

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE THE COMMON CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

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*"She keeps her faith; and nothing of her name
Or of her handiwork but doth proclaim
Her purpose. Her own soul hath made her free,
Not circumstance; she knows no victory*

*Save of the mind; in her is nothing done—
No wrong, no shame, no glory of anyone—
But is the cause of all.*

—LAWRENCE BINYON.

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Notes and Comments.

The National Union of Teachers and Women's Suffrage.

We trust that the question of Women's Suffrage will not be shelved by the N.U.T. at their Lowestoft Conference this year. We are informed that many members have on previous occasions voted rather on the point that political questions should not be discussed, than on the merits of the case for Women's Suffrage. Such an attitude is surely not consistent in view of the fact that the Board of Education so largely controls the destinies of teachers. It issues codes, regulates the size of classes, appoints inspectors in the proportion of about four men to one woman, the men being much more highly paid, and given a much better position. Moreover, the N.U.T. actually earmarks £6,000 per annum for purposes of Parliamentary representation, and has spent Union money on a law-suit to establish the right to vote of men living in school-houses. In other words, N.U.T. money may be spent on getting votes for men, but no one must even talk about votes for women! Yet they pay their subscriptions, we understand, equally with their male colleagues.

Militancy—Male and Female.

Men, while expressing continual detestation of militant Suffragists, are now appealing to women to sign "the British Covenant," which commits the signatories to the doctrine that any effective action is justifiable on the part of Unionists against Home Rule. We publish on another page Lady Selborne's reply to this request.

An Irreparable Loss.

It is reported that Miss Richards, when taken into custody for damaging the "Rokeby Venus," said that the nation "could get another picture, but not another Mrs. Pankhurst." Perhaps—if Miss Richards will tell us where to get another Velasquez. So far they seem at least as difficult to breed. We hardly know whether the case for this campaign of revenge is made better or worse by the ignorance of the destroyers of the value (not to be measured in money) of that which they destroy; since it is, after all, not even the destruction—bad as it is—that is the real tragedy. It is the spirit of revenge which has so poisoned the minds of a few of the supporters of the noblest and purest of all causes.

Women's Political Associations.

The Liberal Women's Suffrage Union held its inaugural meeting at our time of going to press last week. We publish a report elsewhere. An impression seems to exist in some people's minds that the National Union discourages its members from joining or remaining in other political associations. This is not the case. It is true that Suffragists have in many cases felt themselves bound in honour to resign such membership, but this has been when circumstances have made loyalty to both associations—the Suffrage one and the party one—impossible. On the other hand, where such circumstances do not arise, valuable work has been done by Suffragists who have also been members of party organisations. The case is clearly one which can only be decided by the individual, on its own merits.

A Conspiracy of Silence.

Perhaps the easiest test by which one may know whether any cause is a winning or a losing one, is to be found in the willingness of its supporters to face discussion. We notice that refusal always comes from Anti-suffragists; rarely, indeed, from those on the Suffrage side. In the recent case of the Anglican Church Congress, for example, Suffragists were deeply grateful to the Bishop of Winchester, not for taking a side, but simply for allowing discussion; Anti-suffragists were correspondingly enraged. The mere fact that he did allow discussion was taken (and might well be taken) as proof that he was a Suffragist! His consent has been labelled "an attempt to capture the Church Congress." Would it be possible to imagine a stronger proof of the justice of our cause than the admission that to allow it to be discussed in any assembly is equal to the "capture" of that assembly, and willingness to face discussion a proof of Suffrage opinions!

"As Many Lies as Will Lie in a Sheet of Paper."

In pursuance of the belief that discussion is fatal to their cause, Anti-suffragists have addressed a manifesto to the ministers of the Free Churches, imploring them on no account to allow the Suffrage question to be discussed by "purely religious bodies." This document, with an audacity which

commands admiration, proceeds to state (1) that Suffragists have "split" the National Union of Women Workers. What has, in fact, happened is that 227 members have left, out of 7,472; one branch out of forty-eight (two new ones have been formed since); and one affiliated society out of 159. The split seems rather like a shaving. (2) That the Free Church Council "like all religions owes its unity to concentration upon non-contentious objects"—such for example, as education, and temperance, and disestablishment? What does the Free Church Council discuss, one wonders? We observe that the Anglican Congress only discussed the Women's Movement "at the cost of much publicly expressed resentment." Why should discussion be resented? That is a question which really requires an answer.

Outrageous Sentences.

Many people have written to ask what—if anything—can be done in the matter of the Fulham case, commented on in these columns a fortnight ago. Apparently nothing can be done. The Home Secretary has stated in the House of Commons that he has no power to alter sentences, "however obviously inadequate." He added that he knew of no extenuating circumstances whatever to account for the sentence of three months in the second division, for so horrible an offence. Our readers will remember that the man was convicted of having violated his little step-daughter (aged thirteen) who will shortly become a mother. We constantly receive reports of very bad cases, but do not publish them unless we have first-hand information, as the reports given in newspapers are constantly found to be incorrect in important particulars. We have, however, received one this week which illustrates the extraordinarily unjust administration of the law as applied by men to women.

A man assaulted a young woman—a domestic servant—twice. He pleaded guilty to the offence, and his counsel suggested that "a fine would meet the case, because sending to prison would be very serious for him, his wife and family, and his business." The girl assaulted apparently took the same view, and the magistrates (in imposing a fine) said "the wife and family had been considered."

We can hardly imagine a more disastrous kind of chivalry. In order to protect (?) one woman, the whole public standard with regard to these offences is lowered, and the safety of all women lessened.

Another Case.

Another man was charged on March 6th at the Sussex Winter Assizes with theft and forgery. The Judge said to the prisoner: "I have read what you say about your wife, and I am very sorry for her; but you know people have to take these matters into consideration when they commit an offence of this kind." Doubtless, since the sentence was three years' penal servitude for "an offence of this kind." For an offence of the other kind—a fine of £10.

The Case of Julia Decies.

Julia Decies has been sentenced to seven years' penal servitude for the attempted murder of her lover, under circumstances of extreme provocation. The *Daily Citizen* publishes a letter containing a report of a man whose wife died in hospital as a result of a brutal assault by him, and "in consideration of the great provocation he had received," got six months. It becomes increasingly evident that women must be given a share in the administration of the law as well as in legislation, if it is not to be brought into utter contempt by its extraordinary laxities and equally extraordinary severities. The uncertainty of its operation creates the most demoralising sense of uncertainty and injustice.

The Man Pays?

Another preposterous case tells against the husband (who, however, will probably not have to pay any penalty). In *Poole v. Stokes*, a man was found guilty of "neglect," because, having separated from his wife and paid her a sufficient allowance for the support of their children, she has neglected them! Legally, the "neglect" is his, and he is responsible, although he had nothing to do with the matter. Could anything be more utterly ridiculous? Of course, if men insist on being "the sole legal parent" of their children, and possessor of their wives, these absurdities must arise. But to women, the doctrine that women who are wives are no longer responsible for their own acts seems no privilege, but a peculiarly offensive insult.

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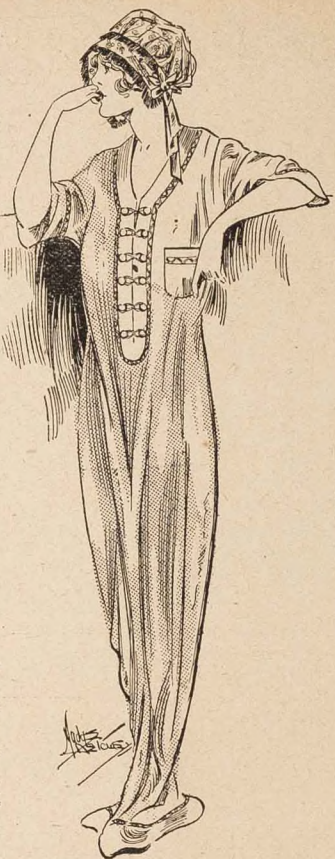
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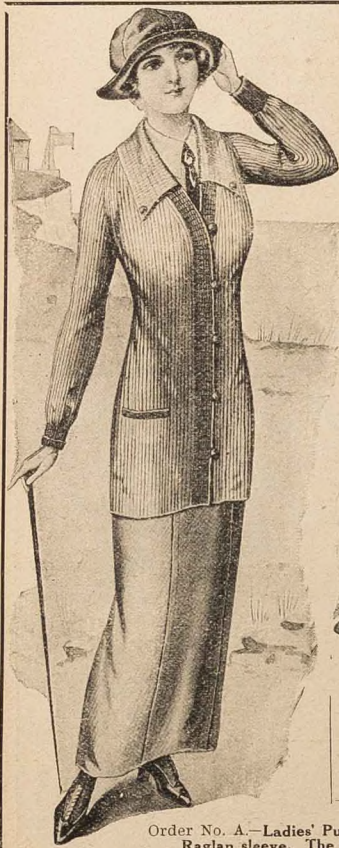
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AUSTRALIAN WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

In *Australia from a Woman's Point of View*,* Miss Jessie Ackermann writes sympathetically and with faith in the possibilities of the young land and its people, undimmed by knowledge of the many faults and even grave evils which have yet to be remedied. It is a serious drawback to the value of her book, however, that the information given is not dated. In almost every chapter statements may be called in question on this ground. For example, while praising the advance of mothercraft, which has resulted in so marked a decrease in infant mortality, Miss Ackermann remarks that the marriage-rate and birth-rate are both on the decline (p. 95). But the Commonwealth Statistics show that there has been a steady increase in the marriage-rate since 1903, and in the birth-rate since 1907. Again, on p. 174, the cost of living is said to be about 33 per cent. greater in the West of Australia than it is in the Eastern States. It is not easy to guess, even with the aid of the *Year Book*, what period is referred to, for since 1901 there has been no such wide difference. In 1901, 18s. 2d. bought as much in Sydney as 20s. 4d. in Perth. In 1913 23s. 9d. in Sydney equalled 22s. 3d. in Perth. Between those dates there are slight fluctuations. Miss Ackermann is probably relying on hearsay.

Closely connected with the cost of living is the question of Women's Wages, and under this heading are some of the most serious misstatements of all. On p. 260, we find the following sentences:—

"Remuneration to shop and factory girls is criminally low. A girl who must wholly depend on it cannot live a decent life. Much of the evil into which young girls fall is due to the cruelly low price paid for their services."

And on p. 243, referring to factory women, "In some of the States their condition is awful in the extreme." Miss Ackermann does not specify which States.

From the *Year Book* I choose the average weekly rates paid to women in the boot and tailoring trades in Sydney, because Miss Ackermann says that one out of four of the business girls in N.S.W. is employed in those trades:—

	s.	d.
Bootmakers	25	6
Tailors' Machinists	28	0
Tailoresses	26s. and	32 6

The minimum rate fixed by the Wages Board is 16s. per week. In the great majority of cases, to my own knowledge, good work immediately commands higher remuneration. As regards cost of living, compared with London, my own experience is that Sydney is not dearer than London, and that other parts of Australia are much cheaper to live in. The *Year Book* gives, concerning all the States, statistics similar to the cases I have quoted.

Miss Ackermann considers that the woman's vote in Australia has as yet done little good. But she overlooks the fact that the admirable legislation regarding lighting and sanitation of workshops, the regulation of the hours of labour (48 hours per week in the cases I have quoted), the careful regulation of the labour of the wage-earning children, date from the time when men and women began to work together in the government of the State. Miss Ackerman tells us nothing, too, of the admirable work of the women factory inspectors.

But in other chapters we find much for which we owe the author hearty thanks. Most of all, Australian women will appreciate the indignation with which she brushes aside the accusation that a low moral tone prevails among them. On p. 98 she says, "Women in Australia have advanced in a knowledge of scientific motherhood. They are seriously considering themselves as life-givers." And, again, of the children of these mothers (p. 100), "There seems little danger of the decay of the race in Australia." HARRIET C. NEWCOMB.

IMPORTANT DECISION.
News from America.

The United States Senate has decided by 47 votes to 14 in favour of submitting a Women's Suffrage amendment to the constitution to a referendum of voters. This enormously important decision would, if put into effect, and if the referendum gave a favourable result, enfranchise all women in the United States. Before it is acted upon, however, the House of Representatives must come into line.

WOMEN VOTERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Executive of the Australian and New Zealand Women Voters' Association (London) has decided to hold, once a month, a Sunday afternoon meeting in Hyde Park, when addresses will be given on the effect of equal Suffrage in Australia and New Zealand.

* Cassell 6s.

Some Recent Books.

SAVED FROM SIBERIA. By Kate Malecka. (London: Everett & Co. Price 1s.)

The cause of woman is the cause of freedom, and all sympathisers with women and lovers of freedom will read Miss Malecka's book with the deepest interest. Its restrained and simple yet vivid style will be a further commendation. Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE will doubtless remember Miss Malecka's case, which excited so much attention two years ago. She, a British subject, because of her sympathy with free institutions and reformers, was arrested by the Russian Government, and but for the efforts of England, would be undergoing an appalling sentence at the present moment. Those, and they are too many, who delude themselves into thinking that the Government of Russia is a tolerable thing, ought to read this little book, and learn something of their methods. Miss Malecka was condemned solely on the manufactured evidence of a miserable creature called Sukiennik, who, condemned to be hanged, had turned informer to save himself. He is still obliged to continue informing, and to bring in a yearly supply of victims, for his sentence is not repealed, but still hangs over him. Sukiennik is kept in the citadel. He is a prisoner, for he has not been pardoned, "only reprieved till further notice" (p. 83). It is not surprising after this to read of the abominable catechism to which Miss Malecka was subjected, the authorities doing their best to persuade her to save herself by following Sukiennik's example. "You are an Englishwoman, therefore one who is by nature loyal. It is an act of loyalty to the Government to inform against suspected persons. There can be nothing dishonourable in telling us the names of M. Filipowicz's friends. . . . Besides, no one will ever know."

If she would not yield to these blandishments Siberia was held over her, "The Pit," as they call it, with grim and appropriate humour, and Miss Malecka knew well what the journey there might mean, a journey on which "the prisoners are entirely at the mercy of the officials, some of whom are decent men enough, but some of whom are brutal" (p. 114).

This sort of thing at one end, and at the other the stupid, petty, and maddening interference that makes it impossible to give a literary lecture without sanction, and a matter of chance whether that sanction is ever obtained (p. 30). There is a conspiracy of silence in the English Press about Russian evils, just as there is a conspiracy of silence about Suffragist news. Let us take comfort from Disraeli's saying, "The system that cannot bear discussion is doomed."

F. MEBIAN STAWELL.

REMINISCENCES OF MY LIFE. Henry Holiday. (Heinemann, 16s. net.)

The author of this entertaining volume is an artist who is best known by his picture of "Dante and Beatrice," of which there have been many reproductions. He has worked successfully in other directions, stained glass, mural painting, mosaic, &c., always with a strong feeling for the decorative side of art. In this respect, and in the effort to improve social conditions, he belongs to the group headed by William Morris, Walter Crane, and Burne Jones. His early sympathy with the "Votes for Women" movement is well shown by the following account of a meeting held at his house more than twenty years ago:—

"On June 5th, 1892, we had a Women's Suffrage Meeting at Oak Tree House at which Mrs. Jacob Bright, who was the chief speaker, gave an admirable, reasoned and effective address, and I took the Chair. We had issued invitations freely to our neighbours, without knowing their opinions and were surprised to find that only two persons (both men) spoke against the resolution, and these took opposite lines. One said "Woman stands on a pedestal, above the turmoil of the work-a-day world. Man toils for her, he braves the perils of the ocean to fetch her silks, and dives into the depths to find pearls, and he showers them upon Woman," &c. The other spoke with contempt of woman's incapacity and total unfitness for the duties of citizenship and asked "Would anyone seriously propose to give the vote to the girls at the A. B. C.'s?"

"In summing up, I thanked our opponents for the graphic picture their combined speeches offered of the girls of the A.B.C. standing on pedestals and having silks and pearls showered on them; a picture which we all recognised as accurately representing the position of women, especially working women in the community."

THE LETTERS OF A SCHOOLMA'AM. Edited by A. B. de Bary. (Dent, 2s.)

A charming account of the experiences of a cultivated woman as teacher in a village school. The writer combats the idea—unfortunately so common among elementary school teachers—that the training of peasant children affords "no scope." She deplores the effect of the training college upon the promising country boy or girl who wishes to take up teaching, and urges that "the peasant teacher having been rendered as scarce and flavourless as apples in May," his place should be taken, to some extent, by better educated men and women with a love of country life, who should "become peasants by adoption and grace," entering into the life of the little community, as she herself had done. Such teachers, she maintains, would leave their mark on the country-side in a way that "the incumbent of the parish might envy in vain."

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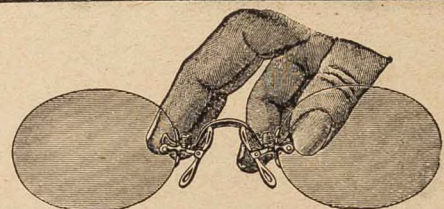
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Correspondence.

[Correspondents are urged to write briefly, as we receive each week a greater number of letters than we can possibly print. They are also warned to write on one side of a page only. Letters with writing on both sides must in future be consigned to the waste-paper basket.]

THE PROBLEM OF THE MARRIED WORKING WOMAN.

MADAM,—It seems to me that there is need for much clear thinking on the subject of the economic dependence of the married working woman, and as a member of the N.U.W.S.S., and a constant reader of THE COMMON CAUSE, I am glad you have opened your columns for discussion on the subject. Theoretically, one would like to think it possible for every hard-working wife and mother to be economically independent; but practically, is it possible? When a woman of the lower middle or working class marries, if she is made of the right stuff she expects to work hard in her home; and though she does not earn money directly, she can, and does, by her endless labours, make much indirectly. This fact is rarely recognised by those who have never had the experience of running a home with little or no outside help. It has yet to be proved that a middle-class or workman's home would be in a better way (even from a financial point of view) if the wife were to bring in a wage as well as the husband, and meantime pay others to fulfil her household duties and tend her children; but even if it were so, there are other things quite as important to be considered. Surely the bond between a mother and her children (the closest and most sacred that nature has decreed) points to the necessity for her being their caretaker? It is not only during the year preceding and the year after a child's birth that the mother is disabled from work outside her own home, but all through the years of her children's lives until the last of them is launched into the working world. The necessary nursing, cooking, scrubbing, cleaning, and washing during all those years keep her fully occupied. Is not married life, if taken as it ought to be, as much a career (at least for many long years) as any occupation a man may choose by which to earn a living? And shall we not put a double burden on women's shoulders if we fail to recognise this?

Some men even recognise it, and it is not at all an uncommon thing in Yorkshire for a working man to put the whole of his week's wages into his wife's hands, taking back an incredibly small amount for "baccy," &c. Could any higher tribute be paid to a wife's ability, or could any greater sign of real comradeship be given? Mrs. Ada Nield Chew, in her article in last week's COMMON CAUSE, says "all women should take part in work which advances human progress." Can any work advance human progress more than the conscientious, steady work that a woman puts into her home, maintaining a high standard of cleanliness, comfort, and order, tending her children and setting an example of thrift and industry, making the little "go a long way," in fact, making a home? Our great woman's movement will only progress in proportion as we women see our great responsibilities, wherever they may be.

Mrs. Chew also says "all women are no more fit for domestic tasks or baby-tending, than all men are fit to be engineers," which raises the question: Is work to be shirked because it is un congenial? It was, I think, Professor Henry Sidgwick who said "one acquires a secondary enthusiasm for any work which presents itself as a duty," and this is certainly true of all kinds of domestic work and child-tending. Once a woman has chosen marriage and motherhood (and she is not compelled to choose them), and then discovers she has undertaken un congenial work, she will advance no cause by turning her back on it. Let her make a conscientious effort to fill her niche faithfully and successfully. It can be done. And as likely as not her husband who has drifted into bricklaying or joinery, book-keeping or tailoring, is fighting the same battle himself.

Reforms are needed in the home—badly needed; better housing conditions, education in cooking and hygiene, a sense of responsibility which would avoid the reckless production of large families on inadequate means (one of the most fruitful causes of poverty). By all means let us have co-operative nurseries and any other alleviation that can be suggested where through misfortune it becomes necessary for the wife to take up the burden of wage-earner (and unfortunately there are always many such cases), but it cannot be an ideal state of affairs for mother and children to be separated. Let us clear our minds about this work in the home. Given decent conditions, it should not be considered "domestic drudgery." Unremunerative it is, and must be, by its very nature, but it has its rewards, and every woman who is bravely "standing her corner" in her home is strengthening the hands of those women who are more free to fight the great cause of women in the open.

EDITH CHETTLER.

ELECTION OF GUARDIANS.

MADAM,—The election of Guardians of the Poor will begin throughout most parts of the country in a few days. Guardians have far greater power for good (or for evil) than the working classes and their friends seem to understand. The Guardians can:—

(1) Give adequate out-relief to necessitous (not merely the actually destitute) widows; and to elderly men who have not yet arrived at pension age, but are not able-bodied; also to the able-bodied, when wife or child is sick, and in many other cases; (2) give out-door medical relief (with meat, beef-tea, &c., if ordered by the doctor) without disfranchisement or loss of old-age pension; (3) in those cases where they can only offer the able-bodied "the House" treat them decently; (4) treat a married woman or a child as an individual human being, and not merely as a "fraction of a family"; (5) abstain from calling upon labourers, with less than a minimum living wage, to repay cost of relief for parents;

(6) in time of distress give out-relief coupled with employment; (7) carry out the Law of England, and not the fancies of the Philosophers of 1834." Some Boards of Guardians do these things; and many workhouses are much improved. Now is the time for selection of candidates.

J. THEODORE DODD, M.A., J.P.
(For fifteen years a Guardian of the Poor.)

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

MADAM,—When an editor (and, I take it, you would with even greater emphasis say an editoress) ventures to attempt to correct a correspondent, it seems to me that accuracy should be aimed at. The absurdly inaccurate statement you make about my brother, Lord Knutsford, "standing almost alone in opposing the Registration of Nurses" is dealt with by him in the enclosed letter which appeared in the "Times" this morning, and which I ask you to reprint in THE COMMON CAUSE in the interest of common justice.

A. HOLLAND HIBBERT.

[We do not say, with greater or with lesser emphasis, "editoress," since no such word exists. Lord Knutsford's letter, which can be read in the "Times" by all who wish to see it, announces that the matrons of 224 hospitals signed a petition against registration. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick informs us that the societies affiliated to the Central Committee for Registration number 26,000 medical practitioners and upwards of 10,000 matrons and nurses. She adds, "Support is given by organised Societies; opposition comes from a few individuals." On the whole, "tiny minority" seems to have been an adequate description.—ED., C.C.]

"HELPING THE ENEMY."

MADAM,—I should be glad to know if other N.U.W.S.S. secretaries have recently received—as I have—a marked copy of a recent issue of *The Suffragette*. It contains a leading article by Miss Christabel Pankhurst entitled, "Women Who Help the Enemy"—a bitter attack upon the National Union's political work. The entire article shows so complete a misunderstanding of the political situation with regard to Women's Suffrage and the feeling in the country, that one can only gasp with amazement! If this article has been sent to others besides myself, I feel that some definite reply might, with advantage, be published in THE COMMON CAUSE.

FLORENCE M. BEAUMONT.

[We are informed that the SUFFRAGETTE is frequently sent to members and especially officials of the N.U. whenever it contains an attack on their Union. The article to which Miss Beaumont refers is based on the curious theory that when a Labour candidate stands against a Liberal he is in some mysterious way "helping" the Liberal party. The Liberal party does not hold this view. We never met anyone but the SUFFRAGETTE who did.—ED., C.C.]

WOMEN AND HOME RULE.

The following letter from Lady Selborne appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*, of March 10th:—

SIR—I have to-day received a letter from the secretary of the Primrose League, inviting me to sign a declaration that, in the event of the Home Rule Bill being passed into law without being submitted to the judgment of the nation, "I shall hold myself justified in taking or supporting any action that may be effective to prevent it being put into operation."

What a silly declaration to ask a woman to sign. How are we to prevent an Act of Parliament being put into operation?

If the words are to be taken literally, it means that the men who sign this declaration are prepared to fight rather than allow the law to be put into force. I do not suppose they wish the women to do that, and, except a general strike against the payment of taxes, I can imagine no militant movement in which we could usefully take part.

Sir, the women should have been allowed to draw up their own protest, which they would have done with some regard to the actual facts of the situation. Many of us regard with the utmost detestation the proposal to force Ulster to accept a form of government which she hates, and we would willingly have pledged ourselves to do all that we could lawfully to remedy this injustice. But a promise to acquiesce or support militant methods is not to be so lightly given.

Let me say in conclusion that it seems to me very inconsistent on the part of those who object to women signifying their opinions on politics in a lawful and constitutional manner, to urge them to promise that they will not hesitate to try and make these opinions prevail, even if they have to use unlawful and unconstitutional means.—I am yours very truly,
MAUD SELBORNE.

DUBLIN UNIVERSITY HONOURS.

Two women have for the first time won the degree of *Baccalaura in Scientiis* at Trinity College, Dublin. Both won honours throughout their university career, taking their degree of B.A. in 1912, and obtaining a senior moderatorship in experimental science with Gold Medal. The subject of their year's research work, prior to admission to the B.Sc. degree, was organic chemistry; Miss Coade's subject for the thesis presented for the degree was "The Structure of Carbonide and Thio-carbonide."

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211, Regent Street, W. 67, Piccadilly, W.
177-178, Tottenham Court Rd., W. 243, Brompton Rd., S.W.
81-84, LEADENHALL ST., London, E.C.

on schemes which may involve a loss and a consequent cost on the rates. We have yet to learn that it pays in the long run to house our people properly, and that much of the illness and disease which have to be coped with in hospitals and sanatoria are the direct result of insanitary housing.

In the King's Speech a promise is given that a measure of Housing Reform will be introduced this Session by the Government, and we await with the keenest interest details of the Bill. Some years ago our King, in the course of a speech, said: "The glory of England rests in the homes of the people." After reading through the reports of the medical officers of health one begins to wonder where the "glory" is to be found!

Here are typical examples from some reports: "Dwelling accommodation for poorer classes very unsatisfactory. Many cottages of miserable character, in last stages of disrepair and neglect, and many unfit for human habitation." "Many of the houses very damp and dilapidated, serious cases of overcrowding exist, and there is generally a lack of suitable bedroom accommodation." "Plainly speaking, there are a number of cottages that should be closed; but then the question arises, where are the present tenants to go?"

Even the most superficial knowledge of village life leads one to the conclusion that much of the immorality is directly due to the lack of housing accommodation. The following cases are given by a medical officer of health: "Man and wife and six children (males twenty-one, sixteen, fourteen, females eleven, five, and one), in two small bedrooms. Man and wife and six children (males thirteen, eleven, seven, five, one female three) in one bedroom. Man, wife, and eight children (males fifteen, six, four, two, females fourteen, thirteen, nine, seven) in one bedroom, partitioned into two parts by sheets." "Man and wife and six children (males seventeen, eight, females nineteen, six, four, three months) in one bedroom partitioned into two parts by sheets." When one reads such cases recorded in official reports, and when one thinks of all the unnecessary misery, bad health, and consequent expense, caused by the failure of public authorities to administer laws, one feels the pressing need for women in administration as well as in legislation.

Those of us who are actively engaged as Rural District Councillors in promoting housing schemes are following with a considerable amount of apprehension the utterances of Cabinet Ministers in regard to the Government proposals for housing legislation. The Chancellor of the Exchequer and the President of the Board of Agriculture have both declared themselves in favour of housing being put into the hands of the central authority, which means more paid officials, and one begins to wonder what has become of the good old Liberal watchword "Trust the People"! Surely the fundamental principle of democracy is to stimulate and encourage people to take an interest in their own localities by putting more power into their hands. We readily admit that local authorities, through ignorance, indifference, or selfishness, have failed to a great extent in their duties in regard to the Housing Acts; but the point I specially ask women to note is that this proposal to supersede the local authorities by the State building of cottages is a distinct "set-back" to women. Women have at present got a direct power, both by means of the vote and by being eligible to serve on District Councils, for dealing with the homes of the people, and it behoves us to express ourselves emphatically on the matter ere it be too late. The best protest we can make is to see that a large number of women are nominated on the 19th of March, and that they put Housing Reform as the first plank on their platform. Remember that every woman, married or single, who has resided for the last year in the district, is eligible for election, as well as every woman who is on the electoral list.

MARJORY PEASE,
Rural District Councillor.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

We have received the following communication from the Hon. Treasurer of the Committee on Wage-Earning Children: In consideration of your recent series of articles on children's questions, I ask for space in your columns to bring forward the aims of Mr. Denman's Bill dealing with School Attendance and the Employment of Children. This Bill does not attempt to deal with the lamentable employment of children liable to full school attendance, save in the clause which provides for the transfer of the duty of approving local by-laws on the subject from the Board of Education to the Home Office;

but this in itself would be a most important step, since it is the tendency of the Board to consider primarily the children's interests, while the Home Office gives more weight to the representations of those who gain by their labour.

The proposed advance in the school-leaving age is merely a further step in the direction indicated by the Education Act of 1870. In the opinion of educational experts it is fully time such a step was taken. Abolition of the half-time system is but another step in the same direction. When the system was permitted by earlier Education Bills, it was in general use, even in country places. Nowadays, it has died a natural death in most parts of the country, being in general use only in the textile districts. It is condemned by educationalists as both physically and mentally handicapping to the half-timers. Reports of school medical officers for 1911 and 1912 show that children working outside school hours are shorter in height, lighter in weight, and show a greater percentage of heart strain, anæmia, and over fatigue than those not so employed. The wastage of intelligence is equally great, for the over-worked child is quite unable to profit by the education provided. The children lose far more than 50 per cent. of their education. They are less inclined to discipline, and in schools where they cannot form separate classes they create disturbance among the full-time children.

The powers which this Bill would give to Education Committees of enforcing attendance at continuation classes are its least desirable part. The same difficulties beset the student at continuation classes as the half-timer, but in a worse degree. Children of thirteen who have done a day's work, whether in a mill or otherwise, are not in a fit state to profit by school instruction. Amendments will probably be made in Committee, however, by which continuation teaching will have to be given during the hours which would be otherwise spent at work.

Street-trading, which is also very largely restricted by the Bill, is not only physically and mentally harmful, but is morally the most deteriorating of blind-alley employments. Newspaper-selling, besides developing lung complaints, leads to gambling and idleness; flower-selling (defended in the House of Commons as "a beautiful employment") is the ruin of numbers of young girls. In these matters I do not speak from hearsay only, I have had personal experience among children of this class. I have also had the benefit of much expert information as a member of the Committee on Wage-earning Children which, under the able guidance of Miss Adler, Mr. A. J. Mundella, and Miss Constance Smith, has done much excellent work.

S. ELIZABETH GREG.

IMPORTANT EVIDENCE FOR MR. LLOYD GEORGE.

ANALYSIS OF SIGNATURES TO A MEMORIAL.

PWLLHELL.	
Town Council	15 members, all signed.
Liberal Executive Committee	22 members, 20 signed.
Women's Liberal Committee	16 members seen, 14 signed.
Clergy and Ministers	7 seen, all signed.
Other Professional Men	9 seen, 7 signed.

NEVIN.	
Parish Council	16 members, 14 seen, 13 signed.
Liberal Executive Committee	10 members, all signed.

CRICCIETH.	
Urban District Council	15 members, 11 signed.
Liberal Executive Committee	16 members, 12 signed.
Clergy and Ministers	All signed, except one who is away, but he is a member of local society.
Other Professional Men	All those seen signed.

N.B.—Local Branch of N.U. numbers 114. This shows an increase of 24 during last year, in spite of militancy.

CARNARVON.	
Town Council	24 members, 23 signed, 1 refused.
Liberal Executive Committee	49 members, 43 signed, 4 refused, 2 away.
W.L. Association Executive	22 members, 12 signed, none refused, (5 away).
Clergy and Ministers	17 seen, 16 signed.
Many other professional men also signed.	

CONWAY.	
Professional Men and Ministers	15 seen, 13 signed.
Town Council	16 members, 13 seen, 11 signed.
Liberal Executive Committee	22 members, 20 seen, 16 signed.
Other Men	70 seen, 60 signed.
Total seen (all voters save three or four), 118; 100 signed.	

"WOMAN'S KINGDOM."

The Special Women's Department of the CHILDREN'S WELFARE EXHIBITION, Olympia, April 11th-30th.

Office: N.U.W.S.S., 14, GREAT SMITH STREET, WESTMINSTER.
Organiser: MISS V. C. C. COLLUM. Treasurer: MISS LONGLEY.

Among the many attractions of "Woman's Kingdom" will be a section on Women in Professions, which will serve to illustrate the progress which the Woman's Movement has made during the last few years. This is not, of course, intended to cover the whole area of women's work, the wide extent of which will be indicated in other sections. It will deal especially with careers involving a higher degree of responsibility, open to women in some part of the world. The more familiar professions accessible to both sexes, such as medicine, law, and teaching, will, of course, be included, but the work of women as responsible administrators and political leaders will also be demonstrated. For instance, the Norwegian Bench includes a woman Judge, and there is another at the head of the Court for delinquent girls in Chicago; there is also a woman at the head of the Department of Correction in New York, a woman is Chairman of the Democratic Party in Colorado, and, as is well known, there are twenty-one women members of Parliament in Finland. There are women also among ministers of religion both in England and in America, where the majority of the chaplains of women's prisons are women. In Denmark there are women so fully qualified in agriculture and land-surveying that they are employed in arranging large estates, and many of them personally manage their own lands and farms. A Danish lady also is a practical sea captain.

Information regarding these and other professions will always be found in the section, and during the afternoons each profession will be represented by a woman, in the appropriate official or academic or working dress, who will be able to give full information to all inquirers.

ARTS AND CRAFTS.

A special feature of the Arts and Crafts Section will be the demonstrators' stands, where different craftworkers will show all the processes of their crafts, and explain them to the onlookers. Another group will show village industries, among which it is hoped to represent, not only the industries of the United Kingdom, but of foreign countries as well. In some of these, also, demonstrations will be given. The Suffrage Atelier stand will arouse wide interest, and also under Miss Willis's management there will be silhouette and lightning portraits, where a busy time is anticipated by the artists.

In the gallery will be exhibited examples of the best work women are accomplishing to-day in the Arts and Crafts world. A collective exhibit from members of the Lyceum Club will attract special attention, including as it does the work of many distinguished craftswomen. Besides decorative drawings—etchings, wood engravings, and the like—pictures executed by the needle will be shown. Among other crafts are included illuminating and calligraphy, bookbinding, modelling, weaving, embroidery and hand-made lace, pottery and porcelain; while jewellery enamel and metal work will be well represented.

OPEN-AIR SECTION.

One stand will show that woman's home-making instincts accompany her even to the wilds, and a woman's holiday camp, with a complete schedule showing the expenditure, will be shown by a Welsh lady, whose camp-setting genius has led her to the far-off Rockies, there to organise and run a men's fishing camp during the spring season. In neighbouring stands will be found a woman's "One Night's Bivouac" and some interesting evidences of women's exploring proclivities—all of which goes to show that the "eternal boy" sometimes peeps out in his mother!

As a stern contrast to these exhibits of outdoor life, there will be a section devoted to nursing—the profession above all others which brings out in women the "eternal mother," and one showing what women are doing in the matter of the education of mothers and infant care.

These are only a few out of many attractions which "Woman's Kingdom" offers. We hope to give next week fuller particulars than appeared in our issue of March 6th, of the excellent entertainments which are being organised by Miss Edith Craig and the Actresses' Franchise League, and also of the very interesting lectures which are being arranged. The exhibition of fine arts will also be well worth a visit.

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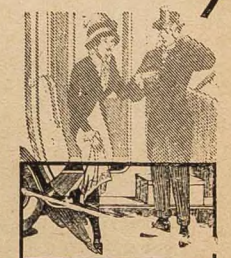
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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Hon. Secretaries: Miss K. D. COURTNEY, Miss C. E. MARSHALL (Parliamentary), Miss EMILY M. LEAF (Press), Miss EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature). Hon. Treasurer: MRS. AUERBACH. Secretary: MISS CROOKENDEN.

Active Service Uniform.

Mrs. Harley sends a description of the proposed uniform for the Active Service League. Members (and also sellers in THE COMMON CAUSE Corps) are recommended, but not obliged, to adopt it.

Report of Literature Department.

To many of the newer Societies the excellent picture leaflets provided by the Artists' Suffrage League may not be known. The Literature Department has, therefore, decided to stock these.

As already notified in a circular letter to Societies, a sale of literature is being held in the Literature Department, of leaflets and pamphlets, which will be sold off at the old prices—e.g., the one-page leaflets at 4d. per 100.

Women's Suffrage Mandate Fund.

(The first three names on the list were printed last week, but we give them again so that the Birmingham contributions may all appear together.)

Table listing contributions to the Women's Suffrage Mandate Fund, including names like Mrs. V. Saunders, Miss Ethel Brooks, Miss M. Harwood, and Birmingham W.S.S.

Contributions to the General Fund.

Table listing contributions to the General Fund, including names like Mrs. Robt Untacke, Miss R. M. Edmonds, Miss A. M. Royden, and Birmingham W.S.S.

Subscriptions to Information Bureau.

Table listing subscriptions to the Information Bureau, including Miss L. C. Jones, Mrs. Berny, and Miss P. G. Fawcett.

Donation to Education Campaign.

Mr. F. Priestman ... 5 5 0

Donations.

Table listing various donations from Societies across the country, including Godalming W.S.S., Heywood W.S.S., and Inverness W.S.S.

THE LATE MR. EDWARD WRIGHT.

It will be within the remembrance of our readers that Sir Almoth Wright, M.D., and Lady Wright suffered the great sorrow in October last of the death, under more than usually tragic circumstances, of their eldest son, Mr. Edward Wright, of Trinity College, Dublin.

MISLEADING JOURNALISM.

A considerable number of people have apparently been disturbed by a paragraph in the Daily Mail, announcing as "an open secret," that "the Women's Suffrage Societies are helping to finance Mr. Tom Mann's mission to South Africa."

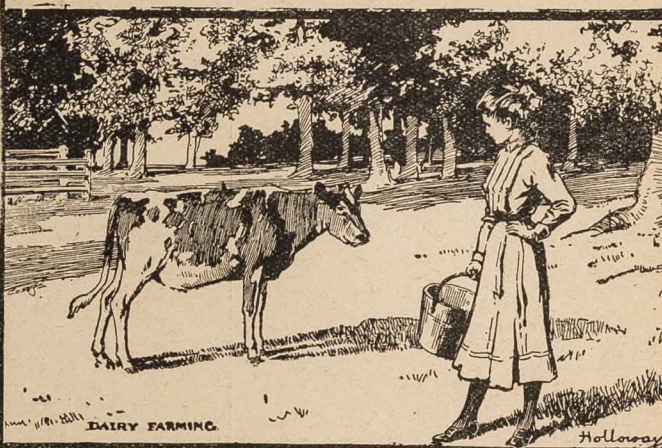
VETERAN SUFFRAGISTS' DIAMOND WEDDING.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Haslam, who are celebrating their diamond wedding this month, were married in Cork, March 20th, 1854. Mr. Haslam, who is in his 80th year, is the oldest known Suffragist in Ireland, having been convinced by reading the chapter on the "Rights of Women" in Herbert Spencer's "Social Status" about the year 1852.

THE SPIRITUAL ASPECT OF THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT.

A series of addresses has been arranged at the Collegium House (92, St. George's Square, S.W.), on Wednesday evenings, beginning on March 25th. The speakers have been asked to speak on any aspect of the Woman's Movement, about which they have something they want to say from a definitely religious point of view.

CANADA FOR WOMEN



The opportunities for women in Canada in every branch of life are fully described in a new edition of the pamphlet "Canada for Women," issued by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

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