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Notes.

SUFFRAGETTES are invited to attend the afternoon service at Westminster Abbey on Monday, February 15th, the day before the opening of Parliament (not February 14th, as we were informed last week), in order by their presence to make that service one of intercession for the furtherance of the cause during the present Session of Parliament. Assembly will take place in Dean's Yard half an hour before the service begins.

AT a Women's Suffrage demonstration at Leeds, Mrs. Henry Fawcett was the chief speaker, and is reported to have said that if statesmen did not yield to constitutional demands these demands might be made in a manner that was not peaceable. A resolution was passed calling upon the Government to introduce a Bill for giving the vote to women.

WE have received the first number of *Jus Suffragii Alumnae*, the official publication of the Queen Margaret College Suffrage Society. We can only say that improvement on the first number will be a difficult task—parody, caustic wit, solid argument, cartoons, are all to be found within its pages. Added to these attractions is a catholicity and human sympathy which we look for from all properly educated women. We wish our readers nothing better than the possession of a copy.

A DEBATE on Women's Suffrage will take place on Feb. 19th, at 3 P.M., in the Queen's Gate Hall, Harrington Road, S.W. The resolution is "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary Franchise should be extended to duly qualified Women." The proposer: Miss Helen Ogston, B.Sc. (N.W.S.P.U.). Opposer: Mr. George Calderon, Hon. Sec. Men's Anti-Suffrage League. Tickets, 2s. 6d. and 1s. To be obtained of Miss Florence White, 12, Cathcart Studios, Redcliffe Road, S.W.; A. F. Vedy, 265, King's Road, Chelsea; and at Queen's Gate Hall.

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Weekly Numbers, 1½d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; half-yearly, 3s. 3d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. All Subscriptions must be paid in advance. Back Numbers can still be obtained at the Office.

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 M.S. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,
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THERE was a crowded meeting to hear Mrs. Pankhurst on Tuesday evening last, in the Dome, Brighton. Miss Helen Ogston had been working hard and with splendid success during the past few days. The Dome was filled to overflowing with a sympathetic audience. Several young men in quest of a somewhat rowdy form of fun hung round the Church Street entrance to the Hall. The large ironwork gates they found closed and guarded by police both inside and out, and so, metaphorically, these gay spirits were "chained to the grille." It is a curious form of amusement to spend an evening in objectless jeering and cheering. Educated, serious-minded people inside the hall would, no doubt, reflect upon the fact that these irresponsible youths might possibly possess a vote. Miss Helen Ogston made an earnest and eloquent appeal for help in the movement, promising a local organizer if sufficient monetary help was forthcoming.

Mrs. Pankhurst divided her address into three heads—What we want; why we want it; and how we are going to get it—making an earnest appeal to men as well as women to work together for a cause which would do much to promote the welfare of the whole world. Women will get the vote, and how much better if they get it with the co-operation of the men.

ON Tuesday, February 16th, a lecture will be given in St. James's Hall, at 8 P.M., on 'The Opening of Parliament,' by Miss Chrystal Macmillan. Miss Christabel Pankhurst, who will be in the chair, will deal with the King's Speech, which will have been read on the afternoon of that day.

Another interesting lecture is announced for the following Tuesday, February 23rd, at 8 P.M., in the same hall, when Miss Elizabeth Robins will deal with the question of 'Shall Women Work?'

The following day, Wednesday, February 24th, "A Women's Parliament" will be held in Caxton Hall, Westminster, at 7.30 P.M., for women only. An attempt will be organized at this meeting to interview the Prime Minister on the question of the Enfranchisement of Women.

MR. AND MRS. PETHICK LAWRENCE who, fifteen months ago, started the weekly paper *Votes for Women*, have transferred the proprietorship to the N.W.S.P.U.

The normal size of the paper is to be twenty-four pages, and many articles of interest may be expected.

ON February 4th, 1907, Mr. Winston Churchill, speaking in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, secured a quiet hearing from the Suffragists, by giving a promise that he would answer a question on Women's Suffrage before he left the platform. At the end of the meeting he definitely said that he would not vote for a Bill to enfranchise women on the same terms as men. On Friday evening, last week, at a meeting in the Town Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Mr. Churchill said "a General Election was already on the horizon, and the large issues which would be decided by it were not less important than those fought out at the last election, and in some notable respects even more important. (Cheers.) This approaching election which would come upon us at no undue, or, on the Government's part, improperly retarded date, would differ from the last election in this fact that both parties would have positive policies." He finished his speech with these words: "To bring the whole world in—that was the mission of Liberalism, and in that cause, if they fought with courage, they were bound in the end to conquer with glory."

Is Mr. Churchill in verity turning his attention to the whole world. If he is true to his words, his sympathies must be with the Women's Suffrage movement, as a world composed

of men alone is, of necessity, an impossibility! If this is so we may rejoice that now in February, 1909, he is proving himself more truly a Liberal than in February, 1907.

SIR EDWARD CLARKE speaking at a meeting at Esher, said that women divided men into two classes—either they were "dears" or "wretches." Candidates for Parliament would be divided by them into these two classes, and "the dear" would always get the vote. Sir Edward Clarke seems to have reached the normal standard of Anti-Suffrage argument.

WE are informed that Mr. Gladstone has appointed a Departmental Committee to consider the duties of the police with respect to the preservation of order at public meetings, and to report whether any, and if so what, alteration in practice is desirable, regard being had especially to the importance of securing uniformity throughout the country. The Committee is constituted as follows:—Right Hon. Henry Hobhouse (Chairman); Sir Joseph Compton Rickett, M.P.; Mr. H. B. Simpson, C.B. (Principal Clerk, Home Office); Mr. J. M. Astbury, K.C., M.P.; Mr. J. G. Butcher, K.C., ex-M.P.; Mr. G. N. Barnes, M.P.; Mr. R. E. Fox (Town Clerk of Leeds.)

THE inaugural meeting of the Edinburgh Circle of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association took place in Edinburgh on January 28th. The speakers were Miss Packer from London, and Miss Lees, Edinburgh Parish Council.

The room lent for the meeting was well filled, several people joined the society, and a good deal of literature was sold. Lady Low is President of the Circle, and Miss Alice Neaves, 5, Rotheray Place, is secretary. She will be glad to enroll new members, and to send literature and information to all who wish it. The six societies which are pushing the Suffrage in Edinburgh are very strenuous in their efforts, and by those efforts new members are daily enrolling their names in the books of the Society which suits them best.

A VERY successful first public meeting of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, Glasgow Local Circle, was held on Saturday, January 30th, at the Windsor Hotel, Glasgow. Apologies were read from Lord Newlands, Lord Inverclyde, Sir John Kaye Mins, Sir John Ure-Primrose, Mr. Bonar Law, Capt. C. B. Balfour of Newton Don, and others.

Miss Macfarlane Park, vice-chairman, presided. Miss H. Packer, of London, gave a most interesting account of the formation of the Association and history of the Franchise. Bailie Cleland moved the resolution "That this meeting pledges itself to work for the Franchise on educational and constitutional lines," which was adopted.

Miss Manning moved a vote of confidence in Mr. Balfour as our leader, and trusted him to bring in a Franchise Bill on his return to power "to grant the Franchise to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, to men."

The hon. secretary, Miss Eve Baker, Albany Street, Charing Cross, received many new members.

THE Women's Local Government Society, in view of the selection of candidates for the next London County Council, has taken counsel's opinion as to whether a married woman can be elected as a member.

Mr. W. Blake Odgers says: "In my opinion a married woman can now, since the passing of the Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils) Act, 1907, be elected to serve as a member of the London County Council." By

this Act "a woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from being elected, or being a councillor or alderman of the council of any county or borough (including a metropolitan borough)."

Hence some hold the opinion that any woman, whether a spinster, a married woman, or a widow, is qualified to be elected and to be a London County Councillor, if her name is on, and is properly on, the local government register, of any metropolitan borough within the County of London.

The Women's Local Government Society, therefore, intends to make a special effort to secure a strong representation of women on the next County Council.

MISS ALICE ZIMMERN is anxious to buy or borrow the following pamphlets: 'The Report of the Washington Meeting of the International Suffrage Congress,' 'Women's Suffrage in Australia,' 'Women's Suffrage in New Zealand.' All these are now out of print. Perhaps some readers of *Women's Franchise* may have copies which they are willing to sell or lend. They should be addressed to the office of this paper.

OWING to limited space much matter of great interest has again this week been obliged to be held over. Will some reader who is interested in the work of this paper come forward and make it possible to extend the number of its pages to sixteen, if only for one week. The extra four pages could be produced at the cost of £5.

House of Lords—Scottish Women Graduates' Appeal.

DONATIONS TOWARDS £150 DEFICIT.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	65	15	0
Miss E. M. Dobbs	0	3	0
Mrs. E. Rosa Napier	1	0	0
The Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage	10	10	0
Mrs. Elizabeth Oakley	1	0	0
Mrs. A. F. Orchard	1	1	0
Mrs. L. Edwards	1	0	0
	£80	9	0

This leaves a present deficit of £69 10s. Those who sympathize with the legal action are asked to send donations to the Secretary at Corstorphine Hill House, by Murrayfield, Midlothian.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

WE are indebted to Madame Münter for an interesting summary of the legislation in Denmark affecting women during the last fifty years.

DENMARK.

It is interesting to see how women have advanced, step by step, in Denmark from the year 1859. Every year some new amendment to the law opens some new entrance for women to positions formerly only occupied by men. But, as for our past, we have nothing to point to as the English, French, Austrian, and Hungarian women have. We have never had a seat in Parliament, neither in the Upper House nor in the Lower. In France women possessing a certain amount of property had so up to the year of 1789. The Revolution turned them out. In England many women who possessed property had great influence during the time of Queen Elizabeth; but this influence diminished more and more. In Austria women owning certain property had a man-representative sitting in the House of Magnates, which representative she might direct in his voting. In Denmark we know very little of our past as regards these matters.

1. On November 10th, 1859, it was decided that an annual examination was to be passed by teachers in girl-schools both in

Copenhagen and in the towns of the provinces. Four women passed in 1860. On March 29th, 1867, women gained admittance to the municipal schools. In 1890, 750 lady teachers were appointed to municipal schools. In 1908 about 2,000.

2. In 1863 the first High School for girls was opened in Denmark. At present there are several thousand girl graduates every year, and this has been the case for years.

3. In 1872 a Merchant-School was opened for women in Copenhagen. It was closed in 1906 (I suppose because women were admitted to the men's Merchant-School).

4. On June 25th, 1875, a royal edict was given for women's admittance to pass an examination as students, and to continue in the following faculties except Theology.

5. In May, 1877, it was published that women now had admittance to pass the examination for dentists.

6. In 1877 the first woman postmaster was appointed.

7. On June 1st, 1879, the first woman was nominated as assistant at the Statistic Bureau.

8. December, 1881. The first woman dentist commenced practice.

9. May 12th, 1882. A royal edict giving women permission to pass a general Preliminary Examination, as well as those examinations to which it opens admittance.

10. In 1885 we got the first woman doctor. In 1908 Denmark is said to have 29 lady medical doctors.

11. The first woman took her degree as a lawyer. The lady was Miss Nanna Berg, daughter of the great politician Christian Berg. By a judgment of the Supreme Court, October 9th, 1888, she was denied the right to take practical advantage of her studies as attorney to a lawyer, and in this way her work and the examinations she had passed were rendered useless to her.

October 1st, 1888. The new State School of Art was opened to women.

12. In the law of April 12th, 1889, a decision was introduced, viz., women have the same right as men to be educated for and appointed to the service of the Government in the Post and Telegraph service. During the discussion of this measure in the "Committee of Salaries," the chairman, Mr. Blem, got this measure introduced in opposition to the Minister of the Interior of that time; but the whole committee insisted on this decision. The Minister had then to agree, but confident that the Administration would know well enough how to keep out the women. In 1908, 80 ladies were appointed by the Government as Assistants in the State-Railway offices, and 138 in the Telegraph and Postal Services. As lady clerks some few hundreds.

13. In March, 1892, a law for the erection of a seminary for woman teachers in High Schools was given, and such were erected in Velle and in Silkeborg.

14. In March, 1895, a law was passed for inspection of orphanages, and of children taken care of by paid foster-parents. This was the first occasion that women received a *Municipal commission*.

15. May 3rd, 1895, the first *Housekeeping School* was opened in *Scro*, by Mrs. Eline Eriksen. Here commenced in 1901 the training of *travelling lady teachers* for the guidance of housewives and housekeepers in the country. In 1906 a special housekeeping college was established under the management of Fru Lauritzen.

16. On December 16th, 1895, women got the same conditions as men for admittance to the Statistic Bureaus of the Government.

17. A law of March 24th, 1899, according to which widows having children compelled to attend school, got admittance to be members of a School Commission.

18. April 7th, 1899, a law was passed giving authority to the wife and creating her legal position in her relation to her husband. This law was of no real value to the wife. It only gave an authority which was bereft of the significance of *right of disposal*, and consequently of very little value. A sham authority only. When people marry they have joint-property, but only the husband has the right of disposal, and the wife has to ask for every farthing she wants, even if she has brought the bulk of the property herself. Now it has become the custom that a contract is presented to the husband on the marriage-day for him to sign, and this gives each party his or her fortune, and no right to dispose of the other party's. If a father be ever so conservative, he does not like to place his daughter's inheritance under the

control of her husband, even if he himself has had the disposal of his wife's property, and this we easily can imagine a reason for making the marriage contract. Several years ago this might show a distrust of the husband, but now it is too common not to be foreseen by him at the time of engagement, and it will be taken quietly.

19. November 20th, 1901. The first woman-inspector of factories, Miss Annette Vedel, was appointed.

20. On April 24th, 1903, a law was passed giving women admittance as teachers at the higher parish schools, and at the Government Grammar Schools, as well as to receive their education at the same.

21. A law was passed on May 15th, 1903, concerning vestry-boards, which gave to women, married or single, the right of election and eligibility to these boards when they had passed their twenty-fifth year of age, just as for men.

22. In October, 1903, the Merchant School gave admittance to women in Copenhagen.

23. By a law of April 6th, 1906, women got permission to become assistants to lawyers. (I do not know, but it seems as if this law only was rightly carried in 1890.)

24. On the 4th of May, 1907, we got a law of great value. In the place of poor-relief in parishes, which deprived those who had the benefit of it of their citizen-rights, a Relief Fund was instituted, which needy people of the better classes might apply to, without this bereaving them of their citizen-right. To administer this relief fund boards were formed, and for these boards women were electors as well as eligible just as men. They must all have passed the age of twenty-five, and be born in Denmark or be naturalized. To have received poor-relief was a disqualification.

To these elections, being in force in the spring of 1907, many women were elected for the boards, and the proportional method of election was practised for the first time. Hitherto we had always had majority-election. Now the minorities might get representatives on the boards as well as the majorities. It is considered a preparative school for the elections in the municipalities in March, 1909.

25. On May, 1907, the first woman Government Councillor was appointed inspector of the Housekeeping-schools (Frau Birgitte Berg).

26. In June, 1907, the Technical School of Copenhagen was opened to women.

27. On April 20th, 1908, the King signed the Municipal Bill of the Government, which had been carried in the Upper House and the Lower House, after the agreement of the different political parties, January 10th, 1908. The Government party were the chief supporters as well as the Liberals, and a branch of the Conservative party, named the Free Conservatives with very intelligent leaders. Opposed were the Conservative party on the one side (mostly in the Upper House), and the Socialistic party and the Radicals in the Lower House. It was most fortunate that the Government party (named the Reform Party) were so numerous, and with such force could get their own Bill carried, which gave to women equality of Municipal Rights with Men.

28. A law was passed May 27th, 1908, giving women admittance to become attorneys to lawyers, this was meant as a preparatory step to becoming lawyers themselves.

29. May 27th, 1908. A law was passed concerning certain amendments in the legal position of women. Women may become guardians. Widows and unmarried mothers are born guardians of their children.

You will see the regular progress in the position of women from the year 1859. One of the laws in the later years, the one of 1895, I must mention more in detail. The law has appointed guardian-boards for the protection of children, both those living with their parents, and those in orphanages. As soon as it is stated that children are badly treated the boards have a right to take the children and place them in other houses. In each of these guardian boards one of the members must be a woman. One of the members must be a teacher, and as this teacher often is a woman teacher mostly two women are appointed to the boards. The women are known to do excellent work. One of the chairmen of the local boards said to the chairman of the Supreme

Board of Copenhagen: "You may bereave me of my members of the Board as much as you please, if only you will let the women remain. They understand how to manage things."

In 1901 we got a government the members of which mostly came from the popular high schools in the country. This has very much changed the bureaucratic spirit that prevailed formerly. This accounts for old traces, for instance, in the law of the legal position of married women. But you can evade the regular law, putting all power into the hands of the husband, and you can make marriage contracts that give to married women a right over their own property or estate. We got another government in the autumn of 1908, but some of the members of the late cabinet have remained in office, and some of the most prominent members of Parliament have taken the vacant seats.

Correspondence.

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

Married Women Candidates and the London County Council.

DEAR SIR,—As lists of candidates for the London County Council are being prepared, and as there is need for the co-operation of capable women on that body, it is important that the public should realize that for the London County Council the choice of women candidates is not restricted, as for other county councils, to unmarried women and widows.

There being no residential qualification available, the only married women who can be candidates are those who are parochial electors; but among such there are some women of ability and experience who may well be asked to stand.

Yours faithfully,
ANNIE LEIGH BROWNE,
Hon. Secretary Women's Local Govt. Soc.

Hampstead Borough Council Election.

SIR,—Will you allow us to express our indebtedness to you for the interest shown in your columns in the recent Borough Council Election contest in Hampstead? It is satisfactory to find that the poll on this occasion was the highest by 389 ever recorded in the Ward by a Council by-election. 1,200 electors voting for the two candidates, being only 336 less than at the triennial electorate in 1906, when 13 candidates contested the 6 seats.

(Signed) F. GERALDINE DELF,
CHARLES PLUMLEY,

Hon. Secs. to Miss Janet Case's Election Committee.
[Miss Case was defeated, but only by 92 votes.]

Famous People and Women's Suffrage.

DEAR SIR,—I am compiling a list of famous people who have declared themselves in favour of Women's Suffrage. As I am anxious to have it as exhaustive as possible, I should esteem it a favour if you would ask your readers to help in this undertaking by forwarding any names to me.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN BRUNET,
68, Osborne Villas, Hove, January 29th, 1909.

Messina Relief.

MADAM,—In *The Queen* of January 30th Miss Eveline Mitford quotes a letter from a member of the crew of H.M.S. Duncan, employed in helping at Messina. He says: "The men who survived the earthquake won't lend a hand to do anything, even to bury their own dead. The women are working day and night, carrying water to our tents, and in many cases with pick and shovel digging out the dead and wounded."

I take it that few English people, however Anti, would deny that such men have lost all claim to be regarded as heads of families; and I suggest that all English subscribers to the earthquake relief funds give the local administrators peremptorily to understand that English money and gifts are to be bestowed on no such males, but on their wives, with precedence to the plucky women who have "worked day and night" to help.

Lyceum Club, February 3rd, 1909. ALICE COBBETT.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND (N.U.W.S.S.). The annual meeting was held on Saturday afternoon, January 30th, at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton. There was a large and enthusiastic audience, and special interest was excited owing to the fact that the night before in the same hall the Anti-Suffragist League had held a large meeting, addressed by Mrs. Humphry Ward and Mrs. Massie.

Mr. C. H. Cross, Esq., presided, and the two principal speakers were Lady Grove and Mrs. Ashworth Hallett. The report gave a very full record of work during the past year, a great deal of which had been carried out jointly with the Women's Reform Union. Open-air meetings had been a special feature of the year's work.

The Chairman spoke hopefully of the course of events. He said that the silent processes of the intellect were more and more having their sway in the matter. He drew attention to the work women were doing in various capacities, and recalled the public services of women-workers in Bristol. Mrs. Humphry Ward had vindicated the cause of women's intellect by her writings, and she had, without intending it, done more for the cause of Women's Suffrage by her work than she would ever do against it by her advocacy of the other side.

Mrs. Ashworth Hallett moved the following resolution: "That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Parliamentary Franchise should be granted to duly qualified women without delay, and that, in view of the large majority for the second reading of the Bill on February 28th, and the earnest demand of women for their enfranchisement, a measure should immediately be brought in to remove the disability of sex, and to give to women their proper position in the State."

Lady Grove said she thought they should appeal to the instinct possessed by women in common with men—the desire for freedom, the demand for justice, and the hope of happiness. She spoke also of the effect of the vote on wages, and of the social purity cause.

CHELTENHAM (N.U.W.S.S.).—Several members and a considerable number of the Suffragist public attended a meeting of the Anti-Suffrage League on February 1st. Perfect order prevailed, but at every burst of applause vigorous hisses were contributed, and there were many adverse comments, while a substantial body of the audience voted against the resolution. Questions were asked by Mrs. Swiney and others, and the speakers were utterly unable to reply. Moreover, the Antis have withdrawn from negotiations which were pending for a debate on equal terms between the two societies. THEODORE MILLS.

DOVER (N.U.W.S.S.).—This newly formed Suffrage Society was recently started by Mrs. Lova Bowford, with Dr. Annie Brunyate as secretary. It promises to be a great success. After several weeks of energetic work by the local committee an inaugural meeting took place on February 3rd at Christ-church Mission Hall, which was crowded to its utmost capacity, many applications for tickets having to be refused. Mrs. Ginever proved an admirable chairwoman, and the speakers were Dr. Flora Murray and Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson. These ladies had been specially asked by Miss Bowford to come down from London to assist in starting a National Union branch.

As this was the first occasion upon which Women's Suffrage had been publicly discussed in Dover, Dr. Flora Murray specially referred to the historical aspect of the question, and then to the rights of women as citizens and workers. She afterwards dealt at considerable length with the industrial position of women, and the benefits which would result from their political enfranchisement. Dr. Garrett Anderson, in the course of an excellent speech, said that "In England men lived under a system of representative Government, and women under a system of despotic Government." She discussed the legal position of women, and appealed to the Dover Suffrage Society to support and further the work of the National Union.

After the meeting tea was served in the hall, and the audience remained for over an hour, eagerly discussing the subject with the speakers and the committee. As a result of the enthusiasm

shown at the meeting, the membership of the Dover N.U.W.S.S. has risen from twenty-six to over ninety persons, and the committee is now actively planning fresh work. The address of the secretary is Miss Brunyate, M.D., 4, Effingham Crescent, Dover.

EDINBURGH (N.U.W.S.S.).—The monthly "At Home" of the Executive Committee was held in the Café Oak Hall, Princes Street, on Friday afternoon, February 5th. Miss S. E. S. Mair presided over a large attendance. In her opening remarks Miss Mair said she had been attending the annual meeting of the National Union Council at Brighton, and she had come back with a stronger enthusiasm than ever for the Women's Suffrage cause. She had made up her mind that to do more effective work it was necessary for the Edinburgh society to have an organizer who would work in their own area. She therefore suggested that a fund for the purpose should be started at once. They would require to raise 150l. for a year's work, and though she did not expect to obtain that at once, they might make a beginning there and then at the meeting. Miss Lees, parish councillor, immediately offered three guineas, and the same was promised by Miss Mair and Dr. Elsie Inglis. Several promises of two guineas, one guinea, and smaller sums then followed in quick succession, and in a few minutes nearly 35l. was raised. When Miss Mair announced the amount resulting from her appeal, it was received with much applause. A collection by plate for the same purpose added over 3l. to the sum already mentioned, so it was felt that a very satisfactory start had been made.

An account of the work to be undertaken by the Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union was given by Miss Chrystal Macmillan, B.Sc., M.A., who received a hearty welcome from the audience in recognition of her admirable defence of the Scottish Women Graduates' case in the House of Lords.

Miss Macmillan was followed by Miss Scott, from New Zealand, who is at present studying medicine in Edinburgh. Miss Scott said she was proud to tell the audience that she was an enfranchised woman; and she gave an interesting account of the good results which had followed the granting of the Suffrage to women in her own country now nearly sixteen years ago.

Miss Alice Low then gave a spirited address, in which she urged every one present to show enthusiasm and sympathy for this just cause of enfranchisement for women. She appealed to men to remember how they themselves had fought when they were claiming the freedom which women were now doing, and, in remembering this, to hold out a helping hand.

The last speaker was Dr. Elsie Inglis, who referred to an Anti-Suffrage meeting she had attended, and deprecated some derisive remarks which had been made there as to the unfitness of charwomen to take an intelligent interest in politics. Dr. Inglis claimed through her professional experience to have many friends among working women, and she bore enthusiastic testimony to the way in which the average woman among the poorer classes can intelligently hold her own.

READING (N.U.W.S.S.).—On February 6th a large and well attended meeting was held in the Reading Town Hall under the auspices of the N.U.W.S.S. Miss Sutton took the chair. The principal speakers were Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs. Philip Snowden. After the opening speech from the chair, Mrs. Montefiore rose in the body of the Hall and expressed a wish to put a resolution in favour of Adult Suffrage. This she did from the platform. A certain number of people responded. Lady Frances Balfour, in an eloquent speech, said that in no part of history would they find that women have failed to take their part nobly and well, even in time of war. They had combated the same arguments that they had to face now when they agitated for the municipal vote. It was then argued that to take part in municipal government would ruin the municipal bodies and life in the home. Practical experience has disproved that, and was certain to do so in future with regard to the parliamentary vote. They had been used now for

something like thirty years in canvassing and speaking for the many sides of politics, and suddenly the country had awaked to the fact that they had amongst them women who were capable of understanding and giving an opinion, and arguing a good deal better than men could for the cause for which they stood. Men were rather surprised to find that women thought that they would like to be free and representative citizens of the country in which they lived. Women shared its burdens, enjoyed its triumphs, and the time had come when they should be allowed to help in furthering the happiness and well-being of its citizens. They could not look at the legislation passing through Parliament which concerned the industrial life of the country or the children, and say that women were not affected, or that their lives were not influenced by it. The time had come when women should enjoy the full privileges of free citizens. (Applause.)

Mrs. Philip Snowden pointed out that the inferior position of women to men, and the growing up in the minds of men of a superiority, was responsible for shameful and unnameable evils which were inflicted upon hundreds and thousands of little children. They were not asking simply for the vote, but for far greater things. They wanted a cleaner England, a purer and nobler England, particularly with reference to those things which it was not always thought proper to discuss. Men and women together could only even consider the settlement of those questions. She assured them that there was no selfish desire on their part. They wanted government of the people by the people—the whole people, men and women.

Questions were asked and answered at the end of the meeting by Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs. Philip Snowden.

REIGATE AND REDHILL (N.U.W.S.S.).—A very successful public meeting was held on January 29th in the Constitutional Hall, Horley, at 3 P.M. It was the first Suffrage meeting ever held at Horley, and the hall was fairly well filled. Miss Crossfield, Vice-President of the Reigate and Redhill Society, took the chair. After her opening address, Lady Frances Balfour, who had kindly consented to speak, gave a most delightful address, which went far to convince most of the audience. Starting from 1867, she traced the history of the movement up to the present day, pointed out the urgent need for the vote, and showed that the impatience among women recently manifested was not to be wondered at. Her address was received with enthusiasm; and when a resolution urging the Prime Minister to bring in a Women's Enfranchisement Bill this session was proposed by her, and seconded by Miss Cox, of Manchester, it was passed by a large majority.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Swan and seconded by the Vicar of Horley, who announced his belief in Women's Suffrage. Several members joined the Society, and a Branch Committee is now being formed. In the evening Lady Frances Balfour addressed a crowded audience at an "At Home" in the King's Hall, Redhill. Her quiet humour and powerful advocacy of the cause charmed her hearers, and many new members joined the Society after her address. The meeting was a complete success. The Redhill Committee is much to be congratulated on its arrangements for the evening. Every one seemed happy and sociable, and the numerous "Antis" present must, we feel, have gone home impressed with the logic and force of the arguments used by Lady Frances Balfour.

WOBURN SANDS (N.U.W.S.S.).—A very successful meeting was held on Thursday last. Owing to illness the President's place was taken by the Ven. Archdeacon Miller. The speaker, Mrs. Rackham, gave some account of the attitude of the Society towards the candidates at the by-elections which have taken place during the last twelve months, and also of the caravan work. She had sometimes been told that women had plenty to do, but so had men, and that was no valid reason for withholding the vote. There was a vast number of women on town councils, and others were guardians and inspectors, so that it could not with fairness be said that women did not take their share in the cares of the Empire.

Mr. J. H. Renton moved that a memorial be sent to the members for South Beds and North Bucks, that the Franchise be extended to women. This was seconded and carried by a large majority.

WORCESTER (N.U.W.S.S.).—A meeting was held on Friday, February 5th, and was most successful. The room was crowded, and though at first there seemed a good number of dissentients, the resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was carried with only two hands held up against it.

The Dean was Chairman, and dealt in a humorous, effective manner with the manifesto published by the Anti-Suffrage Society. He was followed by Canon Wilson, who dwelt on the justice of the demand for the vote, and the injury to both men and women when an injustice was long continued.

Miss Abadam, who held her audience spell-bound by her persuasive but forcible speaking, pleaded for the Suffrage as an aid to righting great moral evils. Other demands had been between man and man—strength and strength—this was a consideration as between force and weakness.

Meetings of the N.U.W.S.S.

			P.M.
Feb. 12.	Manchester , Weekly Meeting, 85, Deangate Arcade	Speaker, Miss Maud Smith	7.30-9.30
15.	Cardiff , Drawing-Room Meeting	Speaker, Miss Abadam	
	Tunbridge Wells , Public Meeting	Speaker, Miss Edith Palliser	8
16.	Newcastle , Debate, Assembly Rooms, Jesmond	Chairman, Miss Moseley Speakers, Dr. Ethel Williams, Mr. Edgar	
	Uxbridge , Address on Women's Suffrage, Rockingham Hall	Speaker, Miss Edwards	8
	Pontypridd , Celtic ideals up-to-date	Speaker, Miss Abadam	8
	Tunbridge Wells , "At Home"	Hostess, Mrs. Yeoman	3.30
	Tunbridge Wells , Members' Meeting	Speaker, Miss Edith Palliser	
18.	Hull , "At Home," Memorial Church Schoolroom	Hostess, Miss Annie Jackson	8
22.	Newcastle , Public Meeting, Drawing-room Café	Speakers, David Adams, Esq.	
	Devonport , Town Hall	Chair, Miss M. Robertson, B.A. Speakers, Miss Abadam Mrs. Cooper	
23.	Tiverton , Drill Hall	Chair, Hon. Lady Acland Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour Miss Abadam Miss Robertson, B.A.	
24.	Plymouth , Corn Exchange	Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour Miss Abadam Mrs. Philip Snowden	
25.	Nottingham , Discussion, Mikado Café	Chair, Mrs. Ben Dowson	3.30
	Plymouth , Women's Liberal Association	Speaker, Miss Abadam	
27.	Beckenham , Public Meeting	Chair, Miss Abadam	
Mar. 2.	Tunbridge Wells , "At Home"	Hostess, Madame Sarah Grand Speaker, Mrs. Eva McLaren	3.30
	Derby	Speaker, Miss Abadam	8

Correspondence.

The National Union and 'Women's Franchise.'

SIR,—The Executive Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies write to express their surprise that a statement regarding what passed at the Annual Council Meeting at Brighton should have appeared in *Women's Franchise*. It is contrary to their standing orders that any reporters should be admitted to their Council Meetings, or that any report should be sent to the Press except through their Secretary.

Yours faithfully,

MARGERY I. CORBETT, Secretary.

[So far as we know, no reporter was present. Our information was furnished us by friends.—Ed. W.F.]

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League.

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. WOOD.

NATIONAL OFFICES: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc., A.R.C.S. Hon. Treasurer: MISS BENNETT.
Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

President: MRS. DESPARD.

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

Socrates and the Suffragette.*

A LONDON DIALOGUE.

BY ISAAC GOODMAN.

THE Suffragette greeted Socrates and said: "During thirty years I have been propagating your arguments in favour of the liberty and equality of women. A great number of men have given me justice, but their Governments have nevertheless, denied me the citizenship, and, tired of waiting hopelessly, I have endeavoured to add force and compulsion to the propaganda of our ideal. I have interrupted the men at their assemblies; I have pursued the authorities in their houses, streets, and in their Government palaces; I have resolved to force the resistance of their guards; I have calmly suffered the rigours of the prison; I have brought to the public gardens 300,000 female compatriots in order to demand with me in one unanimous clamour the concession of citizenship. At present, the very men who before gave me justice, are now sneeringly retracting their convictions against me, and even promulgate new laws to chastise my propaganda. Your arguments do not please me, and your justice has been annulled. The men tell me that the town is supported by strength, and that my debility and weakness prevent me defending it—and that he who is unable to defend it in time of necessity has no right to govern it. Therefore, I see that my last resource is to appeal to the strong. I must fight in order to show that I am also strong. I am desperate. They have made me desperate. I am going to fight, and even to die in consequence, and my blood will be the price of my aspirations in order that they may assign to me the aspired independence."

"Your womanly courage pleases me," replied Socrates.

S. Thus have the women become—brave and heroic—the very mothers and daughters of the guardians of our republican ideal. To sacrifice my life in the holocaust of justice is not a sacrifice, but it is indeed the supreme pleasure with which the mortal unlocks the door of immortality! It was you, Socrates, who demonstrated to us that the talent of the women was not of a different kind to that of the men, and that it would only differ in so far as the distinct way of contributing to the perpetuation of the town is concerned; and that the women and the men are naturally fit to divide among themselves all the public offices. We have done nothing but repeat these very arguments of yours.

Soc. This I have said twenty-five centuries ago. I also added that the woman is much more feeble than the man, and that it was the function of the woman to rear sound children and produce them at their breasts from twenty until forty years of age. Since then I do not do more than think of the way of conciliating in my town the ideal equality of the sexes with the different impost as to motherhood, because it is clear that, if the woman is generally somewhat more feeble than the man, her debility increases in the later years of her life—years, which ought to consecrate, to give and to rear children, if your town is to be perpetuated.

S. Your town, Socrates, does not exist. The men have obscured the justice, and they have been unable to establish it. The city in which I now reside is yet by far, much worse than the

* The above dialogue is a translation from the Spanish 'Socrates y la Sufragueta,' por Señor Ramiro de Maeztu, in the journal *Nuevo Mundo*, of Madrid.

very Athens which has been condemned. It is, at any rate, worse for us.

Soc. Explain yourself.

S. In your Athens the women find themselves collected together betwixt closed doors. For the men there are the open spaces, war, public positions, and the profits of citizenship, as well as the choice of winning the bread for their mothers and children. In this city of ours the men are denying their duty to sustain us. Five million women are compelled to gain a livelihood by the sweat of their brow, and every year the number increases most egregiously. Therefore, if the burdens of labour weigh on the women with as much, or even greater, force than on the men, ought we not all the more to aspire to the rights of citizenship, and to the lucrative posts of the State in order to demonstrate our aptitude for them?

Soc. Five million women disputing men the work? Then your city indeed, appears to me to be monstrous and sad; and is it, therefore, for this that you now claim the citizenship?

S. For that it is, Socrates.

Soc. Let us illustrate this point more clearly, my Suffragette friend. Do you claim the citizenship because the men have forsaken their duty to sustain many of you; or is it because the eternal ideal of equality moves you to claim it?

S. I claim it for one point or the other.

Soc. The reply does not satisfy me. This is the particular point that requires to be illustrated in order to tell you whether you labour in justice or not in launching yourself into a war of the sexes. Also, how is it that you did not rise until now in order to commence the struggle for the realization of my ideal expressed twenty-five centuries ago?

S. Because circumstances did not press me forward. It was thirty years ago when the men commenced to throw us in large masses into the streets and compel us to work.

Soc. Whilst you were sheltered in your houses by the work of the men, you had no need for the citizenship. Is it not so?

S. Yes. It was merely through our ignorance and through our mental indifference.

Soc. Is the vote demanded in places where there are more women than men in the commercial centres?

S. Yes, a great deal more.

Soc. And is the clamour for the vote less where there are less women?

S. Yes, much less.

Soc. Is your glorious ideal known in all those towns?

S. It is known in all towns, but it is only predicted in the commercial centres.

Soc. Then I think the point is sufficiently clear and illustrated. I now see that it is not your noble ideal that moves you, but the circumstances, and it yet remains to be ascertained whether these circumstances can be permanent.

S. It will not be, because the vote will be granted to us.

In the remainder of the dialogue mere righteous argument compels Socrates to predict that population will in time be levelled in all parts of the globe; that the men will again maintain the women, who will in return make the men comfortable in their homes—an occupation they will much prefer to the worries of the streets and public business.

Socrates de Maeztu is apparently a little behind the times, for otherwise he would have known that this same "maintenance," resulting in the economic dependence of women upon men, is the very root of the whole difficulty, and that it is one

of the chief *circumstances* which have led the great bulk of the women all over the world to demand the vote. The "Suffragette" at last recognizes that political power must precede and accompany economic independence. Free women will be as well able as slaves to make the lives of men "comfortable," if that is all Socrates de Maetzu is anxious about!

Special Effort Week.

FEBRUARY 20TH-27TH.—Are you going to help? If so, What are you going to do? Is it possible for you to have a week of "Special Effort"? or, are you doing all you can already? In these busy weeks preceding the opening of Parliament, many of us will hardly be able to squeeze in anything extra, so to meet our cases a self-imposed income tax has been suggested, which will bring in a large amount of money if adopted by every member. Calculate what your income for that week will be and give a tenth or a larger proportion if you can spare it, as your contribution to the Special Effort Fund. This will only involve a little self-denial, and will not cost any time or trouble.

If you cannot spare even a tenth of your week's income, but can give some of your time, will you undertake to do some street collecting? Permits will be obtained, and all you have to do is to take up your stand with a permit and a box and persuade the passers-by to spare a few coins for the "Votes for Women" campaign. Mrs. Toyne is arranging to sell flowers—small bunches in the colours of the League—and expects to do a very good trade.

The important thing is for every member to find out what she can do, and do it. Offers of help in street collecting should be sent to the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible. E. H. M.

Special Notices.

The Green, White, and Gold Fair.—The previously announced "White Sale" is to be expanded into a "Green, White, and Gold Fair," and already extensive preparations have been put in hand to make April 15th, 16th, and 17th quite memorable—and we hope extremely profitable—days in our calendar. As at other fairs, all kinds of devices to tempt money out of the pockets of visitors will be adopted. Entertainments will be given, at which artistes of world-wide renown will sing, recite, play, and dance for the good of the cause and the delectation of the public. Miss Cicely Hamilton's waxworks and the Holloway Cell will prove powerful counter attractions to the Witch's Cave and the Bric-a-Brac Shop. In the Handicrafts Room artists in enamelling, bookbinding, metal-work, lace-making, &c., will be seen working at their various beautiful crafts. Miss Ailsa Craig—whose name, as we all know, stands for the highest and the best in these matters—has generously undertaken to design the decorations for the Fair.

We hope all members will set to work making, collecting, or begging green, white, and gold goods of every description. We have to fill to overflowing special stalls for blouses, children's clothing, household and table linen, fancy goods and lace, toys, pottery and china, fruit and flowers.

Refreshment Room.—It is decided to make a special feature of the Refreshment Room at the Fair on the 16th, 17th, and 18th. Not only will luncheons and teas be provided, but also a large stall for the sale of jams, marmalade, cakes, and biscuits of every kind. It is hoped that every one will remember to contribute meats, sweets, confectionery, and other things suitable for the luncheons and teas and for sale on the stall.

For Scotland, Mrs. Bell, 39, Comely Bank Place, Edinburgh, will be glad to receive parcels.

For England, Mrs. Hicks, 7, Ornan Mansions, Hampstead.

The Central Branch has organized a *Prize Competition* for the best blouses sent in, full particulars of which will be forwarded on application. Mrs. Holmes (chairman of the Green, White, and Gold Fair Committee) will be pleased to receive suggestions, particularly for forms of novel and attractive advertisement, and offers of help. Any other inquiries should be addressed to Marie Lawson, Hon. Secretary of the Green, White, and Gold Fair Committee.

Glasgow Central By-Election.—This by-election is of special importance as our Scottish office is situated in the constituency, and there is little doubt that the Government nominee can be defeated if plenty of workers and money are forthcoming.

Mrs. Billington-Greig is in charge, and offers of help should be made to her without delay at 30, Gordon Street, Glasgow, while special by-election donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, 1, Robert Street.

The King's Speech Meetings.

GOOD reports have been received from those branches that have already held their King's Speech meetings, and there will be a large muster of delegates at the Portman Rooms on Wednesday, the 17th. In every case the resolution has been carried, and the dissentients have rarely got into two figures. The meetings have clearly shown that the steady educational work which is always going on is having its effects, and that the resolutions which will be taken to Mr. Asquith at the opening of the new session will have behind them the backing and moral support of a larger number of men and women than has ever been the case before. The plan of submitting a resolution to a public meeting, and of appointing delegates from the meeting to take it to the Prime Minister has commended itself to the public and has received favourable notice in the press, especially in the provinces. It will prove conclusively that the demand for women's enfranchisement comes from all sorts and conditions of people.

Any branch that has not yet arranged for a meeting should do so at once, and if any member or group of members would get up a meeting in districts where as yet there are no branches, the Hon. Organizing Secretary would be glad to give her advice and help.

The meeting in the Portman Rooms will be open to the public, and is not for members only, as was wrongly stated last week. Admission is free; tickets for reserved seats 1s. each.

Helpers are required for the St. James's Hall meeting on February 19th. Please volunteer at once. E. H. M.

The Aerial League of the British Empire.

PEACE ON EARTH AT LAST.

A LADY writes to say that the above League is badly in want of honorary workers, and the secretaries informed her that they wished to form a "ladies' branch," and requested her to procure all the help she could for it. Her answer was that she devoted all the time and help she could spare to the fight for votes for women.

If all women would follow her example, and withdraw subscriptions from everything and hand them over to Suffrage funds, our battle would soon be won. Besides, if Britain is now going to paint the air red, it is to be hoped that women will never encourage or take part in the atrocity. However, we recognize that men must kill each other somewhere, and if they can conduct their quarrels up in the air without bothering us down here, well and good. We might meanwhile get possession of our share of the earth. But they really must not expect us to pay for their vagaries.

Liberal Stewards again.

IN Dundee, last week, Mr. Ure, K.C., spoke on the Land Question. When Miss Clunas, our secretary, went in the stewards seized her ticket (for which she had paid one shilling) and tried to hustle her outside the hall. Some men intervened, and she was allowed in, but there were stewards to right of her, stewards to left of her, stewards behind her, glaring and threatening. At the end the chairman asked if there was any amendment. No sooner had Miss Clunas risen to move an amendment than stewards clapped her down. She appealed to Mr. Ure, who told them to allow the lady to speak; but she was very roughly handled. I may add that the audience shouted "Fair play!" but the chairman, being a Liberal, ignored Miss Clunas's amendment. J. A. SMART.

Scottish Notes.

It may be the result of New Year resolutions, but with each new year Scotland awakens to fresh activities. This year is no exception. Already several large gatherings have been held, notably the Finnish visit to Edinburgh and Glasgow and the New Year Party in the latter place. Four new branches have also been formed. Denniston with Misses Savage as joint secretaries, and Miss Stone treasurer; East Edinburgh with Miss Stone as Secretary; Helensburgh, Misses Gadsby and Hartley, joint secretaries; and Shettleston, with Miss McLean, M.A., as interim secretary, and Mrs. McRellar as treasurer. To-night we hope to add Govan to the list.

A great meeting to consider the King's Speech is to be held in the Berkeley Hall, and we have every reason to hope that up in the North the women are awakening, aye and have awakened in earnest.

By-elections are also in our midst. Central Glasgow promises to be one of the most enthusiastic and well worked campaigns of the kind yet undertaken in Scotland.

For any and every kind of work all are needed—all are counted on. We have a unique opportunity, and every one can help. Reminder is necessary, too, of the Jumble Sale, anything and everything wanted. Volunteers should call at or write to the offices, 30, Gordon Street, Glasgow. A. M.

Branch Notes.

Maida Vale Branch.—Much local interest has been excited by the King's Speech Meeting, held on Monday, February 1st, by the kind permission of Miss Bessie Hatton, at 15, Sandringham Court, Maida Vale. Dr. Marian Thornett presided, and, after an eloquent speech from the chair, read the resolution demanding the inclusion of Women's Suffrage in the King's Speech. Countess Russell's address in support of the resolution was greatly appreciated by the audience, which included many new members, who were delighted to hear such excellent speakers at their first Suffrage meeting.

On the preceding Friday a meeting for council School Teachers was arranged by Miss Bennett, Hon. Treasurer of the Maida Vale Branch, at her residence, 59, Wrentham Avenue, Willesden. Miss Hicks, M.A. (of Hampstead), gave an interesting and instructive address, at the close of which Miss Baeziger spoke on the work of the Branch, and appealed for new members and helpers. Offers of rooms for similar meetings are especially needed for propaganda work.

Battersea Branch.—The King's Speech public meeting in the Lecture Room, Free Library, on February 4th was well attended. Mrs. Duval took the chair. Miss FitzHerbert moved and Miss Underwood seconded the now familiar resolution. Six young socialists voted against it, but it was carried with enthusiasm by the rest of the audience, even the newspaper reporters held up their hands in its support, and afterwards gave a good account of the meeting in the local press. Mrs. Crummie volunteered to be the delegate in the deputation to Mr. Asquith and her offer was, of course, unanimously and gratefully accepted. New members joined the Branch.

Central Branch.—No meeting on the 18th. On the 25th, there will be a social evening, and we shall entertain two other small branches. Miss Gertrude Mallet will give an address on "Women and Local Government." P. H.

Cheltenham Branch.—The Secretary writes: "We are making arrangements for special effort week and intend to make the appeal as wide as possible. We are going to have an American tea-party, which consists of tea for which a charge is made, and every one who comes brings whatever she has been able to make for the cause. Miss Holloway has offered a prize of six cabinet photographs to the one who brings in most for the cause. We shall also have an entertainment and a stall of goods for sale. Last time we raised 12l. and hope to do much better this time."

[Will other branches please take the hint.—HON. TREASURER W.F.L.]

West Sussex Branch.—The members of this branch had the honour and happiness of a visit from Mrs. Despard on January 27th, and are very grateful to her for coming so far as Midhurst in such extremely bad weather. In spite of cold and fog, our parish room was filled for our afternoon meeting arranged there, and a good collection taken. Both converted and unconverted were delighted with Mrs. Despard's illuminating speech, and it cannot fail to have aroused greater interest in the cause, while her advice will be of the utmost value to those who are already working for it.

Caxton Hall "At Home."

THE "At Home" on the 4th, thanks to our hostesses, Mrs. Fagan and Mrs. Beith, was a great success from every point of view. Our speakers, Mrs. Despard, Miss Matters, Miss Isabel Logan, with Countess Russell in the chair, spoke to a crowded room, and were received with great enthusiasm.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

February 11th to February 25th.

			P.M.
Thurs. 11.	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Miss Edith Craig Mrs. How Martyn Mr. Joseph McCabe Mr. G. E. O'Dell	3.30
	Burton-on-Trent Y.M.C.A. Hall	Miss Muriel Matters	8
	King's Speech Meeting	Miss Manning, Miss Schofield	
	Woking, King's Speech Meeting	Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Hicks	8
	Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand	Miss Benett Countess Russell	8
	King's Speech Meeting	Miss Neilans Mr. Joseph McCabe Chair, Miss Marie Lawson	
	Finchley, King's Speech Meeting	Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett Mrs. Francis Mrs. Nevinson	8
Fri. 12.	Cheltenham, Fintray, College Rd.	Miss Muriel Matters, Miss	8
	Harringay, Mattison Road	Isabel Logan, Mr. G. O'Dell	
	School, King's Speech Meeting	Mrs. How Martyn, A.R.C.S. Mrs. Holmes	8
	Eastbourne, King's Speech		8
	Meeting		
	Peckham, Public Hall, King's	Mrs. Manson Mrs. Lewis W. Lewis Miss Neilans	8
	Speech Meeting	Miss Fitzherbert	8
	Bromley, King's Speech Meeting		8
	Chester, Newgate Assembly		8
	Rooms, King's Speech Meeting		8
Sat. 13.	Midhurst, King's Speech Meet-	Earl Russell Countess Russell	8
	ing		
	Hampstead, near Whitestone	Mrs. Nevinson	3.15
	Pond	Mrs. John Brindley	
Mon. 15.	Croydon, King's Speech Meeting	Countess Russell	8
	Holborn Hall, Gray's Inn Road,	Miss Muriel Matters Miss Isabel Logan Mrs. Billington-Greig Miss Chrystal Macmillan	7.30
	"At Home"	Miss Amy Otter, Mrs. Beith Mr. Joseph Clayton	
	Manchester, 302, Upper Brook St.	Miss Banner	8
	Glasgow, King's Speech Meet-	Miss Sidley, Miss Munro	8
	ing	Miss Eunice Murray	
	Marlow, King's Speech Meeting,	Mrs. Manson	3
	Lord's Wood	Mrs. Meredith Mrs. Sargent Florence	
Tues. 16.	Edinburgh, Oddfellows Hall	Mrs. Ethel Snowden	8
Wed. 17.	Portman Rooms King's Speech	Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mrs. Holmes	8
	Meeting	Miss Muriel Matters Countess Russell	
	Manchester, 47, Mosley Street	Rev. J. E. Manning, M.A.	7.30
Thurs. 18.	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Raitton Mrs. Francis Mrs. Billington-Greig	3.30
Fri. 19.	Cheltenham, Glenroy	Mrs. Despard	8
	St. James's Hall	Mrs. Sanderson Miss Cicely Hamilton Mrs. Billington-Greig Miss Muriel Matters	
Mon. 22.	Manchester, 302, Upper Brook	Mrs. Dean	8
	Street		
Thurs. 25.	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett Miss Atkinson	3.30
	Cheltenham, Torrington		
	1, Robert Street, Adelphi	Miss Gertrude Mallet	8

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

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

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.
Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.
Hon. Literature Secretary: A. I. G. JAYNE.

Notes and Comments.

A SUB-COMMITTEE has been appointed by the Executive to take over the whole management of the open-air campaign which is to begin in March in Hyde Park. It consists of three members of the Executive, with power to co-opt six other members of the League. Invitations have been issued to certain gentlemen, and it is hoped that the first meeting to settle details of speakers, &c., will be held next Monday.

An excellent type of portable platform has been ordered, and a number of our speakers have consented to help. We shall need a considerable number, and we hope to arrange a rota so that the work will go smoothly without undue pressure on any one of them. Those who have had experience of out-door work are specially needed at first to support the amateurs.

The current issue of the *Tablet*, the leading Roman Catholic weekly, contains a communication from Dr. Alice Vowe Johnson, of Upper Norwood, drawing attention to the opinion of Cardinal Moran on Women's Suffrage in Australia. As this opinion furnishes a direct reply to some of the chief forebodings of our friend the enemy, we reproduce the Cardinal's views *in extenso*.

"What does voting mean to a woman? Does she sacrifice any dignity by going to the poll? The woman who votes only avails herself of a rightful privilege that democracy has gained for her. No longer a mere household chattel, she is recognized as man's fellow worker and helpmate, and credited with public spirit and intelligence. As a mother she has a special interest in the legislation of her country, for upon it depends the welfare of her children. . . . Women think nothing of transacting ordinary commercial business, of working alongside men, of playing their part in the practical business of life. They do not mind going to the box office of the theatre to purchase tickets for the play. There is very little difference between doing that and putting their vote in a ballot box. The men about booths show them every courtesy, the officials are anxious to make things easy for them, and the whole business of voting will not occupy more than five minutes. *The woman who thinks she is making herself unwomanly by voting is a silly creature.*" (The italics are ours.)

Report of Queen's Hall Meeting, Jan. 26th.

(Continued.)

MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN, who was received with loud applause, spoke of the pleasure she felt at being able to do something for the Men's League, which deserved the support of every woman who cared for her own enfranchisement. The chairman had asked her to speak on the present state of the Women's Suffrage movement in the United States. She had recently visited the principal towns of eighteen States, going as far to the north-west as Minneapolis and St. Paul, and down south to New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico. In all these places the women's movement is very much alive, though Mrs. Humphry Ward has said, in Leaflet No. 5 of the Anti-Suffrage Society, that "The Women's Suffrage demand in America is now in process of defeat and extinction."

Hundreds of thousands of women in the United States have read those words with burning indignation; and a deep sense of wrong had been aroused among the leaders of the movement there, because Mrs. Humphry Ward never once, in the

course of her inquiries, consulted a Suffrage leader nor Suffrage organization, but got her "facts" entirely from the Anti-Suffrage leaders and societies.

In the same leaflet Mrs. Humphry Ward says that "in every State where the Suffrage movement shows dangerous strength, a counter-movement is set on foot." What are the facts? On August 1st, 1908, the number of Anti-Suffragist societies in the whole of the United States was only six, while there were more than thirty Suffrage Societies. At the last Constitutional Convention held in New York the Suffragists presented petitions containing 300,000 signatures. The Anti-Suffragists could only muster 15,000. At the Constitutional Convention recently held in Michigan there were 175,000 signatures for enfranchisement, none against. In Chicago, when ninety-seven Suffrage and other associations petitioned for the inclusion of "Votes for Women" in a new City Charter, only one very small Anti-Suffrage Society had the courage to present a counter-petition. Mrs. Humphry Ward has made much of the Massachusetts Referendum, and it is true that when that Referendum was taken many women abstained from voting; but those who did vote outnumbered those who did not, in the proportion of five to one. The leaflet proudly asserts that thousands of Anti-Suffrage documents are circulated every year. From New York alone a thousand Suffrage documents are sent out every week. The leaflet boasts that the Suffrage movement has not gained a legislative victory of any importance for the last ten years. Well, many Suffrage Bills have been defeated here; but is Women's Suffrage dead?

In Oregon an attempt was made last year to pass a Constitutional Amendment which would enfranchise women. The leaflet glorifies the fact that the number of those who voted against the reform had increased from 11,223 to 20,000 odd. But when the first attempt to secure Women's Suffrage in Oregon was made, in 1884, the majority against was as three to one. On the last occasion the proportion was less than two to one. In Kansas, in Washington State, in South Dakota, the same thing has happened: in each case the cause has registered a gain. In Colorado, one of the four States in which women are voters, Mrs. Humphry Ward declares that the voting power of the so-called "bad women" is strong. But Judge Lindsay, the father of children's courts and an honest politician—rather a rare variety in America—was returned through the support of the women electors, in spite of party machines and "political bosses." New York is said to be a cold proposition, but the enthusiasm for a speech on Woman Suffrage suffices to fill to overflowing the Carnegie Hall, the largest in the city. *The New York Times* had taken a census of representative Congressmen and heads of universities and colleges, with the result that 49 per cent were in favour of Woman Suffrage, 23 per cent in favour of a limited form of Woman Suffrage, and only 28 per cent were opposed to it.

The great national federation of labour in America, with its 2,000,000 members, has endorsed the women's claim. In 1907 a working woman for the first time appeared before a joint Committee of Senators and Representatives; she heard the Anti-Suffragist lady plead with these men not to impose upon her the burden of a vote, but to leave her time for her charity and philanthropy. Then the working woman started to her feet, and exclaimed, "Charity! Charity for whom? Why, for such as I. But we don't want your charity; we want Justice." (Applause.) Women in America are waking up. They will soon be celebrating the festival of President Lincoln with as much fervour as the men, for they know that he stood bold and strong for Women's Suffrage; "and they have in their minds those great words of his, quoted by the speaker who preceded me. With their eyes on the future to which they hope to contribute, their hearts true to those great

and splendid women who worked for them in the past, they are going to say in those self-same words of their great leader: 'These noble dead of ours shall not die in vain. . . . Our country shall have a new birth, and Government of the people, for the people, by the people—through us, through the men our comrades, through the co-operative efforts of men and women—this Government shall not perish from the earth.'" (Loud applause.)

At the conclusion of Mrs. Snowden's speech a collection was taken, which yielded upwards of £30 in cash. The stewards provided cards for the use of all who might desire to promise donations or subscriptions to the League, and a considerable additional sum was thus obtained.

The next speaker was Sir Victor Horsley, whose appearance on behalf of the Men's League had been eagerly anticipated, both because the presence of a biologist of world-wide reputation was regarded as an effective rejoinder to the pseudo-scientific arguments advanced by Mr. Frederic Harrison and other Anti-Suffragists, and because it was his first speech at a meeting called expressly to promote Woman Suffrage.

SIR VICTOR HORSLEY, who was received with enthusiasm, said that he was no believer in politics based on expediency rather than principle. He wished to explain what was the principle upon which, in his opinion, this great cause should be founded. It was the principle already shadowed forth by Mr. Horne, that the community does not, as some newspapers would almost have us believe, consist of one sex alone, but is bi-sexual; it consists of men and women, living beings, each an organic part of the whole community, each with a right and a duty to help in shaping his or her own life, and therefore the life of the whole community. No doubt the logical outcome of that principle is Adult Suffrage. Why not? (Hear, hear.) "It is no answer to say it is not the national habit, not in accordance with the British Constitution. The British Constitution does not stand still: it is subject to the laws of evolution. . . . To a physiologist, such as I am, the arguments advanced against Woman Suffrage from a physiological standpoint seem most extraordinary. I am not going to refer to the catalogue of evils which are supposed to belong to women alone, but I will refer to one. . . . the size of their brains." It is argued that because the brain of a woman is smaller than that of a man, she has not the same qualities and mental attributes. The physiological statement is true: the inference from it absurd. Every scientist knows that a woman's method of thinking is exactly the same as a man's. And the brain grows—not merely through long ages, but in a few centuries, wherever the human race has had the chance of development. The inhabitants of Paris in the Merovingian era had smaller brains than the Parisians of to-day. Is it right to carp at women's brains and methods of thought when we reflect that it is only within a generation that women have been offered education on proper terms? Let us take the objectors on their own ground. If a woman has a different way of thinking about things, and if, from her side of social life, her outlook is unlike that of a man, is not this an advantage? Does it not suggest that the co-operation of the two sexes would be for the benefit of the nation? To express their distinctive views women must have a vote. It is idle to say that their influence is already so great that it needs no further representation. No doubt women are taking every day a more responsible position in the world. But who helps them to it? "Certainly not my own sex, except through the agency of the League that has summoned this meeting." There is one other exception, which must be mentioned. The medical profession is open to women on exactly the same terms as men. In 1876 an Act of Parliament entitled women to take medical degrees at the Universities. In 1892—sixteen years ago—the British Medical Association, the largest association of medical practitioners in this country, with a membership of some 20,000, was thrown open to women. "I would point out to you that we have gone further than that in the evolution of the freedom of women in medical affairs, because just as the introduction of women into the profession has thrown open positions to both sexes, it has also laid upon candidates for an appointment the duty of not allowing themselves to be sweated. What has the British Medical Association done? It has, through its

representative meetings, pointed out by resolution, and it has emphasized this by driving it home into the minds of those municipalities which have tried to sweat women practitioners, that the payment for men and women practitioners is to be identical. Their work is identical, their privileges are identical, and their responsibilities in life are identical. The same rule must be carried out by means of unions through all sections of workers in this country. The very latest demonstration that women will not secure their political freedom until they have a vote on this very point of wage-earning, is in Norway, where the hardly-paid teachers in the schools have only secured a comparatively generous wage for their work because women have the vote. Ladies and gentlemen, I will not detain you further. I have endeavoured to show you that, from a scientific—may I say a commonsense position, Woman Suffrage is a necessity; and I would like to add that it is not only a matter of common sense; it is a matter of common justice." (Applause.)

MR. H. YORKE STANGER, whose services to the cause were recognized by renewed applause, said that, as a member of the Men's League, he might perhaps be pardoned for feeling some pride in the great concourse who had come together that night. Might he also, as an old worker for the cause, express the pleasure which he had felt at the formation and work of the League. He did not believe that women should be left to work out their own salvation, to go on demonstrating their capacity for the vote, which had been demonstrated a thousand times already. If men believed in the justice of the women's movement, it was their duty to help; and, in any case, the movement was one to promote the interests of men as well as women. (Cheers.)

Might he now place before the audience some original arguments which a gentleman was good enough to send him, after a certain vote had been taken in the House of Commons on February 28th last. These original and striking arguments occurred in a letter which would well deserve to be immortalized in the next edition of the 'Curiosities of Literature': "I am told that 'there is one logical conclusion to your arguments in the House that woman is equal, nay superior, to man.' This is the conclusion: that 'man should now fight to the death for his supremacy, which people like yourselves are probably paid cash to work against.' . . . My correspondent puts this very difficult question: 'Did women win Waterloo?' (Laughter.) 'Did they win Trafalgar?' he continues. To make his reasoning a little more spicy, he says, 'the silly men who vote for your Bill are hoping for political help from the women, and are cowards and traitors to their sex.' . . . May I observe that even the wise people who voted against 'my' Bill are not ashamed to accept the help of women in their political contests? If they encourage these women to form themselves into political leagues, when they believe that women know nothing of politics, ought not they to be ashamed of such a mockery? (Applause.) . . . My correspondent—I think he must be an examiner—says, 'Give me an instance of a female Shakspeare, a Milton, a Schiller, a Nelson.' Well, Mr. Chairman, I suppose you have seen the voters at a contested election flocking to the polling-booth. I have seen it, but I have somehow missed the Shaksperes: I think between 7 and 8 o'clock at night I have not even been able to detect a Schiller. (Laughter.) My friend adds one clinching argument as the final keystone of his whole position: 'If you don't reply to this letter, it is because you cannot; that is clear.'

"Now, Sir, these arguments may be rubbish, but they are, to some extent, representative, typical of the sort of stuff one does actually hear. I do not say that if you read Mr. Frederic Harrison or Prof. Dicey you get anything quite so bad, but it is a fair specimen of what you hear from many of the men who possess votes, and think it would be so terrible to let the women have them too. I am very much obliged to you for allowing me to speak on behalf of 'Votes for Women.' I have done my best in the past, and I shall do my best in the future. I very heartily and warmly support the resolution." (Loud applause.)

The chairman, after announcing the result of the collection, put the resolution to the vote, and declared it carried by an overwhelming majority.

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WILL BE HELD ON

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH, 1909,
At 8 o'clock p.m.

Members of Seven Societies for Women's Suffrage will unite in supporting the following Resolution:—

"That in the opinion of this Meeting, the Parliamentary Franchise should be granted to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men."

Chairman:

MRS. CARMICHAEL STOPES.

Speakers:

MRS. PEMBER REEVES**MISS CICELY HAMILTON***Women's Freedom League.***MISS G. BRACKENBURY****MISS CICELY CORBETT***Forward Union within the Women's Liberal Federation.***MR. JOSEPH CLAYTON***Men's League for Women's Suffrage.***MRS. PERCY BOULNOIS***Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.***A MEMBER—Actresses Franchise League.**

Doors open 7.30. Tickets **2s. 6d.** (numbered and reserved), **1s., 6d.**

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