

The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
 Societies.

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without reference to the equally important point of view of the wage-spender, reminds one irresistibly of an excellent Suffrage story with which that admirable speaker, Dr. Elsie Inglis, sometimes points her argument. If a pigeon has a growth in its brain which causes pressure so that only one-half of the brain can be used, the pigeon walks round and round in a circle: we, habitually using only one-half of our political brain, are also earnestly walking round and round in a circle. Perhaps we shall soon discover now what we are doing.

Housing in Dublin.

According to *The Times*, there are 20,000 families in Dublin living in one-room tenements. That is to say, nearly a third part of the population of the city are living in conditions which make decency and virtue practically impossible. It is thought that the fall of houses in Dublin last week, in "the worst slums in the kingdom," may result in a searching inquiry into the condition of slum-houses there. We hope it may. The terrible sacrifice of life will then not have been altogether in vain. But we wonder, in view of the facts stated in the *Times*, how long people will think it a sufficient answer to women asking for political power to say, "Your place is at home." What home? And are we to stay in it till it falls over our heads? Or to be content because this only happens to poor women in poor houses, and not to our comfortable selves?

London's Milk.

It will not have been forgotten by Suffragists that among the abandoned Bills of last Session was one ensuring a pure milk supply. For this there was "no time." Dr. Collingridge, Medical Officer of Health for the City of London, now produces his report, in which he gives the results of an analysis of thirty samples taken of milk arriving at the termini of the City railways. Twenty per cent. proved to be "dirty"; 46.6 per cent. "fairly clean"; 33.3 per cent. "clean." The tubercle bacillus was detected in 6.6 per cent. Dr. Collingridge is of opinion that "until the hands of farmers, dairymen, and others are forced by legislation, no real or lasting improvement can be looked for." But at present our legislators are too busy trying to cure tuberculosis in sanatoria after it has developed, to have time to prevent people from becoming infected. Any time they have left over after that, can more enjoyably be spent in scolding mothers for letting their babies suffer. This is an exercise which apparently never falls on the President of the Local Government Board.

A Vast Responsibility.

A few weeks ago, an account of the first public Suffrage meeting in India was published in *THE COMMON CAUSE*, and a little later came the news of the founding of the first National Union Society in Mussoorie. The thought of all that this small beginning means makes one hold one's breath. No responsibility that Englishwomen can have laid upon them by the winning of their freedom can be more tremendous than their responsibility towards those vast numbers of their sisters who live in India. How much these will have to teach us, we cannot yet attempt to realise. But it is certain that we also have something to do for them. When the power to do so more effectively than at

Notes and Comments.

The Trades-Union Congress.

The most important political event of the week for Suffragists has been the meeting of the Trades-Union Congress, and passage of a Suffrage resolution by a very large majority, only six hands were raised against it. We publish elsewhere a full report of the proceedings in connection with this resolution. Its passage has been studiously ignored by almost the whole of the Press. The *Daily Citizen* reports it, but without pointing out its special significance as "the first time in its history" that the Trades-Union Congress has "made a strong and definite pronouncement on the subject."

The Cost of Living.

The Trades-Union Congress has been occupied, like the rest of the world, with the problem of the increased cost of living. It is, of course, a problem for the economist, and he (and she) will have to work it out. But, in the meantime, we are all suffering from the rise. It has been suggested that in this, as in so many things, we are paying the penalty of using only one-half of our brains—the masculine half. Men have been absorbed, naturally, in the business of raising their wages: that is natural because they are, in most cases, the wage-receivers, and it is in terms of wages that they think. Women have to administer those wages for the family, and women have not been consulted in public affairs. Hence the neglect of that equally important economic factor in the standard of living—the prices paid for both necessities and comforts. Readers of the *COMMON CAUSE* will remember with interest the statement made by the Premier of Victoria in a recent interview, that the interest of Australian women in economic problems was keener than that of men, and their political influence steadier, more sober, and more shrewd. Mr. Watt told us that at meetings organised specially for women, he was accustomed to speak even more frequently on economic than on domestic subjects, and he gave as his reason the fact that it was the women who had to work out to its last halfpenny the effect of all economic legislation.

Walking in a Circle.

The whole problem, and the way in which it has hitherto been treated from the point of view of the wage-earner only,

present is put into our hands, it is essential that we should understand the conditions we desire to alter, and the hardships we hope to remove. In future, we hope to study this great problem more adequately in the pages of THE COMMON CAUSE than has been possible in the past, and we shall look especially to our Suffrage friends in India to keep us in touch with the movement out there. It is of good promise that Mrs. Shaw McLaren should be associated with the founding of the first Suffrage Society. Those of her name have a magnificent tradition of service in the greatest of all causes. We rejoice to hear that the Maharaja of Jaipur has sent £20,000 to Lady Hardinge as a contribution towards the establishment of a women's medical college at Delhi.

Pseudo-Science.

We publish to-day an exceedingly interesting letter from Dr. Ethel Williams on certain articles which have recently appeared in the *English Review*. One of the two published in the September number deals with the question of disease in a manner so extraordinary as to suggest a desperate state of mind indeed of the writer. Filled with alarm at the changed attitude of the public generally, and women in particular, towards disease engendered by vice, the thesis is put forward and elaborately upheld that such disease is of no consequence at all, because it is now known to be curable. "Civis" repeatedly urges that "ethical precepts" are useless, and only the scientific mind can be of any service at all. With this claim we are not disposed to quarrel, having no apprehension that true science and right morals can ever be divorced. But has any scientist ever fathered so extraordinary a proposition as that disease is of no importance if it be curable? Could one have supposed it possible for anyone outside of a lunatic asylum to propound the view that to object to measles, scarlet fever, typhoid fever, or even tuberculosis, is "hypocritical" because, after all, these diseases are curable if observed and treated in time? That it is nonsensical, for example, to seek to destroy the breeding-grounds of typhoid fever, since all that is necessary or desirable is that the patient should be cured after he is infected? Yet "Civis," admitting that prostitution is the breeding-ground of disease, can find no sense at all in the desire of most of us to destroy that ground, and clamours that all our attention should be fixed on curing, as far as we can, the disease. And such an attitude as this he calls "scientific"!

The Editor of "Jus Suffragii."

Our portrait this week is of Miss Mary Sheepshanks, appointed Editor to the International Suffrage paper, *Jus Suffragii*, on its removal from The Hague to London. Miss Sheepshanks has had already a distinguished career as a scholar and student of social conditions. Educated at the Liverpool High School and at Newnham College, Cambridge, she afterwards held the Pfeiffer scholarship at the Women's University Settlement, working there for two years, and for another in the East End of London. In 1899, she was appointed Vice-Principal of Morley College for working-men and women, and as (except for an interval of two years) the post of Principal was unoccupied, Miss Sheepshanks has been, in fact, the head of the institution. Under her control, the number of students increased from six hundred to over a thousand. The women, we rejoice to know, are at Morley College on exactly the same terms as the men. As editor of an international paper, Miss Sheepshanks has peculiar advantages, having worked in the Suffrage cause in London, and also abroad. In the spring of this year, she undertook a foreign lecture tour, and travelled through Belgium, Germany, Austria, Poland, and Galicia, giving addresses on the Suffrage movement in French and German. She ended her tour at the Congress in Budapest, and then started it again in order to study Hungarian methods of caring for abandoned or neglected children. Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE are urged to take in and read *Jus Suffragii*, which is issued monthly (4s. a year), from 7, Adam Street, Strand, W.C. They will get from it reliable news about the woman's movement in all parts of the world.

A False Alarm.

The alarm is raised by Anti-Suffragists, old and new, that "advanced" woman will certainly never succeed in the search for a husband, nor possible husbands ever consent to take an "advanced" wife. We are all advanced nowadays, from Mrs. Fawcett to Mrs. Humphry Ward: but the *Statesman* calls our attention to the reassuring fact that "marriage" is more popular than ever, "the number of marriages in England during the last twelve months easily beating all previous records, and amounting to an excess of 15 per cent. over the average of the last ten years." Our critics will have to sit back and think again.

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Contributors are requested to note that the latest time for receiving news for the week's issue is the first post on Tuesday. Federation correspondents are asked to send in their reports not later than Monday, first post. All unsolicited contributions should be accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

To Reach Perfection.

"I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land."—Blake.

There are now in existence in this country between forty and fifty Societies for obtaining Women's Suffrage. Some people, no doubt, belong to more than one, but each Society has been founded to meet some definite need or idiosyncrasy. Some admit only women; others only men; others welcome members of both sexes. Some are strictly constitutional; others militant. Some exist to give expression to a definite political policy, and have a "party" colour. Some unite the members of one profession in support of the Suffrage demand; others those of some one religious persuasion. The shades of difference between these various Societies are sometimes broad and clear, sometimes almost invisible. Undoubtedly they are apt to produce confusion in the minds of those who look on at, and fail to distinguish between, their multifarious activities. No doubt, also, they mean a certain amount of waste. The Suffragist consoles herself with the reflection that, however deplorable some of the variations have been, variety is a sign of life. There are many kinds of human being, but only one kind of wax-work: many kinds of Suffrage Society, but only one Anti-Suffrage League.

It might, however, have been believed with some confidence that these varieties have another advantage. It might have been thought that every Suffragist could find at least one Society which he or she could join without scruple or delay. Where every shade of opinion has been organised, every kind of Suffragist must surely have been provided for. It is, however, with all our secretaries, organisers, and speakers, a matter of common knowledge that this is not the case. A vast army of Suffragists, both men and women, exists, and is deterred, from the most honourable of reasons, from joining any Suffrage Society at all. Among the innumerable Societies which exist—constitutional or militant, party or non-party, Church or Free Church, male or female—they have not been able to find the only Society which they would feel honourably entitled to join—the Society that is Entirely Perfect.

It is impossible not to sympathise with these idealists. Alive to every defect (in us), aflame with the finest enthusiasm for perfection, with what eloquence do they bring home to us our imperfections! "I can't stand the militants, and the National Union is asleep," said a lady to the present writer some little time ago.* "I long to join you," said another, "but I must have unity!" With shining eyes and eloquence far surpassing that of the speaker on the platform, she proceeded to expound to a rapt audience the kind of Society that she would like to join—the kind that did not exist—the kind that was entirely perfect. With genuine regret she pronounced herself forced to

* She is now a member of the N.U.

England and India.

"Everything that exalts life is good. There is only one enemy, pleasure-seeking egoism which fouls the sources of life and dries them up. Exalt force, exalt the light, exalt fruitful love, the joy of sacrifice, action, and give up expecting other people to act for you. Do, act, combine."—John Christopher, Vol. III., page 433.

Those who heard Mrs. Chapman Catt's address last May at the Ethical Church in Bayswater, on *The Heathen East and Christian West*, will not easily forget it. Throughout her journey in the East, under whatever flag she found herself, British, American, Japanese, and Chinese, she found masses of women held in slavery, subservient to the vilest lusts of men. She saw sights which, as she said, poisoned her very life so that she could neither eat by day nor sleep by night. What had the West brought to the East? Science applied to all kinds of practical uses. It is true the West had given this to the East; but the higher ideal of a free womanhood which is associated with Christianity, the West seemed to have forgotten and denied. It had greedily assimilated the lower ideal of the East and made it lower still. Little girl children, nine, ten, and eleven years of age, were bought from degraded parents, or obtained in other ways, and made to subservient the worst of all purposes, and then left to die of diseases the result of the wrongs to which they had been subjected.

"There is only one enemy—pleasure-seeking egoism, which fouls the sources of life and dries them up." Unless England in India faces the profound truth of this saying of "John Christopher," the British Raj in India will be weighed in the balance and found wanting. Our only right to be there is to be found in the degree to which we are helping the peoples of India to be true to their own highest ideals, and also to perceive that the West has high ideals also, and is true to them and acts fearlessly upon them. One of these Western ideals is that of a free Womanhood. Sir Henry Maine said, in his lectures on the History of Institutions, that if he had to name one cause which had made Western civilisation progressive and Eastern civilisation stationary, he would say that it was that the West had gradually, but continuously, enlarged and developed the freedom and responsibility of its women, while the East had as steadily and persistently curtailed them. Lord Curzon is fond of saying that Englishwomen must not have the Parliamentary vote because women did not win India and cannot hold India. It is quite true that women did not win India by the sword and cannot hold India by the sword. But is it not also true to say that neither can men hold India by the sword? A few thousands of soldiers cannot hold by force 300,000,000 of people. England can only hold India, and should only hold India, as long as the best and most enlightened minds among the Indians themselves are convinced that it is on the whole for the good of the vast masses of her Indian peoples that we should be there.

Up to the present India, under the British Raj, has been almost entirely a man-ruled world; but with the beginnings of representation, even though it be only the representation of men, a change is visible. The native members of the Viceroy's Council have brought forward subjects for discussion, and proposed legislation, deeply affecting the social life of India, and, consequently, the life of its women.

The *Englishwoman* for September has an interesting article on *Women's Work in India*, which states that the Government of India has already adopted resolutions outlining a scheme of educational development for the whole of India, which can only be carried into effect by the employment of a large number of European women. One of the reasons why England in India has done so little for Indian women, is that, speaking generally, such Englishwomen as have lived there have had no free hand; they have been in a wholly subordinate, not to say parasitic, position. They have had no independence. The "one enemy—pleasure-seeking egoism" (unless "Plain Tales from the Hills" gives a very false impression)—has fouled the sources of their usefulness.

The new Government scheme of education for India, involving the employment of a large number of women holding administrative appointments under the Government, will largely increase the band, at present very small, of women in India who have achieved economic independence. They may be confidently reckoned on to help the women of India to achieve something of what Carlyle called "the freedom and valour of womanhood."

Education for the masses of the people in India has proceeded very slowly: among the women it moves indeed, but the movement may be compared to the movement of a glacier. It does move, but so slowly that the movement is imperceptible except by comparing it with some really stationary object. In 1910-11, only about seven per thousand of the women of India were being educated. There is no Government provision for the

withhold her support until this kind of Society should be organised to receive it.

Others again—mostly men these—are unable to join any known Society, because some Societies are militant and some are not. The objectors are Suffragists indeed, Suffragists by conviction; but they cannot join a constitutional Society because they detest the militants. We are all, they say, tarred with the same brush. They again, we assume with due humility, are waiting for a Society in which they can really feel at home—a Society exclusively composed of angels. Of all of these enthusiasts it may indeed be said:—

"They will not plunge into the fight,
Nor will the sword wake in their hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land."

And yet, fine as this stern idealism is, we would suggest to the searchers after perfection, that there is a better way, and that Blake's lines were even finer as he wrote them than thus ingeniously altered. After all, their search—their disappointment—has not been a unique experience. All members of the National Union have shared it. They also have hoped for that perfect Society: they also have failed to find it. They also have been compelled to admit that among their fellow-members quite a considerable proportion are surprisingly, even grossly, imperfect. Suspicion hardens into certainty that among these imperfect ones they will themselves infallibly be found.

These Suffragists did not, however, withdraw on that account, to seek for a more perfect Suffrage Society. Perhaps they realised that any Society which contained them must certainly have some taint of imperfection. They served, therefore, where they stood, hoping that until someone better came, their service would at least be better than none. It would surprise many of those outside, we believe, to know how many prominent speakers and workers began work only in despair of finding someone better who was willing to do it. No one in their part of the world, perhaps, will do anything. Well, one can at least lend a drawing-room oneself. The meeting is a success. Who will organise another? No one? Well, one can but try. One organises several. At last the inevitable happens: the expected speaker misses her train, or forgets, or has a fit. There is the meeting, and no one to speak to it. One speaks oneself . . . only because someone had to, and no one else would. One fine speaker known to us began her career by going to inform a large crowd that it must go away because there was no speaker to address it. At the end of an hour and a-half she found she had made an excellent speech, and her audience was asking for more.

But, of course, it is not always so. Sometimes the impromptu speech is a failure, and those who seek perfection are greatly "put off" the Society the speaker represents. The faltering utterances of the speaker who desired nothing less than to speak are duly criticised by the more gifted critic—who is silent. The weary iteration of the hard-worked orator of a dozen platforms in a week is justly censured by the idealist who refuses to share the ill-adjusted burden. Justly: but perhaps the speaker would do better if she might do less! Again, the local secretary forgets things because she has too much to remember, and indeed is too busy to be a good secretary at all—if someone else could be found to take her place. An organiser bites your head off. But, you see, she has had hers bitten off just a hundred and seventeen times already without retaliation. Biting off yours is the only bit of real enjoyment she has had this week. If you had known that, you would have given it to her on a charger, would you not?

The holiday season is drawing to a close, and Suffrage work—which has never ceased—will soon be redoubling its pace. But some Suffragists have had no holiday, and few indeed have had enough. How can they afford the time and the money for holidays? They have to work at this pace because you, perhaps, are still unable to help them. You are seeking for a perfect Suffrage Society.

No perfect work is done, or ever will be done, here. But it is certain that it will be done much better if all who believe will also help; for the work belongs to all who believe. It is possible that it drags and waits in your part of the world for exactly the thing that you could give. It is possible that the very spirit of the movement suffers for lack of that very passion for perfection which—justing aside—is what has held you back. No perfect Society exists indeed—no perfect expression of that divine, far-off event towards which we toil so slowly. But if a man is frantic with delays and betrayals, it does not help merely to stand aside and watch him with curious, condemning eyes. If he sleeps, you will not wake him by meditating on the depth of his slumber. Do something yourself—lend him your energy! It may be he sleeps with exhaustion—from doing your work,

training of women teachers. Lady Dufferin's fund for providing women doctors for Indian women has been strangled by red tape, and by the old Adam which leads men to think that all well-paid posts must be kept for themselves. It has naturally failed to attract the best type of women from this country. There is at present no Government provision in India for enabling Indian ladies to obtain medical training in their own country. There is, it is true, a non-official medical school for women at Ludhiana, which "trains its students for the diploma of Sub-Assistant Surgeon." (See *Englishwoman*, Sept., 1913, p. 287.) The trail of the serpent is over that title, "Sub-Assistant Surgeon." It may be hoped that better positions than "Sub-Assistants" will be arrived at by Indian women before many more decades have passed. Dr. Edith Pechey Phipson and Dr. Ellaby were not Sub-Assistants, but leaders and teachers. If the Government of India wishes to attract women to India capable of doing really first-rate work in the fields of sociology, education, medicine, public health, and industry, they must get away from the narrow-minded notion that the position of "Sub-Assistant" is all that ought to be open to them.

The Editor of THE COMMON CAUSE proposes to have a series of articles dealing with the position of women in India, and the ways in which Englishwomen should strive to qualify themselves to help them. The first thing, perhaps, is to realise that the help is not all on one side. If we can help India, India also can help us; and the first condition of all mutual help is knowing and understanding. From this point of view Englishwomen may be enabled to do an invaluable national service both to England and India. Those that appeal to the sword shall perish by the sword; but those that appeal to mutual love and service will be filled with faithful love and the joy of sacrifice and action.

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

The Montessori Method.

The Montessori method of training infants to use their hands and their eyes and their minds is based, Mme. Montessori says, upon physiological and pathological science. To us it seems to be based upon something with a much more familiar name, human nature; and because this is its foundation, it is not so very new. If we watch infants we find that they always do contrive to occupy themselves in "Montessori" ways, though they do not get from their parents and teachers the systematic encouragement that the new scheme would give them. Bits of "Montessori apparatus" are to be found in every nursery, known by different commonplace names, such as coal-scuttles or rocking-horses, and we have all of us spent hours in fitting small boxes into larger ones, without realising that this was a form of "geometric inset." But we should not despise Mme. Montessori because she recommends what we all know works well: on the contrary, this should predispose us in her favour. But, in fact, the invention of her fascinating apparatus is not the most important, nor the most abused part of her work. What she has done, and it seems almost incredible that it should not have been done before, is to point out clearly and violently that infants also are human, and like to do things for themselves.

This seems to be the great fundamental theory of the Montessori method. Infants, she says, love to exercise their small powers. They, like other people, would rather make failures by themselves than be helped to make successes, and if the impulse is not killed by overhelping, the normal child will always be ready to find blissful occupation in developing itself, while the duty of the parent or teacher should be to give it the opportunity to do so.

Even this fundamental theory sounds, as if we have known it all our lives: but, in fact, we have not acted upon it. We have surrounded our children with nurses and parents and governesses whose whole object seems to be to make them "good" according to an orthodox pattern. We dress them and feed them and pick up their toys, and snatch things out of their incompetent little fingers that we may do them "properly," and when we want them to learn anything we pump and hammer it in. But Mme. Montessori would change all this, and it is her wiping out of interference with and discipline for the young that naturally sets the educational world shouting in protest. What becomes of the teacher, if the child is to teach itself? And where are all the guiding influences we cherish so much?

The answer to these questions is not that teachers with their influences must vanish. But they must stop the pumping and drilling system, and keep hands off: they must step into the background, and hold their influences up before the child, as it were, and be content to let the child choose. This is no doubt a far harder task than the other. It is agony, for example, to

watch a child trying not to spill a glass of water that we could hold for it: but it must also be far more interesting, at any rate, for the child!

One of the great accusations against this view of the position of teachers is that it gives a far too individualistic treatment to the child. But surely the world will swoop down fast enough, and we need not grudge them liberty before they are six! And surely, also, we need not be so much afraid of the individualities of our children!

Mme. Montessori says that infant human nature is always good, though very various, and that it is only children who are under a too strict or an uncertain discipline who are bad. Her own experiments, so far as one can judge by reading of them, give an astonishing confirmation of this view, and we wish there were more chances in England of seeing the system at work. The Montessori Society, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, can give information about what is being done in this country.

The theories of the Montessori system should appeal to English women, not only because they concern children, but because we, too, suffer from the longing to do things for ourselves, and to make our own mistakes; and, like infants, some of us by being too much led and guided have had all the initiation crushed out of us. It does not do to press this analogy too far. We do not say that children should be left free to make every kind of mistake, nor do we cry "votes for infants"; but we do say, and we know it is true, that the desire for liberty is a human instinct, and one that should be encouraged.

RAY STRACHEY.

Democracy and Women's Suffrage Again.

A fortnight ago we dealt, in these pages, with the attitude of the average working-man towards Women's Suffrage. We declared that the working man trusted women, and that anti-suffrage bogies had no terrors for him. Force and point is given to our contention by an event of last week, an event ignored by the bulk of the press, but, to those who weigh it well, rich in possibilities for the Women's Cause.

All the week the Trade Union Congress, which has been called "the working men's Parliament," was sitting in Manchester. It sat daily from 9.30 a.m. till 5 p.m., and considered a multitude of vital industrial and economic questions. The delegates there present were all men who "are or have been *bona-fide* workers at the trade which they represent"; indeed, no man can be appointed a delegate unless he is "actually working at his trade at the time of appointment, or is a permanent paid working official of his trade union." Neither the I.L.P., the Fabian Society, nor any Socialist organisation is eligible to send delegates to Congress. It is a meeting of Trade Unionists and Trade Unionists only, and they represent 2,232,046 organised working men. There was a very long list of agenda, and much delay through the necessary suspension of the Standing Orders to consider such urgent matters as the Dublin police outrages, the trouble in Cornwall, and the Aisgill railway disaster. Consequently, by Friday, the speakers were limited to two for and two against each resolution, and the period of each speech was three minutes. At 4.30 on Friday, the electoral reform resolution was reached. This resolution, which has been now for several years brought forward by the Parliamentary Committee and carried, describes "the satisfactory electoral reform bill." Seven changes in electoral law are demanded, including "the extension of the Franchise to all adults, male and female." But this year, in addition, a further resolution was on the agenda (backed by the Shop Assistants, the Clerks, the Stove-Grate Workers, the Associated Blacksmiths and Iron Workers, and the Batley Weavers and Textile Workers). This ran as follows:—

"That this Congress expresses its deep dissatisfaction with the Government's treatment of the Franchise question, considering that the Plural Voting Bill is no substitute for the promised Reform Bill; and further this Congress protests against the Prime Minister's failure to redeem his repeated pledges to women, and calls upon the Parliamentary Committee to press for the immediate enactment of a Government Reform Bill which must include the enfranchisement of women."

First the electoral reform resolution was moved by Mr. W. T. Davis, for the Parliamentary Committee, and seconded by Mr. Will Thorne, who expressed his devotion to Adult Suffrage as opposed to any limited franchise for women. "Any opposition?" asked the Chairman; and Mr. Battle, of the Bolton Spinners' Amalgamation, leapt to his feet. "I want to oppose the resolution," he said, "because it includes votes for women." Such a roar of protest and laughter greeted this assertion that the Chairman had to appeal to the delegates to give the speaker a hearing. So he proceeded, and declared that "government"

The Pilgrim Voters of the United States.

A Contrast.

We have received from Mrs. Ida Husted Harper, the distinguished Suffrage correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, and a well-known American journalist, who is at present staying in London, the following extract from a private letter from Boston describing the American Women-Voters' "Pilgrimage" to Washington to present the petitions of the enfranchised States to the United States Senate. The contrast between the official reception accorded to these representatives of America's 4,000,000 women voters, and the manner in which our own non-voting Pilgrims were ignored by the British Government, is an eloquent testimony to the power of the vote in raising the status of women and developing that courtesy in man which is based, not on condescension to the weak and inferior, nor on protection of that which belongs to him, but on the frank recognition that civilisation demands an attitude of consideration towards equals—in other words, the practice in everyday life of the Golden Rule.

"We motored from Boston to Albany, the capital of New York, holding out-door meetings all the way. We took the boat to New York City, where we remained two days, and were the guests of honour at a reception given by the Woman Suffrage Party. Then we went to Hyattsville, Maryland, where all the Pilgrims met. The Mayor and his Committee of fifty prominent men and women gave us a royal welcome and tendered us the keys of the city. The ladies of the Episcopal Church prepared a luncheon for us. Several of the Senators came out from Washington and made addresses of welcome. When the first group of Pilgrims entered the field, the Votes for Women flag was run up. Immediately following the ceremonies we formed an automobile procession, seventy-five cars in line, headed by Chief of Police Sylvester himself,* all the cars flying Suffrage banners and one of the State from which the occupants came. Every State was represented, and we were cheered and cheered from the minute we started until we drew up at the steps of the Capitol. Senators from the different States were called out from the Senate Chamber and asked to present the petitions from the States which they represented, and in every case they did so with the greatest courtesy. The Senate took recess for the Suffrage hearing. Vice-President Marshall was in the chair, and out of the thirty Senators who participated in the discussion twenty-three declared in favour of the national amendment.

"On the night of July 31st, a banquet was given at the beautiful new Brighton Hotel, occupying the highest point in Washington, and 300 people were present, including many members of Congress. There were speeches from the various political friends of the Cause, and in less than ten minutes 1,050 dollars was raised, and the next day pledges covering several hundred more were received. On the whole, it was the most dignified, the most impressive, and the most successful Suffrage demonstration ever witnessed in this country."

*It will be remembered that Major Sylvester, who has been Chief of Police in Washington 30 years, came very near being dismissed by Congress because the police force failed to protect the Suffrage parade in that city last spring.—I. H. H.

Women Jurors in Chicago.

Women are now empanelled to serve as jurors in the Chicago Insane Court, and they are considered to be slow but thorough jurors. Judge Owens, who sits in the Court for the Insane, has changed the time for the women jurors, so that they sit last. He insists, however, that the change is not to be construed as a reflection on the woman juror. "It is just the reverse," said the County Judge; "it demonstrates that women are giving the thought that is needed in judging insane cases. The change will expedite the business in the Court." When the jury of women last sat, eighteen cases were tried and only one released.

Mrs. Young Returns to Office.

Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, who resigned the office of Superintendent of Schools of Chicago on the grounds that political intrigues made it impossible for her to do useful work, has been induced to withdraw her resignation. The Board of Education, "by 14 to 1, and without debate," refused to accept it; the Women's City Club prepared to organise mass-meetings of protest; and the City Council passed a resolution endorsing Mrs. Young's educational policy and administration. We heartily wish her success in a position which can hardly fail to be an easier one after this expression of public approval.

was "the function of men." Again a roar of protest, and challenges as to whether he spoke for himself or for his Society. "My Society gave me a free hand in dealing with this question," he replied, and went on with the usual course of anti-suffrage arguments. "Votes would not raise women's wages," etc., etc.; but amid such a hubbub of indignation that the Chairman had to appeal again and again for a hearing for "any speaker, even though he may be in an insignificant minority."

As he finished a man jumped up at the back of the hall shouting "Question, Mr. Chairman, question!" and proceeded to ask: "Is the last speaker prepared to debate the matter outside?" No answer was given, but the resolution was put to the vote and carried with three dissentients. Then the further resolution was moved by Mr. Elvin, of the Clerks' Union, who gave a brief history of the making and breaking of the Prime Minister's pledges, and seconded by that never-failing friend of working women, Ben Turner. He emphasised the hardness of the women's case, and drew attention to the fact that the proof the Prime Minister had asked for, that women wanted the vote, had, in the recent Pilgrimage, been forthcoming.

Again "any opposition?" and again the undaunted Mr. Battle, who continued his argument, quoting from the Church of England marriage service and recommending women to use "persuasion" rather than "coercion," as then they would be always "dignified." He spoke still with difficulty amid the general protests, and when his three minutes were over the vote was immediately put. Up went the hands—miners, railwaymen, postal employees, textile workers, shop assistants, dockers, etc., etc. "Against"—six men raised their hands. "Carried," announced the Chairman, "by a very substantial majority." And it was over.

But the effect is yet to be felt. For the first time in its history the Trade Union Congress has made a strong and definite pronouncement on the subject of Women's Suffrage. It has declared that the promised Reform Bill must include the enfranchisement of women. When will politicians, their sight dimmed and their hearing dulled by officialism, see, hear and note the growing demand amongst the working men for a real democracy?

MARGARET ROBERTSON.

Women and the Law Courts.

The *Child's Guardian* publishes an extract from a letter written by a doctor, which we quote, feeling, as does the *Guardian*, that "public attention cannot be too often directed to the efforts now being made to secure a change in the method of dealing with girls who are called upon to give evidence in cases concerning morality":—

"Yesterday I was called to give medical evidence in the case of the N.S.P.C.C. v. M—, at Y— Police Court. The charge was one of criminal assault on a child named G—, aged eleven years. This unfortunate child was made to stand upon a chair before a full bench of magistrates (five or seven in number), and in full view of a number of people in court, also the press, and witnesses in this and two other cases, and give details of everything that happened to her."

The *Child's Guardian* goes on to say:—

"There is great danger in trying cases in closed courts. Offences against children must be given publicity. This can be done without subjecting the victim, following the shock of assault, to an ordeal many grown persons would dread. The justices have power to hear *in camera*, and while girl witnesses are being examined and cross-examined they should exercise it. Also, whenever a girl is in the witness box, she should have a woman near her, and not be left in a court with men only."

A Case of Assault.

A very painful case of assault on a child of five by a boy of sixteen, came before the Godstone Petty Sessions last week. The Bench, after retiring for consideration, gave it as their opinion that the defendant was guilty. Sentence was not pronounced, but the defendant was bound over in his own recognisances to appear in a fortnight's time for sentence. We shall await the result with very great interest. It is difficult to see what object can be served by this delay.

THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, YORK STREET, ST. JAMES'S, S.W.

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Foreign News.

Finland.

The Parliamentary Elections in Finland took place on August 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, and although the time of year was unfavourable, owing to summer holidays, and the number of votes was less than in previous elections, yet the composition of the Landtag is precisely the same. Four times since 1907 the Russian Government have illegally dissolved the Diet, in the hope of crushing its resistance, but each time the Finns have sent back an Assembly more democratic and more determined to resist the Russian aggression than before.

The number of women representatives have again been increased. In 1907 the Finns first elected twenty-five women Members of Parliament (an eighth of the whole number of members), but their number afterwards decreased, until two years ago, when they were only fourteen. They now number twenty-one, including Miss Annie Fűrjhelm, second Vice-President of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance. These twenty-one women are unevenly divided among the parties. The Agrarians send none, and the old Finns only two women, whilst the Socialists have elected thirteen, the Swedes four, and the young Finns, two.

The following is the verdict of Senator Let Mechelin, Professor of Law in the University of Helsingfors and Vice-President of the Finnish Senate, upon the work of the Women Members of the Diet:—

"In our Diet, as in every representative Assembly, the most important work is done by Committees. We can say at once that women who have been chosen as members of Committees have done their work satisfactorily, especially in the Committees on Finance, Social Reform, and Education. In the general debates in the Diet all the women have not spoken (the same could be said of many of the men), but the speeches of the women who took part in the debates were in no wise inferior either in eloquence or expert knowledge to those of the men. These speeches by the women members, as well as the legislation they have initiated, prove clearly that women's work for the community is an additional source of strength to the representation of the people, and that without their co-operation many a question would not be properly considered by men."

"Amongst the reforms of which the discussion in the Diet was due to women the following may be noted. Reform of the law of property of married persons; improvement of the legal position of illegitimate children; maternity insurance; introduction of women Sanitary Inspectors; money grants for the promotion of morality; extension of the rights of women in Government Service. The examples given show that our women members are most active in those spheres which afford her a deeper insight into social evils than is usually open to men. That is in no sense feminism, for the reforms proposed are for the general good. In political questions, which give rise to party differences, no separate feminine opinion has arisen. In party politics, men and women work side by side."

"With regard to social and family life, the attainment by woman of her political majority has had no unfavourable results, rather the contrary. In Finland we have no reason to regret the carrying through of this reform. In our present sad times, when continual encroachments by the Russian Government threaten our autonomy and cripple the country's activity, all that tends to elevate and strengthen the feeling of national solidarity, as does women's political equality, cannot be valued too highly."



Miss MARY SHEEPSHANKS,
The newly-appointed Editor of *Jus Suffragii*.

Miss Anna Fűrjhelm.
(A Personal Impression.)

British Suffragists will be at once glad and sorry to hear of the re-election of Miss Fűrjhelm to the Finnish Diet—glad, because no woman could do better service there; and sorry because, had she failed, it was just possible that she might have visited Great Britain, and undertaken a lecturing tour for the National Union. Miss Fűrjhelm speaks English perfectly, and to me personally it seemed that no speaker could have done greater service to the Suffrage cause here at this very critical time. The Finnish member is "by sympathy a revolutionist." "I couldn't help clapping Mrs. Despard," she said—"you didn't misunderstand that?" "Of course not. You ought to have clapped her. She has fought in the good cause all her life." "Yes, but you know I don't believe in revolution. I have seen it, and seen its effect. It doesn't occur until people are driven nearly frantic with delay, and feel that they can't get justice any other way. In a sense, you can't blame them. But, all the same, violence is bad. Violence in the State is like a fever in the body. It leaves people so weak and shaken that they daren't move at all. They are frightened of everything. That is why revolutions are followed by reactions. Everyone is afraid. Evolution, however slow, is the only way of progress."

At this moment a photographer earnestly besought to be allowed to photograph us for the press. "It is such good propaganda!" he pleaded. "My photograph is not good propaganda," said Miss Fűrjhelm, firmly. But he took us, all the same. And she is quite wrong about the propaganda. A countenance more likely to inspire confidence I have never seen. Though, as the Finn was very large and the Englishwoman exceedingly small, perhaps the result was not altogether happy. I know the latter felt like a limpet clinging tightly to a rock.

A BRITISH DELEGATE.

Miss Gaunt in China.

Miss Mary Gaunt, the well-known woman traveller, has lately been visiting the tombs of the Ming Emperors, situated in the heart of barren, treeless hills some nine miles from the Nankou Pass, which is about two hours' railway journey from Peking. She narrates her experiences in an interesting article in the *Morning Post*:—

"The entrance to the pass at the little town of Nankou is wild enough, but the extra nine miles is like journeying into the wilderness. It is a long nine miles over a stony mule track, where only a donkey or a pony or a chair can go, and yet here centuries ago, when it was still further away, China buried her dead, the men who sat on the Dragon Throne, and bridged for the nation the gulf that lies between mortal men and high heaven. It is lonely now, now that the roadway of the West brings Nankou close to the capital, it must have been ten times more lonely before the coming of the railway. A chair seemed to me the only way to get there, a chair borne by four blue-clad coolies with queue and shaven heads, and in a chair I swung over the stony narrow track towards the hills. The hills were rugged and barren. . . . The road was stony, barely to be seen, impossible for wheeled traffic, even the primitive wheeled traffic of Northern China. I doubt even if a wheelbarrow could have gone along it. I doubted often whether the heap of stones on the slopes could possibly be a road, but the coolies seemed to know, and went steadily on, changing the pole from one shoulder to the other so often that it gave me a feeling of brutality that I should use such means of locomotion. I was the only person who was comfortable."

Workaday Women.

It was Saturday night in the present year. The streets away from the busy centre, where the market-place of a certain Lancashire town is situated, are usually very quiet at this time. On this Saturday night, however, one of these streets was alive with humanity, coming out of the houses one after another, their number being augmented by strangers who passed the end of the street, and paused to find out what was "to-do."

From one of the mean houses in this mean street sounds of shouting and of blows could be heard. A man's oaths mingled with a woman's shrill screams. One or two of the neighbours ventured in with a view to protest, but came forth almost immediately with frightened faces.

"Fetch t' bobby!" one of these (a woman) commanded, addressing nobody in particular. Several boys rushed off with alacrity, to obey her behest.

"What's t' use?" asked another woman. "It's nowt fresh. It's sickening, livin' i' t' same street w' that pair. Never a day parses as there isn't summat to-do. A nice place for childer to be browt up in! Ah'm goin' to shift as soon as ah can get a heause—only there's no heauses to be gotten i' this town, an' yo' hev' to live next door to any sort o' riff-raff, becous yo' cornd find nowheer else to gooa. Listen!"

"Tha'r nowt but a idle wastrel, Ah tell thee!" came from the inside of the house. "Ah may wark myself i' t' grave, an' t' harder Ah work, t' mooar thee thinks there is for thee to spend! An' if Ah doant wark, an' think as Ah'll mek thee keeap me, Ah've to be clemmin' hawf mi time! Tha greit big idle good-for-nothin'!" There were sounds of a scuffle and of oaths.

"Hoo goos too far," said an elderly woman, with a deeply lined face. "Hoo ought to know as no chap a'll stand what hoo says. An' it's every day alike. Hoo's naggin' at him mornin', noon, an' neet. It'll not do. Yo' hev' to keep what yo' think on 'em to yersel'. If hoo doesn't remember that, hoo'll hev' to suffer for it one o' these days."

"Well," said a younger woman, passionately, "Ah'd suffer then! If Ah had a brute like hoo's gotten, Ah'd knock his neck eat an' Ah'd swing for it before Ah'd tek' it lyin' deawn. What's a chap get wed and get childer for if he's t' act just as if he wur a young felly wi' nobry to keep? An' he cornd keep his hands off her, neethur! It's not many weeks since hoo had a black eye as he give her when he come hoam drunk."

Just at this moment a bloodcurdling shriek came from the interior of the house, and the crowd looked into one another's faces apprehensively. Almost at the same moment a policeman was seen approaching, accompanied by an ever-increasing crowd of curious people.

"Be sharp! Hurry up! He's killin' her!" were the cries which greeted him. He blew his whistle and entered the house, coming forth hurriedly a minute later to look anxiously for help, which was immediately forthcoming in the shape of three or four constables. One occupied himself in keeping back the crowd. The others entered the house. A minute later a half-fainting woman, with blood streaming down her face, was brought forth and hurried to the infirmary, followed by a sympathetic crowd, and a man was brought out between two policemen and hurried to the police-station, followed by an execrating crowd. The sad-faced elderly woman and the passionate young one each took charge of one of the two frightened children, locking up what had been the home of a man and woman who had once seen an earthly heaven in the prospect of making home together.

Next week the man was brought before the magistrates, but had to be remanded because his wife was too ill to appear. One eye, the magistrates were informed, had been so badly damaged that it had been necessary to take it out. A week later she was well enough to appear, though visibly suffering. The magistrates duly made their investigations. The man was by no means a model father and husband. The plain facts of the case were that he expected everything to go on smoothly, and food, raiment, and shelter to be manufactured out of anything except his wages. He was a gay fellow, and liked to be able to treat another fellow when he met him; and if his wife did have to work in the factory, and had no money for luxuries such as he demanded for himself—what are women for?—especially wives! Instead of doing as so many other wives do, however, his wife never ceased nagging at him about it! It was intolerable, and more than any man could stand with equanimity. It was not denied that he had frequently "knocked her about"; but (said his solicitor) there had always been "great provocation." Of course, he had not meant to deprive her of the use

of an eye; but on this occasion there had been even more provocation than usual, and her tongue had become past bearing, and he was so exasperated that he completely lost control of himself.

The magistrates are men. Possibly a woman's tongue may have stung them some time, and they were animated by a fellow-feeling for the rascal before them. "There was great provocation," said they; "10s. and costs."

Of so much value is a woman's body in a world where men "protect" women.

ADA NIELD CHEW.

Competition Results.

1. Short Story:

Prize Winner: Miss C. M. Garrett.

The winner of the Short Story competition is Miss C. M. Garrett. Her story will appear in our next issue. Miss Cicely Hamilton places Miss B. K. Royle and Miss A. H. Begbie next in merit. She points out, however, that the competitors seem hardly to have grasped the idea that a story—not a tract—was asked for.

2. A B C Page:

Prize-Winner—Miss Lilian Dickens.

Miss Margaret Robertson writes:—The prize goes to Miss Lilian Dickens, Charington, Shipton-Stour, whose A.B.C. page we print this week.

Miss Cicely Leadley Brown comes in a good second. Both these writers have scored in choosing one point and developing it fully. Too many of the competitors have tried to put the whole case for women's suffrage on a page, and have succeeded only in making a series of somewhat trite, though absolutely sound and true, statements. They have forgotten that the A.B.C. page is a weekly affair, and that our aim, in writing one, should be, not to see how much matter we can get into 800 words, but to try and present some one aspect of the case in a fresh and telling way.

The Church Congress and the Woman's Movement.

Some misunderstanding appears to have arisen with regard to the arrangements made about speakers at the Church Congress in Southampton. The official opening does not take place until Tuesday, September 30th. On the preceding day, there are two mass-meetings for women and men respectively, when the subject of the addresses will be Purity, and the speakers will be Mrs. Sumner, Canon Ivens, and Miss A. M. Royden; and in the evening, the Bishop of London, the Rev. C. J. Kennedy, and Miss A. Maude Royden. At both these meetings, the Bishop of Winchester will be in the chair. On Wednesday, October 1st, the subject will be "The Kingdom of God and the Sexes," and the speakers, Bishop Welldon, Mrs. Luke Paget, Miss Ruth Rouse, Miss L. M. Faithfull, and Miss Constance Smith. At this meeting, the Bishop of Winchester (President of the Congress) has decided that discussion of "the political aspect of the movement" will not be out of order. It is almost impossible to imagine the ostrich-like state of mind of those who object to this decision. Whether we like it or not, "the political aspect" is at this time the one which excites incomparably deeper interest than any other. It would be as futile to discuss the movement at all, and rule political enfranchisement out of order, as it would have been to discuss the movement twenty or thirty years ago, and leave out the question of higher education. By refusing to import into the discussion of the Woman's Movement that dreary atmosphere of unreality which prevails when a factor of real importance is perforce omitted, the Bishop no more labels himself Suffragist than Anti-Suffragist—unless, indeed, we are to assume that it is only Suffragists who dare to face discussion.

A chill is the beginning of half the illnesses we suffer from. The only way to escape is by wearing suitable clothing. Jaeger Fine Pure Wool Underwear has been designed to this end, and will be found most effective, attractive, and durable. Illustrated price list sent free.—126, Regent Street, W.; 456, Strand, W.C.; 102, Kensington High Street, W.; 30, Sloane Street, S.W.; 115, Victoria Street, S.W.; 85 and 86, Cheapside, E.C.

Correspondence.

SEX AND MORALS.

MADAM.—Three unsigned articles have recently appeared in the *English Review* dealing with the questions of sex, morality, and venereal disease. You have, in referring to them, struck the note which unites all women working for the true emancipation of their sex, and all the men who are with us. But though, as you say, we are *solidaire* upon the question that the preservation of our civilisation itself is not worth the necessary moral and physical degradation of certain of its members, yet perhaps you will allow me a little space to consider these articles somewhat more in detail. Whether they are all from the same hand or no, they are at any rate written from one point of view, and I should have but little doubt written in collusion. They all accept the position that it is no longer possible to keep women in ignorance (whether wilful or not), and their real importance seems to me to lie in the fact that it is the first serious bid for the adhesion of the enlightened woman to the necessity of a state of affairs on which these articles insist—viz., that for the average human male, throughout the whole of his conscious sex-life, from the school-boy upwards, satisfaction of his sex desire is essential to his well-being, that celibacy is unnatural and harmful to him, and through him to the community; that as a male can procreate hundreds of children in a year, while a woman can bear but once, Nature has obviously intended that he should have the opportunity of exercising his power, and that to enforce upon him a celibate life is to attempt to frustrate Nature and to demand a practical impossibility. It is significant that the author of the article signed "A Father" obviously expects controversy as he forges for himself a new weapon by hinting at the existence of a type of abnormal neuter man without the normal sex desires whom he regards as anti-social, as by this means he can get rid of any example brought against him. It is also rather interesting that the September number of the *English Review* contains a signed article, by a woman, controverting this theory from another point of view, and stating definitely that the sex passion is equally an attribute of the normal woman, and that it is not for women to provide for the sex necessities of men, which are not hers, but for the whole community to make provision for the satisfaction of the natural desires of both sexes. I do not wish to enter into this discussion, but I do wish to point out very emphatically that women will land themselves in a bondage infinitely worse than that out of which they are now struggling if they do not make quite certain of the permanence and truth of the fundamental basis upon which this new scheme of morals is to be reared. The question of the necessary sex needs of men as apart from the procreation of children has not been settled. Recent medical opinion has been expressed strongly against it. It will need a great deal of patient and deliberate thought from men and women together, a great deal of knowledge—physiological, biological, and historical—before we have a basis on which we can afford to build. I myself have no doubt that when that day comes we shall be able to offer a solution more consonant with what we believe to be the fundamental rights of every human being, woman as well as man, than these gentlemen suggest to us at present. I say advisedly "gentlemen," for whoever wrote the first of these articles, I cannot believe it was a woman, and certainly not the wife of a schoolmaster. The wife of any schoolmaster knows that though she may discuss with her husband, or possibly, but very improbably, with some of his colleagues who are on terms of intimacy with her, the question of what is commonly called school-boy vice, she does not discuss these questions directly with the boys involved as "A Mother" describes herself as frequently doing. Nor do I believe that any woman, however strongly imbued with the popular theory of the sex necessities of man, has in her fundamental make-up the property idea of the relation of woman to man which this article breathes in every line. Further, if one examines the language and imagery of the article one finds that the author has a great deal of technical knowledge about venereal disease, evidently not got at second-hand, which is possessed by very few women. The expression "dystrophic manifestation of disease" would never be used by an amateur, however freely her husband might have talked to her. The word "repercussion" used in another paragraph is rather curious, and suggests someone who naturally takes images from a knowledge of guns and bullet-firing. These two indications suggest some syphilographer with interest in the army who may well wish to prepare the way for the work of the coming Commission. If any woman had a hand in the writing of this article, it was given her to preface and to sign after the main part of it had been written. The second article, that in the August number, is very much less important. It is both carelessly and flippantly written, and is obviously intended merely to carry on the discussion, to keep the ball rolling. The article in the September number on "Doctors and Venereal Disease," and signed "Civis," belongs, if I am not very much mistaken, to the series. It is based on the same assumption of the sex necessities of man; it, with the two preceding articles, tacitly takes for granted that the effective regulation of prostitution is impossible, the temper of the English people being what it is; and all three attempt to clear the way for another solution by suggesting, as far as the first two articles are concerned, that sex relations outside marriage should not entail social ostracism either for men or women, and as far as the third is concerned that an attack of syphilis or gonorrhoea should be looked upon no more as a social stigma than one of smallpox or influenza. It is rather curious that the first and second articles suggest that the present surplus of women in England is the result of "centuries of male sex-restriction," a theory certainly not widely held. It might

be rather interesting to trace it to its origin, as this would probably throw light on the authorship of the articles. It has, so far as I know, no shadow of evidence. Male births are in excess of female. The greater mortality of males at almost every age is doubtless due to a variety of causes, but some of them are probably to seek in the attitude taken up by many parents towards their boys. I frequently watch mothers and fathers regarding with pride as evidence of virile qualities exhibitions of wilful temper and self-assertion in boys little more than babies, exhibitions which would wisely be promptly repressed in girls of the same age. Every doctor knows how an early habit of obedience and prompt and quick acquiescence in established order makes all the difference between success and failure in treating many diseases in childhood; to instance only, diphtheria, rheumatic fever, or even many of the forms of digestive disturbance. No one who has not studied children from the point of view of the thoughtful general practitioner has any idea how often early moral training makes for health and survival. Doubtless this is not the only reason to account for the preponderance of women to-day, but it is certainly one which has more evidence to support it than the suggestion that the attempt to suppress male sex passion, which by our author's showing is entirely unsuccessful, has conducted, not, be it noted, to an increased ratio of female births, but to an increased fragility of male lives.

ETHEL M. N. WILLIAMS, M.D., D.Ph.
[We have pleasure in publishing Dr. Williams's deeply interesting criticism of the *English Review* articles. Like her, we believe that three of these are the work of one person—a man, and an anti-Suffragist.—Ed., C.C.]

DRESS ARTICLES IN THE "COMMON CAUSE."

MADAM.—Hardly any of your correspondents seem to realise that for a woman to be sensibly (and therefore beautifully) dressed makes for her real efficiency in life; while one who is unsuitably dressed supplies an argument to the anti-Suffragist. Why, says the critic, should she be entrusted with a vote, who cannot manage her own most immediate affairs? Yet in fact it is very often not her fault. A friend of mine, for instance, had recently to buy mourning. Like the vast majority of women, she could give neither much time nor much money to the business. She had to get her clothes ready-made, and she had to have them at once. She tried two or three shops, and—having no more time to spare—then gave up the pursuit of a sensible garment, and bought one in which she can never walk with any degree of comfort. No doubt there are, even now, skirts in London more than two feet round the knees, but she could not give up days and weeks to seeking them! If you, madam, could tell us where we could buy clothes which, without making us conspicuous, would so far modify the fashions as to allow freedom of limb and beauty of line instead of the constricted action and distorted lines we are most of us compelled to put up with at present, you would be doing a very real service to the Suffrage Cause. In time the demand, which already exists, for such clothes, would make itself more and more felt, and the shops and dressmakers would at last fall into line.

May I add that Mr. Boullen's very interesting letter seems to assume that a much greater prominence would be given to the articles on dress than, I imagine, would be the case. You do not mean, do you, to have one more than (say) once a month or so? And, after all, even the most severely masculine papers publish such articles almost daily, with (apparently) the single idea of teaching women how to make fools of themselves at great expense; whereas the COMMON CAUSE would aim instead at economy and efficiency. HOBBLE SKIRT.

MADAM.—The Worcester Society for the Extension of the Franchise to Women wish to express their disapproval of the suggestion of including articles dealing with feminine dress in the COMMON CAUSE. In the first place, such articles would stamp the paper as one catering, primarily if not wholly, for women, whereas the very name COMMON CAUSE points to the fact that the plea for the inclusion of women in the Parliamentary Franchise concerns men equally with women. Therefore it would surely be an error of judgment in any way to monopolise the paper for either sex.

Secondly, it would entirely alter the character of the paper; at present, as the official organ of the National Union, it is the medium for keeping readers in touch with the movements of the Union and its branches, and also for articles and discussion on all topics bearing on the Woman's Movement. By the introduction of the proposed articles the paper will be changed from one with a specified object to one of the numerous heterogeneous productions with which the market is already over-stocked.

A special effort has been made lately by many Societies to increase the circulation, and it seems extremely unwise to risk so great a change. In the name of the Worcester Society, we strongly urge you to abandon the scheme. SARAH H. MOORE EDE (President).
GEORGINA WILSON (Chairman).
M. M. WILLIAMS (Hon. Sec.).

HOME WORK IN L.C.C. SCHOOLS.

MADAM.—With reference to a letter in last week's issue of the COMMON CAUSE, in which it was stated that home work was compulsory in L.C.C. elementary schools, I think your correspondent is under a misapprehension.

I have been a teacher under that authority for some years, and although the educational policy of the L.C.C. may leave much to be desired, that particular crime cannot be laid to its charge.

Probably an over-zealous headmistress has endeavoured to make home work compulsory in her school, but the parents have every right to object. (Mrs.) ALICE M. DOWSE.

The ABC of Women's Suffrage.

"MINDING THE BABY."

[NOTE.—This page is perforated and can therefore be torn out and given away separately.]

There are still many people who enjoy telling Suffragists to "Go home and mind the baby!" They could not possibly have hit upon a less appropriate taunt, for every Suffragist worth her salt cares above all things for the welfare of babies, and

wants the vote for the sake of the baby more than for any other reason.

A great many people—both men and women—are occupying themselves seriously with the question of the great mortality of infants. It is indeed time that we should try and find out why it is that so many babies die, and whether many of these deaths could not be prevented; and this is mainly a women's question. When a baby dies we expect its mother or nurse to know the reason rather than its father; and if the cause be neglect or improper feeding, we blame the woman who was responsible for it. We are constantly told that our high rate of infant mortality is due to the

ignorance and carelessness of mothers!

and that they must be taught the importance of caring for their own healths, tending their babies themselves, and feeding them properly. We do not deny that many women are careless and many more are ignorant, but what of the

ignorance and carelessness of our legislators?

Are they ignorant or careless that many unborn children are fatally injured by the heavy weights which their mothers have carried? Year after year the women factory inspectors urge upon Parliament the need of forbidding women to carry more than a certain amount, and point out the grave harm which is done by young girls and expectant mothers carrying 50lb., 60lb., or 80lb.; yet nothing is done. The women dare not risk being thrown out of work by refusing to carry the weights, and no law is passed to protect them because this is one of the matters for which our rulers consider

any time will do.

No one disputes the fact that many more babies would live and thrive if they had always

plenty of good milk.

At every conference about health we are told that working-class mothers must be made to realise both the necessity of good milk and the dangers of infection from milk which has become tainted. But is it enough

to teach the mothers these things when many of them find it almost impossible to get milk at all, and quite impossible to ensure its being pure? Men seem to think so, for year after year the

Pure Milk Bill is dropped

to make time for the party Bills which voters consider more important. Women consider the Pure Milk Bill of the very first importance; so here again we

want the vote for the sake of the baby.

Then the kind of house in which a baby lives makes a great difference to its chance of health. Children cannot thrive in the sunless, airless, ill-drained dwellings into which too many are born. Men know this; but they do not care enough about it to lay aside their party differences and pass a really effectual Housing Bill; they prefer to try and improve the national health by the National Insurance Act, which leaves the children out altogether.

Suffragists believe that when women have votes reform will be begun at the right end, and we may get healthier homes for the baby to live in.

When the mother goes out to work the baby often suffers from neglect; yet if she stays at home it may suffer from insufficient food. She has to

choose between two evils.

Men talk glibly of the desirability of forbidding the employment of married women; but Suffragists think that the women themselves can best judge whether such a measure would help them; and would rather aim at raising women's wages and prevent that underselling of men's labour by women which often makes it impossible for the father to support the family alone. Women's votes would help the mother both to feed and tend the baby.

For the baby's sake, too, we want our laws amended so that the father of an illegitimate child may be more surely compelled to help to provide for it. Too often now he manages to evade his responsibilities and to throw the whole burden on the mother.

In these, and many other ways babies would benefit by wise laws, but we Suffragists doubt if such laws will ever be made without the pressure of our votes, and we are certain that they cannot be wisely made without the advice and help of those who are most truly

mindful of the baby

—namely Women.

THE NATIONAL UNION

Is the great Non-Party, Non-Militant, Women's Suffrage Society. If you approve of our methods and objects, please fill in the accompanying Form and send it to the Secretary.

I approve of the objects and methods of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and desire to be enrolled as a member of the affiliated Society in my district, and to receive their organ "The Common Cause."

I herewith enclose cheque postal order for £ s. d., the amount of my annual subscription. Plus 6s. 6d., one year's subscription to "The Common Cause."

Name _____

(Mrs., Miss, Esq., or other Title.)

Address _____

(In full.)

To the Secretary _____ Society for Women's Suffrage,

Or the Secretary, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

* Please cross out if not required

Some New Books.

A Handbook for Submissive Wives.

THE HEALTHY MARRIAGE: A MEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL GUIDE FOR WIVES. By G. T. Wrench, M.D., B.S. (Lond.). (J. & A. Churchill. pp. viii + 300.)

Dr. Wrench has a frank horror of the abstract. "A devotion to abstract things" is one of the subtler symptoms of the "abnormality" of the celibate (p. 10). "One can only hope," he writes, "that the subject of the physiological basis of life will eventually divert to itself the attention which at present, to my mind owing to a mistaken understanding of social life, is devoted to class politics, individual advertisement and aggrandisement, and culture and education divorced from the body, and other economical, abstract and impersonal questions" (p. 23). An odd Utopia! No more politics, no more ambition, no more learning, no more art: only for males the study of sexual physiology, for females needlework and housekeeping. Women who think present no ultimate difficulty: for Dr. Wrench will not let them breed. "I am of opinion," he says, "that a very advanced emancipated woman should not marry. I think her views and conduct are the offspring of a bodily constitution which is totally unfitted for marriage" (p. 29). His chapter on "Housekeeping, Hobbies, and Home Arts" enumerates all the indoor occupations suitable for wives. The list is amusing: needlework, cooking, household management, knitting and crochet work, and music. "Fortified by such occupations, and seeing about her the fruits of her labour, there can be no reason why a wife should be bored in her own home" (p. 135). "There is amongst many wives in these days a foolish scorn for the skill of the needle. It is a scorn of which I find it difficult to write with tolerance" (p. 133). Of books or reading from cover to cover there is never a hint. The only alternatives to needlework and the rest which Dr. Wrench can imagine are "such ephemeral employment of personality as backing her skill at bridge affords, or even some worse habit" (p. 135). Out-of-door sports of all sorts Dr. Wrench encourages.

The ideal wife should know something of sex, but not too much: and even that she should not learn till she is actually married, at least "if she is marrying a man of gentle feeling towards her": if the man's feelings are doubtful, "upon the eye of her wedding her mother may tell her such things as she thinks necessary" (p. 29). But once fairly married she can get plenty of advice from Dr. Wrench, much of it sound, but marred throughout by two ancient prejudices, which Dr. Wrench believes to be scientific truths. Wives should think exclusively of home and children, ignoring "such distant questions as the Irish and the right to vote" (p. 16): and wives should be ready at almost all times to satisfy their husband's physical desires. "It is better to be guided by the actual promptings of nature, and, as man is the active agent, to be guided chiefly by him" (p. 37). Except where miscarriage threatens, continence should be observed only "for the month preceding the birth of the child," whatever the wife's feelings. Always before her eyes Dr. Wrench dangles the bugbear of "the dangers" to man "of an enforced continence" (p. 13). No wonder he writes (p. 157): "Lastly, women are by nature credulous, an excellent provision, provided they do not fall into the hands of the unscrupulous."

A large part of the book is harmless small-talk about heating and ventilation, and there are nine or ten useful chapters on pregnancy and kindred matters.

D. S. R.

Books for Housewives.

FIRST AID TO THE SERVANTLESS. By Mrs. J. A. Fraser. (W. Heffer. Illustrated. pp. 154. 1s. net. Cloth, 2s. net.)

THE HOUSEWIVES' MANUAL OF DOMESTIC COOKERY, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COOKING BY GAS. Edited by Mrs. H. M. Young. (Simpkin, Marshall. Illustrated. pp. 434. 2s. net.)

THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE CHAFING-DISH RECIPES. Edited by Mrs. Charles Marshall. (Dean. pp. 178. 1s. net.)

THE EVERYDAY ECONOMICAL COOKERY BOOK. By A. T. K. (Stanley Paul. pp. 81. 1s. net.)

The "Servant Problem," together with the weather, golf, and the possibility of deriving financial profit from the keeping of fowls, is, or is supposed to be, one of the chief topics of conversation at female social gatherings, more particularly tea parties. Whether this is the case or not, it is obvious that, for various reasons, domestic service is not as popular as it once

was, or rather that those to whom, not long ago, domestic service was the one available means of earning a livelihood are now able to choose between two or three professions, and "service" does not appear to be a favourite. The reasons for this unpopularity are many, and cannot be inquired into here. Suffice it to say that if the office-stool, the factory, or the shop prove more attractive than the kitchen, pantry, and housemaid's cupboard, it may be that conditions of work in the latter forms of employment leave much to be desired. Certainly good servants nowadays are not always easy to find, and if people like Mrs. Fraser's Imogen really exist, a servantless house would be a boon if only by contrast. We are tempted to feel, however, that the lurid picture of Imogen on the cover, and the equally lurid description of her doings in the book are necessary in order that her absence should appear the height of bliss. Surely a Mrs. Smith capable of managing a house so perfectly without a servant might have trained Imogen to be at least fairly efficient. It is all largely a matter of training.

Nobody is expected to be able to make an oven or a kettle without being taught how to do it, nor should anyone be expected to know how to use these things by the light of nature. The really great cook is doubtless an artist, but as every painter cannot be a Velasquez, so every cook cannot be a Francatelli, and the sensible housewife will accommodate herself to something within her means, and will concentrate on having such materials as she buys really good of their kind, and on having them cooked so that they are really eatable. One of the greatest difficulties confronting her is the securing of variety. Mutton and beef follow each other with a sickening regularity, only equalled by the changeless rotation of stewed fruit and steamed pudding. Good cookery books give valuable help in attaining variety as well as in furnishing recipes, and the cheapness with which they are produced nowadays brings them within reach of a large section of home-makers.

"THE EVERYDAY ECONOMICAL COOKERY BOOK" is an excellent example of the book which aims at giving good recipes requiring neither out-of-the-way materials nor very advanced skill. It is, of course, the very plainest things that are often the greatest test of a cook, but such recipes as that for the cooking of Brussels sprouts (p. 7) and roast chicken (p. 51) could be followed by an inexperienced cook, and result in something far different from the all too frequent dry and tasteless chicken accompanied by watery and tasteless sprouts.

"THE HOUSEWIFE'S MANUAL" is intended for more experienced cooks with more time and more expensive materials at their command, and for such it can be confidently recommended. It is very complete, and has many useful illustrations, while the various introductory articles and remarks on gas and cooking ranges are excellent. Apart from the excellent results that can be obtained from gas-cooking ranges their value, especially in summer, will be obvious to that increasingly large number of housewives who take into consideration the health and comfort of their servants. Heating of water is a difficulty, of course, but the excellent advice of Mrs. Fraser might well be taken in this case.

To the considerate mistress again, "THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE CHAFING-DISH RECIPES" will be particularly welcome. Where the "staff of servants" is limited to one or two, and their Sunday rest is respected, a delectable dish can often be prepared with a chafing-dish, and Mrs. Charles Marshall's little book, thus mitigating the dreariness of cold Sunday supper.

M. G. C. J.

A Suffrage Play.

THE BETTER HALF: A PLAY IN FOUR ACTS. By Alison Garland, *Liverpool Daily Post*. (1s. net.)

Suffrage plays are not easy to write, and Miss Garland is to be congratulated on her attempt. There is a seriousness behind the clever caricaturing and parodying of the play which must be very effective when it is acted, and the complete absence of bitterness adds to this effect. It is to be hoped that Suffragist amateurs will follow the example of the Actresses' Franchise League, and give more people an opportunity of seeing Miss Garland's work produced.

M. G. C. J.

Books Received.

THE STRICTLY TRAINED MOTHER. By F. F. Montrésor. (J. Murray. pp. 228. 3s. 6d.)

MISS NOBODY. By Ethel Carnie. (Methuen. pp. 300. 6s.)

ESSAYS IN REBELLION. By H. W. Nevinson. (Nisbet. pp. 241. 6s. net.)

THE RED ROOM. By August Strindberg. Translated by Ellie Schlessner. (Howard Latimer. pp. 328. 6s.)

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

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.

Office: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

"Common Cause" Competition.

We are pleased to be able to announce the names of the winning Societies in THE COMMON CAUSE Competition.

The Prize has been awarded to that Society in each division found to have obtained the largest number of Annual Subscribers in proportion to the membership of that Society at the time of entering for the Competition.

Class A. Prize £20.

Open to those Societies having 500 or over 500 members. The BIRMINGHAM Society, with a percentage of 47.4.

Class B. Prize £10.

Open to those Societies having 100 or over 100 and under 500 members. The BRADFORD Society, with a percentage of 60.3.

Class C. Prize £5.

Open to those Societies having less than 100 members. The AVR AND TROON Society, with a percentage of 58.3.

Note.—We much regret that we were unable to award a prize to a Society which sent up excellent results, but which had not conformed to the rules laid down at the commencement of the Competition.

In the course of a week or two we shall have a short article in THE COMMON CAUSE dealing more fully with the Competition, and the way it has been carried out by the various competing Societies, after which these Societies will have their "promises" returned to them.

Hyde Park Meeting.

Unlike the two previous Sundays, last Sunday, Sept. 7th, was a glorious day, and many people found their way to Hyde Park to enjoy it. They also seemed to enjoy the National Union Suffrage Meeting, for they gathered round the lorry between 800 and 900 strong. As usual, the majority of the audience consisted of middle class men and women, who listened attentively to Mrs. Swanwick, M.A. (Chair), Mrs. Whalley, and Mr. F. J. Shaw. Some questions were asked at the close of the meeting, and there appeared to be no dissentients. Eighty-seven Friends of Women's Suffrage cards were signed.

Next Sunday, Sept. 14th, the meeting will be held at 3.45 p.m., at the same place, i.e., close to the Reformers' Tree, and the Speakers will be:—Councillor Margaret Ashton (in the Chair), Mrs. Stanbury, and Mrs. Whalley.

"The Englishwoman" Gratis.

The Secretary of one of the N.U. Societies writes that her Society takes in two copies of the *Englishwoman*, and that she will be very glad to pass on her spare copy, one month late, to a small country Society. Any Branch wishing to take advantage of this generous offer should write at once to headquarters. The *Englishwoman* is a very interesting magazine, containing articles on industrial questions, Woman Suffrage, problems of the day, reviews, and subjects of general interest.

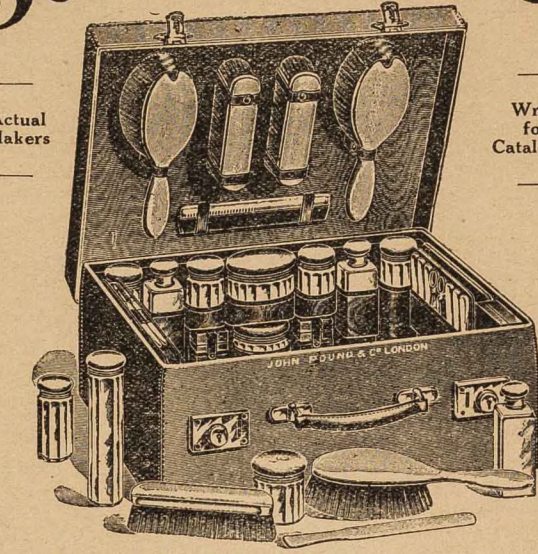
Contributions to the General Fund.

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The Burberry.

Table of names and amounts for the Common Cause fund, including Mrs. G. A. Burt, Mrs. Whitworth, Miss A. Bauman, etc.

Table of Donations, including Anonymous, Mrs. Renold, Per Mrs. Cowmeadow, etc.

Table of Affiliation Fees, including Burnley W.S.S., Scalby W.S.S., North Walsham and District W.S.S., etc.

Special Offerings.

Large table of Special Offerings for Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage, listing names and amounts.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Advertisement for ANDERSONS' NEW PRODUCTION LADIES' WATERPROOF HATS, featuring an illustration of a hat and text describing the product.

Advertisement for The "INVERNESS" THE QUEEN OF SPORTS COATS, AS SUPPLIED TO ROYALTY, featuring text about the quality and price of the coats.

Advertisement for DARN NO MORE STOCKINGS & SOCKS THAT DON'T WANT MENDING, featuring an illustration of a hand holding a sock and text about the product's durability.

Advertisement for VAUGHAN & HEATHER, LTD., featuring an illustration of a woman in a hat and text about their products and services.

Advertisement for MISS L. B. EVETTS, R.H.S., and MISS F. H. GARLICK, R.H.S., featuring text about their horticultural services and garden care.

Table of names and amounts for the Common Cause fund, including Miss Sherman, Mr. C. Salaman, Miss MacLeod, etc.

JUST PUBLISHED. Prospectus Post Free. A great work on a vital subject, by a Pioneer of the Motherhood Movement.

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By ELIZABETH SLOAN CHESSEY, M.B. With an Introduction by LADY BETTY BALFOUR.

The nineteenth century produced much legislation in the interests of the child; in the twentieth, the attention of social reformers is being directed towards the mother.

"A remarkable book... The book should be read by everyone interested in the great question of the future of humanity."

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Advertisement for DOWIE & MARSHALL Shoe Makers, featuring an illustration of a shoe and text about their special department for ladies and children.

Advertisement for A WONDERFUL LABOUR-SAVING APPLIANCE, featuring text about a vacuum cleaner and its benefits.

Advertisement for SECRETARIES PLEASE NOTE!, featuring text about W. G. SMITH's soap and laundry services.

Advertisement for Typewriting and Shorthand, featuring an illustration of a typewriter and text about the services offered.

Advertisement for Volume IV. of THE COMMON CAUSE NOW READY, featuring text about the book's availability and price.

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News from the Societies and Federations.

Eastern Counties.

CAMBRIDGE—To prepare for further work in North Cambs. (represented by the Hon. Nell Primrose, M.P., a Liberal Anti-Suffragist) outdoor meetings were held at Wisbech on August 25th and at Chatteris on August 30th. On each of these occasions Mrs. Kellett, M.A., Hon. Secretary of the Eastern Counties Federation, and Mrs. Hettland, President of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association, spoke, and had the assistance in the enrolment of "Friends," sale of COMMON CAUSES, &c., of Miss N. M. Gray, Hon. Secretary of the West Cambs. Women's Suffrage Society, and Miss Flora Merry, of Chatteris. The meeting at Chatteris was particularly well attended, and Miss Gautrey, an active worker for social reform in the district, took the chair, and made an admirable speech. So heartily did the meeting support the speakers, that at question time a man in the crowd inquired, "Can anyone tell me why women who pay rates and taxes should not have the vote? Nobody could," Mrs. Studard, Hon. Secretary of the Huddersfield Women's Suffrage Society, and a native of Chatteris, then moved a resolution calling on the Government to bring in a Bill to give the Parliamentary vote to women. The resolution, which was seconded by Mrs. Hettland, was carried nem. con. Mrs. Kellett spoke exceedingly well, and both caught and kept the attention of her hearers, among whom were many working men.

Kentish.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS—There is little to record since the end of the Pilgrimage, in which a contingent joined, on July 26th, at Trafalgar Square, and attended services on Sunday, July 27th, at St. Paul's. Our co-Hon. Secretary, Miss Moseley, was one of a party shown over the House of Commons on July 28th, and was present, through the kind instrumentality of Mrs. Hinscliff, at the London Flying Ground. The sale of THE COMMON CAUSE has undoubtedly increased since the Pilgrimage. August is always a quiet month with us, though the shop remains open. It is proposed to start a branch of the Church League here, and to hold a meeting on September 2nd. Our next Committee will be held on September 29th, the last Monday in the month. Future arrangements under discussion include a White Elephant Sale, in October, and a dramatic performance to be organised by Mrs. Adeney.

Bournemouth.

On August 12th Mr. and Mrs. Lyon gave a garden party at Brankesome Park to fifty non-suffragists, when the question of Woman's Suffrage was discussed. Miss Violet Markham spoke most effectively, also Mr. Lyon, who was Chairman. Guests spoke for and against the franchise, but at the close, a unanimous vote in favour of woman's franchise was carried.

On September 1st Councillor Mrs. Nethercoat entertained the Winton Sisterhood to tea at a "Suffrage afternoon." Mrs. James was in the chair, and the speakers were the Rev. James, Miss Kemp Turner, and Mrs. Lobley, who also gave a splendid recitation.

Scottish.

The month of August, though generally supposed to be one of holiday, has been well filled with good work achieved and good work planned out. Of the former, one has only to mention the St. Andrews Summer School to prove how true is the description, for surely better work than that could not be achieved. The attendance more than fulfilled the highest hopes of the Federation; the good fellowship and kindly working together of the assembled members were as evident, and satisfactory as the suffrage enthusiasm of lecturers and students, the organised plan of work was carried out by the workers with zeal and spirit, and the fitting accompaniment of the zeal and spirit that inspired the organiser; lastly, the weather was as perfect as the place. It cannot be but that the experience gained in practical suffrage propaganda by members gathered from widely separated districts of England, Scotland, and Wales, must, in the spreading, carry the gospel of our Cause over the whole country. Of the work planned a glance at forthcoming meetings gives some small idea of that immediately ahead, in which Lady Frances Balfour is making a tour of the northern societies with Mrs. Hunter, of Inverness, thus joining in work as well as name the Northern with the Scottish Federation, to prove the value of united strength. Towards the end of the month the Federation is looking forward to a visit from Mrs. Fawcett, and the Border Societies have the promise of Lady Betty Balfour and Miss Lumsden, LL.D., as speakers for meetings arranged. August undoubtedly shed sunshine on work as well as play, and promises a happy harvest for the workers.

EDINBURGH—Two very satisfactory meetings were held on Sunday afternoons, August 3rd and 10th, by Miss Pressley Smith; the one at Leith links, the other at Saughton Park. These were arranged by the local I.L.P., and were attended by large audiences. On the 13th the I.L.P. arranged a meeting at Newtongrange, where an interested audience, chiefly Labour men, assembled; and on the 15th an open-air meeting attracted a large crowd to Leith Links to hear the address by Miss Pressley Smith. Miss Gilchrist was in the chair on that occasion. At all these meetings THE COMMON CAUSE was well sold, and though most of the regular street sellers are out of town, volunteers have done excellent work, the sales of the month being 650. The best of the Pilgrimage has been seen in Princes Street, numerous congratulations on its success being received by the sellers of THE COMMON CAUSE; several passers-by remarked: "So there really is a non-militant movement."

GLENFARG—By the invitation of Mrs. Kirkland a very successful Cake and Candy Sale was held at Fordel, August 14th, when £18 was realised. A delightful afternoon's entertainment was enjoyed, the

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Items of Interest.

principal features being the sketches given by Miss Ruth Parrott (London), and others, and an address from Miss Chrystal Macmillan on the "Principles and Aims of the W.S. Movement."

Organiser's Report.

BRORA.—Miss Bury's work in July resulted in the affiliation of the Brora Society to the National Union, with a membership of thirty. A public meeting was held, at which Mr. Hugh Ross took the chair. In spite of the attempts of some disorderly youths to interrupt—a threat of which had been rumoured previously—the address was followed with interest by a fairly good attendance of people sympathetic to the Cause.

HELMSDALE.—A meeting was held in the J.F. Church Hall, the Rev. D. Munro presiding. A most interesting account of the Suffrage Movement in several countries was given by Mr. George Bruce, who is home from New Zealand and Australia. He pointed out what women have done with the vote and their influence on legislation. The audience passed unanimously a resolution demanding a Government measure, some of the men volunteering to withdraw their votes from the Member of Parliament if his support were refused.

Forthcoming Meetings.

London.

SEPTEMBER 15. West Southwark—Borough Road Baptist Chapel—Women's Meeting—Speaker, Miss M. Martineau 3.0

SEPTEMBER 16. Deptford—Meeting of National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks—Speaker, Miss Helen Ward 9.45

Provinces.

SEPTEMBER 12. Birmingham—Tea Cope—Hall—Speakers, The Rev. F. Wicksteed, Dr. M. Stopes, Professor Turner, and other members of the British Association 8.0

SEPTEMBER 13. Bristol—W. of England Federation Committee, 40, Park Street

SEPTEMBER 14. Bradford—Shipley Glen—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Annot Robinson 3.0
Birmingham—Cattell Road Brotherhood—Mrs. Ring 9.0

SEPTEMBER 15. Reading—St. Mary's Butts—Open-air meetings September 15th-20th inclusive—Speakers, Mrs. Cowmeadow, Miss V. Eustace, Miss Hilda Jones, Miss Margaret Jones, Mr. Broadley, Mr. Spir, Mr. Goss 7.0

SEPTEMBER 16. Blacknock—Chair, Miss Siddon—Hostess and Speaker, Mrs. Josiah Lockwood

SEPTEMBER 17. Burgess Hill—Tea Cope—Garden Meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Carey)—Speakers, Mrs. Robie Unlücke, Miss Chute Ellis—Chair, Mr. T. A. Meantys, J.P. 3.0
Milford-on-Sea—Drawing-room meeting

SEPTEMBER 18. Wallasey and Wirrall—Mrs. Paxton's Drawing-room—Tea Cope—Speakers, Mrs. Raffles Bull—Chair, Miss E. F. McPherson 3.30
Bristol—The Chissels Co-op. Hall—Miss Clough 3.0

Scotland.

SEPTEMBER 12. Inverness—At Home—Speaker, The Lady Frances Balfour 3.0

SEPTEMBER 15. Peebles—Garden Party—Speaker, Miss Lumsden, LL.D. 3.0

SEPTEMBER 15. Thurso—Town Hall—Public Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Fraser 8.0
Kirkwall—Public Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Hunter and Miss Bury 8.0

SEPTEMBER 16. Wick—Public Meeting—Chair, The Provost—Speakers, Mrs. Hunter and Miss Bury 8.0
Alyth—Y.M.C.A. Hall—Public Meeting—Speaker, Miss Lisa M. Gordon—Chair, Provost Sandlands

SEPTEMBER 17. Brora—Drill Hall—Social evening—Mrs. Hunter and Mrs. Fraser 8.0

SEPTEMBER 18. Lairg—Open-air Meeting—Chair, The Rev. F. Graham—Speakers, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Fraser 4.0
Brora—Open-air Meeting 4.0
Bonor Bridge—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Fraser 7.0

SEPTEMBER 19. Ainess—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Fraser 8.0
Portmahonack—Open-air Meeting—Chair, The Rev. Fraser—Speakers, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Fraser 7.0

SEPTEMBER 20. Cromarty—Open-air Meeting—Chair, Provost Ross—Speakers, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Fraser 6.30

Chapter 4

Washing Wears Away Clothes

faster than ordinary use.

That is, washing in the old way—rubbing and scrubbing.

Try this plan—rub the clothes with Fels-Naptha and then let them soak for half an hour in cold or lukewarm water. In that half-hour the Fels-Naptha will loosen the dirt more than all your scrubbing. Then rinse in cold water with just a little rub to get out the loosened dirt.

That doesn't wear away the clothes, does it?

But it makes them whiter and sweeter than the old way.

Fels-Naptha 39 Wilson street London E C

Prospects of Employment in Canada.
According to the Board of Trade Labour Gazette, there is not much demand for trained nurses, governesses, lady-helps, typists, factory girls, and of school-teachers in the Western Provinces of Canada—that is to say, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. Female servants, however, are still greatly in request. This opinion is supported by that of the Secretary of the Colonial Intelligence League. May there, not, however, be an opening for enterprising women with business training and a little prising women who succeed in many branches of commerce here—particularly in catering and in various trades connected with clothing—and it is at least worth considering whether there might not be still better openings in our Oversea Dominions. First-hand information on this point would be very interesting.

Park Tents for Children.
A correspondent in the *Manchester Guardian* makes the excellent suggestion that tents for children should be provided in public parks, so that children might enjoy a day in the open and have a place of refuge in case of rain or if they wished to rest. There are, she points out, many voluntary workers who would willingly take charge of such tents; and a place where food could be warmed and a bottle washed out would be a great boon to busy mothers anxious to obtain as much fresh air as possible for their little ones. It might, also, be possible to provide milk and biscuits at a small cost, for many children in our great cities come from long distances to play in our open spaces, and get faint with hunger before they return home. Women park-keepers are also necessary in the interests of children and young girls; as many of our parks and public gardens are frequented by very undesirable characters.

The Lyceum Club.
On November 10th a "National Education" dinner is being organised by the members of the Public Service Board of the Lyceum Club. Miss Winifred Stephens will preside, and the guests will include The Rt. Hon. Francis Acland, The Hon. Maude Lawrence, Dr. and Mrs. Kimmins, and Miss Wallas.

Suffragists and Public Work.
A correspondent informs us that when she was carrying out last week some organisation work in Battersea in the cause of social reform, she was met in many instances with the exclamation, "Well, if you want to make a success of any such work in this district you had better see Miss X and Mrs. Y. They are both keen Suffragists, but that sort of person is always interested in public welfare, and generally helps things along."

"The Right to Vote" in France.
Le Motin has recently been making inquiry amongst various classes of women as to whether they would vote if they had the right. Some of the answers throw much light on the views of typical women workers in France. A governess sagely remarks that the right to vote would be heartily welcomed by women of her own status, since the right of casting a vote would give far greater aid in a case of political injustice than any right acquired by the results of work in the profession. An old flower-woman expressed her opinion that the women would not do worse at the polls than the men, and that there were plenty of women in her rank of life who had "heads for that sort of thing." The reply of a lady's-maid is, perhaps, the most reassuring of all: "If we had the right," she remarks, "I would go and vote, and I would do my best for the welfare of our country."

News from Other Societies.

Actresses' Franchise League.
Owing to an engagement in America with Sir Johnston Forbes Robertson, Miss Bourne has been obliged to resign the Hon. Secretaryship of the Actresses' Franchise League. A letter has been addressed to her by the Executive of the League expressing gratitude "for the immense amount of self-sacrificing work done for the League and through the League for the cause of all women."

Church League for W.S.
The Dublin Branch of the Church League for Women's Suffrage are circulating the following petition:—
"We, the undersigned Suffragists, and those in sympathy with the Cause, of the Church of Ireland, earnestly beg you to hold a service in St. Patrick's Cathedral on a date to be submitted hereafter, to pray for God's blessing and Direction on our Movement. We hope any of our Members or others who wish to help, who have not yet received a copy, will write to the Secretary for one. It is most important that a great concentrated effort should now be made by all Church of Ireland Suffragists to show how intensely in

earnest we are that a service should be held for the Cause. This has been done at St. Paul's, Newcastle Cathedral, Manchester Cathedral, and very many other churches in England. Thus we could help our clergy to realise how much we want them to help us in this great social movement."
Attention is also called to the pamphlet, "The Clergy and Politics," by the Rev. F. M. Green, B.D. (price 1d.), obtainable from Miss M. L. I. Stack, 1, Prince Arthur Terrace, Rathmines, Dublin.

Women's Tax Resistance League.
In announcing a second edition of "John Hampden," by Mrs. Darent Harrison, published by the Women's Tax Resistance League (price 1d.), it is pointed out that in the days of the resistance to the Ship Money it was not only men who rebelled, but the women also refused to submit to unjust laws. Among the twenty or thirty people who signed the protest against Ship Money four were women. Women also presented petitions for peace at Westminster Hall.

The Suffrage Atelier.
An exhibition of banners and needlework, appliqué ribbon work, Venetian and file lace was held on Saturday at the Westminster Tea Shop, 17, Tottil Street. Among many excellent exhibits, specially noticeable were a large banner designed by Miss Ethel Cohen, which is being worked by Mrs. Herbert Cohen for the Jewish League; a banner bearing a figure of St. Alban by Mrs. Ambrose Gosling; two pictures in appliqué by Mrs. Watson, and a reproduction of Leighton's "Flaming June," by Miss Mildred Statham, executed in appliqué. Also two striking banners, designed by Mr. Lawrence Housman and worked by Miss Clemence Housman, one of which will be on view at the office of the Suffrage Atelier, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi.

W.S.P.U.
Mrs. Pankhurst is at present recruiting; when sufficiently recovered in health she proposes to visit the United States on a lecturing tour. There seems to be some doubt as to whether she will be allowed to land.

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