

# THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.)

VOL. II.—No. 47.

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ONE PENNY.

## NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and MANAGING DIRECTOR respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

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## EDITORIAL.

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

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## WHAT WE THINK.

### Sweated Belfast Linen Workers.

The Lord Mayor of Belfast says he has heard there is sweating in that city, but he does not know that it is a fact. It is to be hoped that the appalling conditions revealed at a meeting held recently by the Irish Women's Suffrage Society may be sufficient to convince him. In spite of the precautions taken by the sweating firms, who make silence a condition of employment, reliable information has now been obtained as to the precise rates of pay. The figures to hand show that an expert worker, engaged in embroidering fine cambric handkerchiefs, and working continuously for twelve hours a day, can earn the princely sum of 2s. 5d. for two days' work. For working dots on squares of linen the remuneration, however, is considerably less, working out at 9d. per day of ten hours. We note that in the City of Dublin a Home Hospital for advanced cases of tuberculosis has been opened where, we are told, nothing that in any way could conduce to the welfare of the poor, suffering from this depressing illness, has been forgotten. While in no way seeking to minimise the value of such efforts for the alleviation of suffering, yet we maintain that, so long as these efforts deal with effect rather than cause, so long will the multiplication of such institutions be necessary. We should hear less of consumption if there were no starvation wages.

### Cradley Heath Dispute.

The unrest in the labour world continues and increases. The cotton trade is threatened with a lock-out affecting 120,000 operatives, and the danger of revolt on the part of the South Wales miners has by no means passed; the boilermakers, the railwaymen, and the Edinburgh printers are still occupied with their respective disputes, and the only promising news comes from Cradley Heath, where the Chain Manufacturers' Association has finally decided to throw over the sweaters. At a meeting of the Association held on Friday last the members present unanimously pledged themselves to give notice to the Trade Board forthwith that they are willing that the minimum rates under the Act shall at once become obligatory, and they further urged all members of the association to use their influence to induce other employers to do likewise. Between thirty and forty employers, including all the principal employers, will, according to the *Westminster*

*Gazette*, now pay the minimum rates. That a strike should have taken place among the women of Cradley Heath is not remarkable. The wonder is that they have not revolted before against the conditions of slavery. The agencies responsible for the success of the revolt are combination, agitation, and the power of public opinion.

### The Scales of Justice.

At the Potteries Quarter Sessions a woman of 49 has, during the past week, been sentenced by the Recorder of Hanley to four years' *penal servitude* for stealing a door-mat from a back yard at Stoke. She sold the doormat for 3d., telling the purchaser that she wanted the money to buy food.

At Bolton the other day a man was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour for revolting cruelty to his wife and child. The latter even at birth bore traces of cruelty, and at the age of five months weighed only 6lb. The evidence showed that the prisoner had one night tied the infant's arms to its body with string and had severely thrashed the mother for releasing the cramped limbs.

Such a glaring instance of the inequality of justice bears out Mr. Cecil Chapman's statement that it is always a disadvantage to be a woman in any Court of Law. It also shows that man's interpretation of man-made laws affecting both sexes equally gives an opening for sex-prejudice which frequently results in practical injustice to woman offenders. Some of those who administer the laws, concurring apparently in the object of those who made them, seem to place the protection of property (even in the form of a doormat) before the preservation and safeguarding of human life.

### A Woman Revolutionary.

In our issue of April 23rd there appeared under this heading the story of the career and "crimes" of Catherine Breshkovsky, accompanied by a photograph of this brilliant and devoted woman, who in March last was tried behind closed doors and sentenced to exile in Siberia because she loved her country and longed to see it free. For some months after her trial it was impossible to learn anything about her, but at last word has been received, from a trustworthy source, intimating that a little while ago she was in the prison hospital at Irkutsk, suffering from an attack of scurvy. Her friend, who was sent into exile at the same time, was in a dying condition, and probably before now has passed away. The place of Mme. Breshkovsky's final destination was unknown, but in all probability she will be taken to the Yakutsk district, which is inhabited by the ignorant and degraded Yakuts, whose language even she will not understand. Christendom may be challenged to show a Government so opprobrious or a system so oppressive as that of the Russian Empire. When the ultimate victory of Right over Might is gained much will be due to the self-sacrifice and earnest labour of individual workers, like Catherine Breshkovsky, who are toiling with such patient and dauntless energy towards the goal of Freedom. May those who have suffered the agony of Reform live to see its triumph.

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### PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT.

#### Joint Demonstrations.

We are working up a series of demonstrations throughout the country, the distinguishing feature of which is to be the inclusion of speakers from other fields of endeavour. We want to show to the politicians and to the "man in the street" that this demand for the enfranchisement of women is not that of the Suffrage Societies alone, but that it is endorsed and adopted by the leaders in every reform movement and in every branch of human activity which seeks the betterment of the race.

London's demonstration is to be held in Trafalgar Square on Saturday, October 8th, at 3 p.m., and in addition to the W.F.L. platform we are to have platforms for Art and Literature, Church, Industrial, Reformers, Professions, and University speakers, and many notable people have promised to speak for us. Handbills will be ready next week, and all London branches are asked to arrange for special contingents of their members to attend and help make this demonstration a really noteworthy event.

#### Members' Meetings.

Now that members have returned to town we propose to organise special weekly reunions in London, and it is hoped that provincial centres will follow suit. In London these Members' Meetings, which will be held at W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, will be inaugurated by our President, Mrs. Despard, on Friday, October 7th, and it is expected that every branch in and around London will participate. Judging by the political situation, the struggle before us, although short, will be an acute one, and it is of vital importance that there should be as much social feeling and mutual help as possible. No member even the newest, must feel isolated, for membership means common service in a great cause, and should be a passport to a world of sincere and generous companionship. These meetings will enable members to meet the principal workers, provincial as well as London, and afford an opportunity for an exchange of ideas and views. Owing to the exceptionally full programme for October, the weekly "At Homes" this autumn will commence on November 3rd, and full particulars will be published shortly.

#### Literary Lecture.

On Sunday, November 6th, we are to have a function of particular interest and attraction in London, for Mrs. Despard has promised to give a "Shelley Lecture" ("Prometheus Unbound"), at the Small Queen's Hall, in aid of the funds of the W.F.L. No one who has ever heard Mrs. Despard lecture on Shelley will be willing to miss this. Tickets will be ready this week.

#### "The Vote" Girl.

The new campaign to push the sale of THE VOTE, announced some weeks ago, is to be commenced next week by Miss Le Mesurier, who will report her experiences in due course. The various districts of London are to be worked successively, and in this way it is hoped to help greatly local propaganda, as well as to increase the sale of THE VOTE. Those Branches who are anxious for the "VOTE Girl" to campaign in their districts should write at once.

#### Wellingborough, Ashford, (Kent).

We are particularly desirous of forming branches at Wellingborough and at Ashford (Kent). We have already several members in these two places, but not enough to start a local propaganda centre. Will all readers who live in Wellingborough or Ashford, or who have friends there, help us?

#### Wendover, Bucks.

One of our members wishes to get into touch with local Suffrage workers.

#### Bournemouth.

To our local friends, and especially to Miss Underwood, who generously sacrificed her holiday this year, we are indebted for the success of the "Mary Wollstonecraft Commemoration Meeting" on Saturday last. Local enthusiasm was aroused to such an extent that it was there and then decided to form a new Branch in Bournemouth. The inaugural meeting will take place by kind permission of Mrs. Hume, at Freedom Hall, Loughtonhurst, West Cliff Gardens, Bournemouth, on Friday, September 16th, at 3.30 p.m. All members and likely members are urged to attend.

#### Pageant of Great Women.

This is to be given at Beckenham Town Hall on September 24th, and tickets are now on sale. On October 20th it will be produced at Ipswich, and Miss Constance Andrews will be glad to have the help of volunteers in arranging and working it up. B. BORRMANN WELLS.

#### CARAVAN TOUR.

One of our Wellingborough friends, Miss Wyldes, came to see us off, and after a short journey we arrived on the next scene of our labours. The *Bucks Standard* says:—

VOTES FOR WOMEN.—Large and very orderly gatherings assembled on the Market Square at Olney on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, September 6th and 7th, when the claims of women to have the Vote were forcibly and eloquently dealt with by Miss Sidley, who, with a sister Suffragette, is touring the Midlands with a view to stimulating interest in the movement. The speeches were followed with the closest attention.

We left Olney on Thursday morning for Newport Pagnell. We drove over, as there are no direct trains, and we much enjoyed the drive through beautiful country lanes. This is such a picturesque town, with its two rivers and fine old church; and we are in an ideal pitch, close to the town, but with other meadows and shady trees all around. It is so peaceful and quiet one feels refreshed for the day's work after spending such calm nights as we get here. To quote again from the *Bucks Standard*:—

OUT FOR THE VOTE.—A couple of representatives of the Women's Freedom League, in their perambulations through the Midlands advocating "votes for women," have found time to devote a little attention to Newport Pagnell, and to give the townspeople a wider knowledge of the objects and aims of the League, and to enumerate the disadvantages under which women, as they allege, have suffered, and are suffering, through not being given a voice in the nation's management. Thursday about mid-day these ladies were to be seen busily engaged in announcing in chalk letters on the pavements that a meeting would be held near the Town Hall that evening. Whether the unique idea of advertising was the public attraction, or whether in Newport Pagnell it is generally conceded that women are entitled to the Vote, it is difficult to say. However, a big crowd gathered for the meeting, which was timed for 7.30, and, with the exception of a little noise made by a few youths, the proceedings were of a very orderly character. Some very forcible arguments were put forward by the lady who occupied the improvised platform for fully an hour. With a fluency of language which many public orators might well envy, she vigorously protested against the unfair conditions under which women laboured.

There was an appeal for questions, but none were asked. Then the speaker put a resolution asking the meeting to say whether they favoured or not the granting of votes for women. A show of hands was made, and it was declared that twenty-three favoured the proposal, and sixteen were in opposition. There was a little laughter during the counting of the votes, and this increased when the statement came that the votes of boys were not taken into account. A challenge to the sixteen adults who voted against the proposition to come forward and state their reasons for being opposed to women having the Vote was not taken advantage of.

We have come across another supporter here—Mr. Todd, of Tottenham. He came to us the second evening, and has been of great assistance in keeping order at our meetings. The boys here do not aim straight, and as corn is their favourite missile there is not much damage done, but one or two larger missiles have struck instead those standing near, fortunately for us! Besides these "attentions," we have received many real kindnesses, and we had good meetings again on Friday and Saturday nights, when the badges and post cards sold well.

MARGUERITE J. HENDERSON.

## COMMEMORATION OF MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT.

### MRS. DESPARD AND MRS. NEVINSON AT BOURNEMOUTH.



MRS. DESPARD.

From every point of view the Women's Freedom League may congratulate itself on the success of its plans to commemorate Mary Wollstonecraft, the pioneer of the Woman's Movement. Friends and helpers were found in every local Suffrage Society, facilities were granted by the Vicar of St. Peter's for a deputation to visit the churchyard and place floral tributes on the grave of this friend and counsellor of women, who now lies beyond the reach of "envy and calumny and hate and pain."

In the afternoon Mrs. Despard headed a procession of Suffragists from the Central Square to St. Peter's. The W.F.L. wreath, in the form of a star and in the colours of the League, was carried by Master Longson, a boy of nine years of age, hatless and dressed in white, who proudly wore "Mrs. Despard's colours," and handed the wreath to her at Mary Wollstonecraft's tomb. The N.U.W.S.S. followed with a crown of laurels and scarlet flowers, the N.W.S.P.U. with a lyre in purple, white, and green, and the Men's League for Women's suffrage with a cross of yellow flowers tied with black ribbons. The police, under the supervision of Supt. Hack, made all things easy, and as the deputation returned permission was received for a short meeting to be held at the lych gate, where Mrs. Despard, with wonderful fire and enthusiasm, paid a glowing tribute to Mary Wollstonecraft's memory; and after her Mrs. Nevinson, in cap and gown, eloquently pleaded for equal facilities and rewards for men and women in education.

At the evening meeting in St. Peter's Hall, the chair was taken by Miss Florence Underwood, who briefly introduced the speakers to an appreciative Bournemouth audience. Mrs. Nevinson gave a trenchant account of the economic position of women and the necessity for their political freedom. Mrs. Despard dealt with the fascinating history of Mary Wollstonecraft, describing her work as a miracle, emphasising the humanness of this great writer, and tracing with sure sympathy and unerring insight the result of her efforts to the present day.

Although all seats had been paid for, a collection was taken, which amounted to nearly £4, and a good amount of literature was sold. Cordial thanks were given from the chair to the Suffrage Societies who had so generously and kindly co-operated with the Freedom League for the success of the meeting. It was pointed out that the hall had been decorated in the W.F.L. colours by a prominent member of the N.U.W.S.S., that members of that society and of the N.W.S.P.U. were stewarding in their own colours, that the literature of the three societies was on sale in the hall, and that the Men's League were beyond praise, for they had undertaken all local arrangements. The members of the Press, too, were warmly thanked for the publicity they had given to the commemoration.

On Sunday afternoon, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Hume, Mrs. Nevinson and Mrs. Despard again addressed a meeting, mostly of women, in Freedom Hall. Mrs. Nevinson gave a delightful address on notable women of Biblical times, and Mrs. Despard followed with an inspiring account of the "New Woman," taking as her text Shelley's ideal in "Prometheus Unbound": "And woman, too, frank, beautiful, and kind, From custom's evil taint exempt and pure, Speaking the wisdom once they dared not think, Looking emotions once they dared not feel, And changed in all to what they dared not be, But being now, makes earth like heaven!"

This address evoked such enthusiasm that it was proposed to hold a Shelley commemoration in Bournemouth,

in which Mrs. Despard promised if possible to take part provided that a W.F.L. Branch were formed in the town through which some of the work could be done. Mrs. Hume kindly offered her room for the purpose of forming this Branch, and as will be seen from our advertisement columns, the initial meeting will be held next Friday, when it is hoped that all members and sympathisers of the W.F.L. staying in the neighbourhood of Bournemouth will attend.



MRS. H. W. NEVINSON.

E. A. UNDERWOOD.

### REV. ANNA SHAW ON THE BILL. "A DASTARDLY POLITICAL TRICK."

"The best evidence of the popularity of this measure is the fact that the Government knew, if it were left to Parliament untrammelled, it would go to its third reading at once, and be passed by a great majority. This Mr. Asquith was determined should not be done. It was therefore decided that Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Winston Churchill, two professed champions of woman suffrage, and two of the strongest members of the Cabinet, should take the floor and oppose the measure, on the ground that it was not broad enough. It was a dastardly political trick, and will react on Mr. George and Mr. Churchill in the future. Women have memories, and may be betrayed once, but not twice by the same persons. Notwithstanding the opposition of Mr. Asquith, who took the floor against it, and Mr. George and Mr. Churchill, it received a vote much larger than the Government was able to secure on any of its measures, even the veto of the House of Lords."

#### A NEW DISCOVERY.

Mme. Curie has announced to the Academie des Sciences that, in collaboration with M. de Bierne, she has succeeded in discovering pure metallic radium. This substance adheres firmly to iron, burns paper, and decomposes water. Mme. Curie, who was born at Warsaw in 1867, was before her marriage a pupil of Pierre Curie at the old Sorbonne in Paris, where he was Professor of Physics. Together with her husband in 1898 Mme. Curie succeeded in isolating from pitchblende a substance closely resembling bismuth in its chemical characteristics. This substance Mme. Curie named polonium after her native country—Poland. Four years later Mme. Curie discovered in pitchblende a second element—radium—possessing remarkable and novel properties. Hitherto only the salts, such as bromides and chlorides, of that mysterious metal have been obtainable; the element itself has never previously been isolated. This discovery is a very notable addition to Mme. Curie's previous triumphs in experimental chemistry.

#### Woman the Best Business Man.

"The twentieth century Englishwoman is the best business man in the country to-day," was the startling remark made to the *Daily Sketch* by a large employer of labour in the City recently. "All my heads of department, with one exception, are women. Men don't want the jobs, and if they did I wouldn't give them to them now. If I make a mistake in any of the dozens of letters I dictate in a day my lady typists will put it right for me invariably without bothering me about it, but if I made the same mistake to a male typist it's ten to one he would send it out as I gave it to him, or if he didn't do that he would never think of taking the responsibility of making the correction on his own shoulders. Oh, dear me, no! He'd come and bother me to know what to do in the middle of some important interview or other. You will hear inexperienced people say that they wouldn't have a lot of girls in their offices because of the time wasted in idle chatter, but I can assure you that the boot is on the other foot."

## MISS ALICE ZIMMERN.

One of the most valuable of recent additions to Suffrage literature is Miss Zimmern's "Women's Suffrage in Many Lands." It sums up for reference the exact point the movement has reached in each country, and it is only a Suffragist of Miss Zimmern's cosmopolitan training who could have attempted to do justice to such a wide field of hope and labour, of cause and result. But besides her writings on Suffrage and feminism generally, she has made notable contributions to English literature. As the work of a sound classical scholar her translation of Marcus Aurelius has peculiar value, and her rendering of "Porphyry to His Wife Marcella," also from the Greek, has a special interest for women, as it is probably the only example of a philosophic treatise addressed to the philosopher's wife. Her writings also include two excellent and charming volumes for children, "Old Tales from Greece" and "Old Tales from Rome." When at Girton, where she studied classics in the early eighties, she was a contemporary of such noted feminists as Mrs. Vaughan Nash, Mrs. Swanwick, and Miss Janet Case.

Asked if there was in these early days any Suffrage movement at Girton, Miss Zimmern replied that few of the students were then interested in it. At that time interest at Cambridge was more concentrated on the advance of women's education and the opening to them of fresh careers.

"But in the Girton of to-day there is a strong Suffrage element, and Miss Jones, the Mistress of the College, is a convinced Suffragist; so, I believe, are all the present staff of lecturers. I was particularly struck with the change when I was last at Cambridge. Suffrage seemed 'in the air' everywhere."

"What is your attitude towards the militant movement?"

"In theory I object to all resistance to law, whether passive or active; but my studies of the past history of the movement have shown me the strength of the provocation, and the difficulty, especially in England, where it is so hard to influence public opinion by a mere abstraction, of carrying any reform without some sort of resort to violence. And if violence is ever justifiable it is so in the case of women, who are deliberately treated as outside the scope of the law. Though a member of the National Union, I have also joined the Freedom League and other societies. I think all should work together as much as possible, and take every opportunity of holding joint meetings, doing everything to emphasise the points of agreement rather than disagreement. Each of the great Suffrage Societies is doing good work, and if I could afford it I would join them all."

"How did I get my knowledge of the Suffrage in other

lands? Well, I am naturally cosmopolitan, since my parents were German, but I was born and educated in England. I have travelled in France, Germany, Italy, and the United States, and have a large international correspondence. For many years I wrote notes on women's work abroad for a weekly paper, but I was not allowed to deal with the Suffrage. When 'Women's Franchise' was started, I undertook the 'Foreign News' column, and, as a result, Suffragists in different countries wrote to me, and I got into touch with the International movement. The organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, *Jus Suffragii*, edited by Miss Kramers, of Rotterdam, is a capital source of information, and everyone who cares about the international side of the movement should subscribe to it. A knowledge of what is doing abroad enables us to answer a great many objections, for often you can show that a thing which your adversary has pronounced impossible is being done successfully somewhere else. Then, too, we may take warning by the mistakes of others. Last year, during the International Congress in London, I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of a number of my foreign correspondents. I really think there is hardly a capital in Europe where I have not some Suffrage acquaintance. It may interest you to hear that my little book has been translated into French, and will be published in October."



MISS ALICE ZIMMERN.

"What European country has come nearest to the equality of the sexes?"

"The Scandinavian countries are all ahead of us in this respect, notably, of course, Norway, which has given women the vote, and poor Finland, where men and women alike have little freedom left to them. In Denmark the proportion of Suffragists to the whole population is most remarkable as compared with England."

"Can you suggest a reason?"

"These countries are poorer, and the women nearly all work, and so rank as the equals of the men. In Norway, too, there are no titles nor any class of idle rich people who have all they want themselves and are too comfortable to consider the needs of their poorer sisters. But something must be put down to the sturdy independence of the Scandinavian character."

"Do you think it is only the rich men who oppose the freedom of women?"

"No, there is much bitterness among some of the working men, who consider that women compete with them unfairly. It seems to me that we are passing through a second Industrial Revolution, and that while the first substituted machinery for the men, the second has given over much of women's old work to men, and also forced

women into some trades and professions that formerly were the exclusive prerogative of men. Until matters settle down to these new conditions there must be some friction. But if men will welcome women in their unions, and if women will decline to undersell men, I think they must realise in time that the cause of both is the same. We women ask for fair treatment, and we should try to 'play fair' ourselves."

"You are interested in the Minority Report. Do you think it should appeal especially to Suffragists?"

"Yes, because it brings into prominence the most important side of woman's work. The home-making women are not only the majority, but it is they who are of the greatest value to the nation. At present the position of the married woman of the working classes is intolerably hard. The moment anything happens to the husband, if he is ill or out of work, or merely lazy, it is suggested by charitable persons and societies that the wife should go out and work to help keep the home together. So she has to undertake the double duty of 'home-making' and bread-winning, and is often scolded as thriftless if she does not succeed well in both. The Minority Report maintains that society has made a contract with the wife that she shall be kept and fed in return for giving up her work when she marries and looking after husband and children. If its proposals were carried out, the husband would either have work found for him or maintenance would be provided for the family while he received further training. In case of his death, the widow would be allowed the care of her own children, if she were willing to devote herself to them, as any foster-mother would have to do, and she would not be driven into the overcrowded ranks of charwomen, annually recruited from poor widows with children. If she had a trade and preferred to follow it, other provision would be made for the children, but the mother who does her duty by her family would be considered quite as usefully occupied as if she went into a shop or factory. This is a point of view that I think should appeal to Suffragists, and I hope many of them will support the Minority Report."

As her visitor rose to go, Miss Zimmern took up a beautifully-produced German magazine, *Frauenzeitung*. "Another woman's magazine," she said. "This time from Germany, published at a woman's press near Munich. It deals with the progress of woman's liberty, industrial and civic. All over the world women are moving, and their demand is the same. It is justice they demand; not favours, but the right to their own development."

### 101 POINTS IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

*These points will cover the legal, social, and economic grounds on which women demand the vote, and will call attention to the glaring inconsistencies which demand a change in the present condition of the franchise.*

33.—The husband being entitled to the sole possession of his wife by law any person having immoral relations with her is liable to him in damages. The wife, being the "servant" of her husband, has no similar rights against any woman with whom he might choose to have illicit relations.

"If the wife sues for divorce she cannot join the guilty woman as co-respondent, or obtain damages against her; but if the husband sues, he joins his wife's adulterer as co-respondent, and obtains damages against him for the loss of his wife's companionship. Since the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1857, a husband cannot sue for damages without also claiming a divorce."—W. G. EARENGEY, B.A., LL.D.

Her Majesty the Queen Dowager of Italy said:—

"I cherish the hope that Italy will be the first among the great modern Liberal nations to proclaim the enfranchisement of women."

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### WOMAN CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS.

Mrs. Kate Richards O'Hara, of Kansas City, U.S.A., has accepted the Socialist nomination to Congress from the Second Kansas District. Mrs. O'Hara was notified some time ago of the party's desire that she should become a candidate for Congress, and she immediately sent a telegram of acceptance. During her campaign she will receive five dollars a day and expenses from the Socialist Party.

### THE WOMEN OF CRADLEY HEATH.



Our illustration shows the home of one of the Cradley Heath chainworkers, some 800 of whom are now locked out. Even under the new rates, a worker, to earn 10s. a week, must weld over 5,000 links, which means 50,000 blows from the hammer. An illustrated article, by Miss MacArthur, describing the conditions of work, appeared in last week's number of the *Christian Commonwealth*.

### Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Views:—

Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote to Thackeray, who had refused a poem of hers as unsuitable for the readers of the *Cornhill Magazine*, as follows:—"I am deeply convinced that the corruption of our society requires not shut doors and closed windows, but light and air, and it is exactly because pure and prosperous women choose to ignore vice that miserable women suffer wrong by it everywhere."



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## THE VOTE.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1910.

### THE SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION.

The lock-out among the boilermakers, who have refused powers to their Executive, takes on a more and more serious aspect. Hitherto the dominant note in Trade Unionism has been the solidarity of Labour all over the world. However uncertain other features of the organisation may have appeared, this at least seemed sure, and in it lay the strength of the whole Trade Union movement; but to-day, instead of presenting a strong and united front, we see the workers, at a time of stress, in the throes of controversy and discord. Large organisations composed of persons possessed of widely varying characteristics will never be found absolutely free from internal friction. It is asking too much of human beings, conducting in common an agitation of any magnitude, to expect them to eliminate all internal difficulties, on constant exemption from which no community can depend. But so long as they maintain a unity of purpose on all essentials, so long as they do not permit themselves to be "side-tracked" by internal friction, but keep persistently to the main object, such difficulties need not affect them very seriously.

No doubt there is a great deal to be said on the situation from the men's point of view, but when we find the members of a society throwing over their executive and officials in an acute crisis, it suggests a failure in organisation which involves inevitable waste—waste of time and waste of energy which might far better have been added to the common store in view of the coming conflict, and which, in the case of the boilermakers, is accompanied by the danger of a prolonged industrial war.

The great outstanding lesson to be learned from the present position of affairs is the universal need for unity in any organisation working for the public good and the necessity for solid action, on the part of all the members, to a single purpose and effect. Without these qualities no society need be seriously feared, and with them none should be despised. In the Suffrage movement we are passing through a period of comparative repose, a period which might well be utilised by members of the Women's Freedom League and kindred societies in working to secure and to safeguard the solidarity of their organisations, to ensure their growth and permanency, and to foster the spirit of co-operation. The success of our campaigns of protest and propaganda, the strength of our internal organisation and financial system, the extent of our future expansion—all alike depend upon our stability and our willingness to co-operate.

Solidarity to-day means a solid foundation in the campaign of to-morrow, whilst the lack of it means inevitable weakness. To all who study the probable demands that will be made upon us in the near future, to those who picture the to-morrow of the Suffrage movement in all its details and aspects, solidarity must seem indeed "the need of the hour."

Within the next few weeks the delegates of our Branches will meet in conference to shape our future policy. May every one of them do something to encourage the spirit of co-operation! Let us always remember that in this lies the strength of our movement, and therefore no situation should be permitted to interfere with our willingness to co-operate. It is this spirit which has enabled us already to sustain a political struggle which might well have shaken the whole framework of a less united organisation, and although in all probability we have still to pass through a period of fierce conflict, the time is now fast approaching when we shall have done for ever with the consideration of this question, when we shall see the end of the terrible sacrifice inseparable from militant protests, and

when we shall be able to disencumber ourselves of the endless work of propaganda. Let us hasten the approach of that time by doing only those things which will promote co-operation within our ranks, for it is the one thing, more than any other, perhaps more than all others, which will give us the strength that we need for that last long pull and strong pull which is to burst subjection's chain. From the President of our League to the newest member of the farthest Branch all are of one organisation, and on the smooth working relationship, on the co-operation of each unit, our future success will depend.

MARIE LAWSON.

### MRS. AYRTON AND THE "ANTIS."

Mrs. Ayrton, the eminent scientist, recently addressed a meeting, arranged in conjunction with the visit of the British Association to Sheffield. One of Mrs. Ayrton's principal points was that the opposition to female suffrage was really to a large extent of a selfish character. The argument that "we don't know what result will follow" was, she said, a coward's argument. When they tried an experiment, did they ever know what the result would be? The definition of a fool was one who had never made an experiment. Were we a nation of fools? No. It was not the foolish element, but the selfish element that spoke. Behind the doubt there was really a prophecy. Every party which was opposed to them prophesied to itself disaster if women got the vote.

#### Anti-Suffrage Fears.

The anti-suffrage men feared they would lose some power—their sex dominance, some sort of influence. The anti-suffrage women believed that they would lose that pity which they called chivalry. Among the anti-suffrage women there were some who were genuinely and pathetically humble, and who really believed that men were superior to women in almost all things. But these were not the women who were their real foes. Their real foes were the superior women, the women who thought that they would lose some result of the superiority that they possessed.

They happened to be beautiful, young, or wealthy, or to have a fine position, and from these advantages they reaped a power which they knew was denied to the old, the withered, the poor, and the downtrodden. They forgot that, however superior they might be, yet they had more points in common with their sisters than differences from them; and so, with their little rags of extra power, they tried to stick to all that they had, and never thought of the great mass of women who were sweating and groaning beneath a burden which they had no power, either direct or indirect, to lighten.

Mrs. Ayrton poured scorn on the idea that there was no solid body of intelligent opinion at the back of the demand for the vote. That was not a prophecy, she said, but a falsehood.

As to the idea that women must devote themselves to looking after their homes and families, she said that was a terrible indictment against the husbands. Were women so fully occupied, were they such slaves, that they had no time to make up their minds as to which of two or three candidates should represent them in Parliament? She thought the men were wronging them in saying so. "We do have a little time," she said. "Even Mrs. Humphry Ward—who laid down the law that during fifteen years of a woman's life, when she was having children, she had no time for political thought—I don't believe she really stopped writing, reading, and thinking during fifteen years of her married life. I don't remember any hiatus in her publication of novels."

Mrs. Ayrton, whose scientific work is well known, had a distinguished scholastic career, and subsequently her attentions have been principally devoted to electrical research. On the ground that she was a married woman Mrs. Ayrton's candidature for election to a Fellowship of the Royal Society was not successful, but in November, 1906, she was awarded the Hughes medal by the Council of the Society in view of her experimental work regarding the electric arc and sand ripples, this being the first occasion upon which a woman alone had received that honour.

## AUTUMN BLOUSES



Blouse (as sketch) in Crepe de Chine, box pleated and strapped, finished with hand-feathered stitching and pleated crepe frill, in Black, White and 40 colours.

21/9

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### BRANCH NOTES.

LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL.—1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

Central Branch.—1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

It was settled at the Branch meeting on the 5th that in future (unless otherwise notified) the fortnightly Branch meetings should be held on the first and third Mondays, at 7 p.m., the meetings on the first Mondays (beginning in October) being for business, followed by papers, to be read by Branch members, on different aspects of the suffrage question; while on the third Mondays, whenever possible, we shall have an address on some interesting and instructive subject, not necessarily Women's Franchise, though we usually find most subjects lead to a consideration of that. The members of the Central London Branch wish to hold a public meeting shortly before the opening of Parliament; details to be discussed at the next meeting, on the 19th, at 7 p.m., when we ought to have a large gathering and many suggestions with regard to future meetings. Members will find particulars about their Branch meetings in THE VOTE; ordinary meetings will not be notified individually.—E. G. T., Hon. Secretary.

Hornsey.—8, Church Lane.

On Monday, September 5th, at Hornsey Fire Station, a rather exciting meeting was held, addressed by Mrs. Sproson. Just before the meeting began, an anti-suffrage lady was observed distributing bills, and Mr. Hawkins (chairman) secured a few. These bills gave Mrs. Sproson a chance to deliver a splendid address on "anti." objections. She also described her life as a worker, and mentioned her fifteen years of happy wedded life. The many questions at the end of the meeting were answered by Mrs. Sproson in her usual able manner.—M. S. S.

Finchley.

Will friends please note that in future our meetings will be on Saturdays, at 7.30, opposite Church End Station?

A meeting was held on Thursday, September 1st, at Percy Road, Tally-ho Corner. Mr. Yaldwyn, of the Men's League, spoke ably for an hour and a half on the Conciliation Bill. Afterwards Miss Coyle warmed up a fluctuating crowd on "The Industrial Position of Women." Questions were answered and arguments met up till 10.25. THE VOTE was sold, and a small collection taken. We have several prospective members from these meetings.—F. R. TINKLER.

Battersea.—37, Park Road, St. John's Hill, Wandsworth.

On Friday, September 9th, a meeting was held at Winders Road, Mrs. Reader in the chair. Mr. Yaldwyn, in a well-reasoned speech, dealt with our grievance before a large crowd of working men, who listened to him with great attention. Mr. and Mrs. Duval also spoke. We disposed of our stock of papers.

A meeting was held on Sunday, September 11th, on Clapham Common. Mrs. Reader kindly took the chair, and made a nice little speech, and attracted a large crowd. Mr. Duval followed, and referred to the lock-out in the North. He shuddered to think of the hardship the women would have to bear during this terrible time, and he felt sure if the vote was given to the women that it would lead to better conditions for labour. Mrs. Duval ridiculed Heber Hart's argument that we should wait for votes until some Great Power had set the example, for whenever we had allowed other countries to lead us in the application of inventions to industry it had always been to our disadvantage. If we want to be the leading nation, let us be the first among empires to emancipate women.—E. D. D.

Hackney.—4, Clarence Road.

An exceptionally large and attentive crowd assembled in Victoria Park on Sunday, September 11th, to hear Mr. Simpson's excellent address. Having dealt with the usual objections, the speaker went on to explain in very lucid fashion why every man should make some effort to help the women instead of thinking his part done when he had at length realised that women should have the vote. Question-time was much enjoyed by the crowd, and the speaker, whose humour drove the point home in a fashion that appealed to all present. Mr. Simpson started the sale of THE VOTE by buying three, and giving them to the first three hands that went up. Needless to say, more than three were thrust up on the spot, so others came forward to pay for them. In a very short time all our Votes were sold, and a fair collection taken. The meeting closed with the crowd still clamouring for "more," but, as Mr. Simpson had another meeting in the evening, we could only recommend them to come next Sunday, when we hope to have Mrs. Mustard as speaker. One word about the Shop. We need more "working" members if this winter's work is to be a great success. Too much cannot be said in praise of those who have kept the Shop going during the summer months while a number have been away on holiday. Surely there are some who can give a little time whilst these members enjoy a well-earned rest before taking up the strenuous work which is awaiting us! All helpers will receive a warm welcome and a comfortable "niche" if they will only visit the Suffrage Shop at 4, Clarence Road.—A. G.

Croydon.—9, Morland Avenue.

At South Norwood Clock, on Friday, the 9th, quite a fair crowd was already waiting when Miss E. Fenning's mounted the box and once again explained why women should have the vote, emphasising the industrial disadvantages under which girls and women work. She was followed by Mr. John Simpson, who dealt very thoroughly with the usual objections raised, and who, with his constant good humour, gave one or two amusing illustrations to show the ignorance of some of the men voters. Our by-election policy of opposing the Government still troubles some of the Liberals, who cannot grasp the clear and logical explanations which are repeatedly given them.

An unusually large crowd gathered on Saturday, September 10th, at Thornton Heath Clock, where our meeting had been well chalked by a keen member of our Branch. Miss Fenning's first address to the audience, claiming to understand the woman's reason and need of the vote, and, after fully explaining the need, our second speaker, Mr. E. Duval, spoke. At some length, he pointed out the unjust treatment meted out to women by man-made laws. Such an ardent pleader for woman's rights should put to shame the men who do nothing to help the cause, but, alas! so many men still believe in the politicians, and seemingly follow their leaders quite blindly. We want more men with strong convictions of the righteousness of the suffrage movement to come and help us. Every man who wishes to help should immediately join the Men's League for Woman's Suffrage, for now is the time when workers are wanted. All the copies of THE VOTE were sold, and more were needed. Our next Saturday's meeting will be held at Morland Road, on the 17th inst., at 7.30 p.m.—E. TERRY.

Crystal Palace and Anerley District.—149, Croydon Road.

The usual meeting was held at the Tram Terminus last Monday evening. Mrs. Manson made a most interesting and highly-appreciated speech on the inequalities of the laws as regards women, which drew forth a good many questions. To illustrate her remarks, she pointed out how anxious men are to save a woman from a burning house, yet when that same woman is out in the labour market, sweated and underpaid, they are quite indifferent to her fate. Mr. Yaldwyn dealt very comprehensively with the Conciliation Bill; and Miss E. Fenning took the chair. A collection was taken, and a good many copies of THE VOTE and some literature sold. A resolution calling upon Mr. Asquith to grant further facilities for the Conciliation Bill was put and carried.—J. M. F.

Acton.—153, St. Alban's Avenue, Chiswick, W.

The young Acton Branch held a very good meeting in the Market Place on September 8th. Mrs. Tanner spoke for fully forty-five minutes, and the audience, which formed rapidly, were held attentive throughout by the earnestness of the address. Members turned up well, bringing with them friends and sympathisers. The sale of literature and the collection were satis-

factory, and, indeed, the success of the meeting generally was remarkable, seeing that the Acton Branch is not yet a week old. Will sympathisers in Acton please note that a Branch has been formed, and come forward and join? Meetings will be held at the Market Place every Thursday evening at 8 o'clock during September. The Secretary would be very glad to hear from sympathisers in Bedford Park, Ealing, and Chiswick, as well as Acton.—D. M. HENWOOD, Hon. Secretary.

**WALES.**—Mrs. Cleeves, Chez Nous, Sketty, S.O., Glam. Swansea.—Chez Nous, Sketty, S.O., Glam.

On August 31st a meeting was held at Pontardawe. There was a large and enthusiastic audience, who seemed not only willing, but anxious, to hear the "suffragettes." The chair was taken by Mr. Howard Hyde, of the Men's League, who gave a short address. The speakers were Miss Neal (of Manchester) and Mrs. Cleeves (N.E.C.). Miss Neal spoke with great zeal and enthusiasm, and appeared to have her subject at her fingers' ends. Mrs. Cleeves gave a most delightful and intellectual speech, which held the crowd, and helped largely to get a good collection and sell THE VOTE. There was no opposition, except from "mine host," who lived, flourished, and dispensed refreshments at the Dillwin Arms. He appeared extremely annoyed that the men were outside improving their minds instead of inside getting them muddled with the aforesaid refreshments. Those who assisted, and were extremely energetic in selling THE VOTE and taking the collection, were as follows: Mrs. Ross, Miss Sylvia Cleeves, Miss Neal (of Bath), and Cadet Y. Cleeves (of the H.M.S. Worcester).—H. HYDE.

**MANCHESTER DISTRICT.**—Hon. Organiser: Miss Manning, B.A.

Organiser's Address: Harper Hill, Sale, Cheshire.  
Branches: Manchester Central, Eccles, Urmston, Sale.

This week has been one of varied and successful work in the Manchester district. On September 8th the Organisation Committee met, and decided upon the following plan of campaign for the district activities during the months of September and October:—

- (a) September 26th-October 5th.—Visit of Miss Eunice Murray. A large number of "At Homes," drawing-room and open-air meetings have been arranged in connection with Miss Murray's visit, but more drawing-rooms are wanted, and offers of personal service during the week would be most valuable.
- (b) Saturday, October 8th.—Demonstration in Alexandra Park.
- (c) October 26th.—VISIT OF MRS. DESPARD TO MANCHESTER. In addition, each Branch is arranging for special local propaganda work.

The success of our Saturday excursions has completely justified this new venture.

On September 10th Miss Janet Heyes, Miss Ethel Heyes, Miss Townend (Chester), and I visited Colwyn Bay. The town was crowded with excursionists, and a goodly crowd followed the colours along the beach to the spot selected for our morning meeting. After the first speech we were obliged to remove our platform out of reach of the incoming tide, but the audience remained intact, and at the end of the meeting THE VOTE sold like wildfire, and a good collection was taken. The rest of the day was equally successful. Altogether, five meetings were held—three at Colwyn Bay, one at Rhos, and one at Old Colwyn; 118 copies of THE VOTE were sold; and the collections amounted to £1 1s. 1d. The day was noteworthy for the sympathy we received from all hands. For the afternoon meeting at Old Colwyn the manager of the Pierrot Troupe kindly lent us his stand, and made an announcement at the end of his performance. Next week the National Welsh Eisteddfod will be held in Colwyn Bay. Lloyd George will be among the visitors. We shall be there also with our message. We leave Exchange Station at 7.50 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17th. Who is coming to help? **Sale.**

The Sale Branch held its monthly meeting in the Temperance Rooms, Cross Street, on Thursday, September 8th. Mrs. Manning, in her presidential address, urged the need for hard work and loyalty of purpose during the coming months. Miss Page (Literature Secretary) reported that twenty-two sympathisers had been canvassed, and were receiving THE VOTE from headquarters, and the committee reported upon the work arranged for Miss Murray's visit. The Branch hopes to open a shop for the sale of suffrage literature during the autumn, which will be opened by Mrs. Despard on October 26th. The inaugural proceedings will include a sale of work, and Miss Geiler, "Thornlea," Wardle Road, will be glad to receive promises of needlework, home-made jam, sweets, cake, &c. An open-air meeting will be held in Sale on Friday, September 16th, when Miss Heyes will be the speaker.—M. E. MANNING.

**WEST SUSSEX.**—Easebourne Vicarage, Midhurst.

On Friday, the 2nd inst., a successful meeting was held at Rogate. We are indebted to Miss Eade and Miss Holder, two sympathisers, who not only thoroughly advertised the meeting in the neighbourhood, but most generously entertained us, both before and after the meeting. Miss V. Cummin and Miss Roff spoke, and the audience listened attentively to both speeches. Questions were put at the close of the meeting, and perhaps the most satisfactory feature lies in the fact that all the literature was sold, and an empty bag carried home. We hope, through the interest of these kind friends, to have another meeting there before long.—A. N. ROFF.

**PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT.**—64, Devonshire Avenue, Southsea.

Two successful open-air meetings have been held this week. On Wednesday evening we managed to collect a very good crowd on Gosport Hard. Mrs. Tremain and Mrs. Turner (Gosport members) helped to sell THE VOTE and take the collection. Friday evening saw us once more at the corner of Chichester Road. Miss Bremner, being in the district, did the speaking for us in her usual excellent style. At the close of the meeting we again distributed postcards to men sympathisers, who promised to send them to the Prime Minister. Visitors and members can obtain THE VOTE at Mrs. Crawley's, 4, St. Paul's Road, Southsea.—S. WHEATON.

### SCOTTISH NOTES.

Glasgow Office: 302, SAUCHIEHALL STREET, GLASGOW.  
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. JULIA WOOD.  
Office Secretary: MISS McARTHUR.  
Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas.

#### Glasgow.

On September 17th the members of the Glasgow Branch are having a "Vote Day." Full arrangements have been made, and the Committee hope that those who have not yet given in their names as sellers will still come forward and help to make it a big success. It is suggested to have an Umbrella Procession. Would those who think of taking part bring their umbrellas? Sellers will be told where to stand, and will be supplied with THE VOTE on calling at the Suffrage Centre.

#### Edinburgh.—33, Forrest Road.

Many members have now returned to town, and, though our evening meetings do not begin until next month, the Tuesday afternoon "At Homes" in the Shop have been resumed. Last Tuesday the subject of discussion was the printing trade dispute, and Mrs. Finlayson Gould, who during the holiday season has kept closely in touch with the progress of events in this matter, was the speaker. After detailing the circumstances, she dwelt especially on the need for some immediate solution that would avert the calamity of a strike. Miss A. B. Jack, in the chair, spoke of the possibility of the men and women, organised in one Union, demanding a standard rate of wages for each grade of work. In this case the advantages possessed by the men—greater physical strength and exemption from the Factory Acts regulations as to women's hours, for example—would be taken into consideration, and such a policy could only command support and sympathy, whereas the men's present attempt to eliminate women's labour rouses adverse criticism on every side.

The committee desire to thank those who kept the Shop open during the August afternoons, and especially Mrs. Bell, who was in charge. During the winter we wish to open at 11 a.m., and Mrs. Thomson, 39, Rosslyn Court, who has been appointed Shop Secretary, will be glad to receive the names of those who can give any time to this important work. The Annual Cake and Apron Sale will be held on November 5th, when we hope to have a large assortment of goods of every kind. Lastly, will members keep Wednesday evenings free, as the meetings will be held then instead of on Tuesdays?—HELEN MCLACHLAN, Assistant Secretary.

#### Dundee.—34, Rankine Street.

The usual fortnightly meetings of the Branch were resumed on Thursday, the 8th inst. There was a good turnout of members and friends. Miss Husband presided. Mrs. Allan was nominated as delegate to the forthcoming conference in London. Miss Clunas (secretary) then gave an address on "The History of the League," showing its inception, progress, and aims. Miss Clunas was cordially thanked. Open-air meetings have been arranged for each month, well-known speakers (men and women) having agreed to speak at these. A demonstration, to be taken part in by all the Suffrage Societies in town, is to take place in October. As Mrs. Despard is expected in November also, the Branch is eagerly looking forward to a strenuous winter campaign. Our "democratic" M.P. (Mr. Winston Churchill!) will be kept fully informed as to the Dundee suffragettes' doings.—JEANNIE A. SMART, Press Secretary.

#### Lowestoft Women's Suffrage Society.

The members of the above Society are greatly indebted to Miss Andrews (of the Ipswich Branch of the Women's Freedom League) for her valuable help in speaking for them at two drawing-room meetings and two open-air meetings (September 6th and 7th). Owing to unfavourable weather, the audiences were small, but thoroughly appreciative.—ALICE PONDER, Hon. Secretary, L.W.S.S.

#### The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

One of the features of the League's Special Effort Week will be an "At Home" at Steinway Hall, on Wednesday, October 26th, at 8 p.m., when Olive Christian Malvery (Mrs. Archibald Mackirdy) will address, we trust, a large audience. Few books have been written of such human interest as her "Soul Market," a work which every Suffragist should read. Lady Constance Lytton will address a meeting at the Town Hall, Anerley, S.E., on Thursday, October 20th, at 8 p.m. The Hendon Branch is making arrangements for an evening meeting on Monday, September 26th, at 8 p.m., on which date the Church Congress Campaign opens in Cambridgeshire, Royston (26th), Ely (27th), Newmarket (28th), and Cambridge (29th) being the chief centres of our work. Much good work is being done in Worthing and Brighton, and October 11th is fixed for a meeting at Hove Town Hall.—Rev. C. HINSLIFF.

## THE WOMAN OF THE NOVELISTS.

By FORD MADOX HUEFFER.

(Continued from page 237.)

### AN OPEN LETTER TO —.

MY DEAR MRS. —,

Of course, the woman that we know, the woman, that is to say, that eventually each of us gets to know, if she is fused into the woman of the novelists, or, rather, if the woman of the novelist is fused into her (this invariably happens, for we woo a Portia who has neither a past nor a future, and we weld this Portia into an ordinary woman), this combination of the woman of the novelist who is always in one note and a creature with much the same patiences, impatiences, buoyant moments, reactions, morning headaches and amiabilities, who is, in fact, just such a queer creature as we are ourselves; this hybrid of a conventional deity and a quite real human being is a very queer beast indeed. I wonder if you ever quite realise what you are to the man on your hearthstone? I do not know if any woman ever really thinks—really—truly—and to the depths of her whole being—thinks that she has a bad husband. I do not know about this, but I am perfectly certain that no husband ever thinks that he has a bad wife. You see, poor honest, muddled man with the glamour of the novelist's woman on him, he is always looking about somewhere in the odd and bewildering fragments of this woman, who has the power to bedevil, to irritate, to plague and to madden him. He looks about in this mist of personal contacts for the Cordelia that he still believes must be there. He believes that his Sophia Western is still the wise, tolerant, unjealous Sophia, who once made him, with the blessings of some Parson Adams, the happiest of men. God forbid that I should say she is not there. I am certain that the man believes she is, only he cannot find her. He is so close, and you know that, if you hold your nose very close to a carpet, it is useless to hope to see its pattern. But no, believe me when I say that no man in the silence of his study believes that he has a bad wife. She may drink, but he will think that some action, some attribute, or the circumstances of the life that she has led with him, give excuse. She may nag, but he will believe that it is because he has never really taken the trouble to explain the excellencies of his motives and his actions. She may be unfaithful, but in his heart he will believe that it is because he has been unable to maintain the strain of playing Benedict to her Beatrice, and this poor, honest, simple man may declaim against his wife to his friends, may seek in new Amelias new disillusionments, may seek amidst the glamour of *causes célèbres* his liberty; but he will listen to the words of his K.C., of his special pleading conscience, with a certain contrition, for before his eyes dimly radiant there will stand the figure of the woman of the novelists.

Now, if this man never believes that his wife is a bad wife, he will yet pick up certain little salient peculiarities. He will not believe that any given manifestation of unreasonableness is a part of the real character of his Di Vernon; he will regard it as an accidental, as what Meyer called a supraliminal, exhibition, just as when he himself, having travelled first-class with a third-class ticket, neglects to pay the excess fare. It is not the sort of thing he would do, it is only what, by accident, he has done. He remains honest and upright in spite of it. So when his wife calls him a beast, he does not believe that the word "beast" is really a part of the vocabulary of, let us say, Dolly of the "Dolly Dialogues." It is all one with his excess fare that he carelessly and—it was so unlike him—neglected to pay.

At the same time, a constant aggregation of these little nothings becomes impressed upon his mind. They are the reaction from the woman of the novelist. He does not believe that they are part of his individual woman's nature; he cannot quite make them out, so he attributes them to her sex. (If he lived with a man, he would not attribute them to this man's sex, but he would say it was because poor So-and-so went to Eton instead of Win-

chester, or because he smokes too much, or because he takes after his parents.)

The woman of the music hall, in fact: "My wife who won't let me" and "My wife's mother who has come to stay," this creature is the direct product *à rebours* of the woman of the novelists. For, if no man really believes that his wife is a woman of the music hall, he is not really so loyal to the wife of his dear friend Hunter. His own wife was *Diana of the Crossways*. She still, if she would only be serious for a minute, is Diana of the Crossways. Mrs. Hunter, however, is only Mrs. Hunter; to Hunter she was once St. Catharine of Siena, and still is saintly; but our friend catches certain phases of the intercourse of the Hunters, he hears an eloquent discourse of Hunter's about the action of the tariff on the iron industry in Canada; he hears this eloquent and learned discourse interrupted by Mrs. Hunter's description, let us say of the baby linen of the Prince of the Asturias, or he hears that Mrs. Hunter was once St. Catharine, is still St. Catharine, and, as such, has a right to be more interested in infants than in iron trades. And, just as in the newspapers crimes are recorded and the normal happenings of life let alone, a number of irrational, unreasonable, illogical actions of real women become stored in our poor friend's mind; so he arrives at his grand question with which he will attempt to stump you when you ask for a certain little something. "Why can't you," he asks, "learn to be logical, patient, business-like, self-restrained?"

You cannot because of your sex; then give up talking and try to be the womanly woman.

And by the womanly woman he means the woman of the novelists; and if you achieved this impossibility, if you became this quite impossible "she," he would still squash you with the unanswerable question: "What does St. Catharine, what on earth does St. Catharine of Siena want with a vote?"

You see this terrible creation, this woman of the novelists, has you both ways. Man has set her up to do honour, and you, how foolishly and how easily you have fallen in the trap; you women, too, have aided and applauded this setting up of an empty convention. Women are not more illogical than men, but you are quite content, as a rule, to allow yourselves to be called illogical, if only you may be called more subtle. Women are not less honourable than men, but they are quite content to be called less honourable than men, if only they may be called long-suffering. In the interests of inflated virtues you have sacrificed the practical efficiencies of life; you are content to be called hysterical, emotional, and utterly unworthy of a place in any decently-ordered society, in order that you may let men bamboozle themselves into thinking that in other ways you are semi-divine. Well, this has recoiled upon your own heads, and now the average man, whilst believing that in certain attributes you are semi-divine, believes that in the practical things of this life you are incapable; the highest and most nearly divine of you is more incapable of exercising the simplest functions of citizenship than the lazy and incompetent brute who carries home your laundryman's washing. I do not know which of you, women or novelist, is the more culpable.

Whether there will ever come a reaction, the God who watches over all to-morrows alone can tell. But you have the matter a great deal in your own hands, for to such an extent is the writer of imaginative literature dependent on your suffrages, that if women only refused to read the works of any writer who unreasonably idealises their sex, such writers must starve to death. For it should be a self-evident proposition that it would be much better for you to be as a sex reviled in books; then men coming to you in real life would find how delightful you actually are, how logical, how sensible, how unemotional, how capable of conducting the affairs of this world. For I am quite sure that you are, at least I am quite sure that you are as capable of conducting them as are men in the bulk. That is all I can conscientiously say, and all I can feel confident that you will demand of me.

(THE END.)

## WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE IN CHINA.

By CONSTANCE TITE.



MISS CONSTANCE TITE.  
[Photo by Lambert Weston and Son.]

[The following notes by Miss Constance Tite, who has recently returned from a tour round the world, will be read with interest by all who appreciate enterprise, pluck, and endurance in the face of difficulties. Miss Tite's account of what has been done by the women doctors in Shanghai for the suffering Chinese women evidences the value of such qualities in the fight against prejudices and established customs all the world over.]

Miss Tite, who is an ardent worker in the Women's Freedom League, went round the world entirely alone, visiting New York, Niagara, Florida, and New Orleans before taking the Southern Pacific Railway to California. There she visited many towns, the Yosemite Valley, and the Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton. Before leaving America she also saw the Grand Cañon of the Colorado River in Arizona. From San Francisco she went to Japan, visiting Honolulu on the way. After some delightful experiences in the "Land of Flowers" Miss Tite journeyed to Shanghai, Tien-tsin, Peking, and Harbin. There she took the Trans-Siberian Railway to Moscow, and thence travelled to Warsaw. In a recent short interview with Miss Tite on the subject of her wanderings, she made the interesting statement that she had been given special facilities for seeing things in Shanghai on account of being a Suffragist. This was particularly the case with regard to her visit to the hospital. It was not a visitors' day, but, says Miss Tite, "when I stated that I was a Suffragist I was taken everywhere and shown everything, although the doctor was exceedingly busy." *Verbum sap.* If the word "Suffragette" will open doors in China, what may it not yet do in more enlightened parts of the world?—EDITOR.]

### Notes on my Visit to Shanghai.

In June last I found myself in Shanghai, one of the principal centres of that country the philosophy of which attributes death and evil to Yin the female principle in Nature, while life and prosperity come from Yang, the male principle. That Western ideas are, however, making wonderful headway in China is evidenced by the almost triumphal work of the Margaret Williamson Hospital there. This institution is entirely American, and many and various cases are taken. Besides the public wards there are private rooms for paying patients, and I was shown a large new building, to be opened shortly, which is to be entirely for maternity cases. A fine new operating room with all the latest appliances was also in process of building, as the present one is quite inadequate.

### No Men Employed for Skilled Work.

There are absolutely no men employed for any skilled work, only a few coolies for the roughest menial work. The doctors and head nurses are, of course, all white women, but many of the assistants are Chinese, who have been carefully trained in the hospital. The really interesting thing about such an enterprise, however, is that it has grown and is growing luxuriantly in the face of every sort of opposition. Any Western innovation is regarded with horror by the bulk of the Chinese people, and one may expect them to do their very utmost to crush it. Even the more enlightened (from the Western point of view), who must be a very small minority, will probably look upon it with great suspicion. And then the fact that the doctors are women! The Chinese doctors have very different ideas from ours as to the treatment of disease, and naturally do not love these female interlopers. The Chinese have

no faith in operations, and even when they make up their minds to them very often refuse to take an anæsthetic.

### "Hopeless Cases."

Any particularly bad case appears to be instantly brought to the hospital now, and more and more rich patients become inmates as its fame spreads around. The doctor told me of a case which had been brought to them about a year before. The wife of a rich man came to them in an apparently dying condition. She had been sent from some coast province at a considerable distance from Shanghai. The Chinese doctors of those parts had heard of the American hospital, and, as they could do no more for her they advised her husband to send her there. The doctors immediately performed a very severe abdominal operation, and after some time sent her back to her home completely cured. In the year since they have had no fewer than six women sent to them from that province. I saw a great many patients, some of them very ill; one poor woman had been so terribly burnt that parts of her body really seemed little better than a cinder. I also saw a number of babies, some of them only a few days old, with quaint, appealing little Chinese faces. The whole place produced a beautiful impression of cleanliness, quiet, and order.

### The Door of Hope.

In the Door of Hope, which is a refuge for prostitutes, I was told that it is almost impossible to make the Chinese understand cleanliness and order as we do. There is, for instance, one custom which, so far, they have not attempted to alter. It is a "good" old Chinese custom that at meals everything the eaters do not like or have no use for is thrown upon the ground. We were shown a bedroom where four of the girls slept. Miss D— was trying to induce one of them to keep it tidy, giving her one dollar a month (quite an important sum for a girl of that class) to "keep up her courage"! We observed, however, that the neatness was by no means remarkable, though naturally the room was very plainly furnished.

### A Courageous Pioneer.

The Door of Hope was perhaps the most interesting of the three institutions I saw. It was started nine or ten years ago by an American girl, who determined to give up her life to the work. The beginning was a small one, and besides the more or less passive opposition of the Chinese in general, who were quite unable to perceive any virtue in such a scheme, she had, and has, the violent opposition of all interested people, keepers of brothels and others, who do their utmost to prevent girls from hearing of the refuge. These people spread terrible reports of the cruelties and tortures which are supposed to be practised on the girls when once they get inside. In spite of this, girls *do* hear of the institution, and come knocking at the door asking to be admitted.

(To be continued.)

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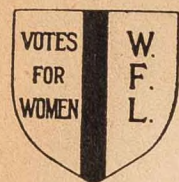
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

- LONDON.**
- Thurs., September 15.—1, Robert Street, Adelphi, 6.45. London Branches Council.  
 Highbury Corner, 8 p.m. Miss Fleisig.  
 Acton, Market Place, 8 p.m. Mrs. Whish.
- Fri., September 16.—Battersea, Winders Road, 7.30. Mrs. Duval.  
 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.—Whist Drive in aid of funds of London Branches Council, 7.30. Tickets, 1s. 6d.  
 South Norwood Clock, 8 p.m. Miss E. Fennings, Dr. Macpherson.
- Sat., September 17.—Morland Road, Croydon, 7.30. Miss Fennings.  
 Finchley, opposite Church End Station, 7.30.
- Sun., September 18.—Finsbury Park, 11.30. Miss Neilans.  
 Victoria Park, 3 p.m. Mrs. Mustard.  
 Regent's Park, 12. Mrs. Tanner.  
 Clapham Common, 5.30. Mrs. Duval.
- Mon., September 19.—Hornsey Fire Station, 8 p.m. Miss Hicks.  
 Crystal Palace Tram Terminus, 8 p.m. Miss E. Fennings, Mr. Hammond.  
 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, 7 p.m. Central London Branch.
- Tues., September 20.—Highbury Corner, 8 p.m. Mrs. Mustard.
- Wed., September 21.—Willesden Green, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Cunningham.
- Thurs., September 22.—Highbury Corner, 8 p.m. Miss Fennings.  
 Acton, Market Place, 8.
- Fri., September 23.—South Norwood Clock, 8. Miss Fennings, Mr. Bowden Smith.
- Sat., September 24.—Beckenham Public Hall. Pageant of Great Women. Two performances, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets, 5s. (reserved) and 2s. 6d. (unreserved), may be obtained from W.F.L. Office and from Mrs. Harvey, Bracken Hill, Highland Road, Bromley, Kent.
- Fri., October 7.—W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, 7.30. Members' Meeting. Mrs. Despard.
- Sat., October 8.—Trafalgar Square Joint Demonstration, 3 p.m.
- Thurs., November 3.—Caxton Hall. "At Home," 3 p.m.
- Sun., November 6.—Queen's Hall. Lecture on "Shelley," Mrs. Despard, 8 p.m.

PROVINCES.

- Bournemouth.**
- Fri., September 16.—Freedom Hall, Loughtonhurst, West Cliff Gardens, 3.30. Inaugural Branch Meeting.
- Portsmouth.**
- Fri., September 16.—Arundel Street, near Black Dog Inn, 7.30. Mrs. Whetton.
- Mon., September 19.—St. Mary's Road, 7.30. Mrs. Whetton.
- Manchester and District.**
- Fri., September 16.—Open-air Meeting, Sale, 7.30 p.m. Miss Heyes.  
 Open-air Meeting, Swinton, 7.30 p.m. Miss Manning.
- Sat., September 17.—Excursion to Colwyn Bay. Train leaves Exchange, 7.50 a.m.
- Chester.**
- Mon., September 19.—Market Square, 11.30 a.m. Miss Manning.
- Mon., October 24.—Large Assembly Hall, 8. Mrs. Despard and Miss Janet Heyes.
- Middlesbrough.**
- Mon., October 3.—Grand Opera House, 8 p.m. The Pageant of Great Women. For particulars, apply Mrs. Schofield Coates, Wilstrop House, Roman Road.
- Sunderland.**
- Mon., October 10.—The Pageant of Great Women.
- Sheffield.**
- Sat., October 15.—The Pageant of Great Women.
- Edinburgh.**
- Tues., September 20.—Caravan Tour. Miss Ireland.
- Sat., November 5.—Cake and Apron Sale.
- Wed., November 9.—Mrs. Despard, Miss Alison Neilans
- WALES.**
- September 30 to October 3.—National Executive Committee in South Wales.
- Fri., September 30.—Cardiff. Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mrs. Manson.  
 Neath. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Vulliamy.
- Sat., October 1.—Maesteg, The Square. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Sproson.  
 Port Talbot.
- Mon., October 3.—Albert Hall, Swansea. "At Home," 3.30. Mrs. How Martyn and others. Mass Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Billington-Greig, and others.

Plato said—

"None of the occupations which comprehend the ordering of a State belong to woman as woman, nor yet to man as man; but natural gifts are to be found here and there in both sexes alike, and, so far as her nature is concerned, the woman is admissible to all pursuits as well as the man. . . . We shall have to select duly-qualified women to share in the life and official labours of the duly-qualified men, since we find that they are competent to the work and of kindred nature with the men."

OUR TREASURY.

I have the greatest pleasure in announcing that Miss C. V. Tite, sister of Mrs. Vulliamy our valued colleague on the N.E.C., has kindly undertaken to help me as Assistant Hon. Treasurer. The post of Treasurer is one of vital importance to the League and to the movement, and perhaps few of our members completely realise how arduous and anxious is the work it entails. I have been in office during the last three difficult months and I can truly say that but for the assistance of voluntary workers in other departments the strain would have been unbearable.

As I am speaking on the subject of our funds, may I call the attention of my fellow-members to the great importance of this branch of our activity? It is not too much to say that everything hinges upon it. With all our energy, all our gallant voluntary work, and all our living enthusiasm, it is yet impossible for us to keep together without monetary resources. This may be sad, but it is true; and I do wish that those who love the Woman's Movement, and who look upon our League as a channel through which it may not only endure but grow, would put their shoulders to the wheel more vigorously. None of us know what the next three months may bring. Surely this is the moment to gather in our resources—not only to pay our way, but to build up a reserve on which we may depend. I beg then—let each member of the League assist. There are the Pass-along Forms—have them filled up and send them on as quickly as may be, send us names and addresses to whom more may be sent, and collect in other ways. Our VOTE Department should by this time, if it were enthusiastically worked, not only cover its own expenses, but be a source of revenue.

We have not succeeded in getting all the names we require for the £500 scheme. Perhaps there are some who might help me in this? Finally, let all do what they can. Personally I feel encouraged by the sympathy with which my former appeals have been met. I am happy to think that I have now in Miss Tite a colleague whose large knowledge of the life-conditions of women throughout the world makes her peculiarly valuable as a propagandist, as our readers will see by referring to an earlier page.

C. DESPARD.

MASS MEETING AT CLAPHAM.

A demonstration was held on Sunday, September 4th, on Clapham Common, under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League (Battersea Branch). As soon as Mrs. Manson (the chairman) mounted the first van a large crowd quickly collected, and listened attentively to her lively address. Miss Benett followed, and her description of the conditions of the women workers in the Potteries and elsewhere quickly caught the sympathy of her hearers. Mr. E. Duval, of the Men's League, was the last speaker. Around the central van an enormous crowd had collected, expecting to hear Mrs. Despard, who was unavoidably absent. Mrs. Duval, who opened, referred to the methods of agitation, and remarked that hitherto the Government had made the women suffer, and it was time to turn the tables, and make the members of the Government suffer a little, should Mr. Asquith continue to treat their demand with contempt after the House of Commons had declared for the Reform Bill. Miss Fennings, who dealt ably with the Conciliation Bill and the need of the vote for the betterment of women workers, was listened to with great attention, in spite of the constant interruption of one woman, who represented the views of the thirty anti-suffrage lords. Lieutenant Colonel Warburton, by the light of history, showed the need of a little force if the vote is to be won. By his presence he exploded the fallacy that men who have fought for their country would deny women the right of sharing in the government. The veteran officer made a great impression. The third van was presided over by Miss Pierepoint, who had a good audience when Miss Benett arrived to deliver her second attack on the Government. A resolution was passed at the three meetings, with a few dissentients, calling upon the Government to carry into effect the will of the people by giving facilities for the final passage of the Bill into law. Our stock of VOTES was sold out, and a collection was taken. We have to thank Mrs. Sutcliffe, Mrs. Pickering, and Mrs. Cooper for helping us towards a great success.—B. DUVAL.

Emerson said—

"The times are marked by the new attitude of woman, urging, by argument and association, her rights of all kinds—in short, to one-half of the world—as the right to education, to avenues of employment, to equal rights of property, to equal rights in marriage, to the exercise of the professions and of suffrage. . . . These rights must not be refused."

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But it is not, for an addition and the decline in quoted in full. The profession is due fallen to 26.3 per There are not only for medical men to it this, and, further, upon the doctor's admit that this gives the doctrine of large it does not justify the coming of unfit ng to warn women m a monetary point reason for a little more important issues doctor cannot be made of unhealthy and unwilling

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

OUR TREASURY.

I have the greatest pleasure in announcing that Miss



There was an old man who said: How  
 Shall I flee from this horrible cow?  
 I will sit on this stile & continue to smile  
 Which may soften the heart of this cow

The "Vote" Supplement designed and  
 at The Suffrage Atelier.

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- Janet Heyes
- rough.
- October 3.—Gran
- of Great Women.
- Coates, Wilstrop
- Sunderland.
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