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National Union of Women's Suffrage
Societies.

WEST MIDLAND
FEDERATION.

ANNUAL REPORT,

June, 1911—1912.

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
FEDERATION, AT KIDDERMINSTER, JUNE 13th, 1912.

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National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
WEST MIDLAND FEDERATION.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

- Chairman:* Mrs. HARLEY, Condoover House, near Shrewsbury.
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. ELLIS TALBOT, Rock Mount, Wolverley, Kidderminster.
Hon. Secretary: Miss NOEL WRIGHT, Sutton Lodge, Solihull, Warwickshire.
Secretary: Miss HARDING, South Side, Warwick Road, Solihull.
Press Secretary and "Common Cause" Correspondent:
Mrs. HARLEY, Condoover House, near Shrewsbury.

REPRESENTATIVES.

- Birmingham*—Mrs. RING, 10, Easy Row, Birmingham;
Mrs. REID, 24, Chad Road, Edgbaston;
Mrs. OSLER, Fallowfield, Edgbaston.
Bromsgrove—Mrs. HUGH DIXON, The Elbows, Tardebigge, Bromsgrove.
Coventry—Miss WILKS, 76, Holyhead Road, Coventry.
Kidderminster—Mrs. ANTON, The Gables, Kidderminster.
Lichfield—Mrs. NORMAN (*pro tem.*), The Master's House, St. John's Hospital, Lichfield.
Malvern—Miss DAWSON, Broadmeadow, Malvern.
Nuneaton—Mrs. McTRUSTY, Glen Afton, Earls Road, Nuneaton.
Olton—Miss JACKSON, Blenheim House, Olton.
Oswestry—Mrs. SPENCER THOMAS, Trepennel, near Oswestry.
Redditch—Mrs. RUSSELL, Savan, Hewell Road, Redditch.
Rugby—Miss WALDING, The Limes, Rugby.
Shrewsbury—Miss HILLS, 12, Butcher Row, Shrewsbury;
Mrs. WHITWELL, 27, Castle Street, Shrewsbury.
Solihull and District—Mrs. AUBREY DOWSON, Yew Tree Cottage, Lapworth.
Stafford—Mrs. PATTERSON, Acton Hill, near Stafford.
Sutton Coldfield and District—Mrs. GOUGH, Weatheroak, Upper Holland Road, Sutton Coldfield.
Walsall—Miss RUBERY (*pro tem.*), 7, Melish Road, Walsall.
Warwick and Leamington—Miss HOARE, 40, Holly Walk, Leamington.
Wellington—Mrs. AUBREY, 16, Park Street, Wellington.
West Bromwich—Mrs. LANGLEY BROWNE, Moor House, West Bromwich.
Wolverhampton—Mrs. HIGHFIELD JONES, Ash Hill, Compton, Wolverhampton.
Worcester—Miss M. M. WILLIAMS, 19, Droitwich Road, Worcester.

RULES.

1. That the name of the Federation shall be the WEST MIDLAND FEDERATION.
2. AREA.—That the area of the Federation shall include the counties of Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Staffordshire (with the exception of the Burton-on-Trent division), and Herefordshire.
3. OBJECTS.—That the objects of the Federation shall be:—
 - (a) To promote the formation of new Societies in its area.
 - (b) To perfect existing organisation in its area.
 - (c) To arrange joint meetings, and generally to secure co-operation amongst the Societies in its area.
4. COMMITTEE.
 - (a) That the Committee shall consist of a member or members of the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S., and of representatives of all Women's Suffrage Societies contained within the Federation area and affiliated to the N.U.W.S.S.
 - (b) That Societies shall be entitled to representatives in the following proportions:—
One representative from each Society having less than 200 members.
Two representatives from each Society having from 200—500 members.
Three representatives from each Society having over 500 members.
 - (c) That the Federation representatives be elected for the year by their Society, proxies being allowed, the name of the proxy being sent, when possible, to the Hon. Sec. of the Federation beforehand.
 - (d) That the honorary officers of the Federation be a Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary or Secretaries, to be elected annually at the Federation Council, all officers to be *ex-officio* members of the Committee.
 - (e) That every member of the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S. who belongs to any Society within the Federation, shall be *ex-officio* a member of the Federation Committee.
 - (f) That Committee Meetings be held every two months.

5. FINANCE.

- (a) That each Society in the Federation pay an affiliation fee of 1s. in the £ (reckoned in its Annual Income in subscriptions in its last Annual Report), with a minimum of 12s. 6d. and a maximum of £5.
- (b) That subscriptions be payable upon joining the Federation, or within six months of doing so.
- (c) That the accounts of the Federation shall be audited annually by an auditor approved by the Committee.
- (d) That the expenses of an Organiser be paid by the Society, for which she is working, but that her fares be paid out of the funds of the Federation.

6. MEMBERS.—Any persons wishing to join the N.U.W.S.S., and not being within reach of a Branch, may be enrolled as Federation members, with a minimum annual subscription of 1s.

7. GENERAL.—That all correspondence be sent to Secretaries of Societies.

8. That in any town where a Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies exists, no scheme of work shall be undertaken by the Federation officers without the previous approval of the Local Committee, unless by special mandate of the N.U. Executive.

9. That no Society within the Federation area shall undertake work in unbroken ground within the Federation without immediately notifying the Secretary of the Federation.

ANNUAL MEETING.

1. The Financial Year shall end on May 31st each year, and the Annual Meeting of the Federation Council shall be held in different towns by invitation.

- (a) To receive and adopt, if approved, the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year.
- (b) To elect the officers of the Federation.
- (c) To appoint three delegates, of whom the Secretary of the Federation shall *ex-officio* be one, to attend the Provincial Council.
- (d) To transact other business, of which 21 days' notice has been given to the Secretary of the Federation, and 14 days' notice by her to the Secretaries of Societies. Business for which urgency has been voted may also be considered.

2. Six weeks' notice of the date of the Annual Meeting shall be sent to Secretaries of Societies.

3. The Annual Meeting shall be attended by:—

Voters:—

- (a) The Officers and Executive Committee for the time being.
- (b) One representative for 20—50 members, two representatives for 50—100 members, and one representative for each additional completed 100. No Society to have more than 6 delegates, proxies being allowed.

Non-Voters.—Members of any Society in the Federation, provided that these do not vote nor speak, and that they sit in the places allotted to them.

4. Special Meetings of the Council may be called by the Executive Committee, and shall be called at any time, at the request of five Societies in the Federation.

5. Such request shall reach the Secretary of the Federation 14 days before the meeting, and 7 days' notice of the meeting shall be sent by the Secretary to each Society within the Federation, and such request and notice shall indicate the business for which the Special Meeting is desired and called respectively. No other business shall be taken at a Special Meeting unless urgency is voted.

6. No resolution shall be put on the final Agenda of the Annual Meeting which has not been proposed and seconded by the representatives of two separate Societies, or by the officers of the Executive.

7. No alteration shall be made in the Rules, except at an Annual Meeting, or at a special Council Meeting, of which due notice has been given.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the West Midland Federation was held at Kingsley Hall, Kidderminster, on June 13th, at 3 p.m. Sixteen Societies were represented, and a large number of visitors were present, including two from the Hereford Society.

Apologies were received from Olton, Warwick and Leamington, Coventry, Lichfield, and Wellington. Mrs. Osler, the N.U. Executive Representative was unable to be present.

After the Chairman's address, the Annual Report and Financial Statement were read and adopted. Officers were elected to serve for the year 1912-13, and votes of thanks were passed to the retiring officers.

The following Federation Representatives were elected to serve on the Provincial Council:—Mrs. Harley, Mrs. Langley Browne, and Miss Wright.

Miss Wilks, of Coventry, and Miss M. M. Williams, of Worcester, were elected to serve as Vice-Chairmen to the Federation.

Amendments to rules were discussed and passed, and it was decided to include the county of Herefordshire in the Federation area.

The following resolution was proposed by Solihull and District, seconded by Kidderminster, and carried:—

“That it be a recommendation that the Federation Secretary arranges with well-known speakers to visit the Federation area for definite periods and invites the societies to arrange meetings within that time.”

It was announced that a beautiful banner had been presented to the Federation by Mrs. Harley.

Miss Morrison briefly outlined her scheme for a Summer School for Suffragists.

After tea, which was kindly provided by the Kidderminster Society, Lady Frances Balfour gave an address on the new election policy of the N.U.W.S.S.

The Officers and Executive Committee of the Federation wish to express their hearty thanks to the Kidderminster Society for the delightful way in which the delegates were received, and for the excellent arrangements made for the Annual Meeting.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WEST MIDLAND FEDERATION.

June 13th, 1911—May 31st, 1912.

FORMATION AND GROWTH.

At the first Annual Meeting of the Midland Federation held at St. Thomas' Mission Hall, Nottingham, on June 12th, 1911, it was decided that the area of the Federation, covering seven counties, was too large to allow of effective organisation, and that it should be divided into the East and West Midland Federations, and that the county of Oxford should federate with Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

The West Midland Federation consisted of the counties of Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Staffordshire (with the exception of the Burton-on-Trent Division), and at that time included the following thirteen Societies:—

Birmingham.	*Stratford-on-Avon.
Coventry.	Sutton Coldfield and District.
Olton.	Warwick and Leamington.
Oswestry.	West Bromwich.
Rugby.	Wolverhampton.
Shrewsbury.	Worcester.
Solihull and District.	

*Stratford-on-Avon resigned from the Federation in Oct., 1911.

Representatives of Societies situated in the West Midland Federation area met in Nottingham on June 13th, to elect officers, and to draw up rules.

It was decided to appoint a paid Secretary at a salary of £84 a year. Miss Kathleen Coyle was the first Secretary appointed, but private circumstances obliged her to return to her home after two months' work, during which time she had trained her sister, Miss Elizabeth Coyle, to take her place.

Miss Elizabeth Coyle began work as our Secretary early in September, and to her energy and powers of organisation is

largely due the marked progress made by the Federation this year.

We owe four, at any rate, of our new Societies to her work.

It is with the very greatest regret that we have now to say good-bye to her, and wish her good luck in the post of N.U. Organiser, to which she is going.

Mrs. Alan Bright kindly consented to act as our N.U. Executive Representative on the Federation Committee, until her election as President of the National Union of Women Workers obliged her to leave the N.U. Executive.

Since her resignation, first Mrs. Harley and then Mrs. Osler have been our N.U. Executive Representatives on the Federation Committee.

The following nine new Societies have been formed since June, 1911, and have affiliated to the National Union and to the West Midland Federation:—

- Stafford, in October (Organiser, Miss Morrison);
- Wellington, in November (Organiser, Miss Morrison);
- Redditch, in December (Miss Morrison and Miss Coyle);
- Nuneaton, in January (Miss Coyle);
- Kidderminster, in February (Miss Coyle);
- Malvern, in March (Miss Wright);
- Bromsgrove, in May (formerly a Branch of Birmingham W.S.S.);
- Lichfield, in May (Miss Wright);
- Walsall in May (Miss Coyle and Miss Harding).

ORGANISATION.

Miss Helga Gill, who had been the Midland Federation Organiser for a year, worked for us in June in Stafford, and then acted as presiding genius to the Caravan Tour in its wanderings for a fortnight through the country villages of Worcestershire, Shropshire, and Staffordshire, and accompanied it when it passed on in its character of white elephant to the East Midland Federation.

The Tour, held in August, was very costly, and a nightmare to its organisers, but as an advertisement and a means of reaching and impressing remote agricultural districts, nothing could be more effective. The van, covered with placards, started from Northfield on August Bank Holiday, and made its way, accompanied by a party on bicycles and in a pony cart, through Worcestershire and Shropshire, into Staffordshire, where, at Burton-on-Trent, it was taken over by the East Midland Federation. The bicyclists, acting as scouts,

would go on ahead to the villages where meetings were to be held, to find pitches and camping grounds, distribute literature, and advertise the meetings.

Everywhere interest and sympathy were aroused, and almost always the speakers had good and attentive audiences. Whenever it was advisable, resolutions were passed and sent to the local Member. Miss Helga Gill's unfailing resourcefulness and good spirits, and excellent speaking were largely responsible for the success of the tour.

Our appeal for volunteers for the Caravan had met with a most gratifying response, and we want most warmly to thank all who took part in it, especially the three workers from the Birmingham Settlement, Miss Matheson (Warden), Dr. Annie Anderson, and Miss Chambers (whose holiday time this should have been); Miss Size, of Rugby; Miss Rogers, of Oswestry; Miss Hawkes, of Stratford-on-Avon; and Mrs. and Miss Harley. Our driver, William Quinney, from Hockley Heath, was invaluable, and made converts to suffrage in his spare moments. We want also to thank most gratefully the many kind people who gave hospitality and help of all kinds at various places along the route, more especially the Reverend Mr. and Mrs. Guy, of Claverly; Miss Peers, of Kingswinford; and further, all who sent us money donations and helped towards the outfitting of the Caravan (and among these last we cannot forbear mentioning Mr. Grundy, of Manchester). Without the substantial aid we received in this way we should hardly have been able to undertake the tour.

If it were not for the costliness of a Caravan Tour, nothing could be more useful than to hold one every summer, but until our funds are in a less precarious state, it is to be feared that this is a counsel of perfection.

In September, when we had joyfully parted with the van, we were fortunate enough to secure the services as Organiser of Miss E. D. J. Morrison, who began work in Stafford, following up the meetings held there by Miss Gill in June. She then worked for the Stratford-on-Avon and Solihull and District Societies. Her fortnight's campaign in the latter Society producing five meetings and 44 new members. After this she returned to Stafford, and succeeded in gaining the required number of members to start a Branch after a public meeting on October 26th.

The next Societies for which she organised were Birmingham and Rugby.

She started the Wellington (Salop) Society with 40 members, and helped Miss Coyle to form a Branch in Redditch.

From December 9th until the Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill, with the exception of the Christmas Holidays, and a fortnight in February, she was engaged in political work (for the most part organising deputations) in ten Divisions.

Miss Coyle was in the meantime working up the Societies of Nuneaton and Kidderminster.

During part of February we exchanged Organisers with the Eastern Counties Federation, as Miss Eva Ward, at that time Organiser for the Eastern Federation, is a native of Newport, and it was thought that she would be more effective in working that constituency than a stranger would be. She and Miss Elkin held meetings at Ludlow, Market Drayton, Newport, and Donington. Their work has since been followed up by Miss Morrison, who was in Newport for the first ten days of May.

On her return to the West Midland Federation, Miss Morrison spent a few days in Stafford and in Kidderminster—where a flourishing Society had been started with the help of Mrs. Talbot—and then went to Leek to arrange a memorial to Mr. Pearce.

From this work she was called away by the N.U. to the Hereford Bye-Election. Miss Coyle took Miss Morrison's place at Leek, and worked up an influential memorial, at the same time laying the foundations of a future W.S. Society in that Division. Miss Morrison's visit to Herefordshire resulted in a request from the Hereford W.S. Society to be allowed to affiliate to the West Midland Federation.

It was decided to discuss the proposal, with a view to including Herefordshire in our area, at the Annual Meeting, and to send an Organiser to Hereford at the beginning of May.

Miss Walford was accordingly sent to Herefordshire on May 13th, and with her Mrs. Irene Meyer, the Assistant Organiser, appointed by the N.U. on May 1st, to train in our Federation. Miss Morrison was, at the same time, sent by the N.U. to the West of England Federation, to replace an Organiser on sick leave. A good deal of most valuable work had already been done in Herefordshire by the N.U. Organiser, Mrs. Renton, and if we become responsible for the county we shall hope to see Societies in all three constituencies before the end of the summer. At present Hereford is the only Society in the County.

Miss Walford and Mrs. Meyer did a great deal of canvassing for this Society. The former spoke at two drawing-room meetings, a members' and a mothers' meeting, at two of which she was assisted by Miss Muriel Matters.

A new Hereford Secretary was secured—as Miss Smith had kindly consented to act as temporary Secretary only till a new one could be found—and it is hoped that the Society is now starting on a new lease of life.

Work was also done at Ross, where new members were secured and garden meetings promised. It is hoped that a public meeting will be held there in the autumn, when there should be no difficulty in starting the Society.

Miss Morrison also worked for West Bromwich while that Society was organising a public meeting in Wednesbury; at Wolverhampton, where she and Miss Coyle worked up a Petition to Mr. Bird (who seemed likely to withdraw his support from the Conciliation Bill on account of the action of the Militants); and since her Easter holiday, for the Solihull and District W.S.S. in S.W. Warwickshire. Mr. Philip Foster, after repeated public promises to vote for the Conciliation Bill, paired against it on March 28th.

At the end of March, with the help of Mrs. House and Mrs. Radford, Miss Wright was enabled to start the Malvern Society; and at the end of April work was begun at Lichfield. Miss Muriel Matters spoke at a public meeting, and in four days gained 21 members, who have now formed a Branch. In May, the Bromsgrove Society, which had been a Branch of Birmingham, decided to affiliate direct to the N.U., and to this Federation—and Miss Coyle's and Miss Harding's work at Walsall resulted in the formation of a Society there after the public meeting of May 21st.

Since the beginning of June Miss Coyle and Mrs. Meyer have secured 21 new members in Leek—where a Society will shortly be formed.

MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

For the Procession of June 17th, 1911, about 1,000 men and women walked under the Midland Federation's banners, and three special trains filled with suffragists were run from the Midlands.

The serving of tea from a 3rd class corridor carriage, where two waiters and innumerable cups and bags of buns were located, in a train half a mile long, will ever remain a heated memory in the minds of the Federation stewards, as will the attempts to attract the attention of isolated bodies of

Suffragists, seen through an impenetrable stream of traffic to be wandering away down the wrong side of Whitehall.

The Worcester Society suggested a joint demonstration of Midland W.S. Societies at Stratford-on-Avon on July 25th, during the summer Shakespeare Festival of 1911.

The Demonstration was organised by Miss Markwick, of the W.S.P.U., and that Society, and the N.U.W.S.S. and C. and U.W.F.A., Church League, Men's League, and Men's Political Union were all represented.

Mr. F. R. Benson sent a message of encouragement and a donation. Mr. Foster took the opportunity to send us one of his frequent pledges.

It is impossible to enumerate all the meetings that have taken place in the area, but among the chief speakers who have visited the West Midlands during the last year are:—Miss Margaret Bondfield, Mrs. Swanwick, Mr. Philip Snowden, Miss Royden, Mr. Brailsford, Lord Lytton, Lady Meyer, Lady Willoughby de Broke, Mr. Lyon Blease, Miss Frances Sterling, Mrs. Despard, Lady Stout, Miss Muriel Matters, Mr. Baillie-Weaver, Mrs. Kineton Parkes, Mrs. Merrivale Mayer, Miss Ciceley Corbett, B.A., Mr. Cameron Grant, Lady Betty Balfour, Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Councillor Eleanor Rathbone, Councillor Margaret Ashton, Sir John Cockburn, The Rev. Percy Dearmer, The Countess of Selbourne, Mr. F. R. Benson, Lady Beatrice Kemp, Miss Abadam.

THE FRANCHISE FÊTE.

The chief event in our area this spring was the two days' Franchise Fête, held in conjunction with the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association and the Church League for Women's Suffrage at Leamington, which brought in £102 to the West Midland Federation and to the Warwickshire branches of the C. and U.W.F.A. respectively.

Nine of our Societies took part in it, while others sent contributions or helpers. The lion's share of the work fell on Miss Hulbert, the Hon. Sec. of the Leamington Branch of the C. and U.W.F.A., and without her and Lady Willoughby de Broke it would have been impossible to have held the Fête at all.

Even had the financial results been less satisfactory we should have considered the Fête well worth while.

"The £12 Look," given us free of charge by Mr. J. M. Barrie, and acted by the Actresses' Franchise League; the authographed books given by well-known authors (Yoshio Markino, Masfield, Sutro, Pinero, George Birmingham, Laurence Hous-

man, Nevinson); Lady Willoughby de Broke's concert, at which Miss Maxine Elliott recited and Lady Sybil Smith sang—all contributed towards making the bazaar rather different from ordinary affairs of the kind.

The exhibition of sweated industries, and the sight of the workers actually plying their trades in the hall, together with a lantern lecture given each day on sweated work, brought home the practical side of the movement to the public, and we heard then, and since, on all sides of the very great impression the exhibition had made.

The Committee has met seven times during this year.

The Federation can, all things considered, look back on a year of progress and success. There is still much to be done with our M.P.s and with our Press, which is hardly yet organised. We have received a grant of £40 from the N.U., in order to start a Society in the Constituency of every M.P. open to influence, in whose Constituencies we are not already working—14 Societies or so to start before the end of the summer.

Some work has been done in all Constituencies, excepting four, this year, *i.e.*, in 39 Constituencies out of 43. Next year we hope to have a permanent record of our work in every one.

We wish to urge upon all Societies the paramount importance of work in the Political Associations and in Party Committees.

We hope that Societies will co-operate more during the coming year in the matter of speakers, and will try to arrange their big meetings in the same week, so that one speaker may go on from Society to Society, and thus save her time and energy, and the Society's money.

More, too, could be done towards inducing working men and women to join as Associates. We now have Associates' Cards specially brought out for this purpose, and we ask Societies to make use of these, and of the N.U. Literature, printed for working class readers, and to arrange canvasses of working women and cottage meetings. It is hoped that every Society will take up Miss Royden's scheme, "The Friends of Women's Suffrage," and work that thoroughly among the cottages in their area. It is already proving most successful in many Societies. The Adult Schools, too, offer a field of work. They will usually welcome speakers on our question, provided they do not give an obviously political title to their speech, "The position of Women in the Labour Market," "Women and the Empire," "Women in the Home—or under the Law," are good subjects to speak upon.

We also ask Societies to do their utmost to form groups of members in the villages round their own towns, as these groups are the foundation of new Societies, and are invaluable to an Organiser in working in a fresh District.

A Special Secretary or a small Sub. Committee for pushing the sale of the *Common Cause*, and for distributing N.U. Literature (free and otherwise), would be useful in *every* Society, and we urge all our Societies to make such an arrangement.

Those Societies who have not already done so, are asked to elect their Press Secretary (see Press Report) without delay.

The Poster Campaign, initiated by the Birmingham W.S. Society, might be undertaken with advantage in many Societies. This is quite as effective in country districts as in towns, and even more so.

Personal canvassing by committee members of the rank and file of the Society and of sympathisers, should be kept up all the year round.

It is very important to vary the work and the sort of meetings held as much as possible, and also to find out the kind of work to which individual members are suited. A poor canvasser may be a good speaker, a non-speaker may be good at secretarial work, and so on.

There is work for everybody, the great thing is to find out the sort at which each member is best, and to induce her to do it quickly, well, and all the time!

PARLIAMENTARY WORK.

The past year has been an extremely critical one for the Women's Suffrage Movement.

On May 5th, 1911, the Conciliation Bill passed its Second Reading in the House of Commons by a majority of 167.

Opportunities for further progress were denied, but on May 29th Mr. Lloyd George announced that the Government would "be prepared next Session, when the Bill had again been read a Second time, either as a result of obtaining a good place in the ballot, or by the grant of a Government day for the purpose, to give a week for its further stages."

An entirely new political situation was created by Mr. Asquith's announcement on November 7th, of the intention of the Government to introduce next session a Reform Bill based on citizenship. Nevertheless, this Bill made no provision for the enfranchisement of women.

On November 17th Mr. Asquith received a joint deputation from the various Suffrage Societies. He promised, on behalf of the Government, that any amendment to enfranchise women, carried in the House of Commons, should become an integral part of the Reform Bill.

The National Union, at a Special Council Meeting, on December 8th, resolved to continue to support the Conciliation Bill, and to work for an amendment to the Reform Bill to include women, on the widest basis for which a majority can be secured in the House of Commons.

The Conciliation Bill came up again for its Second Reading on March 28th, but the militant outbreaks in London gave our half-hearted supporters an excuse for breaking their pledges. Fourteen friendly M.P.s, representing miners, were absent in their constituencies on account of the Coal Strike.

The Irish Party, fearing that time which they wished to be devoted to the Home Rule Bill, would be taken for our Bill, voted in a body against the Second Reading, and the Bill was defeated by a majority of 14.

The Federation has been largely occupied since November in organising deputations to those M.P.s whose Constituencies were not touched by any Women's Suffrage Society, for the purpose of obtaining their views on the subject of Women's Suffrage, and when possible, a definite pledge to vote for the Conciliation Bill, or for a Women's Suffrage Amendment to the Reform Bill.

Miss Morrison, our Organiser, was left free from the second week in December to do political work.

Deputations have been favourably received by Mr. J. C. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyne), Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent), Sir G. Boscawen (Dudley).

Mr. W. C. Bridgeman (Oswestry), Mr. H. S. Staveley Hill (Kingswinford) have also received deputations.

Where it was not possible to interview the M.P., memorials, signed by influential constituents of all professions, have been organised.

Mr. Cooper (Walsall), who was a pledged supporter, announced his intention of withdrawing his support from the Conciliation Bill, on account of the militant outbreak in London. Mr. Cooper was abroad at the time, and it was not

possible to organise a deputation to him, but several of his constituents sent telegrams of protest to him, without, unfortunately, altering his decision.

A protest meeting was held in Walsall on May 21st, and it is hoped Mr. Cooper will reconsider his position.

The Solihull and District Women's Suffrage Society, with the assistance of the Federation Organiser and Secretary, organised a protest campaign in S.W. Warwickshire, the Constituency of Mr. Philip Foster, who was a staunch supporter, and who also found an excuse in militancy to break his pledge, given to the Constitutional Suffragists, and to vote against the Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill on March 28th, in spite of a large and influential memorial, organised by the Solihull and Stratford Women's Suffrage Societies, and a deputation organised by the former Society. Eleven meetings were held in various villages, and the resolutions passed were sent to Mr. Foster with a covering letter.

Among the Societies in the Federation area who have organised deputations to their M.P.s are:—Birmingham, who interviewed Mr. L. S. Amery (Birmingham South) and Mr. E. Parkes (Birmingham Central); Oswestry, Mr. W. C. Bridgeman; Solihull and District, Mr. F. A. Newdegate (Tamworth) (in which deputation Olton and Sutton Coldfield also joined) and Mr. P. S. Foster (Stratford-on-Avon); and Warwick and Leamington, Mr. E. M. Pollock.

Wolverhampton Society has worked up memorials to Mr. Thorne (Wolverhampton East) and Mr. Bird (Wolverhampton West).

PARLIAMENTARY LIST.

The area of the Federation (exclusive of Herefordshire) includes 23 Boroughs and 20 County Divisions, returning in all 43 Members to Parliament.

SHROPSHIRE.

Constituency.	Member.	Party.	Remarks.	May, 1911.	March, 1912.
Shrewsbury ...	Sir Clement Hill	U.	Against ...	Paired against	Voted against
Ludlow ...	R. Hunt	... U.	Against ...	Paired against	Voted against
Newport ...	B. Stanier	... U.	Unreliable	Absent unpaired	Absent unpaired
Oswestry ...	W. C. Bridgeman	U.	Unreliable	Absent unpaired	Absent unpaired
Wellington ...	Sir C. Henry	... L.	Against ...	Voted against	Voted against

STAFFORDSHIRE.

Constituency.	Member.	Party.	Remarks.	May, 1911.	March, 1912.
Hanley ...	E. Edwards	... Lab.	For ...	Voted for	Absent
N'wcastle-und'r-Lyne	J. C. Wedgwood	L.	For ...	Voted for	Absent
Stafford ...	R. W. Essex	... L.	Against ...	Voted against	Voted against
Stoke-on-Trent	J. Ward	... L.	For ...	Absent unpaired	Absent unpaired
Walsall ...	R. A. Cooper	... U.	Unreliable	Voted for	Voted against
Wednesbury ...	T. Norton	... U.	For ...	Voted for	Absent unpaired
West Bromwich	Viscount Griffiths	U.	For ...	Absent unpaired	Voted for
Whampton, East	G. R. Thorne	... L.	For ...	Voted for	Voted for
„ West	A. F. Bird	... U.	For ...	Voted for	Voted for
„ South	Colonel Hickman	U.	Against ...	Voted against	Voted against
Handsworth ...	Major E. C. Meysey Thompson	U.	Neutral ...	Absent unpaired	Paired against
Kingswinford ...	H. S. Staveley Hill	U.	Unreliable	Paired against	Paired against
Leek ...	R. Pearce	... L.	Adultist	Voted for	Voted against
Lichfield ...	Col. Sir. T. C. Warner	L.	Adultist	Voted against	Voted against
N.W. Staffs. ...	A. Stanley	... Lab.	For ...	Paired for	Absent unpaired
W. Staffs. ...	G. A. Lloyd	... U.	Against ...	Absent unpaired	Paired against

WARWICKSHIRE.

Constituency.	Member.	Party.	Remarks.	May, 1911.	March, 1912.
B'ham, Central	E. Parkes	... U.	Against ...	Absent unpaired	Paired against
„ East ...	A. D. Steel-Maitland	U.	Against ...	Paired against	Voted against
„ North ...	J. T. Middlemore	U.	Against ...	Paired against	Paired against
„ South ...	L. S. Amery	... U.	For ...	Voted for	Voted for
„ West ...	Rt. Hon. J. Chamberlain	U.	Against ..	Absent unpaired	Paired against
„ Bordesley	Rt. Hon. J. Collings	U.	Against ...	Absent unpaired	Paired against
„ Edgbast'n	Sir F. W. Lowe	... U.	Against ..	Absent unpaired	Voted against
Aston Manor ...	E. Cecil	... U.	Against ...	Voted against	Voted against
Coventry ...	D. H. Mason	... L.	For ...	Voted for	Voted for
Nuneaton ...	W. Johnson	... Lab.	For ...	Voted for	Absent unpaired
Rugby ...	J. L. Baird	... U.	Against ..	Absent unpaired	Absent unpaired
Stratford ...	P. S. Foster	... U.	Unreliable	Voted for	Paired against
Tamworth ...	F. Newdigate-Newdegate	U.	For ...	Voted for	Voted for
Warwick and Leamington	E. M. Pollock, K.C.	U.	Unreliable	Voted for	Absent unpaired

WORCESTERSHIRE.

Constituency.	Member.	Party	Remarks.	May, 1911.	March, 1912.
Dudley	Sir Griffiths Boscawen	U.	For ..	Absent unpaired	Voted for
Kidderminster	Major E. Knight	U.	Unreliable	Absent unpaired	Absent unpaired
Worcester ..	E. Goulding ...	U.	For ..	Teller for the Ayes	Voted for
Evesham ...	B. M. Eyres- Monsell	... U.	Against ...	Paired against	Voted against
N. Worcester ...	J. W. Wilson ...	L.	Adultist	Absent unpaired	Absent unpaired
Bewdley ...	S. Baldwin ...	U.	Against ...	Paired against	Voted against
Droitwich ...	Hon. J. C. Lyttelton	U.	Against ...	Absent unpaired	Voted against
Kings Norton	Rt. Hon. Austen Chamberlain	U.	Against ...	Paired against	Voted against

ANALYSIS OF VOTING ON SECOND READING, MAY 5TH, 1911.

<i>Unionists</i> —For	8
Against	10
Unreliable	12
Neutral	
<i>Liberals</i> — For	5
Against	2
Adultists... ..	2
<i>Labour</i> — For	2

ANALYSIS OF VOTING ON SECOND READING, MARCH 28TH, 1912.

<i>Unionists</i> —For	7
Against	17
Unreliable	6
Neutral	1
<i>Liberals</i> — For	4
Against	2
Adultists	3
<i>Labour</i> — For	3

PRESS WORK.

Federation Press Secretary—Mrs. HARLEY, Condover House, Shrewsbury.

COUNTY PRESS SECRETARIES.

Shropshire, 15 papers, Mrs. Harley.

Staffordshire, 47 papers.

Warwickshire, 44 papers, Miss D. Hillman, Keresley, Coventry.

Worcestershire, 25 papers, Miss Norbury, Sherridge, nr. Malvern.

Total number of papers in area, 131.

The Press work, which had been in the hands of Miss Power, of Worcester, since the formation of the Federation, was scarcely yet re-organised on the new lines decided upon, when Miss Power found herself obliged to resign her position in February, 1912.

At an informal meeting of Press Secretaries from the Societies in our area, at 10, Easy Row, on March 21st, it was agreed that, as we have 131 papers in our area, it was impossible for one Federation Press Secretary to get into touch with them all, either personally, or through the Societies. It was therefore decided that a Press Secretary should be appointed for each county, with, if possible, two for Staffordshire—one for the Potteries (North Staffs.) and one for the mining district (South Staffs.).

We have not succeeded in finding a Secretary willing to do this work in all the counties, and we should be most grateful for volunteers from Staffs, as this is the county with the greatest number of papers, and at present it includes only five Societies, which cannot well be responsible for those papers which are not printed nor circulated in their own area.

The papers throughout the area have been charted, giving information as to the Editor's name, address, day of paper's issue, price and politics, place in which the paper is circulated, and its attitude towards Women's Suffrage, where this can be ascertained.

Between 70 and 80 of the papers have not yet been approached in any way, and a large number of the remainder show decided room for improvement to their attitude towards

Women's Suffrage; indeed, few of even the most favourable do more than report meetings, or insert without mutilation the articles and letters sent in, while some cannot be depended upon to insert the whole of any matter sent by the Local Press Secretary.

The following are all definitely in favour:—

Handsworth Herald (Ind.).
 Birmingham Gazette and Express.
 Coventry Herald (L.).
 Coventry Times (L.).
 Midland Daily Telegraph (L.).
 Edgbastonia.
 Birmingham Evening Dispatch.
 Leamington and Warwick Circular.
 Leamington Spa Courier (C.).
 Nuneaton Chronicle (C.).
 Nuneaton Observer (L.).
 Nuneaton Star (Ind.).
 Stratford-on-Avon Herald (Ind.).
 Shrewsbury Chronicle (U.).
 Sutton Coldfield News (Ind.).
 Warwick Advertiser (Ind.), Ed., Lib.
 Kidderminster Shuttle (L.).
 Worcester Herald (Ind.).
 Worcestershire Chronicle (L.).
 Worcestershire Echo (L.)
 Berrows Journal (C.).
 (Analysis—L., 7; C. and U., 4; Ind., 6.)

The following will generally give fair reports:—

Oswestry Advertiser (L.).
 Wellington Journal (Ind.).
 West Bromwich Chronicle (L.).
 West Bromwich Free Press (U.).
 Wolverhampton Express and Star (L.).
 Midland Advertiser (Ind.).
 Wolverhampton Chronicle.
 Leamington, Warwick, and Rugby Chronicle (L.).
 Staffordshire Advertiser.
 Staffordshire Chronicle (Ind.).
 Stafford News Letter.
 (L., 4; U., 1; Ind., 3.)

Miss Catharine Marshall kindly invited the Press Secretaries of the West Midland Federation to meet her and Miss

Leaf (N.U. Press Secretary) in London, on Feb. 26th, after the Annual Council Meeting, when she explained to them the best methods of influencing the Provincial Press.

1. With every paper the demand for Suffrage news must be organised.

2. If the Editor of a local paper should be favourable, constant letters of appreciation should be written to him by prominent local readers, and he should be gradually brought on to insert correspondence and articles, besides accurate news.

3. Great care should be taken to find out what is considered good copy by individual editors.

4. It is often useful to induce provincial papers to insert articles or letters dealing with women's work in general, sweated labour, the housing question, education, women in local government, etc., or letters from the Colonies, by way of a beginning.

5. Anything of local significance should always be tried first.

6. In the case of an unfriendly Editor, the Local Press Secretary should induce prominent local readers to write to him complaining that they can find no Suffrage news in the paper, or that events are misrepresented or suppressed, and that unless the tone of the paper improve they must give it up, for one giving more or better Women's Suffrage news. Directly the tone of the paper improves letters of appreciation should be written to the Editor. He should be made to feel that Women's Suffrage pays.

The Press Secretary of the Eastern Counties Federation, in her Annual Report, points out that "Members who may not be acquainted with Press work should perhaps be reminded that local Editors will not, as a rule, accept matter that is not of local interest. Neither will they accept notices of, or reference to, forthcoming meetings, unless accompanied by an advertisement of the same; whereas the minutest detail of personal connection with a locality will often secure the insertion of an article or paragraph."

7. After the report of a Women's Suffrage meeting has appeared in a paper it is always well to follow it up with *letters*, to keep the subject well before the public. A letter from an M.P. or well-known local person will effectively open a correspondence in a local paper. In starting a controversial correspondence it is advisable not to bring forward too many arguments at a time; these can be adduced one by one in answer

to the adversary who writes "Your correspondent has entirely avoided the crux of the matter, the Physical Force argument," etc. In this way a correspondence can be made to last several weeks.

8. The Press department in London can supply the Federation Secretaries with news, but this must usually be re-drafted, and something of local interest inserted with it, before it is suitable for a local paper. Information as to the number of branches or members in the N.U.W.S.S., the size of a collection or procession in London, the difference in policy between the N.U.W.S.S. and W.S.P.U., are usually welcome, and cannot be introduced too often into the local Press.

Signed articles will be taken by some papers, if the Editor realises that the local W.S. Society has an influential backing, and a paper can gradually be worked up from the stage at which it merely reports accurately, to the stage at which we can count on it as a means of propaganda.

Many Societies do not realise the effect of the local Press on the M.P., who is in the habit of studying most carefully the papers in his Constituency.

9. Suffrage Members should be encouraged to write for extra copies of papers in which favourable articles appear, and to say *why they are doing so*.

10. Mention friendly papers at meetings: send lists of them to members, and let the Editors know that this is being done.

We must not be discouraged if we cannot influence a paper at first. The Editor may really have no space for articles or letters for some weeks, but if we organise our demand for a supply of Suffrage news, we shall in time improve the tone of all the papers in the area.

Local Press Secretaries are asked to send *marked* copies of newspapers containing items of Suffrage interest to their county Press Secretaries for filing.

It will also assist the work greatly if they will send in to her periodic reports of the progress made by them with their local Press.

Either the county Press Secretary or Mrs. Harley will always be most glad to help the local Press work in any way, and this can best be done if the local Press Secretaries will write to us often, and keep us up-to-date in the Press work that is being carried on in each Society.

NOEL HERBERT WRIGHT
(Temporary Press Sec., Feb. to June, 1912).

BIRMINGHAM.

President: Mrs. A. C. OSLER.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. REID.

Secretary: Mrs. RING.

Office, 10, Easy Row. Telephone, Central 7310.

Assistant Secretary: Miss K. WALFORD.

Federation Representatives: Mrs. OSLER, Miss KIRBY, Mrs. RING.

Money received, £665. Membership, 700.

The Society has a membership of 700, besides Associate (or non-subscribing) members. During the past year, ending April 30th, 1912, the funds have amounted to £665, all and more of which has been spent in the work. 117 meetings have been held during the year, of which 9 have been in political associations, and 33 meetings for working people. 200 members went to London to take part in the Procession of June 17, and 14 for the Albert Hall Mass Meeting, to the collection of which £140 was sent from Birmingham.

The Society distributes 32 free copies of the *Common Cause* every week, and further, spreads Suffrage news by means of six-foot posters displayed in some of the chief posting stations of the city, and changed every fortnight all the year round. During the past year £28. 0s. 7d. worth of Literature, including Badges, has been sold.

The Society worked very hard to help Councillor Margaret Pugh during the election for the City Council, and later for the Suffragist women Guardians. Of the twelve Poor Law Guardians of the City who are women, nine are members of the Birmingham Women's Suffrage Society.

For the Franchise Fête Mrs. Julian Osler made herself responsible for the plays, "The £12 Look," and "A Chat with Mrs. Chicky," which were excellently given by members of the Actresses' Franchise League. Mr. Barrie very kindly permitted two performances of "The £12 Look" free. Mrs. Osler sent some curios, and Mrs. Ring gave a lantern lecture on "Sweated Industries."

Deputations were arranged at the end of the winter to Mr. E. Parkes (Birmingham Central) and Mr. Amery (Birmingham South).

The remaining members for Birmingham—together with Mr. Wilson (N. Worcestershire) and Major E. C. Meysey Thompson (Handsworth)—were approached, with but little result.

Mr. Amery is the only friend we have in Birmingham, though Mr. Wilson and Major Meysey Thompson abstained from voting on March 28th.

BROMSGROVE AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

President :

Mrs. HUGH DIXON, The Elbows, Tardebigge, Bromsgrove.

Hon. Secretary : Mrs. MARSTON, The Lilies, Bromsgrove.

Hon. Treasurer : Miss GREEN, Whitford, Bromsgrove.

Federation Representative : Mrs. HUGH DIXON.

Membership, 28.

In the early spring of 1911, the Midland Federation sent Miss D. Walford as Organiser to Bromsgrove. The first N.U. meeting in the district was a drawing-room meeting at Mrs. Horton's, at Finstall, on Feb. 25th, 1911, when Mrs. Ring and Mrs. Osler were the speakers.

In April, 1911, a drawing-room meeting was held at Mrs. Goodman's house at Alvechurch, with Mrs. Julian Osler in the chair, and Miss Helga Gill and Miss Walford spoke.

A public meeting in Bromsgrove Assembly Rooms was held a few days later, at which a good audience listened to speeches from Miss Helga Gill and Mrs. Robie Uniacke. The Vicar (the Rev. H. D. Noel Paterson) expressed his approval of the movement, and Dr. Rowlands was in the chair. In the autumn of 1911 Mrs. Goodman kindly held another drawing-room meeting, where Mrs. Ring and Miss Morrison spoke. The latter also held some open-air meetings in Bromsgrove, and prepared the way for another public meeting in the Assembly Rooms in November, 1911.

At this meeting the Rev. H. D. Noel Paterson took the chair, Mrs. Ring and Miss Nina Boyle spoke, and the Actresses' Franchise League kindly gave an entertainment.

These meetings resulted in 24 members who joined the Birmingham W.S. Society.

On May 13th, 1912, Miss Green held a drawing-room meeting at Whitford, Bromsgrove, at which it was decided to form a separate Bromsgrove Society, and to affiliate to the N.U.W.S.S. and to the West Midland Federation. Miss Noel Wright gave an address on the need for the vote, the work of the Federation, and the objects of the Union. Four new members joined the Society.

COVENTRY.

President : Mrs. BRIGHT.

Hon. Secretary, Hon. Press Secretary, and Federation

Representative : Miss WILKS, 76, Holyhead Road.

Hon. Literature Secretary : Miss E. WHITE, 87, Holyhead Road.

Hon. Treasurer : Mrs. T. WHITE, 87, Holyhead Road.

Chairman of Committee : Miss HALES.

Membership, 100. Money received, £28 4s. 2d.

Society formed, December 14th, 1909.

Affiliated to N.U., February 15th, 1910.

The principal event of the year in our local Society has been the passing of a resolution by the Coventry City Council, asking for full facilities for the Conciliation Bill. The Committee of the National Union and the W.S.P.U. considered the possibility of the successful passage of such a resolution, and decided that the Aldermen and Councillors should be called upon by members of each Society, and a letter on the subject written to them. Councillor G. Nichols was approached, and kindly consented to propose the resolution, and Councillor S. G. Poole to second it. It was passed on April 25th without dissent.

Miss Helga Gill (then Organiser of the Midland Federation) spent a week at Coventry, from May 8th, addressing several very well attended and enthusiastic meetings, the most important being those of the Co-operative Women's Guild, the Women's Liberal Association, and Cow Lane Schools. Owing to medical orders Miss Gill was unable to address open-air meetings.

A small Rummage Sale was held during May, and brought in a welcome addition to the funds. Several members helped.

On June 17th, the great Procession of all the Suffrage Societies took place in London. Two only of our members, Mrs. Collington and Miss French, were able to attend, to whom our thanks are due for representing us, and carrying our banner.

On the occasion of the Coronation, Coventry, in common with other branches of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, sent a loyal address to the King and Queen.

On August 2nd, at Allesley House, Mrs. Iliffe gave an extremely successful Garden Meeting, at which a large number of members were present, and several new members enrolled. The speakers were Mrs. Reed and Mrs. Ring, with Miss Franklin in the chair.

On November 2nd, a meeting, arranged by this Society and the W.S.P.U., was held in the Baths Assembly Hall, and addressed by Mrs. Nevison and Lord Lytton on the Conciliation Bill; Lady Willoughby de Broke being in the chair.

On November 16th Mrs. Harley and Miss Wright attended a meeting of the Committee to explain the objects, methods, and needs of the West Midland Federation. In June the Midland Federation was divided into two, the East and West. In the latter area, Coventry, with some dozen other Societies, is incorporated. It may be pointed out that the Organiser of the Federation spends a large part of her time breaking new ground and forming fresh branches of the National Union, and therefore that the Federation should be warmly supported financially, especially by those Societies which are not strong enough themselves to do propaganda work.

Several times this year the branches of the National Union and Women's Social and Political Union have happily combined together. Now, however, on the resumption of militancy by the W.S.P.U., this ceases again.

Members are strongly urged to support the official organ of the Union:—"The Common Cause," by taking it every week. Its existence depends on the numbers sold, and it would be an incalculable loss to Suffrage to lose it.

The cause would also be greatly advanced if members on being invited to meetings, even if they themselves are unable to come, would make an effort to induce their friends to do so ("Antis" preferred), for our speakers do not want to always speak to the converted.

During the year 17 Committee meetings have been called. The Society held its second annual meeting on Thursday, December 7th, when it was decided to appoint a paid secretary and hire an office. Miss Wright then gave an address on the West Midland Federation. Since that date seven Committee meetings have been held:—

Feb. 8th.—Meeting for Working Women. Speaker: Miss Gittins, of Leicester.

Feb. 22nd.—Drawing Room Meeting, by invitation of Mrs. Collington. Speaker: Mrs. Williams (Nuneaton).

March 7th.—Meeting for Working Women. Speaker: Mrs. Williams.

March 14th.—Clerks' Meeting. Speaker: Miss Morrison, M.A. Owing to the very inclement weather and the recent Militant outbreak this was a very small meeting.

April 30th.—Drawing Room Meeting, by invitation of Mrs. P. V. Vernon. Speaker: Canon Masterman. Chairman: Rev. W. B. Emery.

May 2nd.—Meeting for Working Women. Speakers: Mrs. Cyril White, Miss Orton.

May 9th.—A Meeting was arranged at which Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A., and Rev. Gertrude von Petzold were to speak, but was postponed on May 6th until the autumn in favour of an entertainment for the *Titanic* Relief Fund.

The Coventry Branches of the N.U.W.S.S. and the C. & U.W.F.A. together provided the toy stall at the Franchise Fête which realised £7 19s. 4d.

A promise was obtained from Mr. D. M. Mason, M.P., to vote for the Conciliation Bill, and also a letter from Mr. E. Manville, the Conservative Candidate, saying he was in favour of Women's Suffrage, but deplored some of the methods used to gain it.

KIDDERMINSTER & DISTRICT SOCIETY.

Treasurer: Mrs. A. G. COWELL, Pinemount, Kidderminster.

Press Secretary: Mrs. STRONGE, The Manse, Kidderminster.

Hon. Secretary:

Mrs. ELLIS TALBOT, Rock Mount, Wolverley, near Kidderminster.

Federation Representative: Mrs. ANTON, The Gables, Kidderminster.

Committee of 7, and Treasurer and Secretaries, *ex-officio*.

Membership, 73. Money received, £4 12s. 0d.

The Society commenced work on March 4th, 1912, with a meeting (organised by the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Ellis Talbot, with the assistance of Miss Noel Wright and Miss Coyle), at the Kingsley Hall, Kidderminster, which was attended by 90 ladies and gentlemen, over which Mrs. Langley Browne presided.

Miss Muriel Matters gave a most interesting address; and at the conclusion of the meeting 40 members joined and a satisfactory collection was made in aid of the funds of the West Midland Federation.

On March 22nd Mrs. Talbot gave a Drawing Room Meeting at Whitville, addressed by Mrs. Harley and Miss Noel Wright, at which about 20 members joined.

A week later Mrs. Anton also gave a Drawing Room Meeting at the Gables, addressed by Miss E. D. J. Morrison, M.A., which resulted in a further increase of membership.

A Public Meeting was held at the Kingsley Hall, Kidderminster, on Wednesday, May 15th. The Rev. L. R. L. Donaldson, Miss Matters and others gave addresses. It was well attended on the whole, in spite of a wet night and new members were enrolled at the end.

The Annual Meeting of the West Midland Federation will be held at Kidderminster on June 13th. Lady Frances Balfour and the Dean of Worcester have promised to speak at a public meeting in the evening.

Unfortunately the militant demonstration has done the cause of Women's Suffrage much harm, which can only be removed by steady and patient work.

Memorials to the local Member of Parliament are in course of preparation.

LICHFIELD.

Hon. Secretary (pro tem.):

Mrs. NORMAN, The Master's House, St. John's Hospital, Lichfield.
Membership, 23. Money received, £1 6s. 6d.

Work in Lichfield began on April 29th, when a well-attended meeting was held at the Swan Hotel, at the kind invitation of Mrs. Hardey. The speakers were H. H. the Rane of Sarawak and Miss Muriel Matters. The latter most kindly gave up four days to canvassing in the town after the meeting—and the work resulted in 23 new members, who met together on May 18th to elect a small Committee and a Secretary. It was decided to affiliate forthwith to the National Union and the West Midland Federation.

Plans were discussed for the organisation of the public meeting on June 14th, when Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs. Cooper, of Nelson, will be the speakers. Several of the new members offered to undertake streets and canvass them thoroughly. The regular Committee will be formed and officers elected after the public meeting has taken place.

MALVERN.

Chairman: Mrs. URWICK.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. RADFORD, Vacye, Malvern.

Hon. Secretary and Federation Representative:

Miss DAWSON, Broad Meadow, Malvern.

Membership, 31, and 2 Associates. Money received, £2 16s. 2d.

Society first organised, April 8th, 1912.

Affiliated to the N.U.W.S.S., April 17th, 1912.

Federated to the W.M. Federation, April 17th, 1912.

Through the help of Mrs. House, a member of another Women's Suffrage Union, a Drawing Room Meeting was arranged at Vacye, Malvern, by kind permission of Mrs. Radford on March 28th, when the chair was taken by Mr. L'Estrange; and Miss Ciceley Corbett and Mr. J. Cameron Grant were the speakers.

At the close of the meeting 30 names were given in and an informal business meeting was held to elect a Committee.

This committee met on April 8th, to elect its officers and draw up rules.

It was decided at this meeting that the Committee should meet once a month.

The Society hopes to hold drawing-room meetings and also cottage meetings in different parts of the Malverns.

NUNEATON.

President: Mrs. A. WILLIAMS.

Hon. Treasurer and Federation Representative:

Mrs. McTRUSTY, Glenafton, Earls Road, Nuneaton.

Hon. Secretary: Miss A. DILGER, 194, Coton Road, Nuneaton.

Membership, 34. Money received, £6 1s. 11d.

The Society was inaugurated by the West Midland Federation at the end of January this year, with a membership of 29, shortly after a Public Meeting at the Congregational Lecture Hall, when Mrs. Michael Sadler, of Burton-on-Trent, Mrs. Annot Robinson, of Manchester, were the speakers. The chair was kindly taken by Mrs. Williams, in place of Mr. Johnson, M.P., who was prevented at the last moment from fulfilling his engagement.

The first General Meeting was held on January 30th, when President, Officers and Committee of six ladies were elected.

Rules were read, and arrangements for holding meetings were discussed.

A Committee Meeting was held on February 6th, at which it was decided to hold a Social Meeting on February 20th. Invitations were issued, and the meeting took place in the Congregational Schoolroom, on February 20th. Mrs. Storr Best, M.A., as speaker, gave a very interesting address on "Some Objections to the Franchise." There was a very fair attendance, and a pleasant evening was spent. Light refreshments were provided by the Committee, and Mrs. Storr Best gave her services gratuitously, and paid her own expenses. The Social Meeting left a balance of 4s. 6s. to the good. Seven new members were enrolled. At a subsequent Committee Meeting it was decided to hold a Public Meeting on March 12th. A General Meeting was called to complete the arrangements on March 5th, but was very badly attended, only eight members putting in an appearance.

The action of the Militants in London, and the circumstance of the Coal Strike, decided the Society to postpone the Public Meeting.

On March 16th the Secretary, at the instruction of the Committee, wrote to Mr. W. Johnson, Member of Parliament for the division, asking him, in the name of the Association, to support the Conciliation Bill. In reply, he expressed his readiness to meet our wishes, and thanked us for not sending a deputation.

The day before the reading of the Bill, he had a heart seizure in the Commons, and was sent home; so his vote was lost.

A Committee Meeting was held on March 26th, *re* a Public Meeting. It was decided to hold one on May 9th.

The Society paid its affiliation fee to the N.U.W.S.S. in February, and federated, in April, to the West Midlands.

A Public Meeting took place on May 9th, in the Congregational Hall. The speakers were Mrs. Storr Best, M.A., of Coalville, and Mrs. Annot Robinson, of Manchester, both of whom gave excellent addresses, and were much commended by the Press. The Rev. W. C. Roberts, of Crick, made a splendid Chairman. The attendance was sparse considering the attractions provided, and the thoroughness with which the advertisements had been made. Six new members joined. Fifteen shillings was taken at the door by way of collection, and some 6d. tickets were sold.

The membership is now 39. Three members resigned in March, two leaving the district, one on account of the tactics of the Militants.

OLTON.

President and Federation Representative:

Miss JACKSON, Blenheim House, Olton.

Press Secretary—Miss SMYTH, Hulver, Olton.

Hon. Treasurer—Miss F. J. JACKSON.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. BENNETT, Trimpley, Olton.

Membership, 65.

Money received up to the end of financial year, viz., January 31st. 1912, £13 11s. 5½d.

There have been two Public Meetings and six Drawing-room Meetings held during the past year.

Our new banner headed a contingent of 14 members from Olton in the Grand Procession in London, on June 17th, 1911.

The Solihull Rural District Council has passed a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill. This was entirely due to the efforts of the Olton W.S.S.

Also Olton was represented (by its President) in a deputation to our M.P. (Mr. Newdegate) on January 30th.

In February a most successful Café Chantant and White Elephant Sale were held here. The total profits were £15 15s. 7d., and it was decided to send £7 7s. 0d. to the West Midland Federation. £3 0s. 0d. was sent to the Albert Hall Meeting on February 23rd, and the remainder was kept in hand for expenses.

We sent four helpers to the Home Produce Stall at the Franchise Fête at Leamington, and also contributions to this Stall.

OSWESTRY.

President: Mrs. MAHLER.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss STOTT.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. CARTWRIGHT, Brook Street House, Oswestry.

Press Secretary and Federation Representative:

Mrs. SPENCER THOMAS, Trepennel, Oswestry.

Membership, 30. Money received, £1 15s. 0d.

The Society sent eight delegates to the Procession in London on June 17th, 1911.

A large Public Meeting was held on October 28th, at which Lady Willoughby de Broke was the principal speaker. She was supported by Mr. Edward Powell.

The Society organised a large deputation, which was received by Mr. Bridgeman on January 19th, 1912. Mr. Bridgeman would not pledge himself to vote for the Conciliation Bill, and abstained from voting on March 28th.

Oswestry assisted the Shrewsbury Society at the China Stall at the Franchise Fête on the 17th and 18th of April.

Committee Meetings have been held monthly, and an evening debate on Women's Suffrage, at which most of the prominent Liberal and Conservative men and women workers were present, was held during the winter, under the auspices of the Social Service League.

REDDITCH.

President and Federation Representative:

Mrs. RUSSELL, Savan, Hewell Road, Redditch.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SKINNER.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. F. J. BARKER, 10, Unicorn Hill Redditch.
Membership, 39. Money received, £2 8s. 9d.

Society organised, December 11th, 1911.

Affiliated to the N.U., January 8th, 1912.

Affiliated to the West Midland Federation, January 8th, 1912.

Work was begun in Redditch (where a Branch of the Birmingham W.S.S. had once existed but had lapsed) in November, 1911, by Miss Coyle, the Federation Secretary. After a week of canvassing Miss Morrison joined her, and on December 8th, a Public Meeting was held at the Temperance Hall, when Mrs. Merrivale Meyer and Mrs. Donaldson, of Leicester, were the speakers, and the Hon. Mrs. Basil Hanbury kindly took the chair.

The local Branch of the Society was formed three days later.

Since its formation four Committee Meetings have been held, and three other meetings; a meeting for members on January 30th, when Mrs. Michael Sadler, of Burton-on-Trent, gave an address; Mrs. Shrimpton's Drawing-room Meeting on April 30th, when H.H. the Ranee of Sarawak and Miss Muriel Matters were the speakers, and Miss Noël Wright took the chair; and a Public Meeting on May 16th, when Miss Matters again spoke to an interested audience of 60 women. New members were gained at all these meetings.

RUGBY.

President: Mrs. F. A. STEEL.

Vice-President: Mrs. MERTHENS.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss LEESON, Pennington Street, Rugby.

Hon. Secretary and Federation Representative:

Miss WALDING, The Limes, Rugby.

Press Secretary: Mrs. ROBERTS, Crick Rectory, near Rugby.

Membership, 125. Money received, £56 10s. 8d.

During the year 27 Committee Meetings have been held, one Garden and one Members' Meeting, and 7 Public Meetings.

Among the speakers we have been fortunate in securing are: Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mrs. F. A. Steel, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Sir John Cockburn, Dr. Helen Wilson, Miss Maude Royden, Mrs. Osler, Miss Gill, and Miss Morrison—the two latter were very successful with the Adult Schools.

Sixteen members represented Rugby in the great Procession in London, on June 17th, 1911. During the visit of the Federation Organiser in November, the Town Councillors were interviewed, much useful canvassing was undertaken, and a deputation arranged to our new Liberal candidate.

The Society provided the Parcel and Packing-up Stall at the Franchise Fête, and shared the Foreign Stall with the local branch of the C. and U.W.F.A., and the Solihull and District W.S.S., and also sent five stewards.

SHREWSBURY.

President: Mrs. HARLEY, Condover House, near Shrewsbury.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. STEVENS, The Yeld, Church Stretton.

Hon. Secretary: Miss ELLA HILLS, 12, Butcher Row.

Press Secretary: Miss NICHOLSON, Girls' High School, Shrewsbury.

Federation Representatives: Mrs. WHITWELL and Miss HILLS.

Membership, 207.

Money received, 1911, £76; 1912 (up-to-date), £18.

Committee Meetings have been held fortnightly, and Members' Meetings once a month.

In March, Miss Abadam addressed a Meeting for Women only, in the Masonic Hall, and in July a Garden Meeting was held at Ridgebourne, at which Mrs. Ring spoke.

In November, at a Social Evening, Miss Wright explained the aims and objects of the West Midland Federation, and the proceeds of the competitions on that occasion were given to the Federation.

The largest meeting in the year was held in December, in support of the Conciliation Bill, and was addressed by Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Despard, and Lord Lytton.

Small meetings for nurses and teachers have also been held in the Suffrage shop, where their position under the law, and the need of the womens' vote, was explained to them.

In the Spring of 1911 the work of the Society was directed to obtaining the signatures of women municipal voters to a petition requesting the Town Council to pass a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage.

This resolution was duly brought forward at the Council, but the Previous Question having been moved, the matter was dropped without discussion. It was felt, however, by the Society, that their work had not been wasted, and in the autumn the members of the Town Council, and those standing for election were circularised, in order to obtain their views on Women's Suffrage, and favourable answers were received from a majority.

A *Common Cause* week was held in December, and advertisements to the value of £15 were obtained from local tradespeople for that number. Five hundred copies of the paper were sold, some by newsagents, but chiefly by members in the streets. The circulation of the *Common Cause* in Shrewsbury has doubled since the week was held. A *Common Cause* Committee has been formed to increase the circulation of that paper.

The Society suffered a great loss in August, owing to the resignation of Mrs. Timpany, who had performed the duties of Secretary in such an able manner since 1908.

A Farewell Garden Party was given by Mrs. Whitwell, when a clock was presented to Mrs. Timpany, by those who so greatly regretted her departure. The Hon. Secretaryship has since been held by Miss Ella Hills.

Among the minor activities of 1911 were two Rummage Sales, which were so successful that they threaten to become standing features of a year's work. One has already been held in 1912.

Between forty and fifty members took part in the Procession in London on June 17th, and twelve members were present in the Shropshire box at the Albert Hall Meeting, on February 23rd. After a rather strenuous contest, our Presi-

dent, Mrs. Harley, was elected this spring as a Poor Law Guardian on the Abeharn Board—the first time that a woman successfully contested an election in Shropshire. Members of the Society helped her by canvassing, and all worked hard to secure her success.

At the Leamington Fête, Shrewsbury was represented by a pottery, glass and china stall, which cleared £20 2s. 0d.

SOLIHULL AND DISTRICT.

Chairman: Rev. W. A. NEWMAN HALL.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss N. G. PARR, Lapworth Court, Hockley Heath.

Hon. Secretaries:

Mrs. AUBREY DOWSON, Yew Tree Cottage, Lapworth.

Miss NOEL WRIGHT, Sutton Lodge, Solihull.

Press Secretary and Federation Representative:

Mrs. AUBREY DOWSON.

Membership, 156. Money received, £86 18s. 3d.

The Solihull and District W.S.S. was started in April, 1911.

There were, previous to this date, between 50 and 60 Suffragists in the district. Those in Solihull formed the Solihull Branch of the Birmingham W.S.S. (Secretary, Miss Noël Wright), and the other scattered members belonged to Birmingham also.

On April 29th, a meeting of all these members was called at Sutton Lodge, Solihull, with the object of forming an independent Society. The Solihull Branch at this date had over £7 in hand.

A Committee was formed, officers elected, rules drawn up, and it was decided to affiliate forthwith to the N.U., and to the (then) Midland Federation.

The Society has held 20 meetings since its formation, besides 13 Committee Meetings. Its membership at the present date (May, 1912) is 156.

Twenty-two of its members took part in the great Procession of June 17th, 1911, and several in the Stratford-on-Avon Procession, July 25th, 1911. Help was also given by members of the Society to the Caravan Tour through outlying villages of the Federation area in August, 1911. The Society took a box for the Albert Hall Meeting in February, and eight

members attended; nearly £23 was contributed to the collection. Fifteen helped in the recent Franchise Fête at Leamington, and nearly £11 was raised for the Solihull stall at this fête.

Over £27 was cleared by this stall, this being the second highest sum made by any of the stalls. The Solihull Rural District Council passed a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage in the spring of 1911. This was, however, entirely due to the work of the Olton W.S.S.

The Solihull Society organised a deputation to Mr. Newdegate, M.P. for North Warwickshire, in January, 1912, in which the Olton and Sutton Coldfield Societies also co-operated. Mr. Newdegate gave the deputation a very courteous and favourable reception, and has remained true to the pledge given by him then and on previous occasions, that he would vote for the Conciliation Bill.

Our other Member, Mr. Philip Foster, M.P. for South Warwickshire, although far more deeply pledged to support Women's Suffrage than was Mr. Newdegate, by repeated public and private declarations, both written and spoken, has gone back at his word, and used the militant outbreak as an excuse for pairing against the Conciliation Bill.

Directly his intentions were made known the Solihull Society organised a deputation to him, which waited upon him in London, and at the same time arranged a memorial to him, this in conjunction with the Stratford-on-Avon Society, and with the help of members of the Conservative and Unionist W.F.A., protesting against his violation of his word. This was signed by nearly 400 people, men and women, and included many influential names, and many more could have been obtained had the time available been longer.

The Society has availed itself of the services of Miss Morrison, the Federation Organiser, who worked in the district for a fortnight in October, 1911.

During her visit, four successful meetings were held, and 44 new members joined, and nine dozen copies of the *Common Cause* were sold.

The Society has also instituted a poster campaign throughout the district, as a useful means of keeping Women's Suffrage in the public eye. Placards have appeared protesting against militant outbreaks, and emphasising the N.U. Policy, advertising the Franchise Fête, etc. The distribution of literature is kept up, and the Society subscribes to the N.U. for specimens of all its new literature.

Circle Secretaries have been appointed to help in distributing notices in the outlying villages.

Mrs. Argyle is Circle Secretary for Henley-in-Arden, and Miss Sybil Goodwin for Hampton.

We have an Englishwoman Circle, formed by Mrs. Pearce, of Solihull; and we send the *Common Cause* to such men's clubs and institutes as we can induce to take it. We have issued whips to our members, urging them to induce men friends to bring pressure, as voters, on their M.P.

The Society has paid the salary of the West Midland Federation's Secretary, £7, for one month.

It has sent £1 to the N.U. for political purposes.

The Society has sent two delegates to all the Council Meetings held since its formation.

The papers to which the Society sends Suffrage news are the *Stratford Herald* and the *Birmingham News*. Both will insert news, and the *Stratford Herald* is favourable in policy. The Banner of the Society represents Cristina, Sister of Edgar the Atheling, and first Lady of the Manor of Solihull, and is the work of Mr. Michael Pippet.

The Secretaries wish to thank very warmly all those who have helped the work in whatever manner, especially Mrs. Argyle, whose help in her neighbourhood is invaluable, and those ladies who have so kindly given, or allowed us to hold, meetings at their houses: Mrs. Parr, Mrs. Nash, Mrs. Clutterbuck, Mrs. Hosking, Mrs. Harvey Brooks, Mrs. Whitehouse, Miss Burd, Mrs. Snushall, and Mrs. Herbert Wright.

STAFFORD.

President (pro tem.), Hon. Treasurer, and Federation Representative:

Mrs. R. G. PATTERSON, Acton Hill, near Stafford.

Hon. Secretary: Miss G. SPROSTON, 31, Newport Road, Stafford.

Society first organised, October 28th, 1911.

Affiliated to N.U.W.S.S., January 10th, 1912.

Affiliated to West Midland Federation, March 2nd, 1912.

Number of members, 35. Money received, £6 3s. 5d

On August 17th, 1911, a meeting was held at Bednall, near Stafford, in connection with the Caravan Tour, arranged by the West Midland Federation, when two most eloquent speeches were given by Mrs. Harley and Miss Helga Gill.

The chair was taken by Mr. Alsop, the vicar. There was a good attendance, literature having been freely distributed in the neighbourhood beforehand.

Hospitality was given to members of the Caravan party by Mrs. Patterson.

On October 26th, 1911, a Public Meeting was held in the Oddfellows' Hall, Stafford. The speakers were the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield and Mrs. Merrivale Meyer. Lady Willoughby de Broke kindly took the chair. There was a fairly good attendance, and over 30s. in gold was taken in the collection. Miss Morrison organised the meeting, assisted by Miss Coyle.

On February 28th, 1912, a Business and General Meeting was held at Messrs. Crinean's Tea Rooms, when the Committee was formed. Miss Morrison spoke on "Why Women Need the Vote," and also explained the nature of the Conciliation Bill. A collection was taken.

On May 1st, 1912, a successful Drawing-room meeting was held at Rotherwood, Stafford, by kind permission of Mrs. Joyce, Mrs. Harley took the chair, and the speakers were Miss Muriel Matters (from Australia) and Miss Noël Wright. Literature was freely distributed. Eleven new members joined the Society, and a resolution was passed calling upon the Government to enfranchise women in 1912.

A collection was taken amounting to £1 11s. 0d. Tea was afterwards served.

SUTTON COLDFIELD AND DISTRICT.

President: Miss L. A. EARL.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss W. KIRKPATRICK.

Hon. Secretaries:

Mrs. G. R. GOUGH, Weatheroak, Upper Holland Road, Sutton Coldfield.

Mrs. E. V. GREENWOOD, Orotava, Wylde Green, near Birmingham.

Press Secretary: Mrs. BROOKES, 1, Royal Oak, Sutton Coldfield.

Federation Representative: Mrs. G. R. GOUGH.

Membership, 111.

The Sutton Coldfield Society was formed in November, 1910, with a nucleus of 30 members, who had formerly subscribed to the Birmingham W.S.S. It now numbers 111.

During the year, seven General Meetings have been held, and two public Meetings, at which Mrs. Philip Snowden and Miss Ciceley Corbett were the principal speakers.

A play was given by Dr. Hoyle Whaite, one of the members of the Society, in aid of the funds.

A Garden Meeting and Sale of Work were held during the summer of 1911.

The Society sent two delegates to London to the Procession of June 17th.

The Town Council has been approached, and urged to pass a Women's Suffrage resolution, but our efforts proved unsuccessful.

This year we are continuing our active work, and have held an "At Home," at which Councillor Eleanor Rathbone and Lady Isabel Margesson were the principal speakers; a Public Meeting, at which a prominent local Conservative, Mr. Joseph Ansell, spoke; and have organised another of Dr. Whaite's plays, to increase the funds of the Society.

Sutton Coldfield took part in the deputation which was received by Mr. F. A. Newdegate, the Member, on January 30th, 1912.

Mr. Newdegate pledged himself to vote for the Conciliation Bill, and redeemed that promise when he voted for the Second Reading on March 28th.

WALSALL.

Hon. Secretary (pro tem.): Miss M. RUBERY, 7, Mellish Road.

Hon. Treasurer (pro tem.): Miss LOWRY, 74, Lysways Street, Membership, 26.

Work was first begun in Walsall by Miss Coyle at the end of March, after Mr. Cooper, M.P., had announced his intention of withdrawing his support from the Conciliation Bill, on account of militant tactics. The time was extremely short, and Mr. Cooper was abroad. Several telegrams were sent from constituents, asking him to reconsider his decision. Mr. Cooper, however, voted against the Second Reading of the Bill on March 28th. It was impossible, through local conditions, to do any further work at Walsall till May. On May 13th, Miss Coyle and Miss Harding began a Ten Days' Campaign, ending in a Public Meeting at the Co-operative Hall, on May 21st, when Mrs. W. E. Dowson (Nottingham) and Mr. H.

Baillie-Weaver were the speakers, and Dr. Layton took the chair. A resolution, calling on Mr. Cooper to reconsider his decision, and to give his support to a Women's Suffrage Amendment to the Reform Bill, was passed *nem con.* A collection of £1 9s. 6d. was taken. The names of 26 members were enrolled during the campaign. An informal meeting of members was held at the close of the public meeting and a temporary committee and officers were elected.

WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON.

Chairman: Mrs. ALFRED HILL, 20, Northumberland Road.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. DYKES, 12, Milverton Crescent.

Hon. Secretaries:

Miss VELLACOTT, Langton House; Miss HOARE, 40, Holly Walk.

Press Secretary: Miss DORMER HARRIS, 16, Gaveston Road.

Literature Secretary: Mrs. ALFRED HILL.

Federation Representative: Miss HOARE.

Membership, 80. Money received, £28 7s. 0d.

The outstanding feature in the year's work has been the cordial co-operation of the four Societies for Women's Suffrage which now have branches in Leamington.

Two large public meetings have been held during 1911-12, one at the Winter Hall on November 7th, when the Earl of Lytton came to speak to us, and another at the Town Hall: "A Reply to the Antis," held at Lady Willoughby de Broke's instigation on Feb. 22nd, 1912. Both these meetings were given jointly with other societies, and both, owing mainly to the spirited efforts of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, more than paid their way.

A lantern lecture, given jointly with the last-named Society, took place on March 4th, and the slides, showing "Women at Work," greatly interested a working-class audience at the Albert Hall, Kenilworth Street. Mrs. Dykes spoke, and several new associates joined, an encouraging response to a new departure.

Our members also took part in the canvass of Women Rate-payers for the Petition to Mr. Pollock, asking for his support of the Conciliation Bill.

The Franchise Club, which assembles at Birch's Music Rooms, on the first Thursday of every month, has held 10 meetings this year, with an average attendance of 19 members. The club is of great use as a rallying ground for Suffrage workers of all Societies.

Various papers have been read on the subject of Women's Work—and on one occasion a collection was taken for the Florence Nightingale Memorial Fund.

During October the Society held a successful Rummage Sale.

The Branch was represented at the Albert Hall Meeting of Feb. 23rd, and a good number of us walked in the great procession in London on June 17th, 1911, and helped at the Stratford Demonstration in July.

We joined in a deputation and waited on Mr. E. M. Pollock, M.P., on Dec. 28th, 1911, to ascertain his views on the Suffrage question.

Our contribution to the Franchise Fête was the Home Produce Stall—shared with the Olton Society—which made a profit of £11 4s. 8½d.

WEST BROMWICH.

President—The Mayoress, Mrs. JOHN BROCKHOUSE.

Vice-Presidents:

The Viscountess LEWISHAM, Mrs. T. E. COX,

Mrs. HENRY BROCKHOUSE.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. BYE.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. LANGLEY BROWNE, Moor House, West Bromwich.

Federation Representative: Mrs. LANGLEY BROWNE.

Membership, 180.

Money received from April, 1910, to October, 1911, £51 10s. 9d.

This Society was founded in 1910.

In April a preliminary "At Home" was, with the help of the Birmingham Women's Suffrage Society, given by eight ladies in the Free Library Lecture Room. About 120 guests accepted invitations, and rather more than this number were present to hear the interesting addresses given by Miss E. M. Gardner, B.A., and Mrs. Merivale Mayer.

The following week, under the auspices of the Birmingham Branch of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, a large public meeting was held in the Town Hall. The chair, on this occasion, was taken by the Mayor, Councillor J. Brockhouse, J.P., and the speakers were the Lady Isabel Margesson, Miss Helen Ogston, B.A., and Mr. Baillie Weaver.

Shortly afterwards a branch of the N.U., with 24 members was formed and a committee elected.

The financial year was fixed to date from Nov. 1st, but no Annual General Meeting was held until November, 1911—the organisation and business of the Society not being sufficiently advanced at the end of the first few months to make a Report of much value or interest. The first Report, therefore, includes all work done from the inauguration of the Society, in April, 1910, to Oct. 31st, 1911, and covers a period of about 18 months.

Quarterly meetings of members and friends were at first arranged, but with a rapidly growing membership and an increasing subscription list it became desirable and possible to hold public meetings each month and these now take place regularly. Our principle speakers have been Miss E. M. Gardner, B.A., Mrs. Merivale Mayer, Mrs. Ring, Mrs. Alfred Osler, Miss Le Clere Phillips, the Lady Isabel Margesson, Miss Helga Gill and Mrs. Despard.

On Oct. 4th, 1911, a second important public meeting was held in the Town Hall, when Mrs. Philip Snowden addressed a large and enthusiastic audience, the Mayor, Councillor Brockhouse, again kindly acting as chairman. A large portion of the hall was free, but the sale of tickets for reserved places practically covered the expenses of the enterprise.

A complete canvass of the Women Occupiers in one of the central and most populous Wards of the Borough was undertaken—in order to ascertain their views with regard to the Conciliation Bill—by a few members of the Committee, with the result that a petition in favour of it was signed by about three-quarters of those who were interviewed, and about two-thirds of the total number on the register.

A Petition in support of the Conciliation Bill was also carried at a full meeting of the Town Council, with only one dissentient, on Nov. 9th, 1910, and was forwarded by the Town Clerk to the Prime Minister.

Two delegates from the Society attended the National Convention in the Portman Rooms, in May, 1911, and eighteen members marched in the great procession in London, on June 17th. A smaller contingent also took part in the demonstration at Stratford-on-Avon in July last.

The Borough Member—Viscount Lewisham—supported the Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill, in 1910 and 1911—and has renewed his promise to vote for it again in 1912.

The Society provided the Literature Stall at the Franchise Fête, held at Leamington on April 17th and 18th. Several well-known authors sent autographed copies of their books. The takings of this stall were £22 1s. 7d.

WEDNESBURY.

West Bromwich, also with the assistance of Miss Morrison—organised a campaign in Wednesbury in March. A systematic house-to-house canvass was followed by a public meeting on March 25th, when Miss Muriel Matters and Mr. J. Cameron Grant were the speakers, and Alderman Kilvert—a Crimean veteran—took the chair.

This work resulted in the enrolment of 14 members and it is hoped that an independent branch may soon be started in Wednesbury.

WELLINGTON (SHROPSHIRE).

President: Mrs. EYTON, Eyton Hall.

Hon. Secretaries:

Mrs. CLEMSON, Leahurst, Wellington.

Mrs. VAN-HOMRIGH, Vine Cottage, Wellington.

Federation Representative: Mrs. AUBREY, 16, Park Street, Wellington.

Membership, 59. Money received, £5 16s. 7d.

In Nov., 1911, was held a well-attended and enthusiastic meeting, arranged by the West Midland Federation, at which Miss Margaret Ashton, M.A., was the principal speaker. Mrs. Harley, President of the Shropshire Society, occupying the chair. 40 members joined the Union, and it was decided to form a local society. Open meetings have been arranged from time to time, Miss Ward, Miss Elkin and Miss Abadam, being the speakers. At the conclusion of the meetings, resolutions were passed, calling upon Sir Charles Henry, the Member for this division, to support some measure of Women's Enfranchisement during the present session, and these were passed by satisfactory majorities.

Efforts have also been made to induce Sir C. Henry to meet Miss Ward, to debate the question of Women's Suffrage, but these were not successful; he has, however, promised to consider the matter at some future date.

The attendances of members at the meetings have been somewhat disappointing, but it is hoped they will take a more active interest in the course of time.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

President: Mrs. MAJOR, The Bhylls, Wolverhampton.

Vice-Presidents:

Mrs. J. GRAHAM, Merle Bank, Tettenhall Road.

Mrs. B. JONES, The Highfields.

Acting Vice-President and Federation Representative:

Mrs. B. HIGHFIELD JONES, Ash Hill, Compton.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. H. A. MAY, 36, Tettenhall Road.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. F. D. TAYLOR, 107, Waterloo Road.

Press Secretary: Miss PEARSON, Woden, Tettenhall Road.

Membership, 127. Money received, £15 10s. 0d.

Eighteen meetings have been held during the year.

Seven of these were Drawing-room Meetings, one Public Meeting, seven Committee Meetings and three Adult Schools addressed by Miss Morrison.

A great deal of hard work was done in visiting Women Teachers and trying to interest them in our question, and a meeting for teachers was addressed by Mrs. Ring, in November. Seven of our members walked in the Procession in London, on June 17th. In June, 1911, our membership was 103. We now number 127.

Fourteen members have left the town or resigned—and one has been removed by death—so our gross increase has been thirty-eight.

A great deal of visiting has been done in the East and West Divisions to secure support for the Conciliation Bill. Miss Coyle and Miss Morrison both came over to obtain signatures to a Memorial to Mr. Bird, who, with Mr. Thorne, finally voted for the Second Reading on March 28th, while Mr. Hickman, our Anti M.P., voted against.

Every effort has been made to get the question discussed in other Associations, with conspicuous success, but it is not always considered wise to make this public.

We have also endeavoured to get good reports into our local papers. Editors are frequently called upon as they need a good deal of persuasion. Space seems very precious and our news so very unimportant.

The Society wishes to thank Miss Noël Wright (Hon. Sec. to the Federation) for the inspiring addresses she gave on two occasions, when she came over to help us at meetings—which resulted in the enrolment of 23 new members.

WORCESTER.

President: Mrs. MOORE EDE.

Chairman: Mrs. WILSON.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. PREEN.

Hon. Secretary and Federation Representative:

Miss M. M. WILLIAMS, 19, Droitwich Road, Worcester.

"Common Cause" Secretary:

Mrs. CARLTON REA, 34, Foregate Street, Worcester.

Membership, 100. Money received, £24 5s. 6d.

This Society was first formed in February, 1908, with a membership of 27.

During last year, five meetings were held, one of which was for young girls. We hope soon to be able to form a branch of younger Suffragists.

A great deal of steady, propoganda work was done by individual members and literature has been distributed, and "Common Causes" sold.

Several members took part in the procession in London, on June 17th, 1911.

For the Stratford Demonstration, the Society chartered a motor-omnibus, which was decorated with the N.U. colours, and bore the legend: "Enfranchisement of Women." It was filled with a very happy party of members and friends, numbering 26, who all took part in the procession. The decorated omnibus bringing up the rear.

Since the close of the Financial year in February, the sum of £9 9s. 5d. has been raised and 19 new members have been added to the list.

A large public meeting was held on March 28th, 1912. The Very Rev. the Dean of Worcester took the chair. Lady Frances Balfour and Sir John Cockburn were the speakers. It was a most enthusiastic meeting and resulted in the enrolment of 18 new members.

A meeting for Factory Girls has also been held, and one for Business Girls, both addressed by members of the local Society.

We are hoping to do work in the country districts during the summer months.

Worcester sent contributions to the value of £5 to the Franchise Fête.

One member—Mr. E. Goulding, has always been our consistent supporter and firm friend, both inside and outside the House of Commons.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

While thanking most heartily all those Societies and individual members who have made special efforts to raise funds for the Federation, it must be admitted that our work has been much hampered by the frequently low condition of the balance in hand. . . . Therefore, at the beginning of a new financial year, we make an earnest appeal to our Societies to do their very utmost to augment the funds of the Federation, either by securing regular subscribers, or by the getting up of sales, concerts, dramatic entertainments, and other similar means of raising money.

It is in the interests of the Societies themselves to strengthen the hands of the Federation, and there are at present most hopeful signs that individual Societies are becoming more alive to the value of Federation work, and that in future, they will make greater efforts to strengthen and support their own Federation.

The expenditure for the year has amounted to £192 17s. 6d. The Federation fees amounted to £14 3s. 9d.—the only certain source of income that the Federation has. We received from other sources £296 12s. 1d., which includes our share of the proceeds of the Leamington Franchise Fête, held in April. There was also a special fund raised, amounting to £39, for the Caravan Tour, which took place last August.

Our expenditure for this year has been considerably lightened by the kindness of Mrs. Herbert Wright, Mrs. Aubrey Dowson and Miss Noël Wright, who contributed £50 towards the Secretary's salary. In the coming year the whole salary of the Secretary must come upon the Federation funds. We are also indebted to the following Societies for contributions towards Office rent:—West Bromwich, Shropshire, Olton, Coventry, Kidderminster, Worcester, Oswestry, and Wolverhampton. Of these West Bromwich was the largest contributor.

We want our Federation to be second to none in efficiency and good work, but without adequate funds this is impossible. We look to the Societies to help us and feel confident that we shall not look in vain.

KATHERINE M. HARLEY,
Hon. Treasurer.

FINANCIAL LISTS.

List 1.

FEDERATED SOCIETIES' FEES.

	£	s.	d.
Birmingham	5	0	0
West Bromwich	0	12	6
Coventry	0	12	6
Kidderminster (half year)	0	6	6
Leamington and Warwick	0	12	6
Malvern (half year)	0	6	3
Olton	0	12	6
Oswestry	0	12	6
Redditch (half year)	0	6	3
Rugby	0	12	6
Shropshire	1	0	0
Solihull and District	0	12	6
Stratford-on-Avon	0	5	0
Stafford (half year)	0	6	0
Sutton Coldfield	0	12	6
Wellington (half year)	0	6	3
Wolverhampton	0	15	0
Worcester	0	12	6
	£14	3	9

List 2.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Anonymous	1	0	0
Anonymous	0	1	0
Allport, Mrs.	0	2	6
Browne, Mrs. Langley	10	0	0
Challen, Mrs.	0	5	0
Coventry Society	1	1	0
Dowson, Mrs. A.	1	5	0
Gibbin, Mrs.	1	0	0
Harley, Mrs.	7	0	0
Huxley, Mrs.	0	10	0
Jackson, The Misses	0	10	0
Kirby, Miss	1	0	0
Leamington Society	3	0	0
Lowndes, Miss	0	2	6
Mostyn Owen, Miss	0	5	0
Monckton, Miss	0	2	0
Osler, Mrs. (subs.)	1	0	0
Osler, Mrs.	5	0	0
Olton Society	7	7	0
Oswestry Society	0	9	7
Pearce, Mrs.	0	5	0
Pearse, Mrs. (subs.)	0	5	0
Parr, Miss (Solihull Society)	3	0	0
Pace, Mr.	0	5	0
Patterson, Mrs.	1	0	0
Ross, Miss	1	1	0
Radford, Mrs.	5	5	0
Reid, Mrs. (subs.)	0	10	0
Synyer, Nurse	0	1	6
Severne, Mrs. (subs.)	1	0	0
Size, Miss	0	2	6
Shropshire Society	4	17	0
Wright, Miss Noel (subs.)	1	0	0
Wright, Miss Noel	0	10	0
Wright, Miss Noel (per)	0	3	6
West Bromwich Society	4	9	6
Warmington, Mrs.	0	5	0
Wood, Miss	1	0	0
Windsor, Miss	0	5	0
Wood Acton, Mrs.	0	7	0
Worcester Society	3	3	0
	<u>£69</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>

List 3.

DONATIONS FROM SALES, ETC.

	£	s.	d.
Sutton Coldfield Society	5	0	0
Birmingham—Sale of Work	5	0	6
Rugby—Jumble Sale	0	10	0
Shropshire—Glass and China Sale	5	2	4
West Bromwich—Literature Stall	2	15	2
Miss Kirby—Proceeds of Musical "At Home"	6	0	0
Mrs. Aubrey Dowson—Sale of Seals	1	10	0
Miss Noël Wright—Sale of Goods	0	19	0
Mrs. Reid—Sale of Goods	0	11	6
Mrs. A. Dowson—Profits of G.W.R. Special	5	17	4
Leamington Fête	102	3	2
Donation from N.U.W.S.S., for Special Campaign in untouched ground	40	0	0
	<u>£175</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>

List 4.

COLLECTIONS AT MEETINGS AND SALE OF
LITERATURE.

Collection at Stafford	4	3	1
„ „ Wellington	1	2	10½
„ „ Birmingham	2	15	1
„ „ Redditch	0	10	0
„ „ Stoke	0	6	0
„ „ Ludlow	1	10	6
„ „ Walsall	1	9	5
„ „ Newport	0	11	4½
„ „ Shropshire Campaign	3	5	7½
„ „ Kidderminster	2	15	6½
„ „ Malvern	1	15	4
„ „ Wednesbury	2	0	6
Grant from N.U.W.S.S. for meeting at Stafford	5	0	0
Collection, Albert Hall, earmarked for Federation	19	2	0
Sale of Literature	3	14	1
Sale of Literature, per Miss Parr	1	6	7
	<u>£51</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>

List 5.

SECRETARY'S AND ORGANISER'S EXPENSES.

(INCLUDING COST OF MEETINGS, ETC.)

	£	s.	d.
Miss Helga Gill	2	19	3½
Miss Eva Ward	10	11	2
Miss Morrison	58	14	4
Miss Matters	3	1	8
Miss E. Coyle (Organising Secretary)	64	7	10½
Mrs. Meyer	1	17	4
Miss Power (Federation Press Secretary)	0	7	6
	<u>£141</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>2</u>

List 6.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Secretary's and Organisers' Expenses	141	19	2
Printing, Stationery, etc.	14	8	10
Postage and Telegrams	18	14	4
Disbursement, Leamington Fête	7	7	9
Hon. Treas., N.U.W.S.S.	1	0	7
Stratford-on-Avon Procession	3	0	7
Disbursements from Special Train Fund	1	3	5
Literature	5	2	10
	<u>£192</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>6</u>

WEST MIDLAND FEDERATION BALANCE SHEET.

JUNE 15TH 1911, TO MAY 31ST, 1912.

	£	s.	d.
<i>Receipts.</i>			
To Fees from Federated Societies (List 1)	14	3	9
„ Subscriptions and Donations (List 2)	69	15	7
„ Donations from Sales and Entertainments (List 3)	175	9	0
„ Collections at Meetings and Sale of Literature (List 4)	51	7	6
	<u>£310</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>
<i>Expenditure.</i>			
By Organisers' and Secretary's Expenses (List 5)	141	19	2
„ Printing, Stationery, etc.	14	8	10
„ Postage and Telegrams	18	14	4
„ Disbursements Leamington Fête	7	7	9
„ Refund to N.U.W.S.S., Half Collection at Stafford	1	0	7
„ Disbursements from Special Train Fund	1	3	5
„ Literature	5	2	10
„ Procession, Stratford-on-Avon	3	0	7
„ Balance in hand	117	18	4
	<u>£310</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>

Examined with vouchers and found correct,

J. SIMS.

JUNE 7TH, 1912.

FEDERATION MEMBERS.

Miss F. E. BERTRAM	...	...	...	Hanley.
Miss K. M. RANDALL	...	...	...	"
Mr. NEILDS	...	...	...	Leominster.
Mrs. NEILDS	...	...	...	"
Miss NEILDS	...	...	...	"
Mrs. ROBINSON	...	...	...	"
Mrs. PRESTON ROBINSON	...	...	...	"
Mrs. SOUTHALL	...	...	...	"
Mrs. STORR BARBER	...	...	...	"
Miss K. BAKEWELL	...	...	...	Newcastle (Staffs.).
Mrs. DUDLEY BEAUMONT	...	...	...	Ross.
Mrs. CONSTABLE CURTIS	...	...	...	"
Mrs. HOPE EDWARDS	...	...	...	"
Mrs. THORPE	...	...	...	"
Miss CATHARINE HUBERT	...	...	...	"
Miss HUGHES	...	...	...	"
Mrs. LAINE	...	...	...	"
Miss LAINE	...	...	...	"
Mrs. M. A. READ	...	...	...	"
Miss AGNES SPARROW	...	...	...	"

LIST OF SPEAKERS.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	PARTICULARS.
Mrs. Bassett	6, York Road, Edgbaston	Chair at drawing-room meetings. Can go rarely and very short distances.
Mrs. Langley Browne Miss Bowler	Moor House, West Bromwich Frederick Road, Edgbaston	Drawing-room meetings Teachers. Evenings or Saturdays only.
Dr. Burt Miss Byett	Snitterfield, Stratford-on-Avon 93, Grantham Rd., Sparkbrook, Birmingham	Chair. Teachers. Evenings or Saturdays only.
Mrs. Cashmore Mrs. Dykes	61, High Street, West Bromwich 12, Milverton Crescent, Leamington	Open-air meetings. Very busy. Indoor only. Working-class audience.
Miss Earl Dr. Olive Elgood The Very Rev. the Dean of Worcester	Allarton High School, Sutton Coldfield 6, Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham The Deanery, Worcester	Chair or drawing-room. Very busy. Rarely. Drawing-room. Public meetings.
Miss Franklin Mrs. Godlee Mrs. Harley Rev. W. A. Newman Hall	12, Queens Road, Coventry The Lea, Harborne Condover House, near Shrewsbury St. Philip's Lodge, Dorridge, Warwickshire	Small indoor meetings. Drawing-room. Long notice. Chair or drawing-room. Indoor or out of door. Can rarely be away at night.
Rev. Ingham Brooke Mrs. Highfield Jones	Barford Rectory, Warwick Ash Hill, Compton, near Wolverhampton	Chair. Indoor. Own district preferred. Industrial questions.
Miss Kirby	43, Frederick Road, Edgbaston	Indoors. Afternoons only. Elementary audiences preferred.
Miss Matheson	Women's Settlement, Birmingham	Drawing-room or public meeting. Very busy.
Mrs. Mills	Danesbury, Solihull	Cottage or Mothers' Meetings.

LIST OF SPEAKERS—continued.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	PARTICULARS.
Miss Orange	University House, Edgbaston	Drawing-room. Very busy.
Mrs. Osler	Fallowfield, Norfolk Road, Edgbaston	Indoor. Public or drawing-room meetings. Afternoons preferred.
Mrs. Julian Osler	Highfield Lodge, Harborne Road, Edgbaston	Drawing-room.
Miss Power	Old Trinity House, Worcester	Drawing-room.
Mrs. Reid	Chad Road, Edgbaston	Indoor or out of door. Public or drawing-room meetings.
Mrs. Ring	10, Easy Row, Birmingham	Chair. Indoors or out of doors. Christian Socialist's Union.
Rev. W. C. Roberts	Crick Rectory, near Rugby	Drawing-room. Prefers own district.
Miss Smythe	Hulver, Olton	Drawing-room. Short distance.
Miss Gertrude Southall	46, Frederick Road, Edgbaston	Indoors. Small audiences.
Miss Staples	40, Jesson Street, West Bromwich	Indoors or out of doors. Moral questions.
Miss L. R. Taylor	St. Raphael's, Bishopsgate St., Birmingham	Out of doors, or small audiences indoors. Prefers working classes.
Mrs. Carlton Rea	34, Foregate Street, Worcester	In or out of doors. Small audiences.
Miss A. B. Wetherall	Severin's Mount, Rainbow Hill, Worcester	In or out of doors. Small audiences.
Miss M. M. Williams	19, Droitwich Road, Worcester	Chair or drawing-room.
Mrs. Williams	Bondgate, Nuneaton	Chair.
Rev. Alan Williams	St. Mary's Vicarage, Warwick	Indoor. Public or drawing-room meetings.
Mrs. Wilson	The College, Worcester	Out of doors or drawing-room, or Small public meeting.
Miss Noël Wright	Sutton Lodge, Solihull	

NOTE.—It is understood that out-of-pocket expenses are paid by the Society visited. As long notice as possible should be given in each case.



