster—East Street Stores—Women's Co-operative Guild	
	—Miss J. M. Baretta.	3-0
JANUARY 3	Bournemouth—At Home—Miss Fonblanque.	4-0
JANUARY 4.	Leamington—Masonic Rooms—Social Gathering.	7-30
	Bishopsworth—Public Meeting—Rev. Canon Talbot, D.D.	8-0
JANUARY 10.	Bournemouth—At Home—Mrs. Richardson, Miss Shaw.	4-0
JANUARY 12.	Dublin—Irish W.S. and Local Government Association—35, Molesworth Street—Committee Meeting.	11-30

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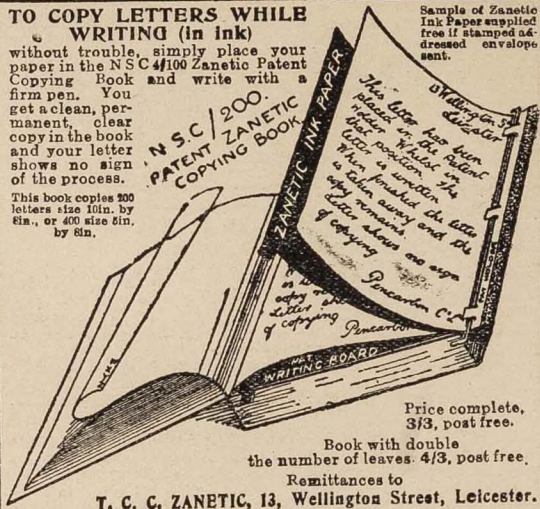
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