

Women's Franchise.

No. 20.

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Notice to Contributors and Subscribers.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions. Subscriptions for the weekly numbers to the end of March (3s. 3d.), or less if so desired, should be forwarded to the Publisher. Back numbers can still be obtained.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,
13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

Notes.

THE WOMEN'S LIBERAL FEDERATION, which numbers 83,000 members, has pledged itself not to work for any Liberal candidate who will not heartily support Women's Suffrage, though on all other questions the Federation remains loyal to the Liberal Party. It is much to be regretted that the Women's National Liberal Association will not follow the Federation's example. When will women engaged in political work see how ignominious and undignified is the position they accept in working for parliamentary candidates who beg for their assistance, but at the same time are willing to class them with lunatics and criminals? It is to the Liberal women that we all look for help in this fight. They have strong and powerful organizations; united action on their part would be such as no Liberal Government could resist. "A long pull, a strong pull, and a pull *altogether*"—and the Franchise is ours.

THE flippant reply of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the question, "Are you in favour of Women's Suffrage?" which was shouted in chorus at a preconceived signal by the University students at a meeting recently held in Aberystwyth, is a typical example of the attitude of our opponents on this matter. The papers tell us that Mr. Asquith "smilingly replied, 'That is a subject I prefer to discuss when ladies are not present.' The answer was greeted with uproarious laughter from all parts of the hall, mingling with cheers."

THEREFORE a burning question, and one which will vitally affect the majority of people in this country, is to be left unanswered by a Cabinet Minister at a public meeting because a number of those whom it directly concerns happen to be present. Can we imagine Mr. Asquith thus lightly evading a question of equal importance to a large body of men, and giving as an excuse that those most interested were present? No. Voters must be conciliated. And even if he were so blind to party interests as to do so, would such an answer by a statesman in a position of great responsibility be considered satisfactory? Would it be greeted with cheers and uproarious laughter? No. Here is an example of one of our most intolerable grievances—that matters which vitally and directly concern us are flippantly dismissed by our law-makers as subjects which they "prefer to discuss when ladies are not present." This reply of Mr. Asquith's ought to convince any fair-minded person of the justice of women's demand for a voice in the making of the laws which they are expected to obey.

THE Women Textile Workers Representative Committee, in conjunction with the Women's Trades Council, have petitioned the Labour Party to propose an amendment to the Address, if the question of Women's Suffrage be omitted from the King's Speech on the opening of Parliament. They suggest that it should be couched in the following terms: "That this House regrets the omission from the King's Speech of any mention of the claims of women to the Franchise." It is hoped that the wording of this amendment will be found sufficiently general to ensure the support of both the Women and the Adult Suffragists. The suggestion has been placed before the Executive, and it was decided to refer the matter to the Parliamentary Party.

Resolutions supporting the same policy have been forwarded to the Labour Party by the Women's Co-operative Guild, the General Union of Weavers and Textile Workers, the Calton (Glasgow) I.L.P., the Sheffield L.R.C., East Ardsley I.L.P., the National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades Association, and the Northern Counties Hairdressers' Federation. There is every hope that their example will be followed by many other societies.

THERE seems to be so much misunderstanding, both in the public mind and in the Press, with regard to the eligibility of married women for governing bodies, that the following statement, sent by Miss Leigh Browne, Hon. Sec. of the Women's Local Government Society, to *The Daily Chronicle* may be of use to many of our readers.

1. Under the Qualification of Women Act, married women can be eligible to London borough councils either as parochial electors or as having resided for twelve months before the election within the electoral area.

2. Married women are not eligible to county councils, except to the London County Council, this exception resulting from the London County Council Electors Qualification Act, 1900.

3. In Scotland married women are eligible to county and town councils, not because of any difference between the Qualification of Women (Scotland) Act and the English Act, but because under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, married women can be on the county and municipal registers.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

THE NETHERLANDS.—*The Frau* has an interesting note on the state of parties in Holland—their attitude to the question of Women's Suffrage. The Social Democrats are disposed to put manhood suffrage first and let the women go to the wall. In theory they desire the exclusion of women from the franchise to be removed by the new constitution, but they would leave the Government free to postpone their enfranchisement till some future date. The Liberal democrats also approve of Women's Suffrage in theory, but in practice think their ends more likely to be gained by aiming at manhood, rather than universal suffrage. For the present they think the women's movement is not sufficiently popular to be connected with the demand for a widening of the franchise for men, but they would be willing at once to grant them the municipal and provincial vote. The "Liberal Union" thinks that the franchise question should be settled by special legislation, and not laid down in the new constitution. They would, however, abolish the use of the limiting word "male" in order to facilitate the gradual emancipation of women. The "Free Liberal Party" apparently shares the views of the Democrats. Even the Conservative parties do not seem to be absolutely opposed to Women's Suffrage, and the only one that holds quite aloof is the Clerical Catholic.

It is interesting to note that in Holland, as among us, no party has as yet been found to take a disinterested stand in this matter, though on the other hand there is hardly one that is absolutely opposed to the idea. The absurdity of a sex qualification is coming to be felt almost everywhere. But questions of expediency and self-interest still block the way.

SWEDEN.—There is always something to report from this most energetic of lands, for all the papers find room for Suffrage news, and meetings are being held all over the country. The Women's Suffrage Association now numbers 105 branches. At a demonstration, held at the factory of Hagfors, in Värmland, the socialist women marched with the men, bearing a banner, on one side of which was written: "Universal Suffrage for Women," and on the other "Better die than desert your flag." The Suffrage Association is arranging courses of lectures on Citizenship, to be given at Stockholm during the winter, with a view to educating women in regard to their responsibilities. The vote, they claim, is the common right of all citizens, but it is well that they should have knowledge enough to use it when the opportunity comes. And the general feeling seems to be that it must come next year.

A. ZIMMERN.

Reviews of Books.

SEX EQUALITY: A SOLUTION OF THE WOMAN PROBLEM. By Emmet Densmore, M.D. (Swan Sonnenschein & Co. 6s.)

THIS able sociologic study, which forms a noteworthy contribution to the literature of the movement, is based on scientific principles, and though we cannot altogether agree with the sub-title, which claims that it is a *solution* of the woman problem, we readily accord it a hearty welcome on account of the deep seriousness of its purpose and the interesting manner in which the subject is handled. To the English reader there is something irritating in the new spelling which obtains "thruout," but on the other hand the representative portraits of celebrated women chosen to illustrate the theme are specially attractive, as is also the frontispiece reproduction of the sculptured group of Electra and Orestes found in Herulanum, and now in the Naples Museum, of which Mr. Densmore notes:—

"The approximate physical equality of the pair in no way detracts from the woman's charm or the man's manliness. It may be contended that this is an imaginary conception of the sculptor. Those who urge this forget that in the flower of Greek civilization, and especially in Sparta, women were given much the same exercises in the gymnasium as men; and it has been conjectured that it was Grecian every-day life that gave to Plato the conception, embodied in his Republic, that womankind should have the same education as men." The author urges repeatedly the advisability, the supreme

necessity even, of every kind of healthful exercise for women, pointing out how inevitable appears the conclusion that when woman has had an environment as favourable as that of men for a sufficient number of generations she will become his equal in physical development. Among the disabilities which still hamper her progress almost as effectually as ancient prejudice, none is more vital than physical and mental strength, for lack of which woman is at present seriously handicapped. In the introductory chapter we are shown the genesis of feminine characteristics, the effects of selection and inheritance, the habits of the sexes in primitive times, and the effects of environment illustrated in the persons of two boys—equally well-born, and each potentially the equal of the other—who live, the one surrounded by the best possible and the other by indigent and obscure conditions. It is interesting, in view of a recent article in a leading London daily, wherein the author produced statistics to support his theory that the eldest child in a family, *born when the resources of the household are at their maximum*, is generally male, to read:—

"The sexless embryo is, as it were, suspended on a hair, to be turned to male or female by the first stimulus that may reach it. In the human race such impulses must come through the mother. Certain of these forces have been partially defined. With certain insects and crustaceans full nutrition increases the number of females; starvation of the mother makes the young male. It may be so with the human race."

Many interesting physiologic comparisons are instituted in the chapter headed 'Woman's Development,' the senses of smell and taste, of hearing and seeing, of sensitiveness and endurance in either sex being investigated and analyzed; the census figures for 1900, showing the number of women engaged in business and professions, are classified, and demonstrate to what a remarkable extent women are engaged (in the States—for this is an American book, and gives American statistics) in work heretofore thought to be exclusively adapted for men. We find women engaged in all but nine of the 303 bread-winning occupations of the country. Mrs. Wilcox, for instance, is but one of 193 blacksmiths. She was formerly a school-teacher, but has now for some time been following this vocation, forging iron, repairing waggons, and shoeing horses. Her three school-girl daughters help her in the shop work, and study music at the same time. How unwomanly, unsuitable, improper, not to say outrageous, would this be considered in this country! and how obviously inconsistent is the prejudice when we hear in mind the toil and labour which all the world over is included in the housework which is "woman's sphere"! The value of a good education is exemplified in the case of a student whose knowledge of geology enabled her to see the value of a marsh situated outside the town and in the direction in which it was extending. She became convinced that the marsh was underlaid with a bed of gravel that would drain it if wells were dug through the clay into the gravel. She paid \$1,000 for the marsh, drained it, and sold her tract for \$35,000! Another lady, having made a study of scientific agriculture, accepted a position in India to teach native children the principles of farming. She has thoroughly mastered local conditions, and now her 300-acre farm-school, under scientific irrigation and culture is the only farm in the province able to withstand long droughts without serious loss.

In 'Evolution and Sexual Characters' Dr. Ward's claim that the purpose of sex is not primarily that of reproduction, but for the organic development of the race by the crossing of strains and intermingling of characters is considered:—

"The strength and prowess of the male, it is recalled, have been developed from competition among themselves for the favour of the female. For long generations woman exercised rule over man and matriarchy, Dr. Ward holds, was the apparently natural order of things. When the change took place which reversed this condition it is difficult to say, but it seems probable that it progressed *pari passu* with the growth of the idea of paternity in man.

With the ascendancy of the patriarch, and the consequent passing of matriarchy, the woman lost power and dignity, and possibly stature—"certainly in a large degree her mental capacity for protecting and defending her offspring."

Comments on the genius of Joan of Arc, Queen Elizabeth's remarkable personality, the forceful qualities of Catharine II.,

the sagacity of the Queen Dowager of China, and the virtues of Queen Victoria, with brief notices of a few women of distinction in art and literature, make pleasanter reading than the extracts from Schopenhauer's indictment of feminine traits and Otto Weiniger's superficial strictures which follow. Unfortunately, Mr. Densmore does not note the achievement of Miss Ethel Smyth, whose opera, 'Der Wald,' has been accorded high praise by both English and continental critics, and whose work in creative music is a signal emergence from the mediocrity which has hitherto characterized woman's musical efforts. Had she chosen a less lofty medium for expression, and produced instead a popular musical comedy, no doubt her name would be a household word! As regards both Schopenhauer and Weiniger, they mistook result for cause, perceiving the weakness of women, and taking it as the result of woman's nature—of fundamental femaleness, so to speak. Darwin and Havelock Ellis have adopted a different method, and while admitting the same weaknesses, regard them as biological phenomena, and so conclude that they are really the result of environment and heredity. Mrs. Gilman, to whose 'Woman and Economics' a most generous and well-deserved tribute is paid, adopts the same hypothesis, and has come to similar conclusions. We wish we could dwell on the stirring denunciation of that greatest of all evils—the marriage which woman has sought as a means of livelihood; or on the indictment of the enslavement of women to fashion; or on the stories of remarkable American women politicians which follow chapters on the views of C. G. Leland, Edward Carpenter, and other theorists on the subject, but space, alas! forbids. As regards co-education and suffrage, however, we are tempted to quote the following interesting paragraph:—

"The uniform experience of co-education shows the average standing of women as slightly higher than that of men. Thousands of women have been working side by side with men in co-educational institutions for the past twenty-five years, and undergoing exactly the same tests, without a larger percentage of illness. In England, testimony is not lacking to show that women may equal or even surpass men in excellence of scholarship. Up to 1898, according to the records of London University, 54 per cent. of the women students passed the matriculation examinations as against 53 per cent. of the men. In the matter of health, the withdrawals from college are no greater among women than men students."

Mr. Densmore says that the object of this book is to show that as artificial restrictions are done away with, and men and women are naturally developed, they will be endowed equally with powers of logic and philosophy, and with the graces of patience, unselfishness, and refinement; that every human being is potentially heir to every human faculty and achievement; and that there is no male or female mind any more than there is a male or female lung or liver. Our thanks are due to the author for his most interesting and useful contribution, and if these lines send some of our readers to a further study of his premises our object in writing them will have been achieved.

THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. By Mrs. Aubrey Richardson. (Chapman & Hall. 10s. 6d. net.)

THIS book will come as a surprise to those who do not know the great share taken by women in the life of the Church of England. Mrs. Richardson has given us a valuable contribution to this important branch of work, and one which is free from party bias. The book opens with a scholarly chapter on the part women played in the New Learning, and a keen appreciation of the intellectual attainments of Katherine Parr, the "nursing of the Reformation." We also learn how important was the position occupied by women at this period, and what a share they took in the work of the Reformation, a point which we do not remember to have seen touched upon by historians. Two comprehensive chapters on churchwomen in literature and poetry show us that in these directions women more than held their own, and we are also told how much they have done in the work of education. Coming down to modern times, Mrs. Richardson writes enthusiastically of the pioneer work done by Miss Beale in the education of girls:—

"Miss Beale was a reformer, almost she might be called a revolutionist, though of a gentle enough kind. She broke down the idea of boarding schools being education mills, horrible

machines fed at one end with the raw material of vivacity, talent, simplicity, industry, stupidity and ability and sending forth at the other serried rows of young ladies, all like to our pattern, neither vivacious, talented, simple, industrious, stupid or able, but 'well mannered' 'accomplished,' relieved of the burden of the schooling they were given to understand was 'finished.' No pains were spared by Miss Beale or by those who taught under her to equip the individual in each Cheltenham scholar with learning and ideals to serve as weapons in the fight women must wage for an intellectual existence."

The excellent illustrations given of leading women are not the least interesting part of a most interesting book, and one which should be of value to all women working for the welfare of their sex, whether they be members of the Church of England or not.

GUARANTEE FUND TO 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE.'

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ..	14	13	6	Brought forward ..	24	14	6
Anonymous ..	0	15	0	Stansfield, Mrs. P. ..	0	5	0
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Farmer, Miss A. ..	0	5	0	Sullivan, Miss W. ..	10	10	0
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Lamont, Miss ..	0	10	0	White, Miss E. M. ..	0	5	0
Lawson, Miss M. ..	1	1	0	Whiting, Miss F. ..	0	10	6
Mathew, Miss J. G. ..	1	0	0				
Smith, Miss H. M. ..	0	10	0	Total ..	27	15	0
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Correspondence.

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

TO THE EDITOR OF 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE.'

SIR,—There has been surprise expressed in various quarters at the small number of women who offered themselves as candidates in the Town Council Elections.

We would put forward the view that a greater number could not have been expected.

It is not merely that the enabling Bill was not safely through its third reading until August 24th. It is also that the passage of the Bill was not expected by a public which had become accustomed to witness the rejection of Bills directed towards enabling women to fulfil their duties as citizens.

When it became a certainty that women might be candidates in the November elections, scarcely ten weeks remained before the day of election. The summer vacation had begun; the men and women whom it was desirable to consult were scattered, and many had already pledged themselves to other duties. There was small possibility of assuring the most competent women that, if even at that late day they would consent to be candidates, some measure of support would be forthcoming sufficient to warrant the candidature.

The field of selection of women candidates for District Councils is large, for a residence of twelve months within the electoral area suffices to qualify for eligibility. But for County and Borough Councils there is no qualification other than the electoral, and the Local Government Franchise is full of anomalies which tell against women. In order to secure the passage of the Bill, it was necessary to concentrate on the question of eligibility; anomalies in Local Government Franchise have yet to be dealt with. As soon as these anomalies are removed, married women, women owners, women lodgers, and women who should have the service Franchise will be placed on the register, and will straightway, in virtue of the Act of last session, become eligible for election to County and Borough Councils.

It must undoubtedly be admitted that much remains to be done in educating a large body of women to fill civic positions usefully. Where there has been no demand the supply is necessarily small; but the qualities exhibited by women who have been permitted to deal with social questions is a guarantee that there is no disqualification resulting from sex.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

JANE STRACHEY,
President of the Women's Local Government Society,
ANNIE LEIGH BROWNE, Hon. Secretary.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OBJECT.—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men.

The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
Hon. Secretaries: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. MISS FRANCES STERLING.
Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON.
Parliamentary and Organising Secretary: MISS EDITH PALLISER.
Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA.

OFFICES: 25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

The Union will send Organising Agents, Speakers, or Literature to any place requiring them, its desire being to form a Women's Suffrage Society in every County and Borough. All persons interested in the movement, or desiring information about it, are requested to communicate with the Secretaries. Increased Funds are needed for the growing work of the Union, and Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1907.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON
THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR
MISS FLORENCE BALGARNIE
MRS. ALLAN BRIGHT

MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT, M.P.
MISS EDITH DIMOCK
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MRS. PECHAY PHIPSON, M.D.
MRS. BROADLEY REID
HON. BERTRAND RUSSELL
MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN

LADY STRACHEY
And the Hon. Officers,
ex officio.

Current Topics.

AN important public meeting on Women's Suffrage is to be held under the auspices of the North Kensington and Paddington Committees of the Central Society at the Paddington Baths Hall, Queen's Road, W., on Thursday, December 5th. Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., will take the chair at 8.15 P.M., and the meeting will be addressed by Mrs. Pember Reeves, Mr. J. S. Fletcher, M.P., Mr. G. P. Gooch, M.P., and Mr. Granville Barker. Admission is free, but a few tickets at 2s. 6d. for seats numbered and reserved, and 1s. reserved only, may be obtained from the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, 20, Craven Terrace, Lancaster Gate, and Miss F. G. Wright, 10, Linden Gardens, Notting Hill Gate.

During the past few days the Treasurer has received a letter from Miss Cora S. Hodges, of South Pasadena, California, enclosing a donation of five dollars to the funds of the National Union. "Every freedom-loving woman," writes Miss Hodges, "on this side of the Atlantic is, or ought to be, anxious to help her British sisters in their fight for the Parliamentary Franchise. . . . Some day the sun of freedom will shine out brilliantly for woman; of this I feel convinced. I do not expect to live to see it, but I shall die in full faith that the day will come some time, and I want to do my share, however small it may be, to help it to come as soon as possible. . . . If any of the members of the Union have any copies of *Women's Franchise* to spare I should be ever so much obliged if they would be so kind as to send them to me, first to read, and then place on the reading-room table of our local library. There are a good many British subjects hereabouts, and I feel sure they would like to know what is going on in England, and some might become subscribers. I intend to subscribe myself for the paper as soon as I can, so that I may keep in close touch with our movement in your country."

LONDON SOCIETY'S "AT HOMES."

THE fortnightly parties are being well attended, and are proving a valuable means of interesting people in the cause and of enrolling new members. The speeches given last week by Miss Emily Davies, LL.D., Miss Cons, and Mrs. Hancock were listened to with much attention, and we were glad to welcome new friends among us. We hope every one will help us in making these parties known. If readers of *Women's Franchise* know of friends in London or the suburbs to whom they would like invitation cards sent, we would be glad to do so if their names and addresses were sent to us, accompanied by postage stamps.

WEST HULL BY-ELECTION.

INTEREST in the question of Women's Suffrage has increased since the campaign opened.

Meetings have been held in the Committee Rooms on the evenings of the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th, when Mrs. Stanbury and Miss Edith Palliser spoke on the different aspects of Women's Suffrage, and explained the objects and methods of the National Union. Mrs. Frederick Richardson, Treasurer of the Hull Society, presided. On the 8th a resolution in favour of granting the Parliamentary franchise to women was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Stanbury, Mrs. Kirk (Hon. Sec. Hull Society), Mrs. Longman (Hull), and Miss Edith Palliser have also addressed the men at open-air meetings on the dock side during the dinner hour on the 7th and 8th, and were accorded an attentive hearing. Literature was distributed by the speakers, the supply being quickly exhausted, as there was an eager demand for it.

The most striking feature of the Committee Room meetings was the keen appreciation of the audience of Mrs. Stanbury's statement of the case for women. After speaking for an hour, and after the chairman had declared the meeting to be over, a vote was taken, as the audience showed no signs of dispersing, that Mrs. Stanbury should continue, which was carried unanimously. Some of the men who had been at the meetings at the dock sheds came also to the Committee Rooms in the evening.

On Saturday evening, November 9th, there was a very large attendance at the meeting at Oddfellows Hall. Miss Murdoch presided, and Miss Margaret Ashton (Manchester), Miss Annie Jackson, Mr. W. H. Owen, LL.B. (Hull), and Miss Edith Palliser spoke. A considerable number of men were present, and the speeches were followed with deep interest. A further report of these speeches will be given in next week's issue of *Women's Franchise*.

On Monday, November 11th, a meeting of the members of the Hull Women's Suffrage Society, was held at the Committee Rooms at 8 o'clock, when Miss Murdoch and Miss Palliser spoke, and on Tuesday, November 12th, a public meeting took place, when Mrs. Allan Bright (Liverpool), was the chief speaker. A meeting has been arranged for Wednesday, November 13th, at the Royal Institution, at 8 P.M., when Miss Roper, B.A. (Secretary, Lancashire and Cheshire Women's Textile and other Workers' Representation Committee), Miss Frances Sterling (Hon. Sec., National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies), Councillor F. W. Booth (Hull), and Mrs. Allan Bright (Liverpool) will speak. Mrs. Charles Richardson (Hull) will preside. A meeting is also being arranged for Wednesday, November 20th, when Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D. has promised to be present. Mrs. Frederick Richardson (Hull) will preside. Other speakers will be announced in next issue. The meetings at the Committee Room will be held every evening throughout the week. These meetings are open to all. Mr. James Holmes, Labour candidate for West Hull, has been approached on the subject of Women's Suffrage, and it is hoped that during this week all the candidates' replies will be received.

Poster Competition.

AN important meeting of the Artists' League was held last week and various suggestions were made as to the Poster Competition. These have been considered by the National Union and the following announcement can now be made:—

A Prize of Six Guineas, open to men and women, is offered for the best design for a poster in favour of Women's Suffrage, for use at Parliamentary elections, and a Prize of £5 for the best design by a woman (to become a second prize for a woman's design, if the first prize be won by a man).

Artists may send in thumbnail sketches showing their proposed designs, to reach the office *not later than Saturday,*

November 23rd, or they may apply to the Secretary for suggestions as to subject. The small designs which are approved will be returned to the artists and may then be carried out, the completed designs to reach the offices *not later than Saturday, December 14th.* It is hoped by this means to save the artists the trouble of elaborating what might not prove practically useful designs.

20 inches by 30 inches or 30 inches by 40 inches are recommended as convenient sizes for printing—black, white, and not more than two other colours may be used—(or three printings.)

The Union reserves to itself the right to exhibit any or all of the drawings in any place and for any length of time that shall seem likely to further the interests of the cause; also to publish all prize drawings. Other drawings might be published by arrangement with the artists.

Completed designs should have a *nom de plume* written on the back; the full name and address of the artist should be in a closed envelope attached, upon the outside of which the *nom de plume* only appears.

All inquiries and communications to be addressed to the Secretary, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.

Branch Societies.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.—A successful meeting of the Society was held on November 6th at the Selly Oak Progressive Institute, where Miss G. E. Southall gave an address on Women's Suffrage, Miss J. Wood in the chair.

Speaking of the proposal to exclude all married women from the factories, without asking the opinion of women on such a course, Miss Southall pointed out that only 1 per cent. of the married women in the Birmingham factories worked there for pleasure. The hardship inflicted on the remaining 99 per cent. would have to be very carefully considered in bringing in such a Bill.

Councillor Geo. Shann, part author of 'Women's Work and Wages,' also spoke strongly in favour of the Suffrage.

After some discussion, the resolution, "That we, the meeting assembled, are of the opinion that the Parliamentary Franchise should be extended to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men," was carried unanimously.

LONDON SOCIETY.—The autumn campaign in Hampstead opened on Thursday, October 31st, with a very successful meeting at the Nitherwood Street London County Council School. Councillor J. T. Osker took the chair at 8 P.M., and interesting speeches were made by Mrs. Stanbury, Miss Clementina Black, and Mrs. H. W. Nevinson. A social element was introduced by providing tea, with cake and bread-and-butter, at a cost of 2d. per head, and this proved to be very popular. The school-room was well filled, and the audience listened with great interest to the speakers. The resolution that the Suffrage should be granted to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men was passed unanimously. The forms for Miss Black's Declaration were taken round to obtain signatures, and this gave an opening for conversation, which was taken advantage of by members of the Hampstead Committee.

The success of the meeting was largely due to the excellent work done by Mrs. Garrod and Mrs. Exley in the Kilburn ward, in which the school is situated. It is hoped to have meetings in the other wards later on.

Annual Meeting of the Central Society.

IN future the Central Society for Women's Suffrage will be known as the London Society for Women's Suffrage. In order to prevent confusion between the Society and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, the new name was decided upon at the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday, November 6th, in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, Lady Frances Balfour presiding.

The Annual Report presented recorded the continued and satisfactory progress of the Women's Suffrage Movement during the past year. Although no progress had been made in Parliament, the widely awakened interest was apparent, and the country was full of encouragement, while valuable educational work was being carried on. The report went on to give the history of the Parliamentary agitation and the work of ladies at the by-elections during the same period. Experience having shown that more concentration in the work was desirable, it had been decided to restrict the range of operations to London and the suburbs, for within the metropolitan area there was abundant scope for every possible activity.

Miss McKee moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and, referring to the latter, said they closed this year with a debt of 57l. 4s. 8d., having begun it with a balance of 133l. 3s. 6d., but there were satisfactory results on the increased work and the smaller expenditure in the machinery for accomplishing this work. The number of members joining during the year was 559, an increase of 221 on last year. The total number of members to December 30th was 1,803, against 1,557 on the corresponding date in 1906. Miss McKee appealed for more subscriptions to carry on the campaign, as the most peaceful war could not be carried on by them without the sines of war.

Miss Emily Davies, LL.D., seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., moved resolutions on behalf of the Executive Committee, altering the name of the Central Society to "The London Society for Women's Suffrage," and empowering the Committee to make such arrangements in regard to branch societies and local committees as in each case might be found expedient. She said that the past year had been a record one in the history of Women's Suffrage. Within a week of Sir Francis Powell's statement in the House of Commons that not one single European country had ventured upon Women's Suffrage, the women of Finland were actually recording their votes in the Constitution, and in June a second victory was gained in Norway, where women were also given the Parliamentary Suffrage. For this advance they were greatly indebted to the work of such pioneers as Miss Emily Davies. Encouraging reports of the progress of the movement had been received from Sweden and Holland. In the latter country a revision of the Constitution would, it was expected, take place in 1909. The admission of women to seats on local governing bodies was also likely to be of great assistance to them. The resolutions were adopted.

Lady Frances Balfour said that all supporters of the movement must be gratified by the satisfactory progress which it had made during the past twelve months. There had not been much change in the Parliamentary position, because the forces now at work in the country were not running through the House of Commons, but outside. She felt that it was because the Speaker thought the subject had been of so much importance that he refused to put the closure on March 8th, which would have allowed Women's Suffrage to be passed as a private Member's Bill. The subject could no longer be described as an academic debate, it had been a question of practical politics. Lady Frances Balfour spoke of recent experiences in Edinburgh, where she had taken part in the Women's Suffrage procession, and had been working for Lady Steel, the first woman to stand for the Edinburgh Town Council.

The ballot for members of the Executive Committee took place during the afternoon, and the following have been elected as officers and members of Committee of the London Society for Women's Suffrage for the ensuing year.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, 1907.

President: The Lady Frances Balfour.

Treasurer: Miss McKee.

Executive Committee: Miss E. A. Bompas; Mr. A. Cameron Corbett, M.P.; Mrs. F. Chesterton; Mrs. Stanton Coit; Miss Emily Davies, LL.D.; Miss Dimock; Mrs. Henry Fawcett LL.D.; Miss Emily Hill; The Hon. Geoffrey Howard, M.P.; Miss Jenner; The Lady Emily Lutyens; Miss Bertha Mason; Mr. W. S. B. McLaren; Mr. J. E. Raphael; Mrs. Pember Reeves; Mrs. Broadley Reid; Mrs. St. George Reid; The Lady Laura Ridding.

National Union Annual Report, 1907.

THE Annual Report, which will be in the hands of members and friends in the course of the next few days, covers rather a shorter period than usual—from January to end of September, 1907. Nevertheless it contains a record of work which for interest, extent, and variety will compare more than favourably with its predecessors. As some confusion still exists in the mind of the public as to the exact constitution of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and its methods of work we quote the opening paragraphs which give a brief history of the Union since 1896 in full:—

"In presenting this, their first Annual Report, under the new Rules, the Executive Committee desire to place on record, as briefly as possible, the origin and main features of the new constitution under which they were elected.

"As early as 1896, a combined Committee was formed from the Women's Suffrage Societies of Manchester, Bristol, and London, in order to promote joint Parliamentary action; their representatives met once a month, at the office of the London Society. Gradually, other Societies asked for representation, and the Committee finally took the title of National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Each Society represented on this Committee sent one delegate and the four larger Societies three and four respectively.

"The policy of such a Committee was necessarily of a non-continuous character, as its individual delegates varied from month to month, but it was the beginning of united action for the cause, and it gave opportunity for valuable interchange of ideas between the various societies. Beyond small affiliation fees to pay printing expenses the Union had no funds at its disposal, although on isolated occasions, money was given for specific purposes. The services of the secretaries of the North of England Society and of the Central Society (Miss Roper and Miss Palliser) and the offices of the latter society were gratuitously placed at the disposal of the Union. But in 1903, as the result of a National Convention, a large Campaign Fund for Women's Suffrage was raised and its administration was entrusted to the Executive Committee of the National Union. It was then that the inadequacy of the old constitution began to be felt; but the time was not yet ripe for change and beyond the addition of a third Hon. Secretary (Miss F. Sterling) and a friendly understanding, whereby the Executive Committee met once a quarter in a provincial town instead of in London, the affairs of the Union continued to be managed as before.

"With the growing desire, however, for a closer co-operation in their work, it was realized that a more permanent, and more personally responsible Executive Committee was an urgent necessity. On the other hand it was felt that a large share of direct responsibility ought to devolve upon every society in the Union, for it is from a truly democratic organization alone that satisfactory results can be expected. A draft of new rules was accordingly prepared late last autumn, and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was welded into a practical working organization at its first Council Meeting held on January 28th, 1907, at Newcastle-on-Tyne. At that meeting thirty-one societies were represented, and the President, Treasurer, Hon. Secretaries, and other members of the Executive Committee were elected by ballot. It was resolved that such representative Council Meetings should be held quarterly, but that the Officers and Executive Committee should hold office for a year.

"It must be pointed out, however, that the present Executive Committee has only held office for a short nine months, since it was decreed that the Annual Meeting should take place in the month of October, and it is hoped that the curtailment of time, as well as the newness of the organization will be taken into account in judging the work recorded."

A considerable space in the Report is devoted to the Parliamentary work of the Union, and in the Appendix will be found short and interesting reports from the various Branch Societies of their work during the period already alluded to.

Sir Joseph Ward and Women's Suffrage in New Zealand.

THE opinion of Sir Joseph Ward, Premier of New Zealand in regard to Women's Suffrage in that country, as set forth in *The New Age* at the time of the Colonial conference, was that the women of New Zealand showed themselves keenly alive to political issues, exhibiting common sense at least equal to men. As for any evidence of hysteria in politics, his countrywomen were not unduly swayed by emotion in politics—in fact, they exhibited considerable political acumen. As yet they had not shown great activity in military special legislation, appearing rather to constitute themselves an examining board, and their influence was undoubtedly felt in all legislation. It was a sane, healthy influence, which made for purity in politics; and while mainly democratic in spirit and devoted to the protection of public interests rather than private privilege, Women's Suffrage was a balancing force. Most decidedly the women of New Zealand cared for the vote, and used it. In 1893, when they were enfranchised, 83 per cent. of those entitled to vote went to the poll, whereas less than 70 per cent. of the men voted. It appeared, however, that this awoke the men to a sense of their duty, and the percentage of male voters has consistently risen until, at the election in 1905, approximately the same percentage of male and female voters went to the polls, viz., 84 and 82 per cent. Sir Joseph Ward's message to the English Suffragettes was to keep up their courage. Political enfranchisement came to the women of New Zealand with dramatic suddenness, and, in fact, they secured it by a majority of only two votes. But now if the question were voted upon it is doubtful whether in the whole House there would be two to oppose it. ALYS THURSTON.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

November Meetings.

Date	Meeting	Place	Speaker	Time
14th	Marylebone Meeting	Drawing-Room	Hon. Mrs. B. Russell	P.M.
	Southall Parliament Debate	Lecture Hall of Southall Public Library		7.45
15th	Invitation Meeting, 25, Warwick Gardens, Kensington		Mr. R. F. Cholmeley, M.A.	8.30
18th	North St. Pancras Hampstead West London Parliament	Drawing-Room Meeting Drawing-Room Meeting Debate		8
19th	Southampton Garsington Village Hall (S. Oxon.)		Mrs. Philip Snowden Hon. Mrs. B. Russell	8 7
20th	Whitby Church Army Club Room, Cowley, Oxon		Miss F. Sterling Hon. Mrs. B. Russell	8 7
21st	Huddersfield Chelsea Walton-on-Thames Public Meeting	Drawing-Room Meeting Meeting	Miss M. Ashton Miss Cooke	8 8
	Congregational Church Room, Thame, Oxon		Hon. Mrs. B. Russell	5
24th	Church of the Saviour Men's Sunday Class, Birmingham		Miss E. M. Gardner	A.M. 10
25th	Severn Street Women's Meeting, Birmingham		Mrs. Reid	P.M. 3
	Hatcham Liberal Club, Portland House, New Cross Road		Miss M. Corbett	8.15
26th	Reading, Small Town Hall		Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D. Mr. H. Jacobs	
27th	Kensington—Invitation Meeting for Conservatives only	The Lady Knightley of Fawsley		—
	Marylebone, Drawing-Room Meeting		Hon. Mrs. B. Russell	4
28th	Central Society "At Home," 25, Victoria Street, S.W. "Ye Merrie Bells" Hotel, Wheatley (Oxon.)		Hon. Mrs. B. Russell	4-6.30 7

* * * All communications intended for the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies' columns should be addressed to the Secretary, 25, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., and should reach the office not later than first post Saturday each week.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Social and Political Union.

OFFICES: 18, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

MRS. COATES HANSEN
MISS HODGSON
MISS IRENE MILLER
MISS FITZHERBERT

Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

MRS. DRYSDALE
MISS ABADAM
MRS. WINTON-EVANS
MRS. DICE

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc.

MRS. SANDERSON
MRS. BELL
MRS. HOLMES
MISS MANSELL

THE monthly meeting of the National Executive Committee was held on Saturday, when the two Scottish members, Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Sanderson, were warmly welcomed by their London colleagues, who were delighted to hear how well the work was going forward in Scotland. Naturally the Committee had a very full agenda. The first question to receive attention was that of changing the name of the Union.

It was unanimously agreed that this is necessary on account of the confusion which exists, and will continue to exist, in the public mind so long as there are two societies having the same policy and aims and almost the same name. A long list of suggestions was placed before the committee, and from it they selected the following four:—

Women Emancipators, W.E.
Women's Freedom League, W.F.L.
Women's Enfranchisement League, W.E.L.
Women's Association for Rights, W.A.R.

The final selection will be made by taking a referendum of the members through the branches.

The financial position of the Union received the very serious consideration of the Committee, who gratefully acknowledge the generous help we have already received.

Finance. We look forward to the future with hope and confidence, feeling sure that those members who are unable to give personal service to the cause will not fail to provide the means for others to be enabled to give their whole time to the work as organizers of the Union. It must be remembered that at this time of rebuilding 5l. given now may be relatively more valuable than 50l. given in a year's time.

Two new branches have been formed at Bromley and Hampstead this week, both with the best prospects for a successful future. The London branches now number thirteen. At the Conference to be held on November 23rd the delegates will consider the federation of these branches and the formation of a London Council. This piece of organization will give an enormous impetus to the London work.

New Branches. The Committee have decided to organize a movement to resist the payment of income tax. This is a matter on which all members of our Union who are liable to taxation should take a firm stand. The Liberals themselves are pledged both to passive resistance and to the principle that Taxation and Representation must go together. There is no better means by which the falseness of the position the Liberal Government has taken up with reference to "Votes for Women" can be proved than by passive resistance against the enforcing of anti-Liberal taxation by a Liberal Government. We are forming a list of intending passive resisters, and urge those of our members who are in a position to resist to communicate with the Honorary Secretary without delay. Those who are less fortunately situated can still help in this matter by pressing sympathizers to join in this most legitimate protest.

Passive Resistance. Men sympathizers also can show their "spirit to resist" by refusing to give any details about their wives' incomes. The meetings this week have been a great success, and a special effort should be made by every one who can to go to Hackney to-morrow evening to make the last Demonstration the biggest and most successful and rousing of all.

Hackney.

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How the Vote was Won.

(Some short Extracts from Prof. Dryasdust's 'Political History of the Twentieth Century,' published in the year 2007 A.D.)

AFTER years of argument, agitation, and propaganda, it dawned upon the women of this country that the sole obstacle to their enfranchisement was nothing more nor less than a superstition—the superstition, namely, that the entire race of women were supported and kept alive by the ceaseless exertions of their menfolk. The folly and baselessness of this extraordinary delusion they set themselves to expose by means of a simple object lesson... Working women of every grade—factory hands, shop girls, teachers, typists, journalists, and the vast army of domestic servants—bound themselves together in a common league, and on the appointed day the blow was struck. The word had gone forth that every woman was to cease work until such time as her work was recognized by the State, and that, until the State did recognize it, she was to demand support and the necessaries of life from her nearest male relative, however distant.

Abundant records have come down to us of the scenes that took place on that eventful day—the contemporary press literally teems with descriptions of them. Upon hundreds of thousands of unsuspecting homes there descended, without warning, a cheerful and determined woman who dumped down her luggage on the floor and announced that she had given up work until she was promoted to the rank of citizenship—and, meanwhile, would her dear father, brother, cousin, or uncle kindly provide her with the means of supporting life? Deaf to argument, deaf to entreaty, she merely sat in smiling obstinacy while her angry relative went through all the stages of emotion between blank consternation and ungovernable fury. And, justifiable as was the action of the women, it is impossible not to feel some pity for their involuntary hosts—impossible not to sympathize, for instance, with the unfortunate business man who, on returning home at the end of a hard day's work, was greeted by his almost hysterical wife with the news that the cook and housemaid had departed, without notice, only half an hour before his second cousin, the governess, had walked into the house and announced her intention of remaining until Parliament had ceased to class her with the criminal and the lunatic.

In thousands of cases, of course, all help, monetary or otherwise, was refused by the indignant male, and the unwelcome guest roughly and promptly turned out of doors; whereupon, in accordance with previous instructions, she calmly wended her way to the relieving officer. Result, within twenty-four hours Boards of Guardians all over the country were at their wits' end to know what to do with the alarming and altogether unprecedented influx of female paupers which kept on steadily pouring through the workhouse gates...

It was impossible that this state of things should continue for long. From every corner of the land—from the factory where the spindles stood idle, from the drapery counter where the perspiring shop-walker strove in vain to fill the places of fifteen "young ladies" at once, from the suburban villa and the ducal mansion alike—there arose a long-drawn cry of despair. Employers of labour wanted their hands back; while those who found themselves, both in their public capacity as ratepayers and in their private capacity as relatives,

called upon to support women who had hitherto supported themselves, wanted to get rid of them at any cost—even the cost of the vote. It was the men of the country who now began to agitate for Women's Suffrage—since only at that price could they free themselves from the burden of maintaining some millions of women in idleness. . . . The result—the speedy result—of that agitation all the world knows. The object lesson had done its work, and the momentous Act for the removal of the sex disability was literally rushed through both Houses of Parliament.

CICELY HAMILTON.

MR. ASQUITH is reported to have informed his constituents that not only will the abolition of the veto of the House of Lords be a benefit to the country, but that the Lords themselves will gain in real influence by a recognition of the limits of their true functions. This kind of language sounds very familiar to us. The Lords are implored to give up power in order to gain it, and the women are implored not to seek power for fear of losing it. We begin to have a fellow-feeling for the Lords. We begin to suspect that a Lord must be a kind of woman—superior of course—but still, of the same inferior order of being, whose "real influence" lies in the limitation of its "true functions." If we might dare to hope that a Lord will peruse these lines we would offer him (or "it") a little friendly advice. "Retain your power," we would implore him. "Do not be taken in by the promised delights of 'influence.' We have tried it and found it wanting. When we have used it to further men's aims and ambitions it has worked satisfactorily enough, but when we try to use it for our own advantage, we are forced to conclude that influence is only powerful when those it is practised upon desire to be influenced—a kind of power too precarious to be of any use.

"So, my Lord, avoid it as you would the plague. Out of our great experience we entreat you not to be deceived by these lawyer-tricks of speech. If it is true that 'no power' is more powerful than 'some power,' then we, my Lord, and you, are assuredly generous enough to invite the members of the Liberal Government to come out of office, to give up the power which is fettering and cramping their liberty of action, and to govern the country in the way we women are governing it and in the way they are noble enough to suggest that your Lordships shall govern it—that is to say, by exercising their true influence and by an ever-present sense of their own limitations."

MR. HALDANE said the other day that "the time had come when a step forward in the evolution of the Constitution was necessary—when they must. . . . make manifest the right of the ultimate tribunal of this nation to enforce its decrees."

This sort of remark will carry more weight when we possess a national tribunal. It sounds a little hollow to those who realize that the whole of the electors constitute much less than half the adult population, and that out of these the electors whose "will" is supposed to be represented at any given period are not necessarily a majority. The "National Tribunal" sounds well, but "a section of a section of a people who for the most part have no will-power at all in political concerns" sounds truer.

GIRL EMIGRANTS.—Sixty-one young women sailed for New South Wales last week. We wish it had been 61,000. They leave the country of their birth as despised aliens, and they will be received into the country of their adoption as future valuable citizens. Mrs. Coghlan reminded them "that they were going to a land where women were respected and trusted and where they had the privilege of voting for Members of Parliament."

At last women are beginning to follow the example of the Irish in leaving the country which is theirs by right though not by possession. When Englishmen by their policy of repression and coercion have driven out all their internal enemies—Irishmen, Englishwomen, and the like—we suppose they will feel at liberty to start working out the glorious destiny of the great British nation. But what if that nation should die out for want of internal enemies before its destiny is accomplished? Perhaps, in order to avert such a calamity, men would be wiser, after all, to try and keep the women in the old country by making it for them an abode of freedom and happiness.

Branch Notes.

BECKENHAM.—A large meeting of members and others was held at the Co-operative Hall, Miss Abadam being in the chair. The business reports were full of local interest, were read by the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Hazlewood, and the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Evans. Another branch had been formed in Bromley, of which Miss Evans had kindly consented to be Hon. Sec., and Anerley would also shortly be a new centre of activity. There was a good promise of membership in all three. Miss Waters then spoke at some length and very practically on municipal elections and the possibilities of pushing women's interests in this connection, and promised at an early date to lay precise and detailed information on the subject before the members. Miss Abadam wound up the proceedings with an address, in which she sketched the main features of the work which would still remain to be done long after the vote was won in order to obtain for women complete equality of opportunity in education, in the professions, in commerce and industry, socially and before the law. She wished the new branches good luck and good speed in their efforts to spread further afield the principles of woman's enfranchisement.

CROYDON.—A very successful drawing-room meeting was held at Mrs. Foster's, South Croydon. Mrs. Holmes was in the chair, and Mrs. Winton Evans gave an interesting address, which was much enjoyed by every one present. There was a short discussion after the address. One new member joined the Branch, and several ladies who had not been to meetings before expressed a wish to attend more, and seemed greatly interested.

Mrs. Heasman, Treasurer of the Branch, is arranging Suffrage debates to be held fortnightly. At these meetings it is proposed to include discussion on books and other literature bearing on the position of women, in order that they may familiarize themselves with the whole range of arguments in favour of their enfranchisement. It is hoped that these debates will be the means of bringing forward many new speakers.

THE NATIONAL BRANCH.—In case there are some of our readers who missed last week's *Women's Franchise*, the substance of the article *re* the formation of the National Branch is as follows.

The National Branch has been formed in order to keep in touch with the Women's Social and Political Union those women who live in parts of the British Isles where, as yet, no Branch has been formed. This is done by correspondence, through a secretary resident near headquarters, who makes it her duty to notify each individual member, from time to time, of the programme of the Union, and to assist her with her local propaganda. Leaflets, other literature, including *Women's Franchise*, are procurable from her at the usual rates, but members are asked to defray all postage, irrespective of any donation or subscription to the general funds of the W.S.P.U. The minimum subscription to the Branch is 2s. 6d., which we hope will cover the annual expenses entailed by correspondence. The postage of parcels of literature, and the weekly deliverance of *Women's Franchise* are not included in this subscription.

The National Branch is steadily growing, and I hope it will send a representative to the January Conference.

I have heard, from many sources, that the name "National Branch" does not give entire satisfaction, owing to the possibility of confusion with the titles of other Suffrage organizations. It has been suggested that the name should be indicative of the character of the Branch, and "Unattached," "Pioneers" (both borrowed from the Army List, the latter assuming, I suppose, that the other branches compose the "Pioneers," "Isolated," "All England," and "The Toshers" Army Corps), "Oxford" (slang for non-collegiate students) have been advanced. Before deciding to change the name, I should be glad to have other suggestions. May I also make another appeal for the names of probable members, to whom I can write? These, and all other communications should be addressed to Mrs. Eileen Mitchell, Saltburn, Mountfield Road, Church End, Finchley, N.

Scottish Notes.

Two new Scottish branches are to be formed within the next few weeks, and possibly a third. If any friends desire to bring about organization within their own districts they should immediately communicate with me, so that there may be no delay in reaping the harvest of our past efforts, and preparing the ground for fresh work.

The most pressing question just now is the completing of the effort so well begun a week ago towards the provision of a maintenance fund for a Scottish office. Two more promises have come in since last Saturday, one from a private member who is doing voluntary canvassing for funds, and the other from the Glasgow Western Branch. This comparatively new branch hopes to guarantee more than three guineas per year towards the office fund. A very special appeal is made to other Scottish branches to emulate this good example. If members show their willingness to sacrifice something for the cause sympathizers and friends will be encouraged to give generously. The Scottish work is in need. We must have funds, unless our energies are to be crippled and our officers overworked. The workers are ready and anxious to carry the fiery cross into every part of the country, but only money and a central office from which their energies can be directed can set them free. There are rich women in our ranks who can afford much. We ask of them that they shall support their own movement. We do not ask for personal support, but for help for a movement in which every member has not only the duty of service, but that right of criticism and control which saves service from slavery. There are men, too, who are able to give us generous financial support, men who know the grave need for the emancipation of women. To them also we appeal. The need is great; the work is waiting; the workers are wasting their energies in over great effort; we are sure that we shall not appeal in vain.

Energetic members are planning jumble sales both north and south of the Tweed. A cake and candy sale is also in hand in Western Glasgow. In addition to these smaller efforts, a great national sale of Suffragist work is to be held early in the new year in London. It is hoped by means of this plan to create interest, and do some mild educational work as well as to raise funds.

The three Scottish members of the National Executive Committee attended its first regular meeting on Friday and Saturday. On the latter day they had an opportunity of meeting the representatives of the London branches. Both Scots and Londoners appreciated the opportunity. I pressed forward the idea of a federation of London branches similar to our Scottish federation, and Mrs. Sanderson and Mrs. Bell spoke in favour of the suggestion during the conference that followed. Good results must accrue from this interchange of ideas between North and South.

Amongst the many Scottish engagements of interest I wish to draw attention to the Scottish Council meeting on Saturday, November 16th. During the following fortnight I speak at Stepps, Lenzie, Stonehouse, Middlesbrough, and St. Andrews University. Miss Hopegood speaks at Partick, and Miss Munro in Dunfermline and Aberdeen. There is no lack of effort and energy among the workers who recognize the needs of the cause—we lack only funds.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

Women as Laymen.

A BISHOP'S OPINION.

AT THE ST. ALBANS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE a resolution was moved that a committee of clergy and laymen be formed to collect information to place before the Royal Commission on the working of the Poor Law. Dr. Fry, of Great Berkhamstead immediately asked if laymen included women. The Bishop of St. Albans, who was in the chair, said he supposed he must include women with laymen.

Evidently it had not occurred to the Bishop that women ought to be on such a committee, for he proceeded to read out the names of a committee he had nominated, consisting wholly of men.

Financial Notice.

IN response to the generous offer announced last week, the Treasurer has not yet received the required number of 5l. donations, but a further offer of a larger amount to be given upon similar conditions has been made. This second effort cannot be initiated until the first is disposed of. Mrs. Despard hopes that she will be able to announce the receipt of the ten gifts of 5l. before next week, and so be able to give an opportunity to those who desire to give larger amounts.

Sale of Suffragist Work.

A WEEK ago "Only a Suffragette" pointed out that our members could do many things besides agitate for political emancipation. A member of the National Executive Committee has made a brilliant suggestion by means of which the varied gifts of women Suffragists can be turned to the advantage of the cause. It is that a Sale of Suffragist Work should be held as soon as possible, and that our artists, needlewomen, and craftswomen, and our professors of domestic accomplishments should each contribute some product of her talent and skill. The N.E.C. accepted the suggestion with alacrity, arrangements are now in hand, and further announcements will be made next week. Meanwhile the idea should bear some fruit.

Jumble Sale.

MISS ROSALIE MANSELL, secretary of the Nine Elms Branch, is again to the fore. Another Jumble Sale is to be arranged immediately. The last effort brought 20l. to the funds. If our London members do their duty this one will bring more. All parcels should be sent to Miss Mansell, Despard Club, Currie Street, Nine Elms, S.W.

If very bulky articles are given arrangements will be made for their conveyance, if Miss Mansell is communicated with.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

From November 14th to 23rd.		P.M.
Thurs.	Social Meeting, 18, Buckingham Street	Mrs. Billington-Greig 3.30—6
	Lewisham Parish Church Hall, Ladywell Road	Mrs. Snowden Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Nevinson Mrs. Despard 8
	Central Branch, 18, Buckingham Street	Members and their friends 8
Fri.	Hackney Bath	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Despard and others 8
Sat.	Scottish Council Glasgow	3
Sun.	Clapham Common	Miss Murby and others 3.30
	Battersea Park	Miss Irene Miller 3.30
	Hilly Fields, Lewisham	3.30
Mon.	S. Norwood	Mrs. Dempsey 7
Tues.	Stepps Public Hall	Mrs. Billington-Greig 8
Wed.	St. Luke's Institute, Radnor Street, City Road	"Fair Women in Revolt," Mrs. Greenwood 8
	Drawing-Room Meeting, 91, Mount Pleasant Road, Tottenham	Mrs. Tweedy 3—5
Thurs.	Social Meeting, 18, Buckingham Street	Mrs. Despard 3.30—6
	Chimney Cottage, Coulsdon	Mrs. Holmes Miss Grover 3.30
	Central Branch, 18, Buckingham Street	Social Meeting 8
Fri.	Bromley Branch Meeting	8
	Wandle L.C.C. School, Earlsfield	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Manson Miss Murby Miss M. Smith 8
Sat.	Stonehouse, Ayrshire	Mrs. Billington-Greig

** All communications intended for the Women's Social and Political Union columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.S.P.U., 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

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

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Notes and Comments.

WE are glad to learn that Mr. J. E. Raphael, a member of the Men's League, has been adopted as the prospective Liberal candidate for Croydon. Mr. Raphael proceeded from the Merchant Taylors' School to St. John's College, Oxford, where he had a most successful career both in the schools and on the cricket and football fields. He soon became a double blue—at cricket and Rugby football—and has represented England at the latter game. He is now reading for the Bar.

He is an ardent supporter of Women's Suffrage, and a member both of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and of the Men's League. As a speaker he is much in request, and like Mrs. Raphael, his mother, is among the protagonists of the cause. His selection as Liberal candidate for Croydon is thus extremely significant, more especially as the sitting member, Mr. Arnold Forster, who retained his seat in January, 1906, in a keen three-cornered contest, is on the whole hostile to Women's Suffrage, though he abstains from active opposition. In the constituency there is a very strong nucleus of Women's Suffragists attached to the various societies, and it is quite certain that Mr. Raphael will make his attitude to the subject abundantly clear to all the electors. It follows that the next election will be peculiarly interesting. Of course it is out of the question to pretend that we shall have a straight fight on the Suffrage question. Other issues must enter in, and Mr. Arnold Forster is unlikely to accept a direct challenge on this one issue to the neglect of the subject on which he claims special knowledge.

The question rather is, whether it will be possible for the Suffrage societies to join hands and support Mr. Raphael *con amore*. Apart from these considerations, a combined rush upon the constituency would undoubtedly produce an effect. The return of Mr. Raphael would be a great score to the present Government; it would be a great score to Women's Suffrage also, for Mr. Raphael cannot be classed with the idle "pledged private member." The logic, apart from the tactical wisdom of the "anti-Government policy," is unassailable. Does it, however, necessarily apply to a case of this kind; or could the candidature of Mr. Raphael, a hard-working, enthusiastic Suffragist, *versus* Mr. Arnold Forster, a presumed opponent, be regarded as an exception? The question may be stated thus: Which would make the greater impression upon the Liberals—the capture of an important seat by an untried candidate backed by all the Suffrage Societies, or the negative fact that a prominent Unionist has once more held his seat (on an occasion, too, when Unionist successes will be more probable than in 1906) with the Suffrage forces idle or at cross-purposes?

We invite opinions on this problem.

Married Women's Savings.

MUCH excitement has been caused by a recent case in the Middlesbrough County Court, in which the judge decided that money saved by a married woman out of the sums allowed to her by her husband for housekeeping purposes belonged to her husband. The case is of no legal importance; because the decision of a county court judge is not binding on any other court, or even on himself in a subsequent case; so that even if the learned judge was wrong in his decision, the mischief will be confined to the particular case.

It may, however, be useful to examine the decisions which authoritatively enunciate the law on the subject.

In the year 1674 Lord Keeper FINCH dealt with the point in Lady Tyrrell's Case (Freeman, 304), where the wife of Sir Toby Tyrrell saved money out of a yearly allowance made to her for her own expenses, and bought jewels. It was decided that her claim must yield to the claim of her husband's creditors. It should be noted that if the husband is entitled, however little he may wish to assert his rights, the property cannot be withheld from his creditors. The reasons for the decision in Lady Tyrrell's Case were stated as follows:—

"So long as the husband and wife do cohabit, if the wife out of her good housewifery do save anything out of it, this will be the husband's estate, and he shall reap the benefit of his wife's frugality; the reason of it is, because when the husband agrees to allow his wife a certain sum yearly, the end of this agreement is, that she may be provided with clothes and other necessaries, and whatever is saved out of this redounds to the husband."

In 1734 Lord Chancellor TALBOT took a more liberal view. In the case of *Slanning v. Style* (3 Peere Williams, 337) a husband allowed his wife for her separate use, to make profit of all butter, eggs, poultry, and fruit, beyond what was used in the family; out of which the wife saved 100*l.*, which the husband *borrowed* and died. The court allowed the wife to come in as a creditor against the husband's estate for that sum. The Lord Chancellor observed that the Courts of Equity have taken notice of and allowed *jeme coverts* to have separate interests by their husbands' agreement; and this 100*l.* being the wife's savings, and there being evidence that the husband agreed thereto, it seemed but a reasonable encouragement to the wife's frugality, and such agreement would be of little avail were it to determine by the husband's death; that it was the strongest proof of the husband's consent, that the wife should have a separate property in the money arising by these savings, in that he had applied to her, and prevailed with her, to lend him this sum; in which case he did not lay claim to it as his own, but submitted to borrow it as her money.

In *Barrack v. McCulloch* (3 K. & J. 110) Vice-Chancellor Sir W. PAGE WOOD observed in the course of the argument that any money given to a married woman by her husband for household purposes or for dress or the like, and applied by her in making investments in her own name, would belong to her husband. This observation was not necessary for the determination of the point under consideration, and has not, therefore, any binding force, even upon an inferior court; but at the same time the opinion of the learned Vice-Chancellor would probably be accepted and acted upon, unless it could be shown to be unsound, and it is certainly supported by the authority of Lady Tyrrell's Case.

In *Brooke v. Brooke* (25 Beav. 342) the husband and wife were living apart, and the husband had remitted money for her maintenance and support, out of which she had saved a considerable portion; and it was decided that the husband had no claim to these savings.

It cannot be said that the authorities are quite clear and satisfactory. There appears to have been no decision since the passing of the Married Women's Property Act, 1882, which may have some bearing upon the question, in so far as it facilitates gifts by a husband to his wife; and it is possible that if a test case were carefully selected the law might be restated with limitations and qualifications advantageous to women.

In the opinion of the writer the true principle is that where money is handed to a wife for housekeeping purposes, and *nothing more appears*, the money must be treated as received by an agent for a specific purpose, with the result that the husband or principal is entitled to be repaid any sums not applied to such purpose. If this is the true view, it may well be doubted whether money

given to the wife for her own expenses is within the rule, and in modern days the courts might consider the onus was upon the husband to show that he intended any surplus to be returned to him.

It is further submitted that it is open to the court in any particular case, if the circumstances warrant the conclusion, to decide that the husband intended to make a gift of any surplus to his wife.

If the law as it stands is unfair to married women, a change which would probably cause the least friction would be to provide by Act of Parliament that where moneys are given to a wife for housekeeping purposes, it shall be presumed, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, that the money was paid to her for her own use, but subject to an obligation to apply it in the first instance to the purposes for which she received it. In other words, the wife would receive the money not as a mere agent, but as a lodging-keeper. Such an alteration in the law would still leave it open to the husband to stipulate expressly, or to show by circumstances, that he intended the whole sum to be expended in a particular manner, or any surplus returned to him.

Although such a change in the law may not be altogether just, it would effect a great alteration in the position of married women, and would probably in practice be sufficient. Any law giving a wife an absolute right to payment for her services seems to be somewhat in advance of present social conditions.

HERBERT JACOBS.

Who are We?

IN response to a large number of inquiries we subjoin a classified analysis of the first three hundred members of the Men's League. Figures, we have been told, are to be used merely as illustrations; the quoting of statistics ranks in evidence rather lower than abuse of the plaintiff's attorney. So be it; none the less, we think that it may interest our readers to know from what classes in society the members of the Men's League are drawn. It is perfectly clear that mere aggregates of new members worked out in monthly averages mean practically nothing. The world is so accustomed to millions, and so little prone to investigate causes and conditions, that unexplained statistics may well be left to the party pamphleteer and the election caricaturist.

The striking fact about the first three hundred members of the Men's League is the preponderance of what may be called "responsible men," whose adherence to a cause is indicative of careful reasoned judgment. Professional politicians, on the other hand, are conspicuous by their absence. Many of these have been approached, but the great majority, having expressed their entire sympathy, have, with some show of reason, declined to join at present. In other words, they are waiting till they know a little better what we are going to do, and how we are going to do it. Irritating though this attitude is to us, we must admit that the professional politician must necessarily, unless he be a very strong man and a courageous, decline to take a leap in the dark.

On the other hand, two facts are important. Firstly, the great majority are actual voters; this means much. Secondly, the rules admit no member without a minimum subscription of 1*s.* It may be said that no real supporter would be kept out by so trifling an obstacle. So far as the money is concerned this is true; but we all of us know from experience that the getting of a postal order is among the things which we are most prone to postpone. We have a certain respect for the man who overcomes the natural inclination to shirk the trouble of going to a post office, and so forth. It means that nearly every member, having written for information, has followed the matter up so far as to send a second letter with a signed form and a P.O. The acute observer knows that this also means much.

ANALYSIS IN DETAIL.

The largest class of our first 300 members is that which we may call the *Commercial and Finance* class, constituting no less than 20 per cent. of the whole. Among the professions the *Legal* and the *Scholastic* take precedence, each counting 10 per cent. *Clergymen* and *Authors* number 16 each, while *Journalists*

(in the strict sense) provide 13. Another 8 per cent. includes *Scientific Men*, of whom 15 are engaged in research or professional work, while 8 are practising doctors. The *Civil Service* is represented by 14 members, as against 22 who are *Clerks* and *Secretaries* in private capacities. Among others difficult to classify are the following: Art, 2; the Stage, 3; Publishers, 8; Accountants and Surveyors, 8; Artisans, 3.

A large number, about 12 per cent. of the whole, have described themselves by the technical term "Gentleman," or have omitted to fill in the blank space under the head "Occupation."

To dogmatize as to the significance of these figures would be precarious in the extreme. We would, however, lay emphasis on the fact that the great majority of these 300 members come from classes who are keenly interested in the preservation and improvement of society, largely dependent on the stability of the body politic, and intimately acquainted with the bearings of all franchise questions, both historically and in relation to present conditions. Many of them are trained thinkers, who form and express their conclusions in the full knowledge that other people are accustomed to lay weight on their utterances. None of them has any electoral advantage to gain, as has been the case with many public men who are faced with the probability of a contested election, and are naturally glad to avoid unnecessary hostility. The fact that they have joined a new and untried organization, and given money in its support is the active expression of a reasoned and unprejudiced opinion in relation to an urgent matter of public welfare.

Chief Justice Lee, 1737.

His fame may have increased from his having had the good word of the fair sex; he certainly stood up for the rights of woman more strenuously than any English judge before or since his time. He had to decide whether a female may by law serve the office of parish sexton, and whether females were entitled to vote at the election of a sexton. John Olive and Sarah Bly were candidates for the office of sexton in the parish of St. Botolph, in the City of London. She had 169 male votes and 40 female. He had 174 male votes and 22 female, and he was sworn in. The validity of the election coming on to be determined in the Court of King's Bench, the gentleman contended that all the votes for the lady were thrown away, as she was disqualified on account of her sex; and, at any rate, he had a majority of lawful votes, as the female votes on both sides must be struck off from the poll, a woman being no more entitled to vote for a sexton than for a Member of Parliament or for a coroner, which, Lord Coke says, "they may not do, although they have freholds and contribute to all public charges, even to the wages of knights of the shire, which are to be levied *de communitate comitatus*" (4 Inst. 5 Reg., Brev. 192).

Chief Justice Lee said "I am clearly of opinion that a woman may be sexton of a parish. Women have held much higher offices, and, indeed, almost all the offices of the kingdom: as Queen, Marshal, Great Chamberlain, Great Constable, Champion of England, Commissioner of Sewers, Keeper of a Prison, and Returning Officer for Members of Parliament."

"As to the second point, it would be strange if a woman may herself fill the office and yet should be disqualified to vote for it. The election of Members of Parliament and of coroners stands on special grounds. No woman has ever sat in Parliament or voted for Members of Parliament, and we must presume that when the franchise was first created it was confined to the male sex. There was no reason for such a restriction respecting the office of sexton, whose duties do not concern the morals of the living, but the interment of the dead. The female votes being added to the poll, Sarah Bly has the majority, so that she, and not John Olive, is now lawful sexton of this parish."—Campbell's 'Lives of the Chief Justices of England,' vol iii. pp. 62, 63.

* Spelman's 'Glossary,' 497; Brady's 'History of Boroughs,' Lady Paking was relieving officer at Aylesbury; and the famous Countess of Pembroke, being hereditary Sheriff of Westmoreland, attended the judges in that capacity at the assizes.

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