

Women's Franchise.

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Notice to Contributors and Subscribers.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions. Subscriptions for the weekly numbers 1½d. a week post free. Back numbers can still be obtained, but the number for January 30th is very scarce, and costs 3d.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

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

Notes.

WE are issuing with this week's number, forms relative to the continuance of *Women's Franchise* which we request our readers to fill in and return.

THOUGH the Liberal Government steadily refuses to take definite action on the question of Women's Suffrage, it is satisfactory to see how many Liberal Associations are interesting themselves in the matter, and this fact alone will tell in our favour. Unfortunately want of space prevents us from publishing accounts of the many debates at the meetings of political, literary, and other associations which are sent to us, all carried in support of granting the Parliamentary vote to women. The following resolution, one out of many similar, was passed at the annual meeting of the Holborn Liberal Association:—"That this meeting is of opinion that women who are practically political offenders should not be treated as criminals, and expresses the hope that the Home Secretary may see his way to place such offenders in the First Division."

WOMEN do not realize how little the law protects them until they need its protection. Few wives know that their husbands are not bound to do more than merely to keep them from actual starvation. A woman recently told the Marylebone magistrate that for the last nine years she had only received 3d. a day from her husband, who was a soldier, for the support of herself and her two children. *The magistrate said that he could not send the man to gaol for not supporting his wife.* This case shows how much misery may result from laws passed ostensibly for women's benefit by men who know little or nothing about the subject from a woman's point of

view, and it also shows how necessary it is for women to be consulted before any change is made in the laws dealing with married women's labour. In this respect women are much better off in Turkey, for in that country a man is legally obliged to maintain his wife according to his position.

THE appointment of a third woman sanitary inspector at a salary of £120 a year, rising at the discretion of the committee to £150, was discussed at a meeting of the City Corporation, which was held on the 27th inst. Sir Robert Rogers wanted to know why a woman should be appointed instead of a man. Mr. Carl Hentschel maintained that women had done their work well.

An amendment was then moved by Mr. A. C. Morton, M.P., reducing the commencing salary by £10 per annum. Mr. J. H. Williams then moved to leave out the words "third woman" and substitute the word "male," which was seconded by Mr. George Edwards, who remarked that "a man had a more scientific training and a more liberal mind." Mr. J. H. Lile said it was a pity women had not been present to defend themselves against the attacks which had been made upon them that day. The amendment for the substitution of the word "male" instead of "third woman" was carried by 86 votes to 76. It was left to the discretion of the committee to appoint either a man or woman inspector. Our thanks are due to Mr. Carl Hentschel and to Mr. J. H. Lile for championing the cause of justice to women.

MRS. FAWCETT wrote recently in *The Guardian*:—"From statistics collected regarding the number of women in the United Kingdom who have received University education, it is found that over eight hundred women who have passed the degree examinations at Oxford and Cambridge, but are denied the degree by their own Universities, have taken advantage of the *ad eundem* degree offered to them by Trinity College, Dublin. As most of these ladies have probably taken both the B.A. and M.A. degrees, this means that Trinity College, Dublin, has received fees approximating to 16,000l. With characteristic generosity the College authorities have earmarked their receipts from this source, and intend to spend them solely for the benefit of their women students. The hospitality of Trinity College, Dublin, to the outcast students of Oxford and Cambridge ceased at the end of 1907. Henceforth those who desire the Dublin degree must matriculate and pursue their University course in Trinity College, Dublin."

WE have received subscriptions for *Women's Franchise* from Miss E. H. Baenziger on behalf of Mrs. Humphry Ward and Mrs. Arthur Stannard, and from Miss M. Stirling on behalf of J. W. Cleland, Esq., M.P. Miss Lucy Stables has sent a donation of two guineas towards the expenses of publishing *Women's Franchise*.

FURTHER ADDITIONS TO THE GUARANTEE FUND.

		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
Anon, Kent .. .. .	.. .. .	0	5	0	Brought forward .. .. .	.. .. .	5	7	0
A Friend .. .. .	.. .. .	1	0	0	Rackham, Mrs. .. .. .	.. .. .	1	1	0
Coward, Miss E. .. .. .	.. .. .	0	10	0	Sennett, Mrs. M. A. .. .. .	.. .. .	0	4	0
Forsyth, A. C. .. .. .	.. .. .	0	5	0	Tabor, M. C. .. .. .	.. .. .	0	2	6
Hogg, Mrs. A. L. E. .. .. .	.. .. .	1	0	0	Underwood, Mrs. .. .. .	.. .. .	0	10	0
Howse, Miss C. S. .. .. .	.. .. .	0	5	0	Vulliamy, Mr. and Mrs. E. .. .. .	.. .. .	2	2	0
Leicester and Leicestershire Women's Suffrage Society .. .. .	.. .. .	2	2	0	Total .. .. .	.. .. .	£9	6	6
Carried forward .. .. .	.. .. .	£5	7	0					

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

SWEDEN.—Reports from the Scandinavian lands are always delightful reading, abounding, as they do, in enthusiasm and hopefulness. In January the fifth annual meeting of the General Suffrage Association was held at Gäfle, about 100 miles north of Stockholm. No less than 42 local societies were represented by 46 delegates, who had travelled day and night through frost and snow in order to attend the Congress, and at its close went on to Stockholm, where a three days' course in Sociology was arranged for the members.

The President was able to present a most cheering report of the year's progress. During the last year 43 new branches had been formed, and over 70 meetings held, which were attended by thousands of men and women. Among the speakers were many Members of Parliament. A hopeful sign is the adoption of Women's Suffrage in the programme of the Liberal Party. As regards the Government attitude it was stated that the Prime Minister did not intend to introduce a Suffrage Bill this session. This intimation was received with much indignation, and resolutions against the Government were passed at the great public meeting which followed the Congress. The constitution of the Association was slightly altered, so that its first article now runs thus: "The General Association is a Union of Local Societies working to obtain Political Suffrage and eligibility for Swedish women on the same terms as for Swedish men."

The King's speech at the opening of Parliament on Jan. 15th for the first time contained a reference to Women's Suffrage. This, though negative, to the effect that no such Bill would be introduced this session, is, at any rate, an indication of the importance of the movement. All the opposition parties are, however, preparing their own Suffrage Bills. It is hoped that the question may gain a majority in the Grand Committee, in which case there would be a possibility of a majority in the Second Chamber.

THE NETHERLANDS.—Busy preparations are being made for the Congress of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, which opens at Amsterdam on June 15th. The festivities are to begin with a concert, at which a cantata will be performed, conducted by the composer, one of the most distinguished Dutch musicians. This will be followed by a reception, which will give opportunities for informal intercourse. On the following days there will be business sessions in the mornings and public meetings in the evenings. The afternoons will be devoted to excursions, visits to institutions, and the like. The proceedings will end with a farewell banquet in the Concert Hall.

Persons other than delegates wishing to attend the Congress can become members by payment of five Dutch florins. Names and subscriptions should be sent to Meuffrouw Johanna W. A. Naber, 5, Van Eeghenstraat, Amsterdam.

ITALY.—A branch of the Italian Suffrage Association (Comitato Nazionale per il voto alle Donne) has been formed at Milan. It meets on the first Friday in every month, and publishes an organ, *L'Alleanza*. Another branch has been formed at Bari, which has founded a women's club under the name of "Pensiero ed Azione." A. ZIMMERN.

The Woman Question and Mr. Stephen Phillips.

IN these days of commerce and political activity, poetry has come to be regarded as a negligible quantity by many practical men. By the masses it is held to be something fantastically remote from the uses of life. Nevertheless, as a matter of fact, poetry is an incalculable force in our work-a-day world. It inspires the thinking few, and the thinking few inspire the general public. When a cause gets poetry on its side, it is almost a foregone conclusion that cause will ultimately be won. Occasionally a poem written with a purpose attains popularity beyond the thinking few, and then

its influence is immediate. Hood in his 'Song of the Shirt,' and Mrs. Browning in her 'Cry of the Children,' have called attention to the sweating of working women and the evils of child labour in a way that perhaps no number of political speeches would ever have done. It is interesting, therefore, to notice that one of the greatest of all our living poets, Stephen Phillips, has called attention in a most sympathetic way to women's wrongs—to the very evils that are arousing the wrath and indignation of thinking women. His intuitive grasp of the psychology of the feminine mind is remarkable. Take, for example, his poem: 'The Woman with the Dead Soul.' It is a summing-up of the effect of repressed energies on woman. Though the woman he describes is one of the lower working class, we cannot help feeling how true his words are as applied to women of higher social status:—

She with a soul was born; she felt it leap
Within her; it could wonder, laugh, and weep,
But dimly as rain on ocean blear,
The days upon that human spirit dear
Tell; and existence lean, in sky dead grey,
Withholding steadily, starved it away.
She felt it ailing for she knew not what;
Feebly she wept; but she could aid it not.
She felt it die a little every day,
Flutter less wildly, and more feebly pray.
Stiller it grew; at times she felt it pull
Imploring thinly something beautiful,
For not at once, not without any strife,
It died; at times it started back to life
Now at some flower, or human face, or sky
With silent tremble of infinity.

* * * * *
Slowly she was aware her soul had died
Within her body: for no more it cried,
Vexed her no more; and now monotonous life
Easily passed; she was exempt from strife;
And from her soul was willing to be freed;
She could not keep what she could never feed.
Yet for a time more heavily and slow
She walked, and indolently worked, as though
About with her she could not help but bring
Within her busy body the dead thing.

This is the kind of woman whom the world, in accents of holy horror, calls callous. Not having the intuition of Stephen Phillips, it does not realize that people become callous because their capacity for mental and moral suffering is used up, luckily for them!

In 'The Wife,' which Stephen Phillips says is a true story, a woman who has no food to give her dying husband, goes out into the street and sells herself for bread. Such women—and Heaven only knows how many of them there are!—are the outcasts of society, and the men who take advantage of a woman's distress are freely forgiven by their fellow creatures. In the 'Question,' Stephen Phillips deals with the life of such men after they "settle down," having "sown their wild oats," according to the jargon of the day. Both "sowing wild oats" and "settling down" appear to be considered equally estimable performances. But Nemesis comes, as Stephen Phillips points out. A quondam woman-killer, now a father, is asked a troublesome question by his son:—

Why is my body then so weak?
Why do I falter in the race,
Why is my strength so quickly flown?
And, hark! my mother sobs alone.

He tells him why, and then recommends him to forget his pain in "the comfortable glass." "We cannot run from Destiny." He calls the result of his sin Destiny! But he breaks off with the words that express his inner torture: "Ah, how thy mother sobs alone."

From these horrors it is good to pass on to Stephen Phillips's conception of the aspirations of a pure-minded woman and of the exquisite possibilities of an ideal human union, as described in Marpessa. Marpessa is given the choice of the god Apollo or the mortal Idas for a husband. She

chooses the latter, though the god offers her "immortality without one sigh."

Existence without tears for evermore.

She gives her reasons. She wishes to share the burdens of her fellow-creatures:—

Yet would I not forego the doom, the place,
Whither my poets and my heroes went
Before me, warriors that with deeds forlorn
Saddened my youth, yet made it great to live;
Lonely antagonists of Destiny,
That went down scornful before many spears,
Who soon as we are born, are straight our friends.
To all this sorrow was I born.

I would scorn
To elude the heaviness and take the joy
For pain came with the sap, pangs with the bloom:
This is the sting, the wonder.

Concerning the life she will lead with Idas she says:—

Though youth,
With tender and extravagant delight
Pass off, there shall succeed a faithful peace;
Beautiful friendship tried by dust and wind,
Durable from the daily dust of life.
And though with sadder, still with kinder eyes,
We shall behold all frailties, we shall haste
To pardon, and with mellowing minds to bless.
Then though we must grow old, we shall grow old
Together, and he shall not greatly miss
My bloom faded, and waning light of eyes,
Too deeply gazed in ever to seem dim;
But we shall sit with luminous holy smiles,
Endeared by many griefs, by many a jest,
And custom sweet of living side by side.

S. F. WARING.

Fighting On—Suffrage Song.

In the age of toil and warfare, when our hope was almost dead,
When we bore the heavier burden in the green field and the red,

It was then we learnt our lesson—ere the gentler seasons shone—
Learnt the patience and endurance that now keep us fighting on!

We have known the prison fastness; we have shared in darker fears;
We have stood upon the roadway 'mid the insults and the jeers;
We have waited in the darkness till there gleamed the blessed dawn;
Now 'tis simple—marching forward; now 'tis easy—fighting on!

O! ye sturdy Saxon yeomen, who have striven with sternest powers,
O! ye hardy sons of Scotia, who once fought a fight like ours,
O! ye gallant men of Erin, watching yet a wished-for dawn,
Won't you cheer us marching forward, won't you help us, fighting on?

If they help, or if they hinder, still our hearts are light to-day:
There's a spirit burns within us which is more than we—or they!
From a Source whose power ne'er fails us all our strength and hope are drawn;
And the God of all the ages is beside us, fighting on!

So be jubilant, my sisters, never fear each morn to meet;
For our Flag is ever flying, and our drums beat no retreat;
And till every foe is vanquished, or till Life itself be gone,
They will hear us Marching Forward; THEY WILL FIND US FIGHTING ON!

CONSTANCE CLYDE.

The Scriptures and Women's Suffrage.

BOTH Mr. Wason and Mr. Rees contended in their arguments against the enfranchisement of women, that there is nothing in the Scriptures to warrant giving women such power.

How do these gentlemen read and understand the Scriptures? Certainly the Old Testament regarded women as necessary evils. St. Paul, and even St. Peter, were prejudiced against us. The Prayer-Book preaches subjection and wifely obedience, and our nation regards us as mere ciphers; but is this Christ's teaching? In all his personal teaching men and women are treated as equals in every respect, and by His coming the curses of our forefathers shall be removed far from us, and all the austere and cruel teaching of the Old Testament shall be broken down.

It is Christianity that is awaking us to the fact that women are responsible beings in the life of the world as well as men—that there is no inferior sex—that both sexes should endeavour to excel in all virtues, and not force, but love, righteousness, and justice should rule the world. By opposing women's claims to justice our so-called Christian country does not deal with us in a Christ-like manner. Z. KENNY.

Queen Esther.

SEVERAL members in the House of Commons referred to the Bible; but I do not think that any of them mentioned the Book of Esther.

In this book we are indeed told how the Persian ruler and his wise men were careful to counsel and decree "that every man should bear rule in his own house," and that "all the wives should give to their husbands honour, both to great and small." But from the same book we learn how a daughter of the chosen nation furnished, by her heroic conduct, a precedent for the illegal actions of our Suffragettes.

Queen Esther heard that her own people—a subject race, scattered and helpless—were to be destroyed.

A few women in England to-day have realized that large masses of their fellow-women cannot command a living wage by even their hardest labour, so that they must constantly be choosing one of three courses: (1) semi-starvation, (2) sale of body and soul, (3) suicide. It seems that in ancient days Eastern potentates, like modern European parliaments, made laws to protect themselves from the importunities of petitioners.

Queen Esther broke the law of her day. Without being called, she went "in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people."

The Suffragettes likewise entered the forbidden precincts of the House of Commons, to present a petition on behalf of their fellow-women.

Queen Esther did not gain actual deliverance from danger for her people, but only permission for them "to gather themselves together, and stand for their life."

The Suffragettes do not ask for direct intervention on behalf of their fellow-women, but only that they may be given weapons of defence—votes.

It is true that the measure now proposed—admission of women to the Franchise on equal terms with men—will leave many women still without a weapon (I mean a vote); but they will share this disability with many men. It will not be a sex disability. The Women Suffrage movement will be merged in the Adult Suffrage movement.

Those who deplore that in the present agitation women are forced to stand in apparent opposition to men, look forward to the time when, women having reached the same vantage-ground that men have already reached, there shall be no more opposition between them, and they shall be able to fight out the rest of the battle side by side.

Because there is but one truth;
Because there is but one banner;
Because there is but one light;

* * * * *
Because we have found not yet
Any way for the world to follow,
Save only that ancient way.

[Owing to lack of space, we are obliged to hold over Correspondence, Reviews, and other Articles.]

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.

Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA.

Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. MCLAREN.

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

MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT M.P.
MISS EDITH DIMOCK
MISS L. O. FORD
MISS MARTINDALE, M.B., B.S.

MRS. PECHY Phipson, M.D.
MRS. BROADLEY REID
HON. BERTRAND RUSSELL
MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN

LADY STRACHEY
And the Hon. Officers,
ex officio.

Current Topics.

We are much gratified to hear that our President, Mrs. Fawcett, has received the following telegram: "Italian National Committee for Women's Suffrage applauds success—wishes complete triumph to common cause. Donna Giacinta Martini." Dr. Aletta Jacobs of Amsterdam has also thought of us, and sent us a congratulatory telegram.

As one of the consequences of Mrs. Fawcett's tour we hope a Society for Women's Suffrage will be formed in Lancaster.

We are obliged to ask our secretaries and others who kindly help us with contributions to send in all communications not later than the second post on Saturday morning. The press of work on Monday is very great, and the difficulty of dealing with it is much increased when the news intended for insertion in the next week's number of *Women's Franchise* has to be read and sorted. We would remind our readers that our hon. secretaries are away, and that a great deal of extra work devolves upon those now in charge of the office.

The procession has been decided upon for May, so we hope every one will send in orders for banners as soon as possible.

Women graduates of London University should notice that the name of Sir Philip Magnus does not appear in the division lists in connexion with the Women's Enfranchisement Bill, and yet the papers tell us that he was speaking at a dinner given in London on the 29th ult., when he alluded to the fact that the University he represents was the first to grant degrees to women.

We note with satisfaction the indirect allusion made to Women's Suffrage by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster on the occasion of his recent visit to St. Joseph's Girls' College, Bradford. We hope we may claim His Grace as a sympathizer with our cause. At any rate, it cannot be said that he is antagonistic.

Members of Parliament who favour the further progress of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill intend to hold a meeting in the near future in order to consider the best steps to be taken with this object. It is believed that, as a result a memorial will be framed for signature and subsequently forwarded to the Prime Minister.

Classes for speakers are being held at the office 25, Victoria Street on Wednesdays at 5 o'clock. Ladies wishing to join should apply at once to Miss Corbett, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.

On Tuesday, March 3rd, five members of the Bournemouth Speakers' Club went by invitation to Christchurch, to hold a debate on Women's Suffrage at the Working Men's Institute. After the speeches several questions were asked and answered, and interest in the subject generally aroused. Mrs. Warren made a very humorous speech in reply to some objections offered by the men.

On Sunday, March 1st, at the invitation of the "Men's Class" of St. Bartholomew's Church, Wilmslow, Mrs. Swanwick gave an address in the schools, which was listened to with much interest, and many of the audience promised to help with a public meeting to be held in the Drill Hall there on April 1st, which is to be addressed by Mrs. Bertrand Russell.

At a meeting of the Federation of University Women held in Manchester on March 6th, the following resolutions were adopted, the first unanimously, the second with one dissentient: 1. That this Federation heartily approves the general principle of Women's Suffrage. 2. That the Federation instructs the Committee to make use of any constitutional methods it may judge desirable for forwarding the application of the principle.

At the quarterly meeting of the Somerset Women's Liberal Association, held March 5th at Bridgwater, one of the hon. secretaries resigned, as she wishes to give her whole time to work for Women's Suffrage. A resolution in favour of the immediate extension of the Franchise to women was carried *nem. con.*

A crowded meeting was held in the evening in the Town Hall, Mrs. H. Montgomery in the chair. Addresses were given by Mrs. Brownlow, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, who spoke on Women's Suffrage, Miss M. Clark, and Mrs. Martin. Mr. H. Montgomery, M.P. for the borough, who is a staunch supporter of the cause, alluded to it in his speech, as did Miss Clark and Mrs. Martin. The speeches were received with interest, and a resolution in favour was put, which was carried with only three dissentients. Many men declared that they were converted to the cause.

On Friday, March 6th, in the Rolls Hall, Monmouth, Mrs. Fawcett addressed a packed meeting, with Lord Llangatock in the chair. Her able and logical speech made a great impression. It is hoped that her splendid and kind championship will give impetus to the work which has been carried on in Monmouth for four years by a few members, under discouraging conditions.

We have received a donation from Miss Gertrude Moseley, Tunbridge Wells, which we have been unable to acknowledge, as we have not her address.

By-Election, Camberwell (Peckham).

We should like to call the attention of our readers to the fact that there is to be a by-election in Peckham. We shall be most grateful for help there, and shall be very glad if any one who is willing to address either committee meetings or small open-air meetings will communicate with us at the offices, 25, Victoria Street.

Cambridge University W.S.S

We are delighted to announce that a Cambridge University Women's Suffrage Society has been formed. We really might announce the same for Liverpool University, but there is a small technical difficulty to be got over.

When shall we hear from Oxford University?

5,000 Guineas Fund.

The fund is steadily growing—contributions, which will be acknowledged at the end of the month in *Women's Franchise*, come in almost daily—and they are accompanied in many cases by letters expressing warm sympathy and kindly appreciation of the object in view, which are very cheering to the Treasurer. One friend sends a cheque for one guinea, made up of thirteen small amounts—chiefly shillings and sixpences—collected by herself. Another, who promised 6s. on the evening of the reception has been "self denying," and has brought the promised donation up to a guinea.

Yet another friend writes that she "has hit upon the plan of offering for sale amongst her friends some excellent and well-tried recipes, and thinks that possibly others may take a hint from this suggestion"; and she adds, "though there may be many of us not able to give a guinea, we can earn it, and in earning it we shall be constantly bringing the question of Women's Suffrage under the notice of our friends, so making the subject discussed, and in this way we shall help the cause in other ways as well as financially."

If the sum is to be raised efforts must not be relaxed. Will friends who have not yet sent contributions do so without delay?
BERTHA MASON, Treasurer.

After the Second Reading.

THE Women's Enfranchisement Bill, having passed its second reading by a triumphant majority, has been relegated to a Committee of the whole House, and there, for practical purposes, it ends for this session. It therefore becomes necessary to ask ourselves how we are ever to get beyond a second reading. If the Government were to take up our measure, it would presumably become law. But the Government merely reflects the opinions of members of its party in the House. If the members who voted for the second reading were willing to put pressure upon the Government to give facilities, the Bill might become law this session. But we know that most of them are not willing. Just as the Government reflects the opinion of its party in the House, so the House reflects the opinions of the electors, and of those who, like the women who belong to political organizations, have the power of influencing the votes of electors. Thus it is only by agitation in the country that we can hope to avoid an endless series of second readings which come to nothing.

In all political agitation there are three bodies to be considered: the Government, the House of Commons, and the nation. (I say "the nation" rather than "the electors," because I believe that women, even without the vote, can find many means of making their desire for the vote effective.) Of these three, only the Government ultimately can give us Women's Suffrage. But the Government follows the lead of the House of Commons, and the House of Commons follows the lead of the nation. If the feeling in the country were such that members would feel their seats endangered if Women's Suffrage failed to become law, we may be sure that members would do their utmost to secure its enactment.

Thus it is not to the Government nor yet to the House of Commons that we must look for the impetus which is to bring us success, but to the nation. Pressure on the Government, or on individual members, may be a very effective form of propaganda, and as such may be valuable; but until we can bring sufficient pressure to bear to effect our object, it is chiefly for the sake of propaganda that it is worth while to exercise pressure. One of the advantages of taking part in by-elections is that by this method propaganda among electors is intimately combined with pressure upon candidates. But it is plain that there can be no effective pressure upon candidates or upon members or upon the Cabinet, except in so far as we have a vigorous popular movement at our back.

The apparent disadvantage of propaganda in the country, as compared with direct operations at headquarters, is that it seems slow, and makes great demands on patience. But it is not so slow, in the long run, as a succession of private members' Bills, each as barren as its predecessors. And our movement has now reached that point where it grows like a snowball by

the help of its own momentum. In a few more years we may hope to be such a power in the country as no Parliament and no Government can afford to neglect. And when that time comes, we shall have no difficulty in getting our reform passed into law. Meanwhile, let us realize that it is not primarily the Government or the House of Commons that we have to convert, but the nation. In this task we may go forward with good hope, in view of the extraordinarily rapid progress of recent years.

BERTRAND RUSSELL.

Worcester.

A SOCIETY for the extension of the Franchise to women was formed on February 26th. It is the direct outcome of the interest in the question excited by the visit to the city of members of various Suffrage Societies during the last election. The ladies who have entered their names as members are all firmly persuaded of the necessity for the extension of the Franchise, and keen to help in impressing this upon the unconvinced among the public. They are fortunate in having a representative in the House of Commons who has already given practical proof of his interest in the question. A General and Executive Committee have been formed. Mrs. Wilson has consented to be President, and Mrs. Carleton Rea and Miss Power were respectively elected Treasurer and Secretary, and the Executive Committee were as follows: Mrs. Bertram, Miss Francis, Miss Tree, and Miss M. Williams. The Society has received most useful help and suggestion from Miss Gardner, Secretary of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in Birmingham, and it is hoped it may now have started on a successful career.

Branch Societies.

LONDON. *North Kensington.*—A social evening with music and refreshments was held at Miss Eve's, 107, Lansdowne Crescent, on Thursday last. Miss Pitts, a Liberal worker in Central Finsbury, Mr. G. G. O'Dell, and Mr. Malcolm Mitchell all made excellent speeches.

South Kensington.—A large meeting of the residents of South Kensington was held on Tuesday evening, February 25th, at the Kensington Town Hall. It took the form of a demonstration in support of Mr. Stanger's Women's Suffrage Bill. Miss Bertha Mason, Hon. Treasurer of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies took the chair. Mrs. Snowden spoke first, followed by Mr. G. M. Freeman, K.C.

Mr. H. Yorke Stanger, M.P., himself spoke to the resolution, as did Mr. O'Dell, member of the Kensington Borough Council, and Mr. J. S. Fletcher, M.P. for Hampstead.

A resolution cordially thanking Mr. Stanger for devoting his place in the ballot to a Bill for Women's Suffrage was proposed by Mrs. Rackham, of Cambridge, seconded by Mr. Raphael, and carried. A collection was taken after Mrs. Rackham's speech, the total receipts from tickets and collections being about 29l.

Richmond.—An excellent meeting was held on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 25th, in Miss Foster Newton's drawing-room at Bingham House, Petersham Road. Miss Foster Newton, who took the chair, has been a Poor Law Guardian for twenty years, and she emphatically endorsed everything the principal speaker, Miss Abadam, said, particularly as regards the bearing of Women's Suffrage on moral and economic problems, in fact, in her opinion she thought Miss Abadam *understated* rather than overstated the case. Mrs. Yoxall and Mrs. Nott-Bower, among others, also spoke.

The audience, which was an intelligent and cultured one, rose generously to Miss Abadam's stirring call for more work and new workers. Her appeal met with a generous response, and before the meeting broke up each had undertaken to canvass one street thoroughly from house to house, and many other promises of solid work were given.

The local Press were represented, and reported the meeting. It has been decided to follow up this gathering by a public meeting on March 25th, at which Lady Frances Balfour and Miss Abadam will be of the speakers.

MANSFIELD.—A debate on Women's Suffrage was held on February 26th under the joint auspices of the Mansfield Women's

Suffrage Society and the Liberal Association. There was a good attendance, both of men and women, and it was evident that much interest was being taken in the subject. The debate was opened by Miss C. D. Corbett, of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, in a lucid and convincing address. She pointed out that men had thought it worth while to fight strenuously for the vote, and regarded it as a valuable possession; but the women who strove to get it were called unwomanly. The opposition all resolved itself into the old stock argument that women's place was at home. ("Hear, hear," from the men.) But some women had no homes, and many had to go out to work to make them. Our modest request was that we might be allowed to do the work for our sex which the men had proved themselves either unwilling or incapable of doing. Mr. Cripps supported Miss Corbett eloquently. Mrs. Manners, hon. sec. of the Mansfield Women's Suffrage Society, in referring to indirect influence, said she did not believe in the power of the woman "behind the throne." At the recent Liberal meeting the men had declined to accede to the request of the Women's Liberal Association to ask Mr. Markham to support Mr. Stanger's Bill. She had herself written to Mr. Markham, who had replied that he would be in his place when the Bill was introduced. Other speeches followed, and criticisms were replied to. A vote of thanks to Miss Corbett and to the Mansfield Women's Suffrage Society for their attendance was moved by the chairman, Mr. C. A. Houghton, and seconded by Councillor Hall. The meeting was lengthily reported by the local press, and will be of great value in forwarding the cause of Women's Suffrage in the county.

BLACKBURN.—The Blackburn Society recently held a meeting in the Town Hall, at which Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., was the chief speaker. A letter was read from Sir Henry Hobby regretting his absence, and remarking that he "was in favour of Women's Suffrage up to a point." At the conclusion of the speeches Mrs. Fawcett answered several questions, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded her.

LONDON.—Every day is full—so full, that it is difficult to find time to report on what has been taking place; and so much is "that most useful work, bringing conviction to the minds of women"—in other words "education"—which, though it takes much time, is almost impossible to report about.

It is very cheering how many people nowadays want to be educated. I have it constantly said to me, "Do come and see me quietly, and tell me more about it," or, "I want you to talk to one or two friends that I cannot beguile to a meeting."

On February 22nd Mrs. Franklin, 32, Hyde Park Gardens, had a very crowded evening meeting. Sir Albert Spicer was in the chair. Speakers: Lady Grove, Miss Bertha Mason, Miss Bompas, and Mr. Granville Barker. Mrs. Henry Campbell also gave a short and very interesting account of the efforts to obtain, and the working of, Women's Suffrage in Australia. The speeches were listened to with much attention, and several of the audience expressed their desire to become members of the Society.

On February 26th Mrs. Macnair, 20, Howley Place, had an afternoon drawing-room meeting, at which Miss Jenner spoke; and on February 28th Mrs. Lucas and Mrs. Sanger had an evening debate at 50, Oakley Street, Chelsea. There was a crowded attendance. Mrs. Bertrand Russell opened, and Mr. G. S. Bowles, M.P., opposed. Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell also spoke. When the debate was thrown open, many of the audience joined in the interesting discussion. The resolution, "That the Parliamentary Franchise should be granted to women on the same terms as it is, or may be granted to men," was carried by a large majority. Several people gave me their names as wishing to subscribe.

On March 3rd Miss Antrobus (and Mrs. Brockwell), 69, Cadogan Square, held a very well-attended At Home. Mr. Horniman, M.P., was in the chair. Lady Frances Balfour and Lady Knightley of Fawsley spoke.

In this report I have referred more than once to the good attendances at meetings. Hostesses tell me that they have so many applications for invitations, that they are obliged, for fear of overcrowding, to sometimes refuse to send more cards.

D. E. BERTRAM.

Battersea.—On Wednesday afternoon, March 4th, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Sinclair McDade, M.D., a drawing-room meeting was held at 146, Lavender Hill, S.W. Mrs. Worthy, the Mayoress of Battersea, made a capital introductory speech from the chair, after which Miss Cicely Corbett and Mr. John Leighton spoke. In reply to the objection that women who took part in politics might lose their womanliness, Mr. Leighton said that if womanliness meant sitting with folded hands in the drawing-room, while problems of intemperance and sweating were left in the gutter, he for one would be glad to see it disappear. The speeches provoked some discussion, and a number of new members were enrolled. It is hoped that as a result of this meeting a Battersea Committee of the London Society may be formed.

REIGATE.—A very successful meeting of the Reigate Women's Suffrage Society was held in the Market Hall, Redhill, on Thursday, February 27th. The hall holds nearly 600 people, and was packed by an attentive audience, and the only thing wanting was a little healthy opposition. Mrs. Auerbach, the President of the Society, took the chair, and opened the meeting. She read letters in support of the cause from Mr. Brodie, the present member, Capt. Rawson, the Conservative candidate, and the Mayor of Reigate. Mrs. Snowden made an eloquent appeal on behalf of the working women of England. Mr. Israel Zangwill gave one of his witty and epigrammatic addresses. Mr. Bart Kennedy then made a vigorous speech, and was followed by Mrs. Zangwill.

SHEFFIELD.—A business meeting was recently held at the Wentworth Café, where officers and members of the Committee were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. Robert Styring; Vice-President, Mrs. W. Sinclair; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Freeman; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Earp. Arrangements are also being made for a public meeting at the Builders' Exchange, Cross Burgess Street, on March 19th, when Miss Margaret Ashton of Manchester will speak.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

			P.M.
12th	London, N. Kensington, Drawing-Room Meeting	Speakers, Mrs. Stanbury Miss Wright, D.Sc. Mr. W. L. George	8.30
	S. Kensington, Debate, 8, Queen's Gate Terrace	Chair, Mrs. Hylton Dale Speakers, Mrs. Fabian Ware Miss Murrell Maris	
	Penge, Public Meeting, Co-operative Hall	Speaker, Miss Abadam	8
	Wimbledon, Drawing-Room Meeting	Speaker, Mrs. Rackham	
13th	Sutton Coldfield, Branch Meeting, Binoric, Four Oaks	Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour Mrs. Bertram	3
17th	Uppminster, Drawing-Room Meeting	Hostess, Mrs. Mason	3.30
18th	Darlington, Drawing-Room Meeting, 2, Elton Terrace	Mrs. Flora Annie Steele	3.30
	London, Lantern Lecture on India, The Mall Hall, Notting Hill Gate		
	Tickets, 5s. and 2s. 6d., to be obtained from Miss H. D. Cockle, 34, De Vere Gardens, Kensington. Proceeds for London Society for Women's Suffrage.		
	Surbiton, Public Meeting, Assembly Rooms	Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour Mrs. Lethbridge	3
19th	Bucks, High Wycombe, First Annual Meeting, Town Hall	Chair, Lady Knightley, of Fawsley Speakers, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Miss F. J. Dove, Earl Russell	
	London, Drawing-Room Meeting, 55, Chancery Lane	Hostess, Mrs. Carl Hentschel	
	Tonbridge, Debate, Conservative Association, S. Ward	Speaker, Lady Frances Balfour Speaker, Miss Cockle	
23rd	London, Hampstead, Drawing-Room Meeting, 103, Greenroft Gardens	Hostess, Miss Thomas	
25th	Bristol and West of England W.S.S., Band of Hope Union Rooms, St. James's Square	Meeting of Subscribers and Members of Women's Co-Operative Guild	3
	Handsworth, Public Meeting, Unionist Association	Chair, Lady Smith Speaker, Miss O'Shea	3.30

* Kindly address all communications relating to the work of Societies in the N.U.W.S.S. and all paragraphs intended for these columns to Miss Hardcastle, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.; to reach her by first post Saturday. Please write only on one side of paper.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

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
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Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

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MRS. M. CLAYTON
MISS HAMILTON

Notes.

THE WASONIAN THEORY.—"Oh! 'tis Force, 'tis Force that makes the world go round." It used to be Love, but fashions change. Since Mr. Wason's brilliant and scientific dissertation, in which he traced to its origin the reason for the daily finding of heads on pillows upon which they had been laid over night, there has been much heart-searching among Suffragists. Are we really to wake up the morning after our Enfranchisement Bill becomes law, to find our heads gone? That is the question. Mr. Wason certainly appears to be anxious about his own, a circumstance suggesting that it may be only Liberal M.P.s who are to be decapitated by Women's Votes. But some of them are losing their heads beforehand at the bare mention of the subject, and as the only other loss they are likely to sustain when women are on the register is that of their seats, we begin to suspect that is what is frightening them. This is what Mr. Wason probably meant when he said heads. And the moral of that is (as the Duchess said) "take care of the sense and the sound will take care of itself." However that may be, let every woman remember that the startling and hitherto unexplained phenomenon presented at every fresh dawn of day by the appearance of her own head on the identical spot upon which she saw it last, is, according to the Wasonian theory, to be attributed solely to the existence of the Army, Navy and Police. The only thing that Mr. Wason did not make clear was, what this has to do with Votes for Women. He inquires "what contributions women make to force?" as if that has something to do with it; if it has then we have a right to ask what contribution has Mr. Wason made to force? As far as we know he is not a policeman, soldier, or sailor. It is even doubtful whether he trawls and whales with his own hands, and it is quite certain that there is no force in his arguments. Thus, as the security of our heads seems to demand that Mr. Wason (according to his own showing) be removed from Parliament and deprived of his vote, members of the Women's Freedom League will be quite ready to accomplish the first part of this national service at the very next General Election.

THE RULE OF THE REPTILE.—We find another advocate of the force theory in Mr. Brighthouse, coroner for South-West Lancashire, who has been inciting a collier to violence by advising him to "hammer" his wife. This genial coroner has informed a newspaper reporter that "there is too much sickly sentiment abroad," that a woman who sells the furniture to get drink is "past reform, and the law ought not to prevent a man from chastising her." Mr. Brighthouse does not inform the world what a woman is to do when her husband sells the furniture for drink; but the Force theorists ought to approve of her vigorous application of the poker to his head. What idyllic homes we shall have when the "sickly sentimentalist" dies out! The theory of the rule of Force seemed once to have been disproved in the history of evolution by the dying out of the huge and ferocious reptiles that inhabited the earth, and by the survival of weaker, gentler, and more intelligent species; but we must remember that evolution works backwards as well as forwards. These Force symptoms look like a tendency to revert to the characteristics of our reptilian ancestors.

Save the Bill.

It is possible to save the Women's Enfranchisement Bill. It is possible to defeat the last Parliamentary trick by means of which the further progress of the Bill has been endangered. But to carry the measure through its further stages and place it triumphantly upon the Statute Book requires immediate, united, and energetic action.

It has been said by some Suffragists that the matter rests now in the hands of the Government. It does not. It rests in ours. Through the Government we must certainly act; upon the Government we must certainly bring pressure to bear; but if we are going to stand by and leave the matter in the hands of the Government the Bill is dead.

True, the Government alone can save our measure; but it has no keen desire to do so, as the events of the last three years conclusively prove. The knowledge that it must take action, that it must give facilities, has to be driven home to the Ministry, and has to be driven home by us. We are the people who must act, and now is the time for action. Now. Every Woman Suffragist who is worth the name must rise to the occasion. Every effort must be put forth, every idea utilized, every sacrifice made, to impress upon the House of Commons, upon the public, and upon the Ministry that the Women's Enfranchisement Bill must be saved.

The Bill is in danger, and some women are still wondering what to do, or say, or think about the victory of a fortnight ago. The Bill is in danger, and some Suffragists are still congratulating each other upon the vote. The Bill is in danger, and many workers are standing idle. *The Bill is in danger*, and these men and women who stand idle are the only people who can save it. For numbers are required to demonstrate to the world that the hour for woman's liberty has arrived. Mark the burden of the opponents' speeches during the Second Reading debate—it is always a request for numbers, for a universal demand, for proof that great multitudes of women and men desire this reform.

We know that the numbers exist. Hundreds of thousands of men and women are convinced of the right of women to the vote, and of the nation's need of their service. But these hundreds of thousands are not active. They are waiting the call of their leaders. The call so far has not come. The Women's Freedom League realizes the importance of the crisis, and gives the call, crying to all the hundreds of thousands of Suffragists in the country: "Save the Bill! You alone can save it. Take action now. The need is great, the crisis is upon us. Let us see that the mandate of the House of Commons to the Ministry is complied with. The Bill is in danger; but there is hope, and this hope can be realized by us alone. Take up the work. Raise the rallying cry—'Save the Bill!'"

The following lines of action should be immediately adopted: 1. Memorials addressed to Cabinet Ministers, and calling upon the Government to give facilities to the Women's Enfranchisement Bill, should be immediately drawn up and circulated in thousands.

2. Letters and post-cards should be forwarded to the friendly Members of Parliament asking them to memorialize the Government with the same request.

3. Every London and provincial Society should send "Save the Bill" deputations to lobby in the House of Common.

4. All those who are willing to take militant action if the Government refuses to adopt or give facilities to the Bill should immediately send in their names to 18, Buckingham Street, Strand.

5. "Save the Bill" meetings and processions should be organized, and memorials sent from them to the Government.

6. Every friendly editor should be urged to come to our assistance in the press.

7. Special committees to canvass for signatures should be called into existence.

8. All kindred and sympathetic societies should be urged to hold "Save the Bill" meetings, to pass resolutions, and to memorialize the Government and the local Members of Parliament.

9. If the Government refuses to yield within a reasonable time to the constitutional pressure every Woman Suffragist should be prepared to volunteer for danger duty in order to *Save the Bill*.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

Prison Reform Needed.

I am very glad to have had an opportunity of observing, from within, the prison system of Holloway. I have nothing to say about the manner in which the system is carried out by the authorities and wardresses; they are not responsible for the regulations which it is their duty to carry out. But there are several very important parts of that system which appear to me, as a doctor, to be in great need of reform and alteration. These are:

1. *The solitary confinement of the prisoners.*—I put this first as the most important. For any human body to be condemned to absolute solitude is contrary to the laws of nature. Every man and woman who is born into the world is born into some kind of human surroundings. There is no natural law more absolutely incontrovertible than this, and no such positive law can be broken without injury to some part of the natural mechanism.

In the case of prisoners, solitary confinement is injurious both to the brain and the character, both the mental and moral nature suffer from it. Physical mutilation of prisoners has long been condemned, and abandoned by all civilized nations, as barbarous and contrary to the laws of justice; and mutilation of the mind is no more justifiable than mutilation of the body. Even during the comparatively short terms of one month and six weeks many of our prisoners have felt the effect on their minds of the long hours of solitude in a bare and empty cell. What must be its effect on those who are subjected to it for months, and even for years? Women of education, with resources of knowledge and culture, and with no sense of wrong-doing, no apprehension for the future weighing upon them, have felt their minds becoming "vacant" and incapable of connected thought, and even, in some of the more nervous cases, becoming what we call "unhinged." To an ignorant and unintelligent brain, weighted perhaps with regret or remorse, or with a sense of wrong and injustice, the injury would be deeper and more permanent.

2. *The rule of silence.*—Even on the occasions when the prisoners leave their cells for an hour's exercise in the prison yard, or for a short service in the chapel, they are not allowed to speak to each other. This rule has the same disadvantages as the preceding one of being unnatural, and of weighing most heavily upon the weak and ignorant, who, perhaps through that very ignorance and weakness of character, have succumbed to the temptations which have brought them within the power of the law.

3. *That there is no woman doctor appointed to the prison.*—According to the present regulations, the doctor, a young man, stands in the open door of the cell, with one of the wardresses beside him, and asks the prisoner if she is "all right," and if she has anything to complain of. What can she say? There are many details of a woman's life and health, which she would be unable to mention under those circumstances. Many of the prisoners are young girls, who, even if they are thieves and criminals, need not have lost a young girl's modesty and shyness before a young man. There ought to be in every woman's prison a woman doctor, who can go into the prisoner's cell, shut the door, and quietly listen, alone, to any details of the health,

of mind or body, that she may wish to speak about. The compulsory examination of prisoners on their entrance is also a rule which is liable to have an undesirable effect on many of the women of the classes which furnish the greater numbers of inmates of the prison.

4. *That there is no female sanitary inspector.*—There are some habits and arrangements in Holloway prison, which are neither cleanly nor sanitary, which would not be allowed in any factory, but would be reported at once by the sanitary inspector. If the whole modern theory of public health is not to be looked upon as a fallacy, there should be a female inspector in Holloway prison to see that its rules are carried out.

HELEN BOURCHIER, M.D. (Paris)

"For Valour."

CAXTON HALL will undoubtedly go down to fame as the site of many memorable battles—the women's Waterloo. It will also receive special mention—after last Thursday's ceremony—as the place where those who had stood pluckily to their guns through the fiercest firing received their meed of appreciation, in the first bestowal of the Women's Freedom League Badge of Honour. It was a happy inspiration the founding of this decoration, and never was decoration more worthily won. The ten recipients will surely treasure the little silver token as a possession of great price.

The need for still further efforts in the way of work and self-sacrifice was eloquently pointed out by the chairman, Mrs. Despard. "We must strain every effort to get this most necessary reform carried *now*. Failure to do this will mean that all the work will have to be done again, and done more strenuously next session."

The released prisoners, judging from the cheerful and humorous way in which they spoke of their experiences, were certainly not suffering either from depression of spirits or diminution of ardour. It is a pity that the Home Secretary and the magistrates who are so determined to "stamp this sort of thing out!" were not there to profit by the lesson which was given out! It was the futility of trying to break resolution and courage on the wheel of petty tyranny. All had little glimpses of the funny side of prison life to present to us. Mrs. Sanderson described the feeling with which she joined in the psalm in which the damaging admission is made that "all men are liars." A poignant memory of how the policeman who arrested her had gone into the witness box and sworn that she had been guilty of insulting language and violent behaviour caused her to add, as a heartfelt rider to the original text, "especially policemen." Dr. Helen Bouchier, who had gone into Holloway ignorant as to how a floor should be scrubbed, had learnt twenty-four different ways of doing it, and felt competent now to pose as an authority on the subject.

Mrs. Sainty, who appeared on the platform in prison dress, described an interesting interview that she had had with a visiting magistrate. He proved to be a neighbour of hers in Garden City. Miss Mary Pearson, who was the proud recipient of twopence paid her by the Government for five weeks' hard work in sewing postmen's bags, gave, in an excellent little speech, some very interesting facts about the prison system in Japan. It found a contrast to ours in that solitary confinement was unknown except as a special punishment for insubordination, and then only for a period of three days, and also that silence was not exacted. All spoke with great feeling and determination of the necessity for carrying on the fight until it was won, if only for the one object of bringing about prison reform. "The faces of the women shut up there," said one, "speak much more eloquently of privation and suffering than of degradation and crime."

"Save the Bill!" was Mrs. Billington-Greig's message to the meeting—a message that was eloquently and forcibly driven home.

The audience showed the greatest enthusiasm, and gave practical and commendable proof of their sympathy, for over 200*l.* was collected and promised in the hall—a method of applause which is worthy of imitation, and which is specially appreciated by the Treasurer.

M. H.

'Beware! a Warning to Suffragists.'

It is rather late to review the rhymes of Miss Cicely Hamilton, which, under the above title, were published over a week ago. The Suffrage public has already pronounced in their favour, and hundreds of copies have been sold. A word of thanks, however, ought to be addressed through these columns to our fellow member, Miss Hamilton, and to Mesdames Hedley-Charlton, Meeson-Coates, and Mary Lowndes, the artists whose clever and amusing sketches point the moral and adorn the tale. The bravest anti-Suffragist may well tremble when he studies this little brochure and realizes that we have talent and humour on our side—deadly weapons, against which prejudice and ignorance have ever fought in vain. Our only regret in the matter is that the sketches of the interior of Holloway reveal the fact that the artists have not been to prison themselves—as yet. The Second Division clothing is not the comfortable and aesthetic affair that the artists evidently imagine it to be; nor are the prisoners allowed to do anything so human as to sit upon the floor. Moreover, if a prisoner dared to say, "I want—I want a Vote," the discipline of the entire establishment would be considered endangered. But apart from these few inaccuracies, however, we have nothing but unstinted praise to give to both rhymes and sketches.

Correspondence.

DEAR MADAM,—Now that the season of Lent is upon us, I should like to suggest that all Suffragists practice self-denial for the six weeks and devote their Lenten savings to the cause.

Surely there could be nothing more in keeping with the spirit of the Master who instituted the Lenten fast than this! For He came to establish the principle of self-sacrifice and to teach the equality of the sexes. Till His coming all traits peculiar to the masculine character were deified, such as dominance, aggressiveness, &c., but He came to commence a deification of feminine characteristics, and if the tactics of militant Suffragists seem at present contradictory to those characteristics, it is only a seeming paradox, and merely proves once again the maxim "We must lose our lives to find them."

I have been in the habit of giving my Lent savings to a charity, but shall give them to the cause this year.

G. BALLAM.

Scottish Notes.

ON Wednesday evening Mrs. Billington-Greig addressed a large, and at the close enthusiastic meeting in the Labour Institute, Camlachie, on 'Why Women should not Wait for Adult Suffrage.' She explained the great danger to women in an Adult Suffrage agitation. It always resolves itself into Manhood Suffrage when a Bill comes to be dealt with by any legislative assembly. You have only to turn your attention to France, Austria, and the United States of America as a proof of the contention. One or two questions were asked, and the whole audience rose to their feet with enthusiastic applause as Mrs. Billington-Greig left the hall.

As we are going to make the Scottish Section the feature of the Sale of Work, it behoves us all to make a very strenuous effort individually and collectively between now and the end of March.

On March 14th a sale will be held in Edinburgh of perishable goods, such as cakes, jams, sweets, tarts, &c. An exhibition of the goods to be sent to London will be on view on March 21st; also a sale of the perishable goods will be held in the office, 30, Gordon Street, on the same date. All goods to be sent to Mrs. Bell, 39, Comely Bank Place, Edinburgh, for the Edinburgh Sale.

The Prince of Wales Halls have been taken from 7 P.M. till 10 P.M. for the Reception to welcome the Scottish Prisoners on March 14th in Glasgow. Miss Isa Hamilton will preside. Tickets are 1*s.* each, and can now be obtained from the office.

We hope that a kiosk will be opened for the sale of literature in the forthcoming Scottish National Exhibition grounds. This will mean both money and a number of volunteers to take charge and be in attendance. Will members living in or near Edinburgh who are willing to give a certain amount of time, either daily, weekly, or monthly, send in their names.

MARGARET CARRIGAN, Interim Secretary.

Branch Notes.

Middlesbrough Branch.—At a very enthusiastic meeting on February 26th, it was unanimously decided to petition every M.P. who voted for the Suffrage Bill urging him to follow up this act of public belief by an insistent effort to secure further recognition of it this Session. The Secretary was instructed to write a similar letter to the Prime Minister also calling his attention to the unjust treatment of Suffragists now in Holloway. A memorial to the Government is also to be signed. The meeting ended with a bright little address given by Miss Jacob.

Glapham Branch.—Our fortnightly meetings continue, and the last three have been better attended. Last Monday we had as subject 'Susan B. Anthony,' now we feel we must put on full speed to be ready for the Bazaar. L. E. T.

Glasgow Western Branch.—At a full meeting of members on March 4th the following resolution was unanimously carried: "That this branch of the Women's Freedom League strongly urges the Government to adopt the Women's Enfranchisement Bill, in accordance with the mandate given in the House of Commons on February 28th, so that the measure can pass into law during the present session of Parliament."

It was agreed to send a copy to the press and member of Parliament for the division. J. K. P.

Edinburgh Branch.—Miss Jack reports an interesting meeting of her branch on March 3rd, which Miss Irwin addressed on the subject of 'Sweated Industries.' The meeting was well reported in the local press. At the close of the meeting a resolution was passed calling on the Government to adopt the Women's Enfranchisement Bill so as to make it law during the present session. A petition to the same effect was also largely signed.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

From March 12th to March 25th.

Thurs. 12	✓ Social Meeting, 18, Buckingham Street	Miss Crickmay	3.30-6 P.M.
	✓ Manchester, Coal Exchange, Public Meeting	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Despard Mrs. Manning Rev. J. E. Manning, M.A.	7.30
Fri. 13	Committee Room, Hackney Baths	Mrs. Despard	8
	The Studio, Talton Buildings, Sale, Manchester	Mrs. Despard	3
	✓ Kilmarnock, Public Meeting	Mrs. Sanderson Miss Anna Munro	8
Sat. 14	✓ Reception at Prince of Wales' Rooms, Glasgow	Scottish ex-prisoners Miss Hamilton Mrs. Billington-Greig	7-10
	Cake and Candy Sale at Mrs. Macleod Esson's, 14, Hart Street, Edinburgh		3-8
Mon. 16	✓ Dumfries, Public Meeting	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Billington-Greig	8
	18, Buckingham St., Debate Clapham, 18, Orlando Road	Miss Ballam Mrs. Greenwood on 'Ballad of Fair Ladies in Revolt'	8
Tues. 17	✓ Pollokshields, Glasgow, Public Meeting	Mrs. Sanderson Miss Munro Mrs. Billington-Greig Rev. D. Graham	8
	Edinburgh, India Buildings	Miss Marshall	8
Wed. 18	Tottenham, High Cross Institute	Miss Neilans	8
	Working Party, "Merok," Great North Road, Highgate, N.		6
Thurs. 19	✓ Helensburgh, Public Meeting	Miss Murray Mrs. Billington-Greig	8
	✓ Social, 18, Buckingham Street Glasgow, 30, Gordon Street, Exhibition and Sale of Goods	Mrs. Despard Dr. Thorntott Miss Munro	3.30
Sun. 22	Cong. Church, Anerley	Mrs. Sanderson	9.45
Mon. 23	53, Dingwall Road, Croydon	Mr. J. McCabe	8
Wed. 25	Partick Burgh Hall	Mrs. Billington-Greig	

March 31st and April 1st Suffragist Bazaar, Caxton Hall.
Admission: Afternoon, 1*s.*; Evening, 6*d.* and 3*d.*

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

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

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Notes and Comments.

THE League has again been active during the past week. In the House of Commons two of our members, Mr. H. C. Brodie (Lib. Reigate) and Mr. Philip Snowden (Lab. Blackburn) spoke in favour of Mr. Stanger's Bill, and other supporters of that measure have since joined or promised to join the League. On Wednesday *The Times* published a letter from Mr. I. Zangwill, which controverted the "physical" force arguments expounded in a previous issue by Dr. John Massie; and on Tuesday Mr. J. M. Mitchell dealt with the same topic in a letter to *The Daily News*. Individual members of the League, who may be anxious to undertake some definite share in its work, could render valuable service by watching for the recurrence of hostile arguments in the press, and by stamping on each fallacy as soon as it crops up.

We urge all members of the Men's League to make a special note of the Annual General Meeting, to be held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on Monday, April 6th, at 7 P.M. The increase in the members' roll during the last few weeks makes it absolutely necessary that the administrative machinery should be improved immediately. Opportunities for good work are being neglected through sheer inability to get the work done. A formal notice, with a copy of the committee's report, will be issued to every member in the course of next week.

A magnificent meeting was held on March 8th in the Temperance Hall, Leicester. The speakers were W. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P. (chairman), H. Y. Stanger, K.C., M.P., Mrs. Philip Snowden, the Hon. Geoffrey Howard, M.P., J. Malcolm Mitchell and Victor Grayson, M.P. The audience (of not less than 1,500) was largely composed of men, and a resolution, calling on the Government to grant facilities for the further progress of Mr. Stanger's Bill, was carried enthusiastically, with very few dissentients. The meeting was organized jointly by the Leicester representatives of the National Union and the National Women's Social and Political Union. The organizers, especially Miss Gittins and the Rev. Gertrud von Petzold, are to be warmly congratulated.

Wandsworth.

On Thursday evening, March 5th, a meeting was held at 31, Spencer Park. The speakers were Miss Gladys Wright and Mr. J. E. Raphael, who took as his text the recent debate in the House of Commons on the Second Reading of Mr. Stanger's Bill, and very effectually demolished the various arguments which were brought forward on February 28th by the opponents of the measure. A lively discussion followed the speeches, after which a resolution urging the Government to grant facilities for the further stages of the Women's Suffrage Bill was carried unanimously. A collection was taken for the funds of the Men's League, and several of those present gave in their names as new members either of this League or of the London Society for Women's Suffrage.

The Press and the Bill.

A SURVEY of the morning papers, taken on February 29th, the day following the second reading of Mr. Stanger's Bill, reveals a wide divergence of opinion, although the result is, on the whole, encouraging to the supporters of Women's Suffrage.

The Times points out in a leading article that the House of Commons has already approved of the principle of the Bill on four occasions since 1867, when "John Stuart Mill first formally

brought up the question on an amendment to the Reform Bill... the last occasion having been in 1904, when the majority was 114." It notes with approval the serious character of the discussion: "It is true that some of the speeches were marred by the poor witticisms which have become almost traditional on such an occasion, but the general level of the debate showed a gravity and a sense of responsibility suitable for the discussion of what is a most important problem." The article contends that Parliament would not "be justified in passing such a revolutionary measure without a categorical injunction from the country"; it also brings forward the arguments that society is ultimately based upon force, and that the majority of women are indifferent or hostile to the idea of their own enfranchisement.

The leading article devoted to the Bill by *The Daily News* has already been noted in these columns. It is frankly favourable to the principle of the proposed reform, but maintains that a measure so fiercely opposed cannot be allowed to become law without a direct appeal to the electorate. It dwells strongly on the protective value of the vote to women of the poorer classes, and concludes with the hope that this agitation may "increase the demand for the giving of the vote to every adult, irrespective of sex."

"For the third time in thirty-seven years," according to the *Standard*, "a Women's Suffrage Bill has passed a second reading in the House of Commons. So unmistakable was the feeling of the House that the Speaker granted the closure, and Mr. Rees's amiable design of talking the Bill out was defeated. The measure was then sent to a Committee of the whole House... Mr. Gladstone declared that 'it has not been sufficiently demonstrated that women, as a whole, desired the vote.'... Because every woman in the country does not want the vote, therefore none shall have it—that is the position... The other contentions, such as those of mental incapacity or physical inability, have, as Mr. Atherley Jones observed, been tacitly abandoned."

"The success of yesterday," says the *Morning Post*, "is the greatest in the Parliamentary history of the movement. It was achieved after full warning. Both the members voting for the Bill and the actual majority are higher than any recorded before... It marks the progress of a tide which has been steadily rising for thirty years; which, beyond doubt, will some time rise high enough to overcome all obstacles. The opposition to Women's Suffrage is substantially that of simple inertia. The ultimate argument for yesterday's Bill remains not the expectation of any particular influence upon legislation or administration, but the difficulty, or rather the impossibility, of justifying the disqualification on the ground of sex of a person otherwise fully qualified to vote."

The Daily Chronicle, in a leading article, sums up in favour of enfranchisement, but demands a further mandate from the women: "Let the women of the United Kingdom show that they generally demand the Franchise, and the men, we may be sure, will not say them nay."

From a cursory examination of *The Daily Telegraph* it would almost appear as though the second reading of the Bill had passed unnoticed by its editorial staff. There is, however, an account of it in small type, under the heading 'Parliament'; but the debate is merely recorded without comment, and the subject has evidently been overshadowed by the Licensing Bill.

The Daily Mail, which devotes nearly two columns to the Bill, expresses no opinion on its merits, and dwells chiefly on the picturesque or humorous side of the debate. It observes that the measure is "extremely unlikely to pass through the House of Commons, not to mention the House of Lords." One fact of great importance is noted, the "extraordinary cross-voting," which justified in a such convincing fashion the contention that the campaign for Women's Enfranchisement is a cause above all party distinctions.

The Yorkshire Post has a special article, entitled 'Victory for the Women!' which is adequately described by its sub-heading, 'Humours of the Suffragist Debate.' The subject is not seriously discussed.

The Manchester Guardian gives a very full report of the proceedings in the House, and comments on them in its principal leading article. No provincial paper wields a greater influence or wields it with greater care, and the reasoned, official opinion of *The Manchester Guardian* is thus of first-rate importance. Its conclusion is full of encouragement: "The Liberal Government would do one of those bold things which are really the prudent things if it acted simply on the fact that the enfranchisement of women is just, brought in a measure to carry it out, and left men and women in the country to reconcile themselves to the shock of doing and receiving justice as best they might."

Woman's Freedom.

CHATS ABOUT PERSONS AND BOOKS.

No. 6.—The First Blast of the Trumpet against the monstrous regiment of Women. Veritas temporis filia, MDLVIII., (John Knox, 1558).

THE great informer "feared not the face of any man," nor, we might add, of any woman either, for did he not beard Mary, Queen of Scots in person, and indict the most violent attack against Mary, Queen of England, and women all?

We ought not, perhaps, to condemn his manner so much as his matter, since the controversial methods of the 16th century divines were brutal and dastardly, seeming, as a divine of a later age declared of some fellow Christians, to have "just enough Christianity to hate, but not enough to love one another." When we remember that his master Wishart was burned at the stake in front of St. Andrews while, it is said, Cardinal Beaton and other prelates watched the scene from the Castle, and that Knox, persuaded by the earnest solicitation of Wishart to go and "teach his bairnes," only just escaped martyrdom himself, it is small wonder that this rugged Scotsman, patriot, scholar, and honest man, should burn at times with a fierce hatred, fleeing from St. Andrews to East Lothian, he was hunted from thence by Archbishop Hamilton. Patrick Hamilton was the first who suffered at the stake in Scotland in 1528 by order of Archbishop Beaton, and from 1530 to 1540 many innocent men suffered death. At this period Tindall's translation of the Bible was imported into Scotland. Shortly after Wishart's death, Cardinal Beaton was assassinated in St. Andrew's Castle. The account which Knox gives of this deed is almost as great a blot on his career as his "Blast against women," for it is almost a glorification of the deed. His biographer M'Crie asserts that Knox held "tyrants might warrantably be put to death by private individuals, provided all redress in the ordinary course of justice was rendered impossible." During his stormy and strenuous career he underwent many sufferings. For nearly two years he was a prisoner in the French galleys, and although ill and at one time nearly dying, he cheered up his fellow prisoners with the hope of liberty and faith in his cause. When he was in exile at Geneva he met Calvin, whose lifelong friend he remained.

He was a student as well as an eloquent and fearless preacher, with a keen shrewdness that pricked every bubble of deceit and falshness. Carlyle speaks enthusiastically of his 'History of the Reformation of Religion within the Realm of Scotland,' which was printed after his death. M'Crie declares "But the most singular treatise published by Knox, and that which made the greatest noise, was the treatise against the Monstrous regiment of women." We will not anticipate our author, and will let him speak for himself:

"The Kingdom apperteineth to our God." In the preface he declares, "Uouonder is, that amongst so many pregnant wittes as the Ile of great Britanny hath produced, so many godlie and zelous preachers as England did sometime orishe, and amongst so many learned and men of graue iudgement, as this day by Iesabel are exiled, none is found so stowte of courage,

so faithfull to God, nor louing to their natiue countrie, that they dare admonishe the inhabitantes of that Ile how abominable before God, is the Empire or Rule of a wicked woman, yea of a traiteresse and bastard. And what may a people or nation left destitute of a lawfull head, do by the authoritie of Goddes worde in electing and appointing common rulers and magistrates. That Ile (alas) for the contempt and abuse of Goddes mercies offred, and for the shamefull reuolting to Satan frome Christ Jesus, and from his Gospell ones professed, doth iustle merite to be left in the handes of their own counsel, and so to come to cofusion and bondage of strangiers. But yet I feare that this uniuersall negligee of such as sometimes were esteemed watchmen, shall rather aggrauate our former ingratitude, then excuse this our uniuersall and ungodlie silence, in so weightie a matter. We se our countrie set furthe for a pray to foreine nations, we heare the blood of our brethren, the me'bres of Christ Jesus most cruellie to be shed, and the monstrous empire of a cruell woman (the secrete counsel of God excepted) we knowe to be the onlie occasion of all these miseris and yet with silence we passe the time as thogh the matter did nothing appertein to us." Knox quotes Ezekiel and Jeremiah, who rebuked the idolatrous Jews, and proceeds:—

"The same prophetes for comfort of the afflicted and chosen saintes of God, who did lie hid amongst the reprobate of that age (co'monlie doth the corne amongst the chaffe) did prophecie and before speake the changes of Kingdomes, the punishmentes of tyrannes, and the vengeance whiche God wold execute upon the oppressors of his people..."

"We in this miserable age are bounde to admonishe the world a'd the tyranies thereof of their sodeine destruction to assure them, and to crie unto them, whether to list to heare or not: That the blood of the saintes, which by them is shed, co'tinuallie crieth and craueth vengeance in the presence of the Lorde of hostes. And further it is our dutie to open the truth reueled unto us, unto the ignorant and blind world, unlest that to our owne co'demnation we list to wrap up and hyde the talent committed to our charge. I am assured that God has reueled to some in this our age, that it is more then a mo'stre in nature, that a woman shall reigne a'd have empire aboue man..."

"For we are debtors to mothen to princes; to witte, to the multitude of our brethren, of whome, no doubt a greate number have here tofore offended by error and ignorance, geuing their suffragies, consent and helpe to establishe women in their Kingdomes and empires, not understanding howe abominable, odious and detestable is all such usurped authoritie in the presence of God. And therefore must the truthe, be plainlie spoken, that the simple and rude multitude may be admonished."

"Yf any wonder, why I do concele my name, let him be assured, that the fear of corporall punishment is nether the onlie, nether the chief cause. My purpose is thrise to blowe the trumpet in the same matter, if God so permitte twise I intende to do it without name, but at the last blast, to take the blame upon my selfe, that all others may be purged."

(To be continued.)

Correspondence.

SIR,—Having read an account of the meeting at Queen's Hall which was addressed by Mr. Lloyd-George, and from which nearly all women were excluded, I should like, through your columns, to thank those men who, by protesting on behalf of the women, showed that their love of justice exceeds their fear of ridicule. At the same time I should like to appeal to all members of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, and who I take it, are earnest supporters of Women's Suffrage, to take every opportunity where women are excluded from meetings, and therefore cannot help themselves, to protest in a like manner, for it has again and again been proved that reforms of this nature are only gained by unconstitutional means, and, according to the report of Mr. Herbert Gladstone's speech in the House of Commons on Friday last, we have not yet been nearly violent enough.

NELLIE E. SMITH.

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

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