

THE VOTE.
February 14, 1913.
ONE PENNY.

"'T WAS IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE." HARRISON HILL

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. VII. No. 173.

Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1913.

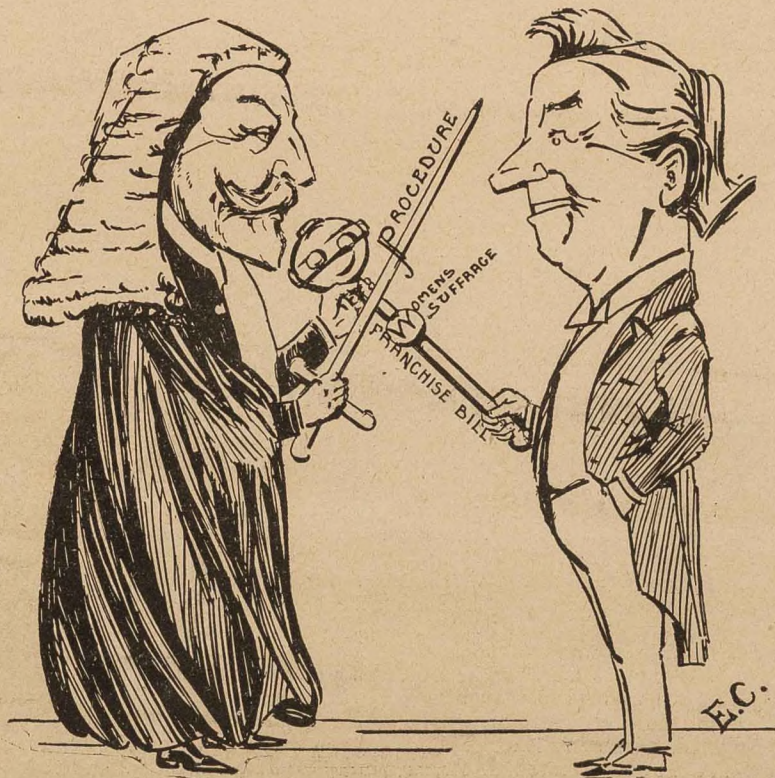
Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

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Asquith :
"For this
relief, much
thanks!"

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Deputation to Mr. McKenna.

Mrs. Huntsman introduced a deputation from the Women's Freedom League to Mr. McKenna on February 11. Those forming the deputation were Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle, Dr. Elizabeth Knight, Miss Eunice Murray, Miss Anna Munro, and Mrs. Huntsman, and the following points were brought forward for discussion:—

- The helpless condition of the very poor when charged with offences in Police Courts, Mrs. Despard demanding, on their behalf, a public counsel as well as a public prosecutor.
- The capricious application of Rule 243a, Dr. Knight demanding first division treatment for all persons of either sex imprisoned as Suffragists.
- The extension of all privileges enjoyed by English prisoners to Scotland, Miss Murray set forth the lack of religious provision for persons of the Presbyterian faith in English prisons. Mrs. Despard dealt with this matter from the point of view of Catholics.
- Special forms of Police Court administration and prison management, which in the opinion of Suffragists called for immediate attention, some of these points being illustrated by Miss Anna Munro from her personal experience.
- The rights of the public and the constant encroachment thereon, as illustrated by the exclusion of women from the Courts, the powers of magistrates and judges in their Courts, the exclusion of evidence vital to certain cases, and the necessity for women constables, women medical officers in prisons, women governors of gaols, women on prison commissions, and women counsel. These matters were dealt with by Miss Boyle.

Mr. McKenna's attitude could not be considered sympathetic by the members of the deputation. He promised, however, to inquire into certain matters and refer certain others to the Secretary of State for Scotland. The full report will be dealt with next week.

"A Prospective and Contingent Future."

The Prime Minister has evolved a variant of his former "dim and speculative future" as to the time to which definite dealing with Woman Suffrage is to be relegated. After all the torrents of words we have recently heard beseeching Suffragists to "trust Asquith" and his new promise, the gentleman in question, interrogated in the House of Commons as to the conditions under which the vaunted Private Member's Bill for Woman Suffrage would be discussed, could only reply that any statement would be premature concerning "a prospective and contingent future." We commend this answer to Women Liberals. Will they still hug its encouraging support? If so, they rank themselves as mere tools of party; nothing else. A much more encouraging message was read to our Prisoners' Reception meeting, foreshadowing a wide revolt of rank and file among Women Liberals and their refusal to render the party any assistance. Legislators may go off this week on a brief holiday, glad to be free of Westminster and its responsibilities, but the women, like the poor, will be "ever with them." We shall see that the keen edge of repentance a fortnight ago is not dulled. Other things besides a "Government measure for Woman Suffrage," once deemed impossible, have been found to be not only importunate, but imperative. History has a way of repeating itself. A cheering thought for Ministers and Members on holiday will be that the scheme to divide Suffrage Societies and sympathisers by "torpedoing" the Conciliation Bill has become a veritable boomerang, returning whence it came. The Societies now present a united front with which any Government must reckon.

Mr. Punch Sees It.

Our movement has reached a stage in its progress which should be recorded with due solemnity. It has almost monopolised an issue of *Punch*. Victory must be in sight. The editor, Mr. Owen Seaman, with his usual perspicacity, is preparing for the apotheosis of the Cause; and incidentally displaying much insight. "How Militant Suffragists Are Made" shows profound knowledge of things as they are—not as Miss Gladys Pott and Lord Curzon would have us believe they believe they are. "That," says the well-informed caddie, to inquiring young England, with smoothed-back hair and leggy breeches, "that's the old green to this 'ole, sir,

It gets flooded, so they give it to the lydiess" (the italic^s are ours). This, beyond question, is the true thing.

The militants, as usual, fill the canvas. *Punch* foreshadows the spreading of a great idea when he shows the future Jane Cakebread, when asked her name, requesting the officer to "run froo the nymes of them Cabinick Minstrels" until she can remember which she has paired with. And the "subtlety" of the police in the pillar-box game also engages the attention of Mr. Punch's clever artist. Bernard Partridge in a full page cartoon, "A Pleasure Deferred," shows Mr. Asquith as an untrustworthy partner, dodging the insistent lady whose dance he has "cut," round a pillar in the ball room; he looks as treacherous as we hope he feels as he gasps out the words, "Yes, I know. The fact is the M.C. objected to the pattern of my waistcoat, and I had to go home and change it. But I'll tell you what. Let me put you down for an extra at our private subscription dance next session!" Altogether, we are much pleased with *Punch*. If it goes on being good, and really funny and bright like that, we might be induced to make a seductive offer. We will take the editor for a Freedom League "night out."

Women Legislators Vindicated.

We are very glad to note in the February number of *The Englishwoman*—which, by the way, not only maintains but increases its reputation and usefulness with every issue—an important article on the effect of Woman Suffrage in Finland. It is written by Baroness Alitta Korff, a resident who knows, in answer to the charges against Finnish women as voters, as legislators, and their regrettable influence in the country, made by an English visitor, Miss Edith Sellers, in *The Nineteenth Century—and After* last year. The article should be widely read, for the women of Finland, while recognised as human beings with human failings just as men, are completely vindicated in their work for the good of their country. Says the writer:

What has really happened in Finland since the introduction of Woman's Suffrage is that a small group of representative women have become active working members of the body politic. As they compare very favourably with the men members of their respective parties, one can say that the State has lost nothing in the way of intelligence by having the women take the place of from fourteen to twenty-six men, as the case may be. What the State has gained is the special knowledge which certain of these women have, and the vital interest in social welfare which they all have, for the very reason that they are women.

A list is given of some of the twenty-six Bills which women have succeeded in passing since 1906, showing how they have dealt with urgent social questions such as the raising of the marriageable age for women from fifteen to seventeen, State aid to societies helping prostitute women, legal protection of children in cases of cruelty, neglect, and wrongful employment, the appointment of a midwife in each parish, measures regarding registry offices for workmen and servants, State feeding of poor schoolchildren, people's libraries, &c., &c. The work of the women in these directions is fully recognised by the men, and the article concludes thus: "In social life men discuss political questions with women quite as they would with their men friends. Equality of opportunity and identity of interest leave very little room for sex-antagonism." Our readers will be interested to hear that the February *Review of Reviews* gives prominence to the question in an article by our good friend, Dr. Tekla Hultin, whom even Miss Sellers recognises as one of the women of mark among true leaders of the Woman's Movement. As a Member of Parliament for more than four years, Dr. Hultin easily disposes of Miss Sellers' fallacies. Miss Harriet Blouw, another Finnish friend, who also worked devotedly for us at the International Fair, has been speaking in Holland, under the auspices of the Woman Suffrage Movement, on the work of her countrywomen. We have always maintained that the enfranchisement of women will not bring the millennium, but Finland's amazing progress is a practical object-lesson of the value of the co-operation of men and women in service to the community to which our legislators here are so persistently blind.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

National Executive Committee.—The Committee met at 1, Robert-street, last Saturday, Miss Munro being voted to the chair. The members cordially congratulated our President and one of our members who had refused to give her name at the police-court on the protest they had recently made in Trafalgar-square and on their release from Holloway Prison. Reports from the treasury, secretarial, political and militant, literature, Press and VOTE sales departments were considered and discussed, and plans made for future work.

Holloway Meetings.—During the last fortnight meetings have been held regularly outside Holloway Prison, and we very gratefully acknowledge the gallant services rendered at these meetings by Mrs. Sproson, Miss Read, Miss Spriggs, Mr. Caddick and Mr. Kennedy, in addition to the speakers from Headquarters' staff. On Wednesday, February 5, Mrs. Despard addressed a thoroughly sympathetic and interested audience on the subject of Woman Suffrage and the necessity of protesting against government without the consent of the governed.

Caxton Hall Meetings.—We urge our members and friends to come in large numbers next Wednesday afternoon, when we shall have the pleasure of listening to Mrs. de Fonblanque, the organiser of that wonderful march of the women from Edinburgh to London. Last week we had not standing room for late-comers, so we hope our friends will remember that these meetings begin punctually at 3.30. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

OUR NEW CRUSADE.

Great Britain, under the influence of Romilly, has rid herself of the pernicious and mediæval code of punishment which dealt out death, torture, brandings, and floggings of up to 500 lashes, wholesale, for the most trivial misdeeds. Under the influence of Elizabeth Fry, and in later years of militant Suffragists, the prisons of the country have been humanised and improved so far as women are concerned, although it does not seem as if men cared very much to bestir themselves to secure corresponding improvements in men's prisons. There are, however, many and astonishing anachronisms and imbecilities left in the administration of justice, and the Women's Freedom League has set itself to work to root them out and to bring "the modern eye" to bear on the police-courts as well as the prisons.

During our recent protest, one or two curious irregularities came to light. The custom of allowing police witnesses to remain in court to listen to the evidence they will be called upon to corroborate is a very evil thing, and one in which both Bench and Bar are guilty partners. The Crown Prosecutor, at work in his own shop and well up in all the tricks of the trade, knows how shrewd an advantage this malpractice gains him; while the prisoner, a fuddled, or ignorant, or wretchedly distressed and bewildered person, too poor to afford counsel, too frightened to protest, does not know until all is over—and often not even then—how mean a pull the prosecution had over him—or her. The power of the Bench is an old evil, but the steadily-growing power of the Bar is a new and utterly unconstitutional power, and must be broken.

Another evil habit and a growing one is that of relying on police evidence only. In a great crowd it should surely be easy enough to secure an independent witness

whose notebook will not be written up in company with the police. It is a strange sight to see, on some days, case after case disposed of on police evidence alone, not one single independent witness called to corroborate the officers. In the trials of the four Suffragists at Bow-street last week, each case was decided on the evidence of two policemen.

A further protest must be made against the insolence of the court ushers who, of all the ranks of officialdom, are surely the most offensive. It is the fault of the Bench that these persons have been allowed to take on all the airs of arrogant masters instead of servants of the public. The Bench itself is far less discourteous! The public has rights in attending trials which no one has a right to override; but the supine, cringing spirit which has let slip so many of our old liberties for the sake of peace has ceased to insist on them; it remains for the Suffragists to revive them.

Enough emphasis has not been laid on the fact that the charge against Mrs. Despard and her comrades, on the night of the Trafalgar-square speeches, was not a true one. The crime committed was that of holding an illegal meeting "within one mile of the House of Commons" while Parliament was sitting. Trafalgar-square is a place for popular meetings, and on that night there was no traffic of any sort, except that which came to hear the speeches. Why, then, did the police disperse the perfectly orderly crowds listening to the Freedom Leaguers? Because it was illegal! The police would not have been "obstructed in the execution of their duty" had their duty not called them to disperse these meetings; but the charge (we believe it to have been altered between night and morning) made no mention of that. The authorities prefer, in their rather mean fashion, to make it seem as if we were mere brawling rowdies resisting the police; but we would like to go further at another time into this altering of charges as originally laid. The police, we believe, ought to state on every such occasion what the charge was and why it was made.

The amusing truth that one of the prisoners was never arrested at all, but was charged at Bow-street to account for her unauthorised presence in that retreat, whither she had accompanied Mrs. Despard, and the delightful confusion at Holloway on the arrival of the two unnamed prisoners, whose sentences were left to sort themselves, no one knowing which had one week or which had two, has not yet come out. It will give us matter for comment when next we raid Sir Albert de Rutzen's premises.

The claim to first division treatment of women who, in demanding the suffrage, are driven to break the law has never yet been conceded; but "No. 243A," instituted by Mr. Churchill as a sort of half-way house, appears to be given or withheld in the most capricious manner. We learnt some months ago with great pleasure that the imprisonment of Mr. Pethick Lawrence in Brixton Gaol was lightened to an appreciable degree by the application of this rule, and we want to know why the same treatment was denied to Mr. Simpson at Pentonville. Very serious suffering and unnecessary indignity was inflicted on this gentleman during the

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brief period of his incarceration, and the Women's Freedom League will not rest until it has obtained some assurance that the concessions wrung by suffragists from a reluctant Government shall be shared by all who suffer imprisonment for the cause.

C. NINA BOYLE.

POLITICAL AND MILITANT NOTE.

Hearty thanks to all our Branches and members who co-operated so well in our Proclamation posting, and who have sent such kind messages to Headquarters in regard to the militant protests. The National Executive Committee is sending its thanks, and the Head of the Political and Militant Department desires not only to thank the Branches, but all the "danger duty" volunteers who rallied so well to Mrs. Huntsman's appeal. The Editor asks me to say that next week's issue will contain a portrait of Mrs. Huntsman, as we are sure that members away from London want to know more of our irresistibly energetic comrade. I add my grateful thanks to Miss Grace H. Jacob, of Edinburgh, for her practical sympathy with our militant protests by sending the first instalments of her promise to subscribe 5s. weekly for three months. Will others follow this excellent example?

IMPORTANT.

An Appeal to Members of the W.F.L.

Dear Fellow Members,—I have undertaken to work up the sale of THE VOTE in London, in which centre alone it is necessary to sell 2,000 copies of THE VOTE every week.

A wide circulation of our paper is essential to the proper understanding of the aims and methods of our League. It is the only means by which we can reach thousands of men and women, who do not attend our meetings, and who receive a wrong impression of our actions from the ordinary newspapers.

An immense number still need to be roused and interested and convinced, and this our paper is eminently fitted to do if we can only bring them into touch with it.

One of our members, Miss Alix Minnie Clarke, of Montgomery Burghs, sets us all a fine example, both in Wales and whenever she is in London; in two days she sold 260 copies. I appeal to our women in London to come to my aid. One hour or a few hours' work a week will be much appreciated.

Room No. 29 at 1, Robert-street has been taken for the use of VOTE sellers. The paper will be given out there, and sellers can rest and have a cup of tea and feel that they have a place of their own. This room will be available in about a week, and in the meantime I shall be in THE VOTE Office (Room 28) every afternoon from 3 till 6 o'clock. Do not let me appeal in vain.

(Mrs.) JULIA WOOD.

"A MATTER OF MONEY."—Miss Cicely Hamilton's play, *A Matter of Money*, delighted all who witnessed this latest production of the Pioneers on Sunday, February 9. The theme upon which keen characterisation and powerful writing have been expended might fitly be called the economics of illicit love, for the sinning couple are too poor to work out their problem as their feelings would dictate. The woman, luxuriously brought up and incapable of self-support, flies to her lover with rejoicing at the prospect of release from her brutal husband, but the lover, a struggling country physician, with a wife and child, and overwhelming debts, cannot face the responsibility incurred through their unhappy liaison. What is the alternative? For the man his wife's forgiveness, and the facts kept dark, as his practice is at stake; for the woman—suicide. So the hapless Lucia throws herself under a passing train. Miss Sarah Brooke played with intensity and great emotion, and was splendidly supported by Mr. Ben Webster and Mr. Moffat Johnson.



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POLITICAL NEWS.

Suffrage and "Anti" M.P.s at Work.

The committee, appointed by Liberal members of Parliament in favour of women suffrage to consider the steps to be taken in preparation for next session, met on February 4 in the House of Commons. Sir John Simon, the Solicitor-General, was appointed chairman and Mr. Leif Jones secretary.

At a meeting of Liberals opposed to Women's Suffrage, held on February 4, under the chairmanship of Mr. Lewis Harcourt, a resolution was passed deeply deploring the withdrawal of the Franchise Bill. It was decided to oppose the second reading of any Women's Suffrage Bill that may be brought forward.

A meeting of Unionist Suffragists was held on February 5. Lord Robert Cecil presided, and Mr. Balfour was among those present. The opinion was expressed that no measure of Women's Suffrage should be passed under the Parliament Act, and the general view was in favour of giving the Parliamentary vote to women who have the municipal vote—practically the Conciliation proposal. A committee was appointed to deal with the matter. Prospect of co-operation with Liberal Suffragists, who favour the Dickinson proposal aided by the Parliament Act, appears therefore to be remote.

George Bernard Shaw Condemns the Speaker.

In a letter to the meeting of the Federated Council of Suffrage Societies at the Queen's Hall on February 5, Mr. George Bernard Shaw excused his absence and gave his views on the situation thus:—"The line that will be taken is a denunciation of the Government for a breach of faith, probably preconcerted. This is not my line. I should concentrate the attack on the Speaker, accusing him not only of gross partiality, but of concealing his *coup de main* from the Government until the last moment so as to discredit them and defeat the women at one stroke. I should say that Mr. Asquith would be more than human if he were sorry to see the women defeated, as he never concealed his personal opposition to the suffrage movement.

"I should prove the case against the Speaker not by denying the strict accuracy of his ruling, but by citing cases in which much more revolutionary changes, and wholly unexpected ones, have been introduced in Bills without any remonstrance from him. I should urge that a Speaker who is lax in respect of Bills to which he is indifferent and strict in respect of Bills of which he disapproves is much more unfit for his chair than one whose practice is invariable."

When Women Gained the Municipal Vote.

There is still discussion among Parliamentarians as to whether the Speaker was right or wrong in ruling that the Suffrage amendments would be out of order in the Franchise Bill. Mr. Aneurin Williams, in a letter to *The Times*, has produced perhaps the most interesting precedent on the subject. He points out that the Municipal Franchise was given to women by the addition of a new clause moved by Mr. Jacob Bright to the Municipal Franchise Bill of 1869. No one seems to have raised any point of order on that occasion.

National Suffrage Bank.

The Suffragists will shortly open a bank in New York, to be managed and controlled by women, and to be called the "National Suffrage Bank." It is being backed by some of the richest women in the country.

The Solid Phalanx.

Ministers cannot be allowed to play fast and loose with the obligations they have undertaken, and as to which they have reiterated from year to year their solemn pledges of fulfilment.

But women may be certain that the Ministers will disregard these obligations, and descend even to lower depths of duplicity yet, unless they have reason to fear that in so doing they run the risk of facing the determined hostility of the solid phalanx of those women of all parties who represent the great Woman's Movement of to-day.

The Ministers are human, and they are men of the world. In other words, they will pay with words so long as words will pass as current coin, and they will only set about paying with deeds when sufficient force is set in motion to make it dangerous to them to do otherwise.—*Daily Herald*, February 7.

Mr. H. D. Harben's Protest in the House of Commons.

The account of Mr. Harben's protest from the Strangers' Gallery of the House of Commons is given by *The Standard* on February 7 thus:—

"There were Suffragist scenes in the House of Commons last night at about 9 o'clock, caused by ardent sympathisers with the Women's Movement who had obtained seats in the Strangers' Gallery. Whilst a division was in progress on a motion relating to the Temperance (Scotland) Bill a man who was attired in evening dress suddenly rose and, standing in the central gangway, shouted:

I protest against your dishonourable treatment of women.

QUALITY AND VALUE.

A perusal of the illustrated catalogue of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company, Ltd.—which can be obtained post free from 112, Regent-street, London, W.—convinces one that purchasers of gem jewellery and gold and silver plate may there obtain the utmost value for their money.

You are simply driving them to violence. A crippled woman was brutally assaulted in prison last week.

"At this point he was seized from behind by attendants and hauled out of the gallery. As he disappeared through the doorway, wildly protesting, several occupants of the gallery called out 'Oh!' while others shouted 'Bravo!' Members of the House looked on in more or less amused silence.

"Shortly afterwards, when the House had settled down to the discussion of the next amendment, another stranger began some observation which was unintelligible. He was sitting very near the door at the back of the gallery, and was promptly ejected before creating any very serious disturbance."

The Times adds: "The two men were taken down to the police room in the custody of Inspector Rogers, and after being detained a short time were liberated. Subsequently two strangers, Mr. E. Shaw and Mr. C. Young, were stopped as they were about to sign the admission book, because one of them was recognised as a Suffragist, and they were not allowed to enter the Gallery."

Unionist Demonstration.

A demonstration of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, of which the Countess of Selborne is president, took place on Feb. 6 at the Horticultural Hall, Vincent-square, Westminster. There was a large and enthusiastic audience. Lady Knightley, of Pawley, presided in the absence through illness of Viscountess Castlereagh; Lord Robert Cecil was also prevented by doctor's orders from attending and moving one of the resolutions. In a letter read at the meeting he said: "The grant of Woman Suffrage in the near future seems to me certain." The Earl of Selborne moved the following resolution:—

That this meeting deeply regrets that owing to the inexcusable carelessness of his Majesty's Government in the conduct of the business of the House of Commons the opportunity for a decision upon the question of Woman Suffrage has been lost for this session, and wishes to express its sympathy with all the women whose hopes have been so grievously disappointed by the failure of the Government to redeem its promises.

Referring to the withdrawal of the Franchise Bill, he said:—"If we acquit Ministers of deliberate trickery, what can we say of their capacity for managing a great national affair? At the very least the Prime Minister must stand convicted before his countrymen of colossal blundering. And what are we to say of the Law Officers of the Crown—the leaders of the Bar of England, the men responsible for advising the Government as to the drafting of the Bill and the possibility under Parliamentary procedure of redeeming their pledges? They stand convicted of a blunder of which the last-joined clerk to a country attorney would be ashamed."

Lord Selborne, admitting difference of opinion among Unionists as among Liberals on the question of Woman Suffrage, said:—"You can really divide the honest opponents of Woman Suffrage into two classes. One class think that politics are not good enough for women, and the other class think that women are not good enough for politics. Mr. Austin Chamberlain belongs to the first, which I should call the chivalrous class, and Mr. Lewis Harcourt belongs to the second, which I should call the brutal. . . . It is because I believe to give the woman the vote will strengthen the influence of the home in the councils of the nation that I believe that the triumph of Woman Suffrage will add visibly to the stability of our Empire and our national institutions."

Lord Willoughby de Broke, seconding the resolution, said:—"Let the vote be used to elevate the position of woman, and let every employer who paid a woman less than a living wage remember that he was directly responsible for driving her to the worst living of all. Let women use the vote as a lever whereby they might raise themselves to a position in the country which had long been overdue to them, and which if denied any longer, was bound to sap the very life of the nation itself."

Other speakers were Mr. C. S. Goldman, M.P., Lady Betty Balfour, and Miss Evelyn Deakin.

The Federation Meeting.

The Queen's Hall witnessed great enthusiasm for Woman Suffrage on February 5, when the Suffrage Federation arranged a demonstration of twenty-five Suffrage Societies. The unequivocal demand of the meeting was for a Government measure. There was considerable disturbance when Dr. Chapple, Liberal Member for Stirlingshire, speaking in support of the resolution, defended Mr. Asquith's honour. Mr. Bernard Shaw's letter is given above.

"MORE LIGHT ON THE WOMAN QUESTION."—A particularly welcome publication will be issued in a few days under the title of "More Light on the Woman Question." The booklet will contain a record of the proceedings of the First Congress of the Men's International Alliance for Women's Suffrage held in London in October last, and will give salient points from the numerous speeches made on the occasion by the distinguished English representatives and the foreign delegates. It will contain two illustrations—a photo of Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., the President of the International Alliance, and a photographic group of the delegates and associates of the Congress. Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker, editor of *The Anglo-Russian*, London, is responsible for the literary part of the record which will be issued from the headquarters of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, 136, St. Stephen's House, Westminster, S.W.

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Miss Keen	0 5 0		
Mrs. Mustard	0 5 0		
Mrs. Harriet Pasioli	0 5 0		
Miss M. Quelch	0 5 0		
			£220 14 2

A REQUEST SENT BY THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE TO LORD HALDANE to receive a deputation on the subject of the exclusion of women—including women journalists pursuing their ordinary avocation—from the Court on January 9, when Suffragists were tried for attacks on pillar-boxes, was refused. The question was, however, brought up by the deputation which waited on the Home Secretary on Tuesday last, the full account of which will be found in our next issue.

ELECTORS.

The lift boy touched his cap as the prosperous lessee of one of the first-floor flats came into the square, marble hall. In less than a minute the man was whirled to his front door. He let himself in with a latch-key. There were servants; a butler, his wife who was cook, and a housemaid; but to open the door to the master came rarely within their duties.

That master went straight to his dressing-room. It was nearing the dinner hour, and he was expecting a friend to dine with him. In the dressing-room his evening clothes were carefully laid out; everything that he would want was ready to his hand; the electric light was brilliant and the fire burned briskly. A door, now closed, led into a luxuriously furnished bedroom. Indeed, the flat was luxurious throughout. Soft carpets, handsome furniture, costly china, fine pictures, combined to produce an effect of harmony and comfort; harmony, for the man had taste, and there was nothing tawdry, nothing ostentatious in the luxury which surrounded him; and comfort, because the love of ease inherent in him had been fostered by the life he led. His wife and children lived in a spacious villa on the outskirts of a country town: the flat was his bachelor quarters, used when business required his presence in London.

His guest was an old friend and a business chum. His arrival was followed immediately by the announcement of dinner, and the two went through the folding-doors, heavily draped with thick ample curtains on either side, into a cosy dining-room. The butler's wife was an excellent cook, and not good at cooking only, but also in the compounding of a menu: the master always left the character and number of the courses in her hands and had rarely occasion to criticise the result. To-night the dinner was a short one, but each item of it was carefully chosen, from the soup to the dessert; the butler waited noiselessly; the appointments were perfect.

The two friends chatted carelessly: on the choice of motors, the breeding of horses, the taxi-cab strike, the foreign news, the prospects of the Home Rule Bill. Not a word was said on the woman's question, though the woman's question was imminent, though the papers were full of it, though the fate of the Franchise Bill hung that day in the balance. It was not till coffee had been served, cigars were alight, and the butler had left the room that the host took up one of the evening papers which had been laid on the table by his side. The sheets rustled a bit as he opened them, as though under an impatient hand.

"Dropped," he said.

"And the pledge? Not a—Gov—" The guest stretched out his hand and took the second paper.

"No," said the host. "Private member's bill. Government take no responsibility."

"No, not even if it passes the second reading. Safe then!"

They laid down the papers and each man drew a long breath.

"Good old Asquith and Lloyd George," said the host. "We shall never get better backers, never a Government who will manage the suffrage question more astutely."

He led the way to the fireside where were two arm-chairs. "By the way," he said, as he leaned back, "did you go to that meeting—the Archbishop's?"

"No, I sent Smith. Did you?"

"Yes, I was there—to clap the flogging."

"The British public," said the other "are delightfully sentimental. They've worked off enough righteous indignation over the flogging clauses to keep them quiet for some time to come."

"Especially as a few poor devils—"

"Not in the real trade."

"—have been seized upon."

The other shrugged his shoulders. "They must take

their chance. If men are such fools as to live openly upon a woman, well—And it's all the better for us."

"In any case we're all right—so long as the women's noses are kept out of it."

They were quite safe, the great men of the White Slave Traffic, the financiers who supplied the money and made the fortunes. A few of their tools might be arrested ere the attention of police and public was drawn aside; but even that was not very probable, for the known men were leaving the country, and the known women were lying low. A few individual men, living on the earnings of individual women, would be scape-goats, but the men on whom the traffic depended would be unreachably and unreachably.

So they sat and smoked, two comfortable-looking men in a luxurious room, in absolute security. One had a wife and children and was known as an indulgent husband, a kind father; the other was about to be married to a girl, whose purity and ignorance he would carefully maintain. They sat and smoked, comfortable and prosperous, while in locked rooms the human goods they dealt in endured their martyrdom of terror and of shame, and while statesmen decreed to the trade which kept them in luxury another lease of life.

G. COLMORE.

HOW SOME MEN PROTECT WOMEN.

Contrasts.—"A Most Brutal Assault," and the Consequences—to a Man.

Displaying a black eye, Mrs. Alice Mary MacKinder, of 33, Glen-Vue-road, East Grinstead, attended at the Petty Sessions on December 16, 1912, when she summoned her husband, James MacKinder, for committing an aggravated assault upon her. At the outset defendant did not appear.

Complainant said they had been married four years, and there were two children. Her husband did not give her any regular housekeeping money. Last Friday he came in about 11.25 p.m., when she was in bed, and threw a lighted candle at her. He pulled the children out of bed, and then pulled her out of bed, and afterwards turned her out of doors in her nightdress. She got back indoors, and was on her children's bed when her husband punched her in the stomach and then pulled her up by the hair of her head. He next knelt on her stomach, and, saying he must have one more hit, gave her a black eye. He always treated her with persistent cruelty, whether he was drunk or sober. He treated her like a dog. Mrs. Winter, with whom the last witness lodged, said the facts as stated by witness were true.

A warrant was issued for defendant's arrest, and during the afternoon he was brought up and pleaded guilty to the offence. The wife repeated the evidence given at the morning's hearing; and Mrs. Winter, in reply to the magistrates, said the parties had lodged with her about six months, and she had during that time had frequent cause to complain of MacKinder's conduct. The wife was sober and always at home, and always had his food—what there was in the house—ready for him. These violent attacks always took place on Friday nights.

Defendant said he was sorry for what had occurred. It would not have happened if he had not had too much to drink.

The Chairman said they considered it a most brutal case. The only thing they could do was to let the prisoner off with as light a sentence as possible. He would have to go to Lewes for 14 days' hard labour.

—Southern Weekly News, December 21, 1912.

Obtaining Money under False Pretences and the Consequences—to a Woman.

From the same paper, on the same day, we take the following: "CLOTHES FOR HER HUSBAND."—Well deserved punishment was meted out by the magistrates on Tuesday to Ellen Potter, a young gipsy woman who pleaded guilty to endeavouring to obtain charitable contributions by false pretences on Saturday last. Evidence was given that prisoner called on Mrs. Fairlie-Clarke, North-parade, saying she had been sent by Miss Alford, of Wimblehurst, and asked for clothes for her husband, who was coming out of hospital. Mrs. Fairlie-Clarke investigated, with the result that Miss Alford, after a communication from Mrs. Thompson, communicated with the police. The Bench sentenced prisoner to three weeks' imprisonment, and, in doing so, said the thanks of the public were due to Mrs. Fairlie-Clarke and Miss Alford for bringing the matter forward.

Criminal Assault and Indecency.

James McGowan, Glasgow, charged at Partick Police-court with criminal assault on child of six, whom he had decoyed up a close or yard with pennies for sweets. Long list of offences of similar character. Two months.

Thomas McGiffen, convicted at Glasgow of living on immoral earnings of a woman. Sentenced by Bailie Kennedy to six months' hard labour.

Exhibition and Sale of White Goods

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Regent Street House



R.S. 2. In nainsook, prettily trimmed with good imitation crochet lace, finely tacked and feathered. 8/11
R.S. 3. In nainsook, trimmed fine imitation Valenciennes lace, small tucks and Swiss entre deux threaded ribbon. 8/11



R.S. 109. Cotton crepe Blouse, will wash well and does not require ironing; hand-made and embroidered, trimmed imitation crochet insertion. 5 sizes. 21/9
In Muslin. 19/

THIS Great Annual Exposition, commencing on Monday, has become one of the most important and popular fixtures in the calendar of the Fashion world, and ladies who would be *au fait* with the "latest," positively cannot afford to miss it.

Remarkable values are offered in all kinds of dainty Lingerie as well as in Tea Gowns, Corsets, Blouses, Robes, White Furs and Feathers, and Infants' Clothing—the examples here quoted being representative of the bargains.

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R.S. 54. Kayser's Lawnette Vests in very thin gauze; delightfully cool for tropical wear. 4/6

R.S. 58. Kayser's Italian Silk Spencers, in black or white. 10/6

With embroidered fronts:—
Low neck, no sleeves, 14/9
High neck, short sleeves, 10/11
High neck, long sleeves, 11/9

R.S. 59. Kayser's Italian Silk Knickers, with double seats; in black, white, and a great variety of colours. 15/6

CORSET WEEK

commences Next Monday, Feb. 17

A MOST interesting feature next week will be the special display of all the newest Corset Models at our REGENT STREET House to which everyone is invited. An expert Parisian Fitter will be in attendance.

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FRIDAY, February 14, 1913.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.
 Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

EDITORIAL

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

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"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Book stalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

"REWARDS AND FAIRIES."

(NOT BY MR. KIPLING.)

Mr. Kipling's titles frequently bear little relation to the subject matter, but this does not deter us from cheerfully borrowing—with apologies—one of his romantic headlines and fitting it to our modern epic. "The Saving of the City" clearly belongs to the "Rewards and Fairies" series, so we add it thereto without more ado.

The City is very great. It belongs almost wholly to Man, the Person. It contains "the Bank," the Stock Exchange—that *sanctum sanctorum* of masculinity; Lloyd's, the Liveries, and the Lord Mayor. It is presided over by the Recorder, represented by Mr. Arthur Balfour and Sir Frederick Banbury, protected by the City Police (aristocrats of their order), and is visited by His Majesty with tolerable frequency. Nothing could be more male, more august. Its isolation from the rest of the world is splendid; its eminence above all other corporations absolutely dizzy.

It has towered in superb, unapproached and unapproachable dignity for so long, that its so happy state appeared everlasting. Its pomp and power never ceased to impress the listening earth; it stood aloof, immense, fearing no attack, anticipating none. And then Mr. Asquith came along. He looked wickedly at the Colossus. Its permanence and security provoked him. (So different from his own precarious perch). He felt envious. He felt nasty. He wanted to do it a mischief. And so he hit the big thing, quite suddenly, without warning. Hit it, all unprepared as it was, "in the wind."

To be hit in the wind is very disconcerting, when you are not expecting any such thing. The City gasped. It reeled with the shock. The Occupier's Franchise was to be abolished; and what would the City do then, poor thing! The City doubled up. All its size, weight, wealth, pomp, postillions, and maleness, availed it not. It staggered and floundered in utter dismay and confusion; and then found sudden and unexpected shelter under the wing of—Votes for Women!

The House of Commons is as definitely male as the City. With the exception of the harmless necessary typist, the lady lobbyists, and the Tea-on-the-Terrace girls, it is solemnly, sacredly masculine. The essence of the House of Commons is the Speaker. Bewigged and bethroned, he sums up in his ordinary human body all the might, majesty, dominion and power of his overbearing sex. To him, panting and dishevelled, came Mr. Balfour and Sir Frederick Banbury in the extreme of discomfiture. And when I represent them as so coming, I wish that figure of speech to be regarded as "metaphorical rather than actual"—a poetical license, so to speak, in the course of our epic. To him they came, and poured their tale of woe into his sympathising ears; and he murmured soothingly, "You should get behind the women!"

And this is how it was that the Colossus, with clumsy

and ostrich-like dodgings, hid behind the busy, toil-worn women, the mothers and wives of ungrateful humanity; and from thence with mean thrust and coward blow brought to the ground the edifice these had so painfully and laboriously reared for their own shelter and protection; and out of the dust and smother the City Franchise was snatched; and the Male People shouted, "Now we have dished the women!"

This is the saga of the City: how it was saved. Two great male institutions, representing the greatness and the intellect of the country, repositories of the national honour and the national wealth, typical of the national manhood, conspired thus together to defraud the partner and co-trustee of that honour and greatness; to preserve their prestige by cheating women. The cry of Votes for Women was exploited to drag in more votes for men; the cry of No Votes for Women is now exploited to keep votes for some men—City men. Not even the glamour of a title of Mr. Kipling's can make the transaction seem glorious, or even faintly respectable. We heartily commend this latest addition to the history of our land to all who vaunt its chivalry.

Many doubts have been cast upon the good faith of Mr. Asquith. Without taking up the cudgels for that more or less worthy Person, the probabilities of the case go to point out that he had little hand in the wrecking of a great Government measure—one, moreover, that he had engineered "off his own bat." He stood to lose too much in prestige; and there were far simpler ways of killing Women's Suffrage. It would have been just as effective, and less disastrous, to have threatened resignation. But in reviewing the whole position one must remember that Mr. Asquith is a far-seeing man; and the recent *débâcle* appears to be a case of a deep-laid policy proving top-heavy. The "slim" Premier over-reached himself.

Liberals, having determined on Home Rule, have to face the day where instead of from eighty-five to ninety Irish members they will only be able to count on from thirty to thirty-five. A readjustment of the franchise, more drastic than mere abolition of plural voting, was necessary to protect Liberal majorities in the future. Mr. Asquith could not resist the temptation to improve his Bill by slipping in the amendment which wiped out the City Franchise as it exists to-day, and thereby unseated two Conservative members of undoubted weight and authority. The City seat remaining would, also, be left open to a possible Liberal victory. It was this fatal ingenuity that raised the storm of wrath which both parties found convenient to wreak on the Suffrage amendments. The old proverb says, "When thieves fall out, honest men come by their own"; but it does not matter which men fall out, women never come by their own. And that our reading of the situation is not intended as whitewash for Mr. Asquith must be asserted here. His honour is no clearer for not having, in our opinion, actively connived at the wrecking of his own Bill. How much store he sets by pledges and professions may be gauged by the fact that, although to the last his promise was flourished before us as sacred, he has made no effort to redeem it in any way since it failed. The offer now made by him is an utterly worthless one, and in no sense at all is it the equivalent of the undertaking given to the joint deputation of Women's Suffrage bodies in November, 1911; and no one knows this better than the Prime Minister himself.

C. NINA BOYLE.

A Step in Advance in Canada.

After a severe struggle against the retrogressive element, the Municipal Council of Wellington, Ontario, has just succeeded in appointing a woman, Miss E. L. Reynolds, to the position of county treasurer. By nominating a woman for this post, which has hitherto been held only by men, the council not only dealt a severe blow to sex prejudice, but opened the way for the appointment of more women to other responsible municipal offices.

OUR NEW PRIZE COMPETITION.

To the many competitors who sent in forecasts of the voting on Sir Edward Grey's amendment to the Franchise Bill we express our regret that the Government effectually prevented us from awarding the promised prizes by withdrawing the Bill before the voting took place.

We announce, however, a further prize competition, for which we hope all will enter.

Three Prizes—First, £2 2s.; Second, £1 1s.; Third, 10s. 6d.—will be given for the **Best Forecasts of the King's Speech** at the opening of the next Session of Parliament, **not exceeding 500 words.**

RULES:

1. The competition is open to all our readers except members of the Headquarters staff.
2. Each forecast must be accompanied by the coupon below, and give the name and address of the sender.
3. Forecasts, written on one side only of the paper, must be addressed to the Editor, VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.; the envelope marked *Prize Competition*. A halfpenny stamp is sufficient if the flap of the envelope is tucked inside.
4. Competitors may send as many forecasts as they like provided each is accompanied by a coupon.
5. The competition will remain open until the day before the opening of Parliament.
6. The forecasts will be submitted to a judge independent of the Women's Freedom League, whose decision will be final.

COUPON.

"VOTE" PRIZE COMPETITION.

Not to exceed 500 words.

I forecast the King's Speech as follows:—

Name

Address

CROWDS AND ENTHUSIASM AT GRAYS.

The announcement in the local papers that Grays was to receive a visit from Mrs. Despard on February 6, created unusual interest among the many thousands of its inhabitants. The dockers and their wives were particularly delighted to know that they were to have the pleasure of hearing an old friend—their trusted comrade in many a bitter labour struggle in the great port of London.

Although the Gray's Branch of the W.F.L. is one of the very last formed, it already enjoys the distinction of having organised the biggest indoor meeting ever seen in the town. As reasons for such a success the personality of Mrs. Despard must be mentioned in conjunction with the ever-growing sympathy of the people with the Women's Movement, the influence of the chairman, the Rev. E. C. Smith, Rector of Chadwell St. Mary, and lastly the energy displayed by untiring members of the Grays Branch, who made it their special business to visit houses, distribute bills in the streets, to say nothing of "sandwiching" and "chalking." Moreover, recent meetings of the various political parties in Grays had been attended for the definite purpose of bringing forward the subject of the enfranchisement of women.

Mrs. Despard's meeting at Bridge-road Schools was announced for 7.45 p.m., but shortly after 7 o'clock the hall and adjacent corridors were densely packed, while scores of people thronged the playground clamouring for admission. Owing to this fact the meeting commenced earlier, and an overflow meeting was speedily arranged, a second and larger hall being immediately packed. Miss Mary Neal, of Manchester, having unexpectedly arrived in Grays, took charge of the overflow meeting and delivered a rousing speech. Mrs. Despard made a speech to this second audience.

At the main meeting the Rev. E. C. Smith presided, and the large audience, which included many of the best-known people in Grays, listened very attentively as Mrs. Despard explained the principles and objects of the Women's Freedom League. What opposition there was came only from the back of the hall, where a small party of local hooligans felt constrained to express their *horror and grave concern* at the recent exploits of the militants. Most of the questions asked by adults at the close of the speeches were distinctly sympathetic, and it is felt by the members of the Grays Branch of the W.F.L. that good results will follow Mrs. Despard's visit to the town. All literature was sold out, and a splendid collection taken.

WOMAN'S EDUCATIONAL UNION (SCOTLAND).—A plebiscite of the members has just been taken on a motion in support of Woman's Enfranchisement, with the result that 94 per cent. were in favour. Some of those who voted against the motion did so, not because they are opposed to Woman's Enfranchisement, but because they thought such a motion outside the Union's work. The motion has been forwarded to the proper authorities.

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WOMAN SUFFRAGE EXHIBITION AT EASTBOURNE.

It was difficult to believe that we were still in the grip of winter on arriving at Eastbourne on Saturday. The blue, cloudless sky, the bright sunshine, the soft and balmy air, seemed to belong to April rather than to February. Inside the Town Hall was brightness of another kind, provided by the beautiful banners of the various Suffrage societies which completely covered the walls, and the gaily decorated stalls which filled the lower part of the hall. Mr. Prelooker, the most genial and kindest of organisers, had provided us with "one crowded day of glorious life." Songs, dances, speeches and sketches followed each other with bewildering rapidity.

Most of the important Suffrage societies had sent a speaker. We had Mrs. Zangwill, sweet and serious, followed by Mrs. Kington Parkes, strong and forceful. Next, a delightful speech from Miss Evelyn Sharp, who presented her most logical arguments in a persuasive and eloquent manner. Then came an interval for tea and conversation, after which Miss FitzGerald, of the Catholic Suffrage Society, gave a short speech. It was then my privilege to speak as representative of the Women's Freedom League. It was a most delightful audience to address, sympathetic and enthusiastic. It was inspiring to watch the earnest faces and to note how eagerly one's points were seized on, and how sincere and spontaneous were the outbursts of applause.

After my speech Mr. Prelooker made some most kindly and sympathetic references to the work of the Freedom League, and expressed the hope that a Branch would soon be formed in Eastbourne. A *Chat with Mrs. Chicky* followed, which was very well acted and greatly appreciated by the audience.

Very able and forceful speeches by Mr. Herbert Jacobs, Mr. Hirsch, Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, and Dr. C. V. Drysdale, members of the Men's League, concluded the day's programme. The League and its able representative, Mr. Prelooker, must be most sincerely congratulated on this splendid effort on behalf of Woman Suffrage.

The Freedom League stall attracted a great deal of interest. Mrs. Hyde and Miss Thomas worked like Trojans, and seemed to be doing as brisk a trade as anyone in the building. We made some new members and one associate, thanks to their activity.

KATHLEEN TANNER.

CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAYS."

There was a crowded gathering at our Caxton Hall "Wednesdays" on February 5, and keen interest was maintained throughout the afternoon. Mrs. Ackroyd, whose long experience as a Poor-law Guardian at Croydon gives special weight to her words, told many moving stories of the cases that come before the Guardians with which men are incompetent to deal. Problems connected with the adoption of children of immoral parents and with the unmarried mothers who fill the living-in wards of the infirmaries provided ample work for women. On outdoor relief committees women were also wanted. One terrible fault of the Poor Law was that people could not be helped till too late. She added that men now welcomed women as fellow-guardians and appreciated their work.

Mr. George Lansbury bore out Mrs. Ackroyd's statements, and pointed out that three women had been deemed competent to take an important part in drawing up the reports of the Poor Law Commission, yet were denied the right to vote on that or any other measure. Mr. Lansbury said that working women now began to understand that the Woman Suffrage movement was not merely for the "classes," and urged that they should be brought into the movement in large numbers by convincing them of the value of the vote. Miss Boyle spoke on the political situation, and her humorous ridiculing of politicians brought infectious gaiety into the gathering. Mrs. Despard, who was warmly welcomed, spoke of developments of the League among women workers at Poplar and Nine Elms, and said that her experiences as a Poor-law Guardian made her a Suffragist.

WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC MEETING.

A crowded meeting was held at the Town Hall, Anerley, on Monday, February 3, to protest against the White-slave Traffic. It was organised by the Anerley and Crystal Palace Branch of the Church League for Women's Suffrage, and supported by local Branches of the B.W.T.A., Conservative and Unionist W.F.A., Free Church League, Ladies' National Association, New Constitutionals, Norwood District Suffrage Society, P.S.A. Brotherhood, W.F.L. and Women Liberals.

The speakers were Miss Abadam (president of the Norwood District Suffrage Society) and Mr. Edward Smallwood, J.P., L.C.C. (vice-president of the Alliance of Honour). The Rev. C. Baumgarten presided. The resolution, "That no moral legislation can be really effective until the Government is responsible to women as well as men," was proposed by Miss Abadam and seconded by Rev. Ernest Barson, and carried with a few dissentients.

Messages of sympathy and regret for absence were read from the Bishops of Rochester, Woolwich, and Lincoln, Archdeacon Wilberforce, Rev. Hugh Chapman, Mrs. Bramwell-Booth, and others. A vote of thanks to the speakers was proposed by the Rev. A. E. Green (of Sydenham) and seconded by Miss Ethel Fenning. A good collection was taken and literature sold, also

new members gained both for the C.L.W.S. and the Alliance of Honour. Mme. Beatrice Goddard touched all by her sympathetic rendering of "The Awakening." The Bishop of Lincoln (President of the C.L.W.S.) sent the following letter:—

Let me wish your meeting success; but I would suggest one caution. The passing of the Act may tempt some good people to "rest and be thankful." This would be disastrous. We need perpetual and untiring alertness. The wretches who, enticed by the enormous profits offered, ply this vile trade, will be rendered by the Act more crafty than ever.

We must redouble our vigilance accordingly. Probably women will be employed as agents rather than men. Our young people will have to be forewarned more than ever by parents, by friends. For the danger is by no means past, only the methods of the traffic will be more subtle and insidious than before. God bless you all in your noble crusade. Let us never doubt that right will prevail.

NEWS FROM IRELAND.

The Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation reports:—"The meetings in Galway and Ballinasloe in January, addressed by Miss Day and Miss Chenevix proved very successful. Large audiences assembled in both places. The foundations of a society have been laid, and the Federation will send an organiser in the near future to start an active and growing organisation in County Galway. Mrs. Cowan is developing the district in the neighbourhood of Birr. A successful meeting was held in Roscrea on January 22, at which she and Miss Day were the speakers, and Mrs. Cowan hopes to organise a society there.

"The Portrush Suffrage Society has joined the Federation. Miss Rosa Barrett and Miss Blanche Poe went to London to join Mrs. Spring Rice and the Hon. Mary Massey in 'lobbying' for the Women's Amendments to the Reform Bill. Miss Moser, Miss Montgomery, and Mrs. Holmes organised a Suffrage propaganda campaign in Derry, as both the Unionist and Nationalist candidates were Anti-suffragists. The Federation expects to conduct a campaign at the Waterford election."

The Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation and the Irishwomen's Franchise League have held large and successful meetings in various parts of Connaught, and already small branches of the Federation are being formed in Galway and Ballinasloe.

The Committee of the Irishwomen's Reform League, meeting on the 29th ult., passed the following resolution:—"This Committee have learned with extreme indignation of the failure of the Government to afford the long-promised opportunity for a decision of the House of Commons on the claims of women to enfranchisement. This Committee are of opinion that the Government have been guilty of most culpable negligence in failing to ensure the legitimacy of the Women's Amendments to the Reform Bill, and that Mr. Asquith's pledges to Suffragists can only be honourably redeemed by the introduction of a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women. This Committee demand a Government measure, and will not accept or support any Private Member's Bill. And finally, this Committee reassert once more their firm resolve not to shrink from any expenditure of energy, time or money, until women have won the Parliamentary vote." Copies of the resolution have been sent to the Members of the Cabinet and all the Irish M.P.s. The Irishwomen's Reform League have memorialised the Lord-Lieutenant on the subject of granting first division treatment to the three Irish Suffragist prisoners sentenced on January 29 to one month's hard labour.

WOMEN UNDER THE INSURANCE ACT.

Dr. Helen Gordon Clark sends us the following important communication:—

The following case may be of interest to those who are anxious that women may not be deprived of their right to a free choice of doctor under the above Act.

The proprietor of a large private hotel at a North Wales watering place, whose female staff has up to the present been attended by a medical woman, wrote to the clerk of the County Commissioners inquiring what steps these women could take in order to retain the services of their present medical attendant. It was pointed out that this lady absolutely refused to go on the panel, though she was prepared to make private arrangements with the establishment alluded to. That, furthermore, there was no other medical woman available. She was informed that such reasons were quite inadequate.

Of course, the upper servants say that they will simply forfeit "the doctor's money" and pay private fees to the lady in question. Unfortunately, this is not a possible solution for the under-maids, who are often young country girls away from home, to whom it is a great comfort to have one of their own sex to whom they can speak freely.

The injustice to all concerned is manifest. In the same practice there are about 200 cases of "companions," shop-assistants etc., in a similar position. These apparently are to be forced to accept the unwelcome services of one of the few men who have gone on the panel.

One wonders if it would be considered an "inadequate reason" if an "insured male person" who only happened to have one "panel doctor" in his radius, and that a woman, objected to her professional attentions being forced upon him under all circumstances.

It cannot be too widely known that Sect. 15 Par. 3 of the Act allows of insured persons making their own arrangements with doctors not on the panel. Those desirous of exercising this choice should at once consult the practitioner whose patients they desire to become.

HELEN GORDON CLARK, M.D.

BRANCH NOTES.

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

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

LONDON.—Clapham.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. EDITH SMITH, 37, Honeybrook-road, Clapham Park.

At a meeting held at the above address on February 4 Miss F. A. Underwood resigned her post as secretary to the Clapham Branch, to the great regret of all members. She feels this necessary owing to her many duties at the Head Office. Mrs. Neilson, of 35, Honeybrook-road, has very kindly consented to take over the care of the merchandise and THE VOTE for this district. We hope that all our Branch members will give her their utmost support in this venture. Mrs. Edith Smith, of above address, was elected Branch secretary in Miss Underwood's place.

Croydon.—Office: 32A, The Arcade, High-street. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue.

Will members please note carefully that the weekly "At Homes" will be held on Thursdays instead of Fridays? The first of this session is arranged for February 20, at 3 p.m. An earlier hour is chosen so that those who wish can leave early. If every member will prepare for the next jumble sale by asking friends for left-off garments and by saving her own for that purpose, we may hope for a profitable sale in March.

Mid-London.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing.

Will members all make a great effort to attend our Branch meeting on Monday, February 24, when the special business will be to frame amendments to resolutions on Conference agenda and make nominations for the N.E.C.? We hope by kind permission of Dr. Lewin to hold a drawing-room meeting at 25, Wimpole-street at the beginning

of March, when Miss Cicely Hamilton will speak. Details of time, &c., will be given in next week's VOTE.

West Hampstead.—Hon. Sec.: Madame JEANNETTE VAN RAALTE, 23, Pandora-road.

On January 29 a successful "Suffrage Talk" was given at 211, Belsize-road, the audience consisting entirely of working women. Madame van Raalte acted as chairman. Mrs. Taylor Brown spoke feelingly of the need of the vote for working women. The result of the meeting was the gain of three new members. The next "Suffrage Talk" will be given at 3 p.m., February 12, at 211, Belsize-road, when Mrs. Watson will be the speaker. On February 4 a Branch meeting was held at 23, Pandora-road to discuss Conference resolutions. The next Branch meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18, at 23, Pandora-road at 8.30 p.m. Fifty "proclamations" were posted up in West Hampstead by Miss Wells, Lion van Raalte, and two other masculine helpers.—J. v. R.

PROVINCES.—Brighton and Hove.—Hon. Sec.: Miss HARE, 8, San Remo.

The bill-posting was very successful in Brighton as, amid several mild adventures, nearly forty posters were put up on Sunday night. The next meeting will be one for working women held at the Livingstone Institute, Livingstone-road, Hove, on Monday, February 17, at eight o'clock; Miss Hare will speak. Members who would like to help with the tea are asked to let Miss Hare know. We hope to welcome Mrs. Cunningham on February 24; she will speak on Madame Curie.

Chester.—Hon. Sec.: E. WOODALL, 13, Abbey-square.

At the Cestria Café (by kind favour Mrs. Plant), on February 5, a well-attended Branch meeting was held and resolutions were passed for Conference. The chairman (Mrs. Brown) briefly reviewed the present situation, after which Mr. J. W. Dobson, one of our associates, made an interesting speech entitled "Random Thoughts on Women's Suffrage." New members were added, many copies of THE VOTE were sold, and a good collection was taken. The secretary is arranging for a party of members to go to Helsby on February 22 to help toward success of Mrs. Despard's meeting there on Wednesday, February 26.

Two members of the Qui Vive Corps (also W.F.L.) sold about two dozen VOTES and a dozen CHURCH LEAGUE MONTHLIES in less than an hour at Chester Cross on Saturday last. The costumes were much admired.

Gravesend.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. MALBY, 10, Cobham-street.

Members are asked to bring as many friends as possible to our meeting on February 17, at 8 o'clock, to be held at the Medical Hall. The speaker will be Mrs. Tanner, and a discussion will follow if time permits. Miss Boorman has been busy street selling for THE VOTE and succeeded in disposing of several copies in quite a short while. The next Branch meeting will be on Monday, March 3, at "Kismet," Pier-road, at 8 o'clock. Please note this. On Monday last we held a very successful Branch meeting, when much business was discussed for future arrangements.

Manchester District Council.—Office, 46A, Market-street.

On February 5 W.F.L. members from Eccles, Manchester, and Sale met at the Office, 46A, Market-street, to discuss Conference resolutions, and suggestions were made to stir the lethargy of the public. Our billposters gave an account of their experience on the night of February 2; ten volunteered for this effort and managed to post all the available bills; the difficulties in a purely business town like Manchester are exceptional, and at least one of our members was compelled to spend the night at an hotel, having missed the last train home. A sale of work is to be held in April with the object of raising £50. The District Council hopes to be able to devote a greater proportion of its time and energies to the wider objects of the League if a sum sufficiently large to cover the general expenses can be raised at one effort. The literature department is flourishing. THE VOTE selling is to be carried on with vigour by a number of members. Three dozen VOTES were sold in Deansgate after a recent meeting of the Free Church League. The merchandise department promises to become an increasingly popular feature. Manchester and district members are reminded to attend the joint meetings held every Wednesday evening at the office to support THE VOTE and prepare for the forthcoming sale of work.—M. G.

Middlesbrough.—Hon. Sec.: Miss A. MAHONEY, 35, Albert-terrace.

Last Sunday night a number of our members assembled at 9 p.m. at 35, Albert-terrace, and just after ten we set out in twos to put up our proclamations of war in various parts of the town. By twelve o'clock everyone had returned in safety, having succeeded in placing six dozen posters on the G.P.O., the Town Hall, the station, newspaper offices, and all the most conspicuous places we could find. Fragments of the proclamations and the W.F.L. crest still cling to several of the posts for the electric cars on the main road. The police, we understand, have had special orders to be on the look-out for a Suffragette raid and a special notice has been put up outside the police-station to draw attention to the illegality of putting up posters on private property. A good meeting was held last Monday evening in Hinton's Café, at which an address was given by Mrs. Dr. Levick, a member of the National Union, on "The History of the Woman Suffrage Movement." Mr. Perris presided. The discussion which followed was mainly on militant tactics. On the Wednesday following, a meeting was held at Wilstrop House, Linthorpe, for the purpose of drawing up resolutions for conference. Mrs. Schofield Coates pre-

(Continued on next page.)

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.
Thurs., Feb. 13.—SMALL PUBLIC HALL, George-street, Croydon, 8 p.m. White Slave Traffic Meeting. Mrs. L. Nott Bower, Mr. G. B. Gush, and Miss Anna Munro.
Tues., Feb. 18.—WEST HAMPSTEAD BRANCH MEETING, 23, Pandora-road, 8.30.
Wed., Feb. 19.—Public Meeting, CAXTON HALL, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. de Fonblanque.
Thurs., Feb. 20.—CROYDON WEEKLY "At Home," 3 p.m., at W. F. L. Office, 32A, The Arcade, High-street. Miss Anna Munro.
Fri., Feb. 21.—NORTHERN HEIGHTS BRANCH, Public Meeting, at Mattison-road School, Harringay, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle, Rev. F. M. Green. Chair: Miss Anna Munro. Admission free, reserved seats 6d.
Mon., Feb. 24.—MID-LONDON BRANCH SPECIAL MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 7 p.m. Business: Resolutions and Nominations for Conference Agenda.
Tues., Feb. 25.—MEETING AT SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York-street, St. James's, 3.30 p.m. Miss Boyle, on "Woman's Vote and the Empire."
Wed., Feb. 26.—Public Meeting, CAXTON HALL, 3.30 p.m. Surgeon-General Evatt, C.B., on "Florence Nightingale: The Greatest Woman Citizen." 211, BELSIZIE-ROAD, HAMPSTEAD, 8 p.m. "Suffrage Talks to Women Workers."
Thurs., Feb. 27.—WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD MEETING, Co-operative Stores, Kingston-road, Raynes Park, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Tanner, on "Does Militancy Pay?"
Sat., Mar. 1.—NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 10 a.m.
Sun., Mar. 16.—HUMANITARIAN SOCIETY MEETING, Fife Hall, Fife-road, Kingston-on-Thames, 7.30 p.m. Miss Boyle, "Women and World Politics."
Fri., Mar. 28.—NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 2.30 p.m.
Sat., Mar. 29.—ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Caxton Hall, 10 a.m.

PROVINCES.
Thurs., Feb. 13.—Chester, 13, Abbey-square. Speakers' Class. Chair: Miss F. Taylor. Opener: Miss Pryce (of Rhyl).
Mon., Feb. 17.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m. Open night. Gravesend, Medical Hall, Edwin-street, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner. Hove, Livingstone Institute, 8 p.m. Miss Hare.
Tues., Feb. 18.—Liverpool, Aintree Institute, 8 p.m. Branch Meeting.
Wed., Feb. 19.—Chester, 13, Abbey-square. Speakers' Class, 5.45 p.m. Chair: Miss Winifred Davies. Opener: Mrs. R. A. Thomas. Subject: "Are Women Prepared for the Vote?" Manchester, 46A, Market-street. Branch Meeting, 8 p.m.
Mon., Feb. 24.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m. Miss W. M. Jones, "Ibsen as a Pioneer of the Woman's Movement."
Wed., Feb. 26.—Helsby (near Chester), Recreation Hall, 8 p.m. Public Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.
Mon., Mar. 3.—Gravesend, "Kismet," Pier-road: Branch Meeting, 8 p.m. Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m. Miss Purvis, "The Organisation of the Nursing Profession."

SCOTLAND.
Wed., Feb. 19.—Edinburgh, 33, Forrest-road. "At Home," 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Rev. Dr. Drummond.
Tues., Feb. 25.—Edinburgh, 33, Forrest-road. Women's Meeting, 2.30 p.m. "The Social Evil." Tea. Admission 2d.

OTHER SOCIETIES.
FREE CHURCH LEAGUE.—Feb. 17.—Newcastle, 3, Eskdale-terrace. Speaker: Mrs. Bonwick. Chair: Prof. Halesworth. Feb. 20.—Lewisham, Warraree, Blackheath-rise. Sale of work, 8 to 10 p.m.
Feb. 27.—East Ham, 52, Shelley-avenue, 3 p.m.
THE WOMEN WRITERS' SUFFRAGE LEAGUE.—Meeting, Wednesday, February 19, at the Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, St. James's, S.W., 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. Hostess: Mrs. Herbert Cohen. Chair: Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, President W.W.S.L. Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, member of the League, on "Experiences with the Women's Sick and Wounded Convoy Corps (of which she is the commandant) in the Balkan War."
THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.—On Wednesday, February 20, at the New Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, St. James's, lecture by Miss M. A. R. Tiker (author of the "Handbook to Christian and Ecclesiastical Rome") on "Women in the Catacombs." Tickets, 1s. from the secretary, 55, Berners-street, W.
THE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Feb. 14.—Lewisham Branch drawing-room meeting at 43, Clarendon-road, 8 p.m.
Feb. 17.—Devises. Inauguration of Branch by Rev. C. Hinscliff.
Feb. 18.—Bath Branch afternoon meeting; Rev. C. Hinscliff. Feb. 19.—Kensington Branch, meeting at Elysée Rooms, 17, Queen's-road, Bayswater, 8.30 p.m.: "Social Purify." Miss Maude Ryder, Rev. C. Hinscliff, and others. Feb. 29.—Hford Branch, meeting in St. Alban's Church Room, 8 p.m.; Rev. F. A. Green and others. Brighton and Hove Branch, committee in office, 5.30 p.m.; annual meeting in office, 8 p.m. Harrow Branch, drawing-room meeting, 1, The Grove, Pinner (Dr. West); Miss Maud Bell, Mr. A. H. Box.

BRANCH NOTES.—(Continued from p. 269).
 sided, and we were all very pleased to have her present with us again. Efforts are being made to arrange for a big protest meeting in the Town Hall.
Portsmouth and Gosport.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. WRETTON, 64, Devonshire-avenue, Southsea.
 Six of our members posted three dozen proclamations on Sunday night, February 2. Our thanks are due to Mrs. White for so kindly entertaining members and friends at a whist drive on February 5. It was a great success both financially and socially. The Vote and W.F.L. tea sold well. The refreshments and prizes were given by the members, to whom we are grateful.

SCOTLAND.—Dundee.—Hon. Sec.: Miss H. WILKIE, 280, Perth-rd. At the last Branch meeting, Miss Husband presiding, Dr. Julia Pringle gave a most interesting address on "The Advance of the Medical Woman." The speaker instanced the difficulties and trials

of the pioneer women twenty years ago and their struggles for entrance into universities, examinations, hospitals, &c.; she also gave us her experience in American hospitals, where the advance of medical women has been greater. As it was the first meeting of the Branch since the betrayal of the Suffrage Bill, a motion was unanimously passed calling upon the Cabinet to introduce a Government measure of Woman Suffrage in the next Session of Parliament, and copies were sent to Mr. Asquith and Cabinet Ministers. It was agreed to send a letter of congratulation to Mrs. Despard for her bravery in again facing prison life. Correspondence from Headquarters was considered.

Glasgow.—Suffrage Shop: 70, St. George's-road. The Glasgow Council met in the shop on February 6 at 6.30 p.m. The Branch afterwards met to consider resolutions for the annual Conference. It was agreed to call a special meeting in February to discuss the resolutions sent in by the other Branches. The members will be notified of this meeting as soon as the date is fixed. It was decided to ask Miss Sidley or Miss Andrews to come to Glasgow for three months and it is hoped that one of them will be able to come soon.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE (GLASGOW BRANCH)
 Income for June to December, 1912.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Donations and Subscriptions.		Membership Fees	3 13 6
A Friend, per Mrs. Scrimgeour	0 1 0	Collections—	
Miss Janet Temple	0 2 6	Branch Meetings	1 15 0½
Miss Bennie	0 5 0	"At Home"	0 9 5
Miss Osborne	0 5 0	Jumble Sale	17 4 6
Miss J. G. Chalmers	0 10 6	Library (Lending)	0 4 6
Mrs. McCall	0 10 0	Miss Bunten	5 0 0
Mrs. Church	0 10 0	Mrs. Murray	5 0 0
Miss Isa Hamilton	0 5 0	Mrs. Macleod	0 10 0
Mrs. Wilson	5 0 0	Miss Ada Reid	0 5 0
Miss Bunten	3 10 0	Collection Box, Miss Hamilton	0 1 9
Mac	0 1 0	Income Tea Room	0 14 10
Misses Thompson	0 5 0	Hire of Chairs	0 6 8
Mrs. Wallace	0 2 6	Sale of Chairs	4 11 0
Mrs. White	0 5 0	Collections—	
London-road Co-operative Society	0 10 0	Branch Meetings	0 17 10
Mrs. Turner	1 0 0	"At Homes"	1 9 0
Miss Garvie	0 3 0	Cake and Candy Sale	14 11 5½
Miss Findlay	1 1 0	Sales	1 10 6
Miss McHattie	0 1 0	Membership Fees	3 4 0
Sale of Waxcloth	0 7 6	Athenaeum Meeting	19 0 8
Sale of Chairs	0 10 0	Library	0 2 11
Sale of Table and Chair	0 12 6	Amount previously acknowledged	214 1 11½
Income from Tea Room and Sales	0 19 7½	Total	£311 11 7½

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WALES.—Cardiff.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. WHALE, 33, Stacy-road. Under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League a very successful meeting was held on February 5 at the Ruskin Institute. Several other women's guilds and societies were represented. The object of the meeting was to demand a Government measure for Women's Political Enfranchisement. The resolution was carried unanimously and forwarded to the Prime Minister and Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart, the Member for Cardiff.

KINDRED SOCIETIES.

The Forward Cymric Suffrage Union.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. M. E. DAVIES, 53, Waudsworth Bridge-road, Fulham, S.W. The first public meeting of the Union was held on February 3 at Allen's Tea Rooms at 8 p.m. Mrs. Mansell-Moulin, from the chair, dealt with the political situation and her correspondence with Mr. Lloyd George concerning his promise to receive a deputation of Welsh women. Mr. Lansbury was the chief speaker, and proposed a resolution, which was carried unanimously, demanding a Government measure to give votes to women on equal terms with men, or failing this, calling upon Mr. Lloyd George to resign his seat in the Cabinet. Mrs. M. E. Davies seconded the resolution in Welsh. Mrs. Spencer, a member of the W.S.P.U. Working Women's Deputation, gave a graphic account of the work of the women triplaters in Wales. The next meeting, March 5, Essex Hall, Essex-street, Strand.

Women's Tax Resistance League, 98, Martin's-lane, W.C. On February 4 Mrs. Kington Parkes spoke at a meeting at Clacton-on-Sea under the auspices of the Women's Social and Political Union. Mrs. Arthur Sykes presided, and a resolution was passed unanimously demanding a Government measure for Woman Suffrage and urging women to resist taxation by every means in their power as a protest against the continued denial of justice. On February 8 the League took its part in the Suffrage Exhibition held at Eastbourne. A stall for the sale of tax-resistance literature was in the able hands of Miss Edith Hulme, of St. Leonard's-on-Sea, and Mrs. Kington Parkes spoke on the principles and practice of tax resistance. The following new pamphlets are now on sale at the offices of the League at 10, Talbot House, 98, St. Martin's-lane, W.:—"The A.B.C. of Tax Resistance," price 1d.; "The Third Annual Report," price 1d.; "Married Women and Taxation," price 3d.

WOMEN INVENTORS.

Mr. DAVID W. CADDICK, of the Men's League for Women Suffrage, sends the following additional information concerning women inventors. In the Patents Office Library, Chancery-lane, there is a book called "Women Inventors to Whom Patents have been granted by the U.S.A. Government from 1790 to 1895." It is a large list, and the patents are alphabetically classed under the headings such as Agricultural Implements, Art Appliances, Baby Carriers, Bicycle Attachments, Clocks and Repairing, Culinary Utensils, Educational Appliances, Flowers and Plants, Furniture and Furnishings, Heating Apparatus, Medical Appliances, Motors, Printing and Binding, Railway Appliances, Trunks and Bags, Typewriting and Appliances, Washing and Cleaning, Wearing Apparel, Wall Paper; also Printed Fabrics, Textile Fabrics, Designs, Miscellaneous, &c. He adds:—"It would be interesting to have a list of inventions made by women in the U.S.A. from 1895 onwards, and also a complete list of patents granted to women in Great Britain and other countries."

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