

# Women's Franchise.

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## Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

April Subscriptions are now due. Weekly Numbers, 1½d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. Back Numbers can still be obtained, but the Number for January 30th is very scarce, and costs 3d.

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.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,

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## Notes.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE LEAGUES are multiplying all over the country, and each one touches a different class of women. Recently we recorded with pleasure the formation of a Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise League, which is now in a flourishing condition and obtaining recruits daily. Now comes the news that the women writers have followed the excellent example set by the artists, and have formed themselves into a Writers' Suffrage League, with Miss Cicely Hamilton as Secretary. The new league already numbers many members. It includes authors and journalists, and it is hoped that many well-known literary women will give it their active support. Women writers are a power in the press, and their influence will be invaluable to the cause.

UNDER the title of 'Berlin's Progressive Women' *The Daily Chronicle* gives an interesting account of the establishment in Berlin of a hospital conducted entirely by women doctors. Hitherto medical women have carried on their work in the city under great difficulties. The new hospital is the result of the efforts of Fräulein Franciska, a doctor of medicine, and Fräulein Henriette Tiburtius, a doctor of dentistry. It is a private institution, where any Berlin medical woman may see or operate upon her patients. At present there are only eighteen beds at the disposal of the doctors, but the premises can be enlarged. The hospital is aided by a grant from the Berlin Women's Association, and when necessary gives help free to poor patients.

AT the meeting of the Bartholomew Club (one of the oldest City ward clubs), held at Anderton's Hotel on Tuesday night, a resolution, "That the Parliamentary Franchise be extended to women," moved by Mr. A. Jerrold-Nathan, C.C., and supported by Mr. Carl Hentschel, C.C., was carried by a large majority, after a very heated debate. The result, says *The Morning Advertiser* of April 16, 1908, is interesting, considering the old-fashioned traditions of the club.

THE increase which would take place in the criminal vote is one of the objections which is being constantly brought forward by opponents of Women's Suffrage. This objection cannot be maintained in the face of recent statistics, which prove that the vicious class among women is everywhere a small one. We are told that in England only 26 per cent. of the people convicted of crime are women, in France 20 per cent., in Austria 14 per cent., and in Italy only 8 per cent. The United States census shows a steady decrease in crimes committed by women. In 1880 women formed 8.5 per cent. of prisoners in the different State prisons; in 1890 the figures stood at 7.8 per cent., and in 1904 at 5.5 per cent. It is therefore obvious that the granting of the Franchise to women would affect the criminal vote very little, and would largely increase the voting power of the law-abiding part of the community.

A CASE recently quoted in *Public Opinion* illustrates how great is the need for women to have the vote for their own protection. A wife having supported herself entirely for more than three years, and also helped considerably to support her husband part of that time (as he was invalided on a small pension), was separated in July, 1906, not legally, but by mutual consent. On applying for the return of income tax since the date of separation, she was refused, on the ground that her husband must apply for her, which he refused to do. The wife has had to pay full income tax, support herself, and help to support her husband, on an income of about three hundred a year.

OUR opponents have broken into verse! *The Lambeth Gazette* publishes the following lines:—

The Women Suffragettes now-a-days in Parliament want to be,  
They want to vote, and at the end of their names have a big M.P.

Instead of nursing their babies on their knee,  
They stay out late at night with their husband's latch-key.  
Home is the place for a woman, and when God made one he never meant,  
That she should take the place of Man, or have a Seat in Parliament.

WE have received from Lady Lely the sum of one guinea, with a list of six subscribers to receive the *Women's Franchise* for six months; Miss J. M. Soga has paid for a copy to be sent to the Woodside District Library, Glasgow, for six months, and Mrs. Dennis Taylor for a copy to be sent to the Free Library, York, for nine months.

## FURTHER ADDITIONS TO THE 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE' GUARANTEE FUND.

Green, Miss Jessie G. .. .. .	£	s.	d.
Kenny, Mrs. Z. .. .. .	5	0	0
Pidduck, Mr. C. W. .. .. .	1	1	0
	0	15	0
	£6	16	0

### The Suffrage in Other Lands.

**DENMARK.**—A few weeks ago the news that Municipal Suffrage had been granted to women in Denmark was sent to us and inserted in this column. It proved to be premature, as there were still further formalities to go through, and the Second Chamber to pass. Now, however, all this has been done, and the following letter has been received from Madame Münter, of the National Danish Suffrage Association:—

"The Bill extending the Suffrage to men as well as conferring it on women under the same conditions (*i.e.*, an income of about £50 a year) gives electoral rights to persons who are tax-payers in the municipality, and have lived there during the year in which the election takes place as well as the preceding year, have attained the twenty-fifth year, and are of untainted reputation. When a husband has paid direct taxes to the municipality from the joint property of husband and wife or from the wife's separate income, they are both considered as tax-payers.

"Every person who has the right to vote in the municipality is eligible for the Boards of Representative Citizens, as well as for Town Councils, Assessment Boards, and Parish Councils.

"This Bill, formulated a little differently, has been a subject of dispute in Parliament for the last five years. At last, on January 10th, an agreement was come to between the Free-Conservative party and the Government party, the one which had brought in the Bill. The difficulty was to carry it in the Upper House, where it had a narrow escape, being carried by 32 votes to 29, and to-day (April 14th) it has passed its third reading in the Lower House by 65 votes to 35, and has now become law.

"If Danish women have had to wait several years for Municipal Suffrage we may congratulate ourselves that we have got it in such an extended form. Married women and even servants, all will get the Suffrage. To be sure, the actual income in money of servants will not amount to 50*l.*; but the board and lodging is reckoned as part of income, and thus they will partake in the Suffrage after paying their taxes. We have experienced no frowning from our politicians. The peculiarity of the situation has been this, that all political parties wished to extend the Suffrage to women, since each hoped to get support from their women. *Oui vivra verra!*

"JOHANNE MÜNTER."

This is excellent news, and we offer our heartiest congratulations to our sisters in Denmark. It is pleasant to know that they also take an interest in us, for Madame Münter says: "I take a great interest in the English situation. I gave a lecture on the movement in England some days ago, and had an audience of 150 very interested listeners. It was at the Ladies' Reading Club."

**FRANCE.**—The provisional programme of the Congress to be held in Paris in June has been published. There will be three sections:—

1. Ordinary civil rights.
2. Civil rights in connexion with economic rights.
3. Women's Suffrage.

This last is subdivided into—

1. Suffrage in foreign lands.
2. Municipal and local suffrage (conseils municipaux, d'arrondissement, généraux).
3. Political suffrage for women.

Under the second heading come such questions as deal with throwing open all professions and occupations to women, equal pay for equal work, and the like.

The secretary of the first section is Madame Oddo-Defou, of the second Madame Marguerite Durand, and of the third Madame V. Vincent, President of the feminist society "L'Égalité."

**ITALY.**—The first annual Congress of the National Council of Italian Women will be held in Rome from April 23rd to 30th. One afternoon will be devoted to a debate on the Suffrage. We hope to be able to give some report of this in these columns.

A. ZIMMERN.

### Obituary.

MRS. PETER ALFRED TAYLOR died at Brighton on the 11th of April, in her ninety-eighth year. Her death will awaken many memories. Born at Brockdish, near Diss, in Norfolk, where her parents resided, her maiden name being Clementia Doughty, she was peculiarly fitted to be a pioneer. She had that rare combination, courage and gentleness, the graciousness and delicacy of her mind—something exquisite—was reflected in her person, and the physical beauty was enhanced by extraordinary daintiness and delicacy. She had also charm—that subtle endowment of personalities which, like a beautiful voice, can leave no record behind it save in the impression it made upon contemporaries. I think one felt that what was petty, false, or mannered could not show itself to her, and that the little gentle delicate lady, demanding reality, and asking your best of you, would act as a crucible on the dross of natures devoid of aspiration. What was distinctive of her was the wide interest, the wide outlook on mankind. She welcomed each person for himself, never asking nor caring if he were a son of fame or of failure, important or insignificant in other people's eyes. Her husband, whom she has survived for sixteen years, was the well-known member for Leicester from 1862 to 1884, and by his side Mrs. Taylor took no inconsiderable part in public affairs. She belied the theory that a "woman's rights woman" must neglect her husband, for she consistently sacrificed her own energies and powers in the performance of services small and large for a husband to whom she was most devotedly attached. Yet she joined to this power of attachment an ardent love of liberty and freedom, a thirst after justice, which were the very pivot of her character and actions. A few years after her marriage she became an intimate friend and correspondent of Mazzini—copies of whose letters to her are carefully preserved—and a zealous member of the Society of the Friends of Italy, of which Mr. Taylor was Chairman.

Her London home, Aubrey House, Notting Hill, was the centre and rendezvous of political exiles, reformers, revolutionaries, and liberal thinkers. There were to be met Kossuth, Louis Blanc, Colenso, just returned to England and forbidden to preach, Susan B. Anthony, Mrs. Cady Stanton, Moncure Conway, Lady Harberton, Lady Anna Gore Langton, James Hinton, Lewis Morris, Edmund Gosse, and the present Lord Courtney. But in her own eyes Mazzini was *facile princeps* in her circle of exiles and thinkers; and her hospitality lightened the burden of exile to him.

The Aubrey House evenings had a character of their own, the fading memory of which some will gladly recall. They were attended by men and women of leading in politics, literature, thought, education, and philanthropy, of different nationalities, classes, opinions, and social standing, and the prevailing air of ease and kindly fellowship—more than is common in large evening assemblies in England—was greatly due to the bright, gracious spirit and wide sympathies of the hostess.

Probably of no house in England could it be said that it was a cradle, in one lifetime, of three of the great movements of the century, among which the Young Italy agitation must be counted.

It is interesting to note that in these early days Mrs. Taylor applied to become a member of the London Anti-Slavery Society, but her request was declined, as women were not admitted. A Society of Women with the same object was immediately formed, one result of which was that this curious rule was presently rescinded; but not the less the Women's Society continued in activity until the abolition of Slavery in the United States. On the breaking out of the American Civil War, Mrs. Taylor widened her efforts by organizing assistance for the freemen, a labour warmly acknowledged by the American Abolitionists.

The Committee for the Higher Education of Women was formed by Mrs. Peter Taylor, with the object of getting women admitted to the lectures of University College, and it met in her house.

In 1865 J. S. Mill was returned to Parliament and undertook to present a petition in favour of Women's Suffrage, if signed by 100 women; in a little over a fortnight he received one with 1,499 signatures. In the work of this petition Mrs. Taylor took her share, and the formation of the first London Committee for the same object immediately followed—the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor again being the meeting place. Among its earliest members were Dean Alford, Miss Boucherett, Prof. Cairnes, the Rev. W. L. Clay, Miss Emily Davies, Lady Goldsmid, Geo. W. Hastings, James Heywood, Mrs. Knox (Isa Craig), Miss Manning, and Mrs. Hensleigh Wedgewood, Mrs. Taylor was Treasurer and Mrs. J. W. Smith (*née* Louisa Garrett), the first Hon. Sec. On her death, which happened not long after she accepted this office, Mrs. Smith was succeeded by Miss Caroline A. Biggs. The Committee was soon greatly enlarged, and it is gratefully remembered that Mrs. Taylor was the presiding genius of those meetings and devoted herself to their object with all the enthusiasm of her gentle and courageous spirit.

This London organization, of which some of her friends used to call Mrs. Taylor "the Mother," was prosperous and efficient. In 1869 and 1870 two public meetings were held in London in support of Women's Suffrage, and at both Mrs. Taylor took the chair, these being probably the earliest occasions on which a lady presided over public meetings of men and women in London, and she did so with a grace, dignity, and simplicity which were of excellent omen. Among the many distinguished speakers were Jacob Bright, Prof. and Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Grote at an advanced age, the Rev. Charles Kingsley, J. S. Mill, and John Morley. These meetings attracted great public attention and much respectful notice in the press.

In passing may be mentioned the Pen and Pencil Club, which also met at Aubrey House in the fifties, consisting of men of letters, artists, and amateurs, who contributed short essays, poems, and sketches. Among those members whose names are now far more widely known were Edwin Arnold, Frances Power Cobbe, Austin Dobson, Lewis Morris, and J. R. Seeley.

Mrs. Taylor showed her practical interest in education by setting up the Aubrey Institute in the neighbourhood of her residence, where before the time of Board Schools there were free classes for men and women and boys and girls, conducted by volunteer teachers. French history, English literature, and drawing were taught as well as elementary subjects, and in connexion with the Institute was a lending library. This early effort in the co-education of the sexes met with welcome and success.

Since her husband's death in 1891 Mrs. Taylor had lived a retired life at Brighton.

### Why?

THE distinguished editor of *The Westminster Gazette* says:—"Women are much more uncompromising than men when they are convinced of the importance of an ideal." The time is coming when all self-respecting and patriotic women will strive for their own freedom and equality and until that be established will refuse in any other way to contribute to the prosperity of a country having the folly to suppose that the mothers of the race may be affronted and exploited with impunity. England now takes women's labour and money, but will have none of their counsel. They may appear in public to amuse but not to instruct.

It is quite the thing to hear Patti sing, see Ellen Terry act, and applaud the principal "Boy" at the pantomime, but the eloquence of Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Pankhurst and Mrs. Despard is taboo. Why do people who disapprove of women appearing in public, encourage them by going to concerts, theatres, and music halls where a woman is generally the chief attraction? Why are not singers, actresses, and ballet girls told to stay at home and darn stockings? Why? Because they are engaged in the laudable occupation of amusing, not criticizing, or agitating for reform. To the former a liberal public deals out smiling applause and money. To the latter are dealt out insult and imprisonment. Men have arrogated to themselves the right to guide and govern, counsel and dictate, have dared to divide what God has joined together,

The feminine *brain* as well as body is the complement to the masculine. No nation can long survive the subjection of one sex to the other. Men have made England great. We now want women to make her happy. At present men are not doing well in the eyes of women, by allowing sex-prejudice and party politics to blind them to the best interests of the people.

KATE KILBURN.

### Suffrage Song.

(To be sung to the tune of "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled.")

I.  
Women, waken from your sleep,  
See—your weary sisters weep,  
With toil oppressed, they sadly creep  
In chains of slavery.  
Working early, toiling late—  
Shall we leave them to their fate?  
No, arise, no longer wait—  
Fight for Liberty!

II.  
Bear the scoffing and the scorn,  
Foolish jests are soon outworn,  
Light shall follow darkest morn,  
On to Victory!  
Though we stumble oft and fall,  
Freedom's hope inspires us all,  
England's daughters, hear the call!  
Fight for Liberty!

### Correspondence.

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

#### Re—To Our Brothers.

SIR,—Poetry, like music, is rousing, even if the poetry, or the music, be bad; it must have been the inexorable exigences of rhyme, and not any aspiration after truth to fact, which induced a versifier—on p. 439 of *Women's Franchise*, March 19th—to write the last line of her verses. Women are not "entreated" men in the attitude suggested, to give them the Suffrage; it never occurred to any body of would-be electors—male or female—to adopt such devices; and I think it worth while to protest against the use of the unfitting phrase, in view of the lesson being given us daily by so many brave women. Let me add that while the attitude described (which is assumed by just no one at all) could have no chance of succeeding in its professed object, it is pretty certain that Dick, Tom, and 'Arry—especially 'Arry—would see no reason why any woman who chose to assume it should ever get up again.

In the Men's League columns there is a poem which shows that when you are not Dick, Tom, and 'Arry, you appreciate a noble pabulum; the woman urging her cause was admired, for she:

Lashed us with the whips  
Of writh'ring scorn.

OLD NEWNHAMITE.

[Our correspondent appears to have missed the point of the interrogation mark.]

#### Hon. T. Price.

SIR,—In your 'Correspondence' column of last week's issue (April 9th), we read that the Hon. T. Price "had been a champion of votes for women in Australia...but if ever an attempt had been made to intimidate him, he could convince them that his British blood would have been up, and he would not have given way."

The Hon. T. Price speaks of British blood as if it were a male possession only. He has yet to learn that it is the British blood that is "up" in the women of to-day, and it is they who will not "give way" until Britons are free—free from the tyranny and sex dominance of their male members.

Yours faithfully, ADA SINCLAIR.

## 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. **Organiser:** MISS GARDNER.  
**Telegrams:** "VOICELESS, LONDON." **Telephone:** 1960 VICTORIA.

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.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON  
 THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR  
 MISS FLORENCE BALGARNIE  
 MRS. ALLAN BRIGHT

MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT M.P.  
 MISS EDITH DIMOCK  
 MISS I. G. FORD  
 MISS MARTINDALE, M.B., B.S.

MRS. PECHERY PHIPSON, M.D.  
 MRS. BROADLEY REID  
 HON. BERTRAND RUSSELL  
 MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN

LADY STRACHEY  
 And the Hon. Officers,  
*ex officio.*

### Current Topics.

A GENERAL inquiry office will be opened in the Women's Section of the Franco-British Exhibition. It will be under the management of the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women, and will be a centre for information in connexion with all departments of women's work. Pamphlets and reports will be distributed, and experts will answer all inquiries. Further information may be obtained from the Exhibition Secretary, Central Bureau, 9, Southampton Street, London, W.C.

We would remind our readers that we are selling copies of the verbatim report of the debate on the Women's Enfranchisement Bill on February 28th. They can be bought at the rate of 4s. per dozen, single copies 6d. each. The arguments advanced both by our supporters and opponents should prove invaluable to speakers, writers, and organizers.

The following ladies' names have been added to the Provisional Committee for the Shakespeare Memorial Demonstration, in addition to those we published last week: Miss P. M. Darton, Miss Rosina Filippi, Mrs. Laurence Gomme, Miss Horniman, the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, Mrs. De Courcy Laffan, Miss Lillah McCarthy, and Miss Evelyn Millard.

A public debate on Women's Suffrage took place recently in the Central Hall, Lincoln, under the auspices of the Lincoln branch of the National Union of Women Workers. Miss Wall presided, and explained that the object of the meeting was purely educational. They were discussing a question of public interest, irrespective of party. Lady Frances Balfour was the principal speaker. She was listened to with great attention, and an animated discussion followed.

Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Philip Snowden were the chief speakers at a crowded meeting in support of Women's Suffrage recently held in the Picton Lecture Hall. Sir Edward Russell presided. Among those present were Miss Eleanor Rathbone, the Secretary of the Liverpool Society in the National Union, Mrs. Allan Bright, Mrs. Allen, Secretary of the University Society for Women's Suffrage, and others. A letter from Mr. Watson Rutherford, M.P., was read, regretting his absence, and saying he had always been of opinion that the electoral right which men enjoy should also be extended to women. There is now a greater urgency for dealing with this subject than has ever existed in previous years. Mrs. Fawcett moved a resolution, seconded by Mrs. Philip Snowden, instructing the chairman, on behalf of the meeting, to sign a petition to Parliament praying that the Government would grant facilities for the further progress of the Women's Suffrage Bill this session.

### North-West Manchester By-Election.

It has not been easy to get a clear exposition of any candidate's views on the vexed question of Women's Suffrage, and the North of England Society, which opened its committee-room on Monday morning, had to wait until Wednesday before it could with certainty define its position. This is because the policy of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (to

which it is affiliated) is flexible, and is made to suit the circumstances in each case. The National Union supports the candidate most favourable to its cause; but its standard has had to be raised, and no candidate is supported who will not state in his election address that he is in favour of the extension of the Franchise to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. Mr. Joynson-Hicks, who was the first to reply to the question put, declared himself in favour of what is known as the "limited Bill"—Mr. Stanger's—which has passed the second reading in the House, but did not mention the women's claim in his election address. Mr. Winston Churchill declared himself in favour of giving votes to women, but did not make it clear on what qualification, nor did his address mention women. Lastly, Mr. Dan Irving, who did mention women in his address, only did so in connexion with a measure for Adult Suffrage. It will be seen, therefore, that, since none of the candidates comes up to the standard of requirement, the National Union can support none of them. They are all favourable, and the Society's work now lies in the direction of making this favourable state of some practical value. It does so by urging upon the electors to press this reform on the candidates.

### Reading.

OUR winter propaganda campaign has now come to a close, and we can view the measure of success that has attended it. To begin with, our membership has increased from 99 (in October) to 149 (end of March), and new members are being added weekly. Perhaps the most successful part of our work has been in the small meetings, of which we have held six, principally in the elementary schools. We have catered as far as possible for the people living in the different districts of the town, so as to draw in those who do not care to go far to a meeting. Some of our energetic members did house-to-house canvassing, and secured the audiences in this way, so saving the cost of advertising. Admission was free, but a collection was taken at every meeting towards the literature fund. We have found these meetings very valuable as training for our speakers, as no outside help was sought. Miss Councillor Sutton (our chairman), Dr. Cruikshank, and Miss L. Turquand gave an afternoon "At-Home" to the elementary school teachers in February, and an audience of 140 listened with great interest to addresses from Miss M. I. Corbett and Miss Marshall, and several new members were added to our society. Opportunities for addressing mothers' meetings and similar gatherings have been sought and obtained, but not so many as we should have liked. Mrs. C. E. Stansfield has done much good work among the members of the West Reading Adult School, with which she is connected, and a good proportion of our most enthusiastic new members were gained from this source. Many drawing-room meetings have also been held, about fourteen in all, some large ones addressed by speakers from London and elsewhere, others quite small, undertaken by our own members. We had a social evening for members on March 10th, which was well attended, and Mrs. Clarke gave a most interesting address on her experiences in West Australia when the women of that country were enfranchised. The Hon. Secretary was invited to open a debate at the Reading Debating Society on Women's Suffrage, and after two evenings of keen discussion the resolution in favour was carried with only four dissentients. In February she was

also asked to address the local branch of the Independent Labour Party. The members afterwards discussed the question, and expressed themselves strongly in favour of the movement. When we remember that eighteen months ago Reading hardly realized that there was such a question as Votes for Women, we feel encouraged with our success, and are going forward to our summer campaign with renewed vigour and hope.

FRANCES E. MILNER, Hon. Sec. R. W. S. S.

A MEETING was recently held in Southport with the object of forming a Suffrage Society for Southport and Birkdale. Mrs. Stephenson presided, and gave an excellent opening address. Mrs. They gave an account of the old Suffrage Society in Southport, remarking that the fact that it had ceased to exist was a great stain on a town which contained such a large number of women householders. Miss Belman proposed that a Suffrage Society be founded in Southport to work on non-party lines. If women would join together and work irrespective of party or creed they would probably get the vote within the next few years. Miss Kate Ryley proposed that Mrs. Stephenson be elected the president of the Society; for the last twenty-five years she had courageously supported the women's cause. Mrs. Rowntree and Mrs. Rees were elected hon. treasurers, and Miss Kate Ryley and Miss Belman joint secretaries. Miss Ryley said they wanted to know the opinion of Southport on this question, and therefore they proposed that each lady should take out a canvassing book and visit every street in the town, each lady having an allotted district.

### Suffrage Work in Ireland.

A DRAWING-ROOM meeting, under the auspices of the Irish W. S. S., was held on March 31st at Breffini, Baldoyle. A paper was read by Mr. Thomas J. Haslam on 'Woman's Suffrage: Objections Considered.' It dealt with many of the objections that have been urged against extending the Parliamentary Franchise to women. An animated discussion followed, Miss Rowan (Tralee), Mrs. Hill Tickell, Miss Reilly, and others taking part. The chairman, Alderman Vance, in the course of an interesting speech, expressed his warm approval of the objects of the association. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Alderman Vance for presiding, also to Mrs. Haslam and to Mr. Haslam for his instructive paper. On the next evening a Women's Suffrage meeting was held at 56, Lower Beechwood Avenue, Ranelagh, Miss M. Bannister presiding. There was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen. Mr. Haslam read a paper in support of the movement for conferring the Franchise on women. A number of new members were enrolled, and a vote of thanks to Mr. Haslam concluded the proceedings. Another of the series of drawing-room meetings now being held took place at 3, Kenilworth Terrace, Rathgar, by kind invitation of Mrs. A. J. Nicolls. Mr. S. A. O. Fitzpatrick presided, and there was a crowded attendance. Mr. Haslam read an excellent paper, in which he set forth and replied to all the arguments usually employed against the granting of the franchise to women. Miss Welply, P.L.G., in opening the discussion which followed, said that her experience had convinced her that the Franchise was absolutely essential for women in the performance of public work. Work on public boards was an education to a woman, widening her horizon and making her a better citizen. Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington, M.A., pointed out what Irish women could do to advance the woman's cause, and regretted their apathy as compared with Englishwomen. Miss Turpin, B.A., spoke of the need for combination amongst working women in order to secure equal wages with men for equal work. Mrs. Haslam explained the local franchises which women at present possess, and urged those present to exercise these for the return of more women Poor Law Guardians. Miss Nicolls, B.A., and Mrs. Ruby Duggan having spoken, the Chairman, in summing up, emphasized the need of mutual aid amongst women. He was fully in sympathy with the extension of the Franchise to women on the same terms as to men. Mr. Haslam, in a brief reply, pointed out how the possession of the vote would react upon the economic condition of women. A vote of thanks to the chairman and the hostess concluded the proceedings.

### "The Majority."

MR. ASQUITH has declared his readiness to vote for Woman's Suffrage when it has been proved to his satisfaction that the majority of our women are in favour of it. It is difficult to believe that so able a statesman, endowed as he is with so keen and logical an intellect, can have been serious in such an utterance. If he were in the habit of making jokes one might suppose he was poking fun at the sacred cause of Woman's Enfranchisement. It is more likely that he formulated an impossible condition, in the hope of postponing *sine die* an awkward, and to him, no doubt, a highly distasteful, political problem. Such a condition applied to a political issue affecting the whole nation is not only impossible, but unprecedented. In what other great national question has it ever been laid down by any political leader that, before the national demand can be granted, it must be mathematically demonstrated that a clear majority of the class affected have declared for it. Was this requirement exacted of the town workers before the Reform Act of 1867, or of the rural labourers before their admission to citizenship in 1884? Of course not. For until they were enrolled on the register as qualified electors, there was no machinery whereby any numerical majority for or against their proposed enfranchisement could be established. That there is a majority in the country for any particular reform can, therefore, only be inferred from the vigour, universality, or popularity of the agitation in its favour.

But here two considerations have to be noticed—(1) If the constitution provided for a referendum or plébiscite on the particular issue, you could never be certain of a clear majority of votes; for though you may give a man, or a woman, the right to vote, no means have ever yet been found of compelling him, or her, to exercise it; (2) still more, if the desire of women for the vote is to be tested by the mathematical formula of a majority, it is surely most unfair to throw into the scale the mass of men voters, who *ex hypothesi* are opposed to them; for by the same formula, if the men were by a sensible, not to say a large, majority in favour, their opinions would be reflected by the votes of their representatives in Parliament. This, it may be urged, was actually the case the other day, when Mr. Stanger's Bill was read a second time by a majority of 179. From a broad, equitable point of view this position should, no doubt, be accepted. But it will be answered at once that the question had not been formally submitted to the constituencies at the previous election as a plank in the Ministerial platform, and that, after all, only 367 out of 670 members voted in the debate.

Mr. Asquith's position, then, is demonstrably unstatesman-like, unprecedented, and unfair. All that he is entitled, as a political leader, to require is that the demand for Woman's Suffrage shall be so unequivocal, and so generally accepted by the common sense of the country, and so admittedly consonant with the best interests of the country, as to justify its adoption without further delay. And tried by any of these canons, it can most assuredly be demonstrated that the reform is both necessary and just. Thus the proposal is not one of to-day merely, or even of yesterday. It has been before the country for generations in one form or another, and, during the last forty years, it has been repeatedly accepted by votes in the House of Commons. It has frequently been asserted that the present militant agitation is but the work of a small clique of notoriety-hunting females, who have no backing in the country. That taunt is always ready to be hurled against the leaders of every popular agitation for long-denied rights. How often have we heard the same libel against the Nationalist party in Ireland! But, in Heaven's name! what evidences do the opponents of Woman's Suffrage require of the sincerity of the leaders and their backing in the country? Do they want to be convinced of the respectability noble birth, or wealth of the women who are fighting this battle? Is it not enough, then, that for years past, and more than ever to-day, many of the most educated, most cultured, most intellectual, and most wealthy of our sisters have devoted themselves to this cause? And more than ever is this true of the movement to-day. Do they insist that women in the ranks of labour shall testify their devotion to the cause? Well, they have done so, in prison, on the platform, and in their thousands marching

in imposing procession, as to that vast demonstration on Hunslet Moor.

The willingness to sacrifice time, health, comfort, and life, even, for a principle has ever been accepted as a proof of sincerity and devotion—who shall deny these qualities to the women who are content to suffer imprisonment, and, without a murmur, to be treated (with the brutal injustice of our vaunted English laws) as common criminals, and to be herded with prostitutes and felons for no crime whatever, but solely for a technical breach of law in defence of a great political principle? Who, that was present at the wonderful demonstration in the Albert Hall on the 19th ult. could doubt that the women mean business, whether their numbers or their enthusiasm, their eloquence or their money subscriptions, be taken as tests? What other cause of to-day is so living, so magnetic, as to produce such a scene as was then witnessed, the like of which, I am fain to believe, has not taken place since the days of the Anti-Corn Law League? And this was but one metropolitan gathering. In the provinces, as at Leeds during the recent by-election, the processions and open-air demonstrations for the women's cause equal any that have been known in the palmiest days of electoral reform, from the Peterloo massacre onwards.

As far as constitutional agitation goes, then, the women and their friends have done, or are doing, all that can be required of them. And Mr. Asquith can hardly be supposed to desire to see them adopt the revolutionary methods of Russia or Portugal. There remains, therefore, only the domain of argument as to whether women's enfranchisement would tend to the highest interests of the common weal. As to which, one can only pity the limited intellectual capacity of those who, if they have given any thought or study to the mass of literature that the subject has evolved, can have any doubt that, not only does justice to womanhood demand it, but that every widening and broadening of the bounds of freedom must of necessity work for the greater happiness, and in the highest interests of humanity as a whole.

C. A. V. CONEYBEARE.

### Correspondence.

#### Open Letter to a Member of the London Society.

DEAR MADAM,—I have been extremely busy during the last week, or I should have written before this in reply to your letter.

Obviously the policy that is pursued by this Society at by-elections is not clear to you. I cannot but think it a serious matter that one of our own members should consider our policy unreasonable and not straightforward, and I trust, therefore, that you will pardon my troubling you further on the subject. I enclose a leaflet which explains our general policy. If one candidate satisfies us that he is in favour of Women's Suffrage, and the other candidate does not, we work for the candidate who supports our Bill, whatever his party may be; if both appear to be equally in favour, we work for neither. This line of action is absolutely straightforward, and is that which is commonly followed by non-party organizations.

You consider that if "both candidates are sound our efforts are unnecessary," and it is this remark which has determined me to write to you. It shows me that you cannot have given much thought to the question of how this reform, which we have at heart is to be accomplished, and that you have very lightly condemned the policy which has been earnestly and anxiously considered by Mrs. Fawcett and other leaders whose lives have been devoted to striving for this cause. The fact of both candidates being sound is not sufficient. The private opinions of Members of Parliament are comparatively unimportant. It is the opinions of the constituents at the back of the M.P.s that are important. An M.P. whose constituents want Women's Suffrage is in a very different position to an M.P. who is only personally in favour of Women's Suffrage. Our belief is that no Government can hold out against the wishes of the voters; our experience now is, that voters have only to have our cause explained to them to recognize its justice, and to desire to help it forward. Our duty, therefore, is to do all in our power to bring this question

before the voters, and for this purpose there are no opportunities so favourable as those which are given by an election. At Peckham in eight days we held fourteen public meetings in halls, and innumerable open-air meetings at street corners. We spoke of Suffrage only, without the smallest reference to party politics, and in spite of the excitement of the moment and the counter attractions of political meetings at which well-known public men were speaking, our Suffrage meetings were crowded with interested, attentive listeners; in no instance had we to complain of disorder or want of respect. At the close of every meeting we were cheered by promises of help from men of every class. Nor was this all. Our committee-room, a shop in the High Street, was open from 10 A.M. till late in the evening; men and women were constantly coming in to ask for information or pamphlets, to offer us their help, to sign our petition, and to buy our post-cards.

This is all very encouraging; but there is another side to the shield. If we had ten times as many workers we should be able to do ten times as much work; if we had ten times as much money we should be ten times as free for these undertakings. The work is done, and the funds are given by a small band of women whose energy and self-sacrifice never fails. If all our members were to work as these work, if even they would give their loyal co-operation and true support, what a difference we should see in the advance of our cause. The harvest is ready for reaping. Where are the labourers? I fear that too many of them are sitting in the shade, content with criticizing the manner in which their toiling sisters are handling the scythe.

Yours truly,  
B. P. G.

### Obituary.

WE have to announce a sad loss on our executive by the death of Mrs. Pechey Phipson, M.D. Mrs. Pechey Phipson was at one time the chief physician of the Cama and Allbless Hospitals, Bombay, and her magnificent work there is well known throughout India. On her return home some eighteen months ago Mrs. Pechey Phipson at once joined our Union. The testimony of such a woman to our need of the vote is very valuable.

### PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS. April and May Meetings.

			P. M.
23rd	<b>Suffrage Play, 'Man and Woman,'</b> Victoria Hall, Becklow Road, Shepherd's Bush	Admission 1s., 6d., 2d.	7.30
	<b>Manchester,</b> Public Meeting	Speaker, Miss Abadam	
27th	<b>Bournemouth,</b> Public Meeting, Prince's Hall, St. Peter's Road	Speaker, Mrs. Henry Fawcett	4
	<b>London,</b> Drawing-Room Meeting, 33, Regent's Park Road	Hostess, Miss L. M. Boileau Speaker, Mrs. Stanbury	4.30
28th	<b>Alderley Edge,</b> Public Meeting, Public Hall	Chair, Rev. W. H. Shaw, M.A. Speakers, Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., Miss M. Robertson, B.A. Speaker, Miss Abadam	7.30
	<b>Ohelmsford,</b> Public Meeting, Mrs. Wilson's Studio, Great Baddow	Speaker, Miss Abadam	4
29th	<b>Nottingham,</b> Monthly "At Home"		
30th	<b>Penge,</b> Public Meeting, Co-operative Hall	Speakers, Miss Adadam, Mrs. Sambrook	
MAY			
6th	<b>Hull,</b> Public Meeting	Chair, Mrs. F. Richardson Speaker, Mrs. Allan Bright	
11th	<b>London,</b> Drawing-Room Meeting, 1, Pretoria Road, Streatham Park		8
13th	<b>Birmingham,</b> Annual Meeting, Grand Hotel		
16th	<b>London,</b> Drawing-Room Meeting, 147, Sloane Street	Hostess, Mrs. Temple	8

\* \* \* 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 Harcastle, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.; to reach her by first post Saturday. Please write only on one side of paper.

## VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

OFFICES: 18, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C., and 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

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.  
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Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc.  
MISS MANSELL  
MRS. EILEEN MITCHELL  
MRS. M. CLAYTON  
MISS HAMILTON

### Notes.

**YOUNGSTERS.**—We understand that the great feature of the reconstructed Cabinet is the extreme youth of its members, and it is true that we find the majority of the Ministers to be young fellows of ages varying between forty and sixty. Let us hope these frisky youngsters will try and catch up with the spirit of modernity which has long ago out-distanced the British Constitution. The Prime Minister, we are told, is in the "full vigour of his maturity." If this is so, maturity has been going up lately, and we may hope to hear no more of the "too old at forty" tragedy. It is possible that man is returning to the longevity of his forefather Adam (in which case the Cabinet would be indeed infantile), and that the future historian will have to record: "And all the days of Mr. Asquith were nine hundred, sixty and two years; and he died—as well he might, having lived through a long-drawn-out agony of nine hundred years of Women's Suffrage."

### The By-Election Campaign in North-West Manchester.

"MADAM, I will not be hen-pecked!" This, during the General Election, was Mr. Winston Churchill's definition of his attitude towards Women's Suffrage, and his answer to the deputation of Suffragists who wished to know what he would do, if elected, in support of it. Hen-pecking, the promptings of conscience, and the urging of self-interest all alike were insufficient to draw Mr. Churchill to vote, with the majority, for the second reading of Mr. Stanger's Bill on February 28th.

Since then great changes have occurred. Mr. Churchill, having been selected to take Mr. Lloyd-George's vacated post at the Board of Trade, is, to quote his own words again, "in search of a safe seat." That North-West Manchester is by no means a safe seat in the opinion of the Government is made manifest by the determination of Mr. Lloyd-George to speak in Manchester during the campaign in defiance of the established tradition which forbids Cabinet Ministers from taking part in the actual turmoil of a contest, in which one of their number seeks re-election on accepting office.

A further and more interesting proof of our growing strength is afforded by Mr. Churchill's death-bed repentance. In health he gloried in his unconverted state. Fearing that his last moments are at hand (it was on the night before our arrival) he now is anxious to propitiate the Suffragists. "I have kept the most important question till the last," he said, when dealing with written questions, "Here it is: 'Do you favour giving votes to women, and will you do what you can to influence the Cabinet in that direction?'" My answer is 'Yes.'

So we have succeeded in hen-peckhaming him! We are less sure of his doing "what he can to influence the Cabinet." We are, in fact, very doubtful whether he will get into the House. But of this we are quite certain; that a man who failed to recognize the justice of our claim a few weeks since, in time to do us the service of voting for us, but who now makes a bid for women to refrain from opposition at the eleventh hour, is hardly the man to exercise a powerful moral influence over the Asquith Cabinet strong enough to induce us to spare our efforts to "keep the Liberal out."

We have a magnificent committee-room at 78, Dean's Gate, with a rent to match. Living beyond our means, as we are doing, is terribly anxious work. We have the shop; we have the women; but not the money, too. The Manchester Branch, Miss Hines, Miss Fieldes, Miss Milne, Mrs. Dean, Mrs. Hylands, Miss Juniper, and the rest are working like Trojans. Our open-air meetings are held each day at 12 o'clock at Quay Street, and at 7 at Smithfield Market. We keep the 3 o'clock meeting (at 78, Deansgate) for women only. We have tremendous audiences at 1 P.M., 5 P.M., 8 P.M., and 9 P.M. at our committee-room.

We haven't had any opposition so far. Knowing my "little ways," the members of the W.F.L. who worked with me at Peckham will like to know that my efforts to make the office "really homelike" are uncalled for in Manchester. The audiences make themselves quite at home, and smoke and pic-nic off nuts, oranges, bananas, and sweets at every meeting. As they throw nothing at us, we cannot complain of what they throw down on the floor.

I have two great needs. First, for Jewish canvassers to address the Yiddish-speaking electors on votes for women (the "naturalization fees" are all the political propaganda sent in their direction). Secondly, for a motor-car on poll-day, from 7.45 to 9.30 A.M., from 12 to 2 P.M., and from 5 to 8 P.M. especially.

K. MANSON, 78, Deansgate.

### Kincardineshire By-Election.

EXTRACTS FROM PRESS NOTICES.

The Evening Express.

WOMEN AMONG THE DOCK WORKERS.

Miss Molony and Miss Schofield, of the Women's Freedom League, addressed a large gathering of trawl fishermen and dock workers at Albert Quay, and although there was considerable noise, the speakers dealt at length with the subject of votes for women, and succeeded in making themselves fairly well heard. Miss Molony explained why the women were fighting the Liberal candidate, and said the men, by voting against Captain Murray, would not be voting against their Liberal principles, because the Government was not acting up to its principles in refusing to enfranchise women.

A member of the crowd asked if the Suffragists held that Captain Murray was a dishonest man and that Mr. Gammell was an honest man.

Miss Molony: I do not say that Captain Murray is a dishonest man, because I do not know him; but I do say that the Liberal Government is dishonest, and that it will make a dishonest man of Captain Murray should he be sent to Parliament. (Laughter and applause.)

The same questioner asked several other questions, when a voice cried, "That's a paid agent of Murray's." (Loud laughter.)

The questioner continued to argue with Miss Molony on several points, which the lady answered effectively, and then added—"You won't earn your pay if you are not a bit smarter." (Loud laughter.)

The Scotsman.

THE BELLMAN.

The attitude towards the Suffragists is not, of course, universally one of sympathy. There are "auld lights" and others who resent the new order of things. One of them is the bellman of a Kincardineshire village. In the way of business he does not object to announce meetings for the Suffragists, but he reserves the right to his private opinion as to their propriety. He has a habit of adding comments of his own in a low voice to his official intimations. To the announcement that "a meeting would be addressed by Mrs. — and Miss —," he was heard one day this week to add the words, "Twa besoms!" To-night the fisherman of the old town of Stonehaven came in a body to hear Mrs. Billington-Greig. They were in their Saturday night frame of mind, outspoken and politically aggressive. Their language and attitude were unmistakable and emphatic, and the speaker had a somewhat trying time. No one would think from their appearance to-night of classing them amongst the admirers of the Suffragists. The influence of the militant Suffragists, however, especially in Torry, is being felt. A canvass they have carried out brings out, they announce, a small majority for the Unionist candidate. The Liberals also have conducted a systematic canvass. They announce there is no material change in the situation from last election. But there is a lack of conviction in the tone in which they make the announcement.

The Evening Gazette.

Miss Molony was vigorous in her condemnation of the men who refused to give women votes. A hoary self-conscious old fisherman grew more and more shamefaced as she continued. It seemed to him that the speaker was always looking at him and every sentence seemed to add to his personal guilt, and he grew uncomfortable.

"Look at old daddy," said the speaker, stopping in the middle of a sentence; "he thinks I'm scolding him all the time."

That was the first stroke which broke down the barrier of stolidity. How they laughed! The hoary one was charmed at being spoken of in that familiar way.

Then the compliment. It came next.

Miss Molony said she thought Torry was a very prosperous place. It had a lot of nice cottages, nice women, and nice children.

One determined-looking middle-aged mariner wanted to know whether Miss Molony thought the Liberal or the Tory Government was better from her point of view. He was in a high state of excitement, so much so that he jumbled his words against each other and went on talking when the speaker attempted to reply.

She waved her hand several times, and began, "My friend," but still he talked. The crowd shook with laughter, but still he spoke. Miss Molony suddenly pointed her finger at the man and laughed heartily, and continued laughing and pointing for a few seconds, the crowd roaring with delight. At last the man began to feel in the position of the child against whom the other children sing the refrain, "Fie, fie, fie for shame!" and retired from the crowd.

"By next election," said Miss Molony, later on, "I hope the women will be going up in motor-cars to vote the same as the men, and you'll perhaps be good enough to stay in the house and mind the baby while she's voting."

"Ay," growled a bearded man, "fin the wife's oot."

"And where's your wife just now," said Miss Molony, turning upon him quickly. "Sitting in the house, I've no doubt, while you are out enjoying yourself. You're a selfish man."

The crowd was silent; this remark opened up a new phase of thought. Perhaps more than one man was thinking that his wife also was sitting in the house, minding the baby; of course, the women were in the house, why the women were always—

"See, he's slinking away," continued Miss Molony; "he won't answer that." They laughed, but with less heartiness than usual.

The Aberdeen Free Press.

SUFFRAGISTS AND THE RESULT

"We shall win the election by a small, a very small majority, it may be, but nevertheless we shall win." This is the forecast of the Suffragists with regard to Kincardineshire. Briefly put, it means that Kincardineshire will go to swell the list of by-elections that have gone against the Government. The agitators for votes for women are perfectly satisfied with the progress they are making in the constituency.

"Every one is so kind to us, and the meetings are so encouraging," they say. Evidently Kincardineshire has a reputation in the south for rowdiness, as a member of the Women's Freedom League said to a press representative yesterday, "I was told that when I came north I should be made a target for bottles, bricks, and all sorts of things, whereas, I find the people sympathetic and evidently sincere." "They stand and listen intently, but you never know when you are scoring points, as is the case in England, as they never give any indication of what their feelings are," said one young lady; "but," she added, "we are undoubtedly making headway. Many men have come to me and expressed their readiness to work for us, and assist us in every way possible." They confess, however, to finding the constituency a difficult one to work, on account of its scattered nature, but nevertheless they consider that they are gradually but surely convincing at least a portion of the electorate of the reasonableness of the claims which they put forward. They are also surprised at the cool way in which the candidates commandeer the lorries which the ladies provide. "They never say 'by your leave,'" said one lady, "but just step up as if we had come to their assistance. We don't object, of course, but nevertheless it is rather cool of them." On the whole, however, the ladies consider they are making progress, and are organizing an extensive programme for the concluding week.

"PEACE FOR EVERMORE."

Mrs. Billington-Greig, undaunted, continued her tirade against the Government, and, in passing, advised the gentleman who was so anxious that the women should go home and darn the stockings that he should go home and try the job himself. Not only did the women darn the men's stockings, she added, but also their own, and in addition paid more than a fair share of national taxation. Individual members of Parliament were agreed that women should have the vote, and promised their help. "But we are tired of the men," quoth the speaker, and the remark was received with great laughter. She endeavoured to correct herself by saying, "We are tired of the promises of the men," but that also was too funny, and the audience roared. Regaining her equanimity, Mrs. Billington-Greig said that breach of promise by politicians had been constantly recurring through the present agitation, and they did not want the men, but the measure which would enfranchise women. If the country wished peaceable government they ought to give women the vote, and if they didn't they would never have peace any more. (Laughter.) If they didn't get the vote at the end of the session the women were to issue a Christmas card with the words on it: "Peace on earth for men and votes for women." (Great laughter.)

Captain Murray, who seemed to enjoy the fun, then bade his opponent good-bye, and left the premises, while Mr. Gammell patiently waited his turn. Mrs. Billington-Greig then proceeded to say that if the electors returned Captain Murray to Parliament he would be one more counter for the Liberal Government which refused justice to women.

A Voice: Will you guarantee that? (Laughter.)

Mrs. Billington-Greig (smartly): Well, he might be a cipher. I don't doubt. (Great laughter.)

A Voice: What about the Unionist candidate?

Mrs. Billington-Greig: The Unionist candidate is no more to us than the Liberal candidate. Our claim about the Unionist candidate is this, that he is opposed to the Liberal Government, and as such his return will be a message to the Government that they have to look after the interests of the women. (Laughter and applause.)

### Branch Notes.

**Dundee Branch.**—The Gilfillan Hall was crowded on Friday, 10th April, when Miss Husband presided over an audience eager to hear Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mrs. Sanderson, and Miss Munro. An attempt to create a disturbance was made by some boys—engineering apprentices—who were seated in the balcony; but the interruptions, which were very feeble indeed, made no impression on the speakers, and were received with manifest impatience by the rest of the audience, who listened to the speeches with the closest attention. This branch of the W.F.L. owes a deep debt of gratitude to a few thoughtless boys, because, as a result of their senseless conduct on Friday night we have gained many sympathizers. *The Dundee Courier* of Saturday, 11th April, says: "The case presented by the women was improved by the cowardly interruptions that emanated from one of the galleries. When it is remembered that votes are given to unmannerly creatures who proudly exhibited their utter lack of manliness, the argument in favour of Women's Suffrage gains materially in strength." An amendment in favour of Adult Suffrage was defeated by a large majority.

A joint meeting of the W.F.L. and the Men's League was held on Tuesday, 14th April. Mr. Stirton occupied the chair, and Miss Husband read a paper on 'Women on Parish Councils.' We have decided to begin open-air meetings as soon as the Easter holidays are over. The first will be on Thursday, 30th April, at the High School Gate.

L. C.

**Middlesbrough Branch.**—Meeting of branch held the 15th of April. At the close of the business Mrs. Coates Hansen gave a most interesting account of experiences in connexion with the Suffrage for Women during her recent visit to Sweden. At Stockholm she was invited by the Suffrage Society there to address a public meeting, and with the help of an interpreter she was able to give them a truthful account of the way the women are working for the Suffrage in England. A full account of the meeting, also of an interview with Mrs. Hansen, was carefully reported in the leading newspapers.

WINIFRED M. JONES.

**Central Branch.**—Members are reminded of the debate on May 7th, on the proposed Married Women's Employment Bill. The debate will be opened by Miss Muriel Matters, who will move a resolution condemning the Bill.

P. H.

A Jumble Sale will be held at the Despard Club, Currie Street, Nine Elms, S.W., in May. As funds are urgently needed for propaganda, Suffragists are earnestly requested to send garments of all kinds—new and old—to Miss Mansell at the above address.

### An Appeal.

A THIRD Radical has been honoured by a seat in the House of Lords, and it is rumoured that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is to resign his seat in the Commons. This means that immediately our work is done in North-West Manchester, Dewsbury, and Kincardineshire, there will be four further contests to face. In addition to East Wolverhampton and Montrose burghs, there will be Dundee, and if the ex-Premier resigns, the Stirling burghs.

This means a very big expenditure of money, if the Women's Freedom League is to continue to do its share of the work. For though in no other Society is to be found an equally generous offering of voluntary service from speakers, helpers, and organizers, the railway, printing, and committee-room expenses are necessarily very large. We use bicycles instead of motor-cars or trains, and handbells and chalk instead of posters, but we must have literature and halls and housing accommodation for our workers.

The by-election work is absolutely essential. An appeal, therefore, is made for immediate subscriptions and donations for the work.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

### Balnagask Miniature Rifle Club, Aberdeen.

Under the auspices of the above club, Miss Molony, of the Women's Freedom League, gave a lecture on Friday, April 10th. There was a large attendance of the members and their lady friends, who followed Miss Molony's lecture with great interest, enthusiastic applause being given repeatedly. A resolution was moved and duly seconded in favour of Votes for Women, which was unanimously carried.

The meeting, which had been a very enjoyable one, terminated with a vote of thanks to Miss Molony for her most interesting and clever lecture.

ALEXANDRA ROSE, Secretary.

JOHN M'KENZIE, Chairman.

### Caravan Campaign.

THIS week we give a few more details of arrangements for the tour of the Woman's Suffrage Van. It will have accommodation for two persons, who will take charge of its affairs for not less than a fortnight at a time; in addition, Suffragists who are also cyclists, and who can join the Van party from time to time, will be welcomed, as they will form a most useful advance-guard to prepare the way. It is hoped, too, to arrange for special speakers to meet the van at important places.

An approximate route has been made out for the early part of the summer, and includes the following places: Leatherhead, Guildford, Haslemere, Chichester, Bognor, Arundel, Worthing, Brighton. The villages along the route will not be neglected.

Mrs. Hicks, 7, Ornan Mansions, Hampstead, N.W., will be glad to have the names of those who are able to spend not less than a fortnight in this interesting and health-giving form of propaganda, with dates which would be convenient—arrangements are already made for the first month, i.e., till the third week in June, for which time Miss Muriel Matters will be one of those in charge of the van. Also of those who, though not able to give a whole fortnight, could join the cyclist party at any time.

### PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

From April 23rd to May 11th.

Thurs. 23	Social Meeting, 18, Buckingham Street	Miss FitzHerbert	3.30
	Central Branch,	Miss Hodgson	8
	18, Buckingham Street	Miss FitzHerbert	
Sat. 25	London Branch Secs., 18, Buckingham Street		3.30
Sun. 26	Hyde Park	Miss Matters	3.30
		Miss Mary Smith	
		Mrs. Winton Evans	
Wed. 29	43, Rosebery Gardens, Crouch End		8
Thurs. 30	Debate, 18, Buckingham St. Central Branch, 18, Buckingham Street	Miss FitzHerbert (chair)	3.30
		Dr. Thornett	8
MAY			
Fri. 1	Duologue, 18, Buckingham Street	Miss Hodgson	8
Sun. 3	Hyde Park	Mrs. How-Martyn	3.30
Thurs. 7	Public Meeting, Peterborough Social Meeting, 18, Buckingham Street	Miss Mary Smith	3
	Central Branch,	Mrs. Despard	3.30
	18, Buckingham St., Debate	Miss Matters	8
Sat. 9	Lewisham, Bazaar	Mrs. Despard	3
Sun. 10	Hyde Park	Miss M. Smith	3.30
Mon. 11	Cardiff, Public Meeting	Mrs. Despard	8
By-Elections, Meetings Daily:—			
Kincardine			
N.W. Manchester			
Wolverhampton			

Special "Suffrage Day," June 13th,

Procession starts from Embankment, 3 p.m., Albert Hall, 5 p.m.;

Tickets, 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d.

\*\* 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 arrangements for the Hampstead Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, May 5th, at 8 o'clock are now completed. The speakers, as announced last week, are Mr. Stanger, K.C., M.P., Mr. J. S. Fletcher, M.P., Miss Cicely Hamilton, author of 'Diana of Dobson's,' and Mr. Joseph Clayton, late editor of *The New Age*.

Tickets are on sale at the offices of the League, 38, Museum Street, W.C., at the Town Hall, and also at the following shops:—Messrs. Frankland, King & Co., Swiss Terrace, Hampstead; Mr. S. Mayle, Priory Press, 70, High Street, Hampstead; Mr. G. Buckle, Heath Street, Hampstead; and bookshops, College Crescent, Swiss Cottage.

The response to the circular letter inviting help from our London members has been most encouraging, and very cordial offers of assistance have been received from the Hampstead Branches of the other Suffrage Societies. Such support is not only of value in itself to the small number of men who can devote time to work at Museum Street, but also of good omen for the steady progress of the movement. There are those who say that the Suffragists are the victims of a passing enthusiasm, who sign a paper, attend two meetings, and relapse into indifference. Those who think so should come one day to Museum Street and see the daily budget of letters, some from new converts, others from old supporters, urging on the executive to greater ardour. Let all who have any doubt be present at the Hampstead Town Hall on May 5th.

As regards "tickets on sale or return." We shall be willing to send out a small number on this basis, but we would much rather have definite orders accompanied by a remittance! The "sale or return" system has two weaknesses: first, it increases the clerical work; second, unsold tickets are not invariably easy to recover, if the Office supply run short.

We deeply regret to announce that Mr. T. Mortimer Budgett has felt himself obliged, through uncertain health, to put his resignation from the office of joint Honorary Secretary in the hands of the Committee. At a meeting on April 14th, the Executive unanimously invited him to reconsider his decision, but no reply has yet been received.

We sincerely hope that Mr. Budgett will accede to the Committee's request. His services in the early months of the League's existence, and still more those which he rendered towards the success of the Queen's Hall meeting on December 17th of last year, cannot be overestimated. Day after day, when the other officers of the Society were necessarily engaged on their private duties, he struggled single-handed with the countless worries of ticket-selling and correspondence of all kinds. And even in the evenings, when the other officers were able to come to Museum Street, he frequently stayed with them till a late hour. It is questionable whether any member of the League will be found at once able and willing to give the time and business knowledge which, during those weeks, Mr. Budgett gave to the cause of Women's Enfranchisement.

## Alderley Edge.

MR. G. W. HENDY, one of our most enthusiastic members in Manchester and District, has arranged a meeting under the joint auspices of the Knutsford Suffrage Society and the Men's League, to take place at Alderley Edge on April 28th. The Rev. W. Hudson Shaw, M.A., will speak on behalf of the League, and the other speakers are Mrs. Swanwick, and Miss Margaret Robertson.

May we urge on our members in districts where no branch has yet been formed to take any opportunity which presents itself of arranging for joint meetings with any local women's society? The League will, in all ordinary cases, be prepared to bear some portion of the expenses (if they are not covered by the sale of tickets and the collection), and will do its best, on application, to provide a speaker. In this way we can not only, to some extent, assist the women's societies, but also lay the foundations of a branch of the League. It is obvious that a small staff tied to the London office can do little towards holding meetings in the non-metropolitan districts. But even a single member, backed up financially by the head office, can do a great deal. It is true that in so doing we are "accepting a lift" from the women's societies, but under the circumstances this is hardly unreasonable; we do not add to their work, and we may in many cases contribute a little to their success.

## Edinburgh.

THE EDINBURGH BRANCH is holding a public meeting on May 22nd, conjointly with the Edinburgh Branches of the National Union and the Women's Freedom League. Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Cicely Hamilton will speak for the latter societies, while the Men's League will probably be represented by the Earl Russell.

## Executive Committee.

The following gentlemen have been invited, and have accepted the invitation, to join the Executive:—Mr. Walter S. B. Maclaren, Mr. John Manson and Mr. J. E. Raphael. These gentlemen take different views as to the ideal policy for the League to pursue. Our members may, therefore, rest assured that the discretionary power vested in the Committee by the Annual Meeting a fortnight ago will be used with due regard to the feelings of all sections, and that every case will be fully considered on its merits.

## Literature.

MAY we remind members and friends of the League's pamphlet containing a verbatim report of the Queen's Hall Meeting (Dec. 17) speeches? We strongly commend them to those who are trying to sow the seed in stony ground.

The Literature Secretary, Mr. A. S. F. Morris, will be glad to receive applications. Price 3d. each, with a reduction for large quantities. It is hoped that members will make a real effort to sell this pamphlet, in order that the Literature Department may be encouraged to print other pamphlets the material for which is ready to hand.

## At Manchester.

*Socialist*.—For whom are you going to vote?

*First Liberal*.—Oh, for Churchill, I suppose.

*Unionist Tariff Reformer*.—But I thought you were in favour of Women's Suffrage?

*Liberal*.—So I am. Winston's a Suffragist too.

*Socialist and Unionist Tariff Reformer* (together). All the same you ought to vote against a Government which denies you Women's Suffrage.

*Second Liberal*.—Certainly he ought. I shall vote for Joynson-Hicks, who also is a Suffragist, and whose election will be a blow to the Government.

*Socialist*.—I shall vote for Dan Irving, because I'm a Suffragist.

*Second Liberal*.—But, my dear sir, if you're a Suffragist what's the good of voting for a Socialist? The Socialists won't have a majority in the House of Commons for long enough. You do no good to women's suffrage by voting for Irving.

*Unionist Free Trader*.—I shall vote for Churchill, because Joynson-Hicks is a Protectionist.

*Unionist Tariff Reformer*.—And I also because Joynson-Hicks isn't a Whole-Hogger.

*Liberal Churchman*.—I vote for Hicks. He is against the Education Bill.

*Unionist Teetotaler*. And I for Churchill. Down with the Brewers!

*Liberal Brewer*.—Hicks for ever! Down with Confiscation!

*The Suffragist Pure and Simple*.—If some one will kindly tell me whose victory would be the greatest gain to Women's Suffrage I should be glad to give him my vote. At present it seems to me that if Churchill gets elected it will be a triumph for a number of persons, all of whom loathe all his views except one, and no two of them will agree as to which one that is. His return will be a "crushing blow."

(a) To the Licensing Bill.

(b) To the Education Bill.

(c) To "Balfourian Retaliation," or "Little-Piggery,"

(d) To Women's Suffrage.

I'm in a really awful fix,

I find it most unnerving:

Whether to vote for Winston-Hicks

Or plump for Joynson-Irving.

However, vote as I may, wrongly or rightly, everybody in North-West Manchester knows perfectly well that "Votes for Women" is a real force at last.

## The New Ministry.

THE ASQUITH Ministry is completed, amid general approbation. What shall we say of it?

Judging by the division list on the occasion of the second reading of Mr. Stanger's Bill, we have no reason to be unduly depressed. In that division the new Prime Minister and Mr. Lewis Harcourt alone voted against us of the then Ministry. Mr. John Burns, Mr. Buxton, Mr. Gladstone, Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Haldane, Mr. Lloyd-George, and Mr. John Morley all voted for the Bill.

Of the new Ministry two did not vote—Mr. Buchanan and Mr. C. Hobhouse—the latter of whom was, we believe, at the time in India. On the other hand, Dr. Macnamara, Mr. C. F. G. Masterman, Mr. Runciman, and Mr. Mackinnon Wood all voted for the Bill. Since the division Mr. Winston Churchill has pronounced definitely in our favour. It would thus appear that we have not lost anything save the support of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, so far as Ministers are concerned.

All seems to depend on the new Prime Minister. Much has been said about his hostility to Women's Suffrage, and by some he is looked upon as the lion in the way. Now, though it is true that he voted with the Noes on February 28, we decline to believe that he is unalterably opposed to our demand. As a keen lawyer, to whom accuracy of thought is among the cardinal virtues, he must necessarily realize the justice and the logical inevitability of Women's Suffrage. On the other hand, that same equability of judgment, coupled with a knowledge of history, is a bar to our desires. Mr. Asquith will say, as he has said in the past—and we cannot doubt his sincerity—that all reforms come slowly with the welling up of popular demand. He is not the man to be bullied or to be carried away by enthusiasm. While he is in power we must use every means at our disposal to convince him, either by opposing his supporters or by propagandist work, that the country does need Women's Enfranchisement. Manchester, whatever the result, will tell

him this plainly and emphatically. Mr. Churchill will have something to say when he returns to the House, if our reports from Manchester mean anything. A strong Liberal writes to say that nothing is a greater menace to his party than the propaganda of the Women's Freedom League and the Women's Social and Political Union.

On the whole, we think that the prospects are distinctly encouraging. The Ministry is overwhelmingly with us, and we believe that the members of the Cabinet have begun to realize that their prospects of carrying through their programme successfully are seriously menaced by the defection of their women supporters.

## Woman's Freedom.

CHATS ABOUT PERSONS AND BOOKS.

No. 6.—John Knox, 1558 (continued).

John Knox wrote the 'Blast,' a fugitive from injustice, hunted from England and driven from Scotland, and although it was blown against all women it was chiefly meant for Mary Queen of England. Knox, in an interview with Mary Queen of Scots, admitted: "My book was written most especially against that wicked Jesabell of England." "But ye speak of women in general," said the Queen. "Most true, Madam, yet it appeareth to me, wisdom should persuade, your Grace should never raise trouble for that which to this day hath not troubled your Majesty."

May we not add that Knox was trained in the narrow tenets of the church, which at no period of its history was ahead of or even abreast with the most liberal tendencies of the particular age. How often has it sacrificed justice for statecraft and power! Weak though Knox's argument is, it is founded on the traditional view and conduct of "the godlie writers" towards women. But some of the eminent Churchmen, the noblest of them, revolted against the contents of his book. He chafed under their attacks, and writes from Dieppe in 1559, "My first blast hath blown from me all my friends in England. My conscience bears record, that yet I seek the favour of my God, and so I am in the less fear. The second Blast, I fear, shall sound somewhat more sharp, except that men be more moderate than I hear they are. England hath refused me, but because before it did refuse Christ Jesus, the less do I regard the loss of this familiarity, and yet have I been a secret and assured friend to thee, O England, in cases which thyself could not have remedied." Here we see a note of regret, although M'Creie asserts that he held in his views on women to the end. On the accession of Queen Elizabeth he abandoned the thought of further Blasts, "being desirous to strengthen rather than invalidate her authority." Indeed, he wrote a letter to Elizabeth through her Minister Cecil, in which he attempted to apologize "for his rude attack upon female government," and he craved permission to visit England. When the great fighter had become old and feeble and his time was drawing near, he exclaimed, "I know that many have frequently and loudly complained and do yet complain of my too-great severity, but God knows that my mind was always void of hatred to the persons of those against whom I thundered the severest judgements."

We have been reluctant to allow Knox to pour out the vials of his poison against the female sex, but since the original appeared 350 years ago, women may view it with calmness. It is necessary, however, to know the past, if we wish to understand the present, and we promise our readers to furnish a powerful antidote in our next paper.

(Contributed by E. DUVAL.)

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

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