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with additions.*

Women's Suffrage Associate Scheme.

WITHIN the last twelve months a new scheme of work has been inaugurated by the Central and East of England SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE which appears so far to promise well, and which may lead to considerable results in more than one direction. Some account of the scheme may therefore be of practical use and interest to friends of the cause.

As has been already stated in this REVIEW, at the Birmingham Conference of October, 1896, definite geographical areas were laid down for the work of the various Suffrage Societies. The Central and East of England Society felt that it had now become necessary to perfect the organisation within their area, and particularly important to gain a foothold in every constituency. It was also desirable to keep in touch with the countless friends who from time to time had shown some active sympathy (such as signing petitions, distributing tickets for meetings, &c.), but who were constantly lost sight of from their not being subscribers.

Such undertakings would clearly throw an enormous additional burden of work on the office, which it could not effectually grapple with even were the Society's funds indefinitely increased; therefore some kind of local machinery became necessary which should be simple and easily set in motion.

To this end the Committee propose to appoint a Local Hon. Secretary in each constituency, who

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should work directly under the central office and be responsible for a complete record of all friends of the cause living in her constituency, and for the distribution of literature and information as to local work. To enable her to keep an exact and reliable list of supporters, all friends who are not already members (*i.e.*, subscribers) are asked to become associates, by signing their names and addresses in a book kept specially for the purpose by the Local Hon. Secretary.

The rules for associates are extremely simple. They are as follows:—

(1) Any person who has attained the age of 18 years, and who is in favour of any extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to women, may become an associate of the Central and East of England Society for Women's Suffrage.

(2) No money contribution is required from any associate, but annual subscriptions or donations being necessary for the carrying on of the work, may be sent, if desired, to the Secretary of the Suffrage Society, 20, Great College Street, Westminster.

(3) Any associates changing their address should inform the Local Hon. Secretary of the change. If they remove into a different constituency the Local Hon. Secretary will forward their name and address to the Local Hon. Secretary of the new constituency.

The first Local Hon. Secretary was appointed in May, 1897, in South Kensington (London).

The names of all existing subscribers resident in the Division formed the nucleus of her list. In order quickly to reach a large number of supporters a paid worker was employed to call upon all those in South Kensington, who had signed the great "Appeal from Women to the House of Commons" of 1896, to explain the Associate Scheme, and to invite them to enrol themselves. One or two members of the Society, residing in the district, assisted in this work, and in the first three months about 240 associates were obtained. In October a drawing-room meeting was held to give the associates an opportunity of hearing details of the present position and immediate prospects of the movement. A considerable number of them became full members on the occasion. Local Hon. Secretaries have since been appointed and the Scheme inaugurated in Hampstead and West Marylebone, and

active steps are being taken in several other Divisions. The experience in South Kensington has been repeated in other places; many new friends have been found, and it is hoped that in future not only will the work of collecting signatures to petitions or audiences for meetings—not to mention election work—be much simplified, but that sympathisers will be kept more in touch with the progress of the work than has hitherto been possible.

It will be seen that this Associate Scheme is of such a nature that it can be set to work in any and every constituency where Local Hon. Secretaries are to be found. It provides a means by which, in process of time, every sympathiser in the country might be included in the national organisation as an associate, while it opens opportunity to those able to give active work to render valuable service in the enrolment of associates.

The area of work of the Central and East of England Society consists of the following metropolitan constituencies:—

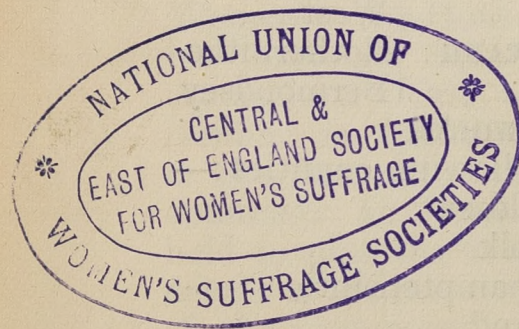
BATTERSEA	{ Battersea and Clapham	LAMBETH	{ North Kennington Brixton Norwood
CLAPHAM			
CHELSEA			
FINSBURY	{ Holborn Central East	MARYLEBONE	{ East West
FULHAM			
HAMMERSMITH		NEWINGTON	{ West Walworth
HAMPSTEAD		STRAND	
KENSINGTON	{ North South	SOUTHWARK	{ West Rotherhithe Bermondsey
		WANDSWORTH	

and all the constituencies in the following counties:—

Bedfordshire	Middlesex
Buckinghamshire	Norfolk
Cambridge	Northamptonshire
Essex	Rutland
Hertfordshire	Suffolk
Huntingdonshire	Surrey
Kent	Sussex
Lincolnshire	

All who are able to suggest the names of possible Local Hon. Secretaries, or give other help in starting work in constituencies not yet organised, are earnestly invited to communicate with Miss Palliser, Secretary of the Central and East of England Society, 20, Great College Street, Westminster.

It is to the wishes of their constituents that M.P.'s look; the Associate Scheme will give ample opportunity to all who would work, for it has the merit of being practicable in every locality, large or small, central or remote. The scheme should therefore commend itself to the careful attention of all who would strengthen the movement at its roots.



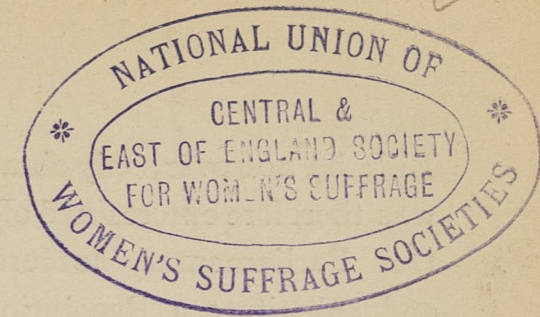
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ANNUAL REPORT.

MUCH in accordance with the anticipations of your Committee, no further progress was made in Parliament this Session. On the opening day of the Session, a Conference of Members of Parliament favourable to Women's Suffrage was held in Committee Room 13 of the House of Commons, to decide on the policy of the Session. Mr. George Wyndham, M.P., presided. After some discussion, in which Mr. Faithfull Begg, Mr. William Johnston and Mr. Atherley Jones stated their views of the importance of some Parliamentary action being taken, it was decided to ballot for a day, and to proceed by Bill or Resolution according to the result.

The following ladies, representing the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, were present:—Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Blackburn (Central and East of England Society for Women's Suffrage), Mrs. Russell Cooke, Mrs. Broadley-Reid (Central and Western Society), Miss Roper (North of England Society), Mrs. Arthur Francis Bristol and West of England Society), Miss J. McLea (Cheltenham), Mrs. Enfield Dowson (Nottingham and District), Mrs. Gray Heald (Leeds), Miss Louisa Stevenson and Miss S. E. S. Mair (Edinburgh), Mrs. Charles Baxter and Miss Edith Palliser (Secretaries of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies).

Mr. Joseph T. Firbank (M.P. for Hull, East), was the most successful of those who balloted for a Women's Suffrage

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