

The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Societies.

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Notes and Comments.

The Solid Phalanx.

Constitutional suffragists have during the last few weeks endured a bitter disappointment, and are now faced by the prospect of another prolonged period of hope deferred. It becomes interesting to observe in what spirit this large body of confederated women takes the blow. From the leaders have come statements, calmly and reasonably set forth, of their opinion that the Prime Minister's broken pledges cannot be fulfilled by the promise of facilities for any private Member's Bill. There has been no time wasted either in accusing Mr. Asquith of deliberate treachery or in acquitting him of all blame. It is not for suffragists to decide what is in the minds of Ministers. The facts are the matter with which they have to deal. And the rank and file of the National Union's army have replied not by words, but by a quiet and steady redoubling of energy in all their usual business of propaganda.

Undismayed.

This paper contains each week a list of forthcoming meetings, which includes not indeed all the meetings arranged by societies belonging to the Union, but all of which notice reaches the office in time for insertion. On January 31st the number announced in our special column was 37; on February 7th it rose to 77; on the 14th it was 64. Meetings, of course, do not represent all nor nearly all the work done by the societies. There are always canvasses being made, memorials prepared, deputations arranged, and dull office drudgery being carried on. A full, detailed report of all that is done in London, in the large towns and in the country, would fill as many pages every week as two numbers of THE COMMON CAUSE. Moreover—and this is perhaps even more remarkable than the steady continuity of work—among the great number of communications received every week not one word of complaint, not one hint of depression has reached us. The universal attitude has been one of dogged courage. The members have neither shrieked nor wept; they have quietly begun to work harder than ever, and have put their hands in their pockets for an additional donation.

The Speaker's Rulings.

The Speaker seems to have decided that he can continue indefinitely his practice of ruling a bill "out of order" at the

last hour, judging by his reply to Mr. Healy's challenge on an amending bill to the Insurance Act. According to Mr. Ure, this cannot be helped, as the Government "has no access" to the Speaker, and therefore cannot know what his ruling will be. It is difficult to find language strong enough to condemn a procedure so entirely imbecile. We are perpetually assured that the House of Commons "has no time" for important questions, that it is overburdened already, and that if it is pressed further, "the whole machine will break down." Yet it must be allowed to waste valuable time in debate which cannot possibly have any fruitful result, because the Speaker is going to rule it out of order! Quite apart from the way in which this procedure has been used as a weapon against Women's Suffrage, it is one which must result in utter contempt for those who permit the urgent business of the nation to be so preposterously mis-handled.

Mr. Arnold Ward's Bill.

Although any Bill introduced by so pronounced an anti-Suffragist as Mr. Arnold Ward would naturally excite suspicion, the measure read for the first time last week is one which no genuine advocate of Women's Suffrage can well oppose. It would remove one of the serious inequalities of the local government franchise by admitting as electors all married women who reside on the same premises as their husbands, whereas, at present, it is generally held that a married woman can be qualified only in respect of premises other than those which afford a qualification to her husband. It can hardly be doubted that the addition of the many wives now excluded would raise the level of the municipal electorate, and bring into its ranks a large group of people possessing knowledge, leisure and zeal for good works. Mr. Ward, of course, hopes that the reform which he is advocating may make the municipal register into a suitable basis for a referendum to women on the question of Women's Suffrage, from which the opinion of what he calls "the sex" could be ascertained. That this question should be dealt with by a method never yet applied in this country to any other would be a manifest injustice; but that circumstance alone might not suffice as a safeguard. The fact, however, that the precedent of a referendum might easily become a very uncomfortable one for either of the two great political parties is likely to prevent the leaders of either from creating it.

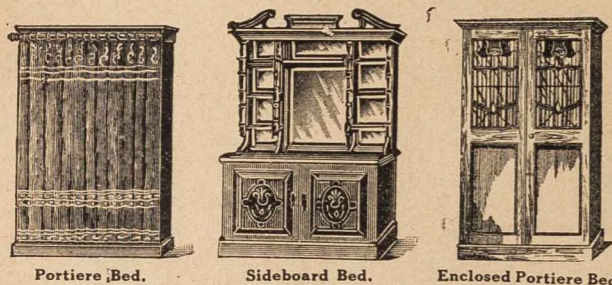
Indian Women and the National Congress.

The Indian National Congress, meeting at Bankapur, listened to an interesting Presidential address from Mr. Mudholkar. As usual, women will feel their need of representation, not so much by what is said as by what is left unsaid. The President dealt with those questions which, in the opinion of the Nationalist party, press for solution—problems of government and of education, of the position of Indians in British colonies, and of the administration of the law. Of the position of women in India itself, not a word, till—at the very close of the speech—there came a passing reference to the "women in the seclusion of the Purdah." Yet there are many of us to whom the sufferings of our sisters in the East would be a sufficient motive for the political agitation we are all so weary of, even if there were no other. If all our grievances were removed—or *could* be, while we are not free—there would remain upon our consciences the bitter knowledge that other women, our fellow subjects, are not

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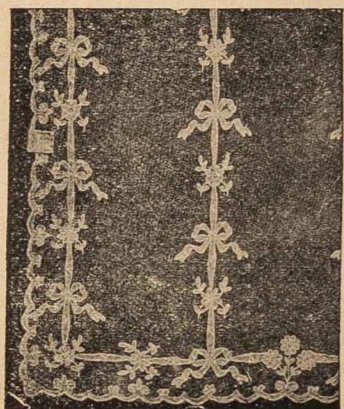
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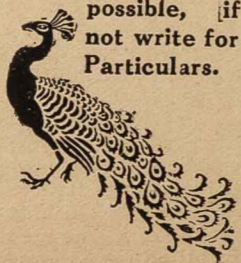
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**PUBLIC MEETING,
Kensington Town Hall,
FRIDAY, MARCH 7th, 8.30 p.m.,
To Announce the Policy of the Union.**

Chair - - Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
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CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT THE LATEST TIME for receiving news, notices and reports for the week's issue is THE FIRST POST ON TUESDAY. News should be sent in as long beforehand as possible.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS to be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

ADVERTISEMENTS (Societies, Miscellaneous, etc.) must reach the Office (2, Robert Street) not later than first post on Tuesday.

ADVERTISEMENTS (Trade), S. R. Le Mare, Advertisement Agent, 21, Paternoster Square, London, E.C.

NOTICE.—This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, communication should be made to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

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.

Achievements of 1912-1913.

A quite astonishing amount of advice is being offered to suffragists. From Mr. F. E. Smith upwards, there is apparently no one who cannot contribute some counsel however unexpected, or some project however fantastic. We are being conjured or commanded by every section of public opinion to adopt this, that, or the other policy, on pain of being held ungrateful, or reactionary, or stupid. It is worth while, amid all this uproar, for National Unionists to consider how far their own line of action has already been successful.

The Session is ending, and we are not yet enfranchised. True, but our demand for it has overshadowed every other question; has bulked larger in the public eye than Welsh Disestablishment or Home Rule; has wrecked a Government measure of first-class importance; and has imperilled the existence of the Government itself. This is admitted on all hands, and is by itself a great gain. But valuable as are the sympathy and support which are everywhere rallying to our movement, they are perhaps less important than the actual dangers it has escaped owing to the line taken by the National Union and the large majority of suffragists all over the country.

This danger lay in the passing of a Franchise Bill with women still excluded, and it is a danger of which the importance can hardly be over-estimated. For it is exceedingly difficult to get a question on which some considerable measure of reform has been passed reopened immediately; indeed, it is almost impossible. History reminds us that long gaps of time have separated all Franchise Reform Bills—1832, 1867, 1884, 1913, the steps of progress go. After every measure a long pause, before reluctant statesmanship has once more taken up the task of reform. "Enough for the present!" has been the cry: "Now let us turn to something else." And the threatened Bill of 1913 was peculiarly dangerous to women, because for men it would have been final. Practically all men would have had a vote. The basis of the franchise would have been simple, logical, and straightforward. The whole business of voting (for men) would have been straightened out, tidied up, and finished. It would have been a Herculean task to force the reluctant mind of the politician to turn his attention to the franchise question once more, and hammer out some kind of principle on which to enfranchise women.

To prevent this, therefore, was of quite incalculable importance to Suffragists. It has been prevented. It is only statesmanlike to consider how and why; and it becomes obvious at once that this victory (for in truth it is a victory) has been due to the line taken by those Suffragists who accepted

so fortunate, and such knowledge leaves no room for rest. It seems, indeed, one of the strangest of all Anti-Suffrage delusions that the wide responsibilities of Empire make Women's Suffrage impossible. If we had no other responsibilities we should be compelled to ask for the vote in order to fulfil those.

The Bureau of Social Hygiene.

A valuable experiment is being made in America by Mr. J. D. Rockefeller, jun., as a result of his service on the Special Grand Jury appointed in New York early in 1910, to investigate the White Slave Traffic. Coming to the conclusion that "the extent and horror of the evil" made it "the greatest single menace to the perpetuation of the human race," he has decided to establish a Bureau of Social Hygiene, whose business it will be to collect and classify information on this subject throughout America. The information will be published from time to time, and "diagnosis must come before treatment." Mr. Rockefeller believes that "less than 25 per cent. of the prostitutes in this country would have fallen if they had had an equally good chance to lead a pure life." He adds—"Prostitution, as now conducted in this country and in Europe, is very largely a man's business; the women are merely tools in the hands of the stronger sex. It is a business run for profit, and the profit is large." Suffragists will be glad to know that one of the four or five members of the Bureau is a woman—Miss Katherine Davis, Superintendent of the New York Reformatory for Women.

Social Hygiene in Great Britain.

We welcome the news of this scientific method of approaching a great and terrible problem, the more because the tendency in this country seems to be to treat it in an increasingly sensational and unprofitable way. Horrified at the revelations which were made in connection with the White Slave Traffic Act, many people seem willing to read anything and believe anything provided only it is sufficiently horrible. There is a real danger that this feverish excitement—which is not one whit too strong for the facts—may be used to promote the most undesirable kind of so-called "reform." Supporters of "State regulation" still exist, and some of them appear to think the present is the time to urge their views on an excited, and for the most part very ignorant, public. Comparatively few people know the bare facts even of Mrs. Butler's crusade, or the experience of European countries, in connection with police regulation. The subject, unfortunately, lends itself to vulgar and sensational handling, and those who interest themselves in it cannot be too strongly urged to disregard the theories of such writers, and apply themselves in all earnestness to more scientific authorities.

Women and Hotels.

The *Manchester Guardian*, of February 18th, contains a letter from Miss Margaret Ashton, which tells an instructive story. On Wednesday, February 12th, Miss Ashton, returning from an evening engagement in Crewe, was detained by fog on the journey, and did not reach Manchester until 1.30. Her home at Withington is four miles out. There were at that hour no trams, nor cabs that would—or, indeed, she says, could—take her so far. She went to a hotel, following two men to its door; one of the men was admitted, the other went away; Miss Ashton rang and asked for a room. She was "rather roughly denied" by a night porter, who said the house was full. Miss Ashton pressed her point, saying that she could not get to Withington. He replied more rudely, and she was turned away; but a minute later returned to ask leave that she might telephone to her maids not to sit up. This she received a grudging permission to do, and then "was adrift in the fog in the street." Knowing her way well, even in the fog, Miss Ashton, at about two in the morning, walked four miles to Withington. She adds that in a blizzard in London she once met with the same treatment at two hotels, although, in that case, too, a man was admitted, and concludes that "it is, I am afraid, the custom to refuse women after midnight." How if Miss Ashton had been a stranger to Manchester, or a delicate person, physically incapable of walking four miles at the end of so prolonged a day? Why, as she most properly asks, "should even an undesirable be refused on a night that was not fit for a dog to be turned out?" . . . What can be done to protect women from such improper treatment and the risk it entails? We can only advise any woman who finds herself in such a predicament to seek the nearest police station. Many a young woman has been housed by a policeman's wife—including one who had been performing in a pageant and had missed, not only her friends, but her modern

the pledges of the Prime Minister in good faith and worked for their fulfilment. This work alone made it absolutely impossible for Mr. Asquith to proceed with his Bill when the Speaker ruled us out. Had we thrown back his pledges in his face and refused to believe them honourably meant we should have had the Manhood Suffrage Bill passed over our heads, and no one would have had a word to say on our behalf. It would have been argued, and justly, "You refused the offer; you preferred to stand out; now you can stand out and you have nothing to complain of."

But as it was we had made the thing impossible. The House of Commons—even the public at large—is sufficiently cynical about political pledges, and especially about pledges given to women. But the most cynical must draw the line somewhere; and though the House permitted Mr. Asquith to offer us a counterfeit coin to redeem his debt, it did draw the line at letting him proceed with his own business meanwhile. With public knowledge of all our work and sacrifices, made on the strength of an unredeemed pledge, the Prime Minister himself found it impossible to go on with his Bill, and the question of electoral reform is open still.

So much for the past. The future is no less assured. Not only has a Franchise Bill not passed without the women, but now we know it never can. All who are excluded from the franchise now; all who desire to see the question re-opened; all who are exasperated or injured by the lack of logic, the obscurity and the absurdity of our franchise laws, must realise that the question cannot be raised without raising the question of Women's Suffrage, or settled without some women being included. This is due to the firm line taken by the Labour Party.

Interpreting their mandate for Adult Suffrage in its true sense—not as Manhood Suffrage only—the delegates to the Labour Conference definitely refused to take any step which should set such a measure hopelessly far away. For Labour has realised, as suffragists have realised, that to accept a Manhood Suffrage Bill would not be to leave the women where they were, but to put a tremendous obstacle in their path, and to defer their enfranchisement for years. They have refused to take part in so gross an injustice, and while desiring Manhood Suffrage, have declined to win it at the women's expense.

It is no reflection on the public spirit and determination of the Labour Party to say that something at least of the enthusiasm shown at the Conference for Mr. Snowden's amendment was due to the work done in connection with the recent development of the National Union's policy. Between great movements with different aims and different policies, with much that is not held in common as well as much that is, it is not always easy to establish a good understanding. The work of each has been done in different fields, in different ways; their supporters are different people; their views and actions are perpetually distorted and misrepresented in the Press. Suffragists especially have suffered from this kind of calumny, and attempts have been made in many quarters—not wholly without success—to represent them as a body of rich and idle women who only want the vote for themselves, to increase their own importance.

The unwisdom of some suffragists towards the Labour Party itself increased the difficulties of understanding, for it was as hard for Labour Members as for National Unionists to understand why they should be called upon to break every pledge they had made to their constituents, even in so good a cause as Women's Suffrage. Nothing but harm could come of such recklessness. Yet, in spite of all, the carrying of Mr. Snowden's amendment by the Conference was marked by a scene of enthusiasm which made it memorable, and must have surprised even those who hoped for most. Such enthusiasm must have carried unwelcome conviction to those of our opponents who hoped to see the understanding between Women and Labour wrecked by an unfavourable vote. And this conviction has been due to work done on both sides; by Mr. Henderson and Mr. Snowden, and Mr. Hardie, and many others on the side of Labour, and by such as Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Chew and Mrs. Annot Robinson, Miss Ford, and—more than any other in Great Britain—to Miss Margaret Robertson, on ours.

The Union has cause for pride in its record of achievement. While every method of propaganda, protest, and advertisement will be carefully weighed at the Council meeting next week, and accepted or rejected on its merits, we feel more than justified in our belief that political work is best set forward by political means, and that the efforts and sacrifices of suffragists during the past strenuous and heart-breaking Session have had their solid result.

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

"A German Heroine of the Forties."

Would any person in this world expect to find in a German story published during the forties of last century a heroine whose education would have done credit to the best of modern colleges, and an author who proclaims that women exist on their own account, and not primarily as wives and mothers? Yet these phenomena—familiar to the writer of these lines for more years than it is easy to count—occur in the first volume of Adalbert Stifter's *Studien*, which made its appearance in the year 1847.

Stifter, a writer of a curious personal charm, was a native of Hungary, and has given in some of his tales admirable and characteristic pictures of the wide Hungarian plains. No man can render more delightfully than he the character of a wood, and the humorous narrative called "The Pathway in a Wood" is a little masterpiece. It is not, however, in any of the rural tales that the highly cultivated Angela figures, but in one of which the action passes mainly in Vienna. It takes the shape of letters written by one young landscape painter, Albrecht, to his brother-artist, Titus, who is painting in the Pyrenees. The answers of the latter not being given, the effect is that of a continuous and discursive record in the first person. Albrecht reports his walks, his wandering thoughts and fancies, the imaginary abode which he would like to possess, his joy when somebody else receives the appointment for which his friends had induced him to apply, his pleasure in all sorts of simple things, and his abhorrence of fashionable amusements.

It is at the house of a rich and eccentric Englishman that he encounters a beautiful young woman, whose voice he first hears when she supplies in the original Latin the missing conclusion of a Virgilian line. He remarks of her in the course of the same evening that:—

Her bringing-up must have differed from the ordinary one; for in everything she did there was a style of her own which had a touch of the foreign. This gave her an appearance of awkwardness or affectation, especially because—as learned pedants often do—she sometimes blundered unceremoniously against all the common rules, as not the shallowest little goose would have done; at the same time, indeed, a gleam often broke forth which the little goose could never have achieved—nay, by which she would have been annoyed. To me she seemed all the more fascinating, like those tropical flowers which, at first sight, strike a Northerner as odd, and even grotesque, but which, as we go on looking, grow ever more poetical, and whisper the distant wonders of their native land.

He learns from Lucy Aston that Angela was brought up away from Vienna, and by a tutor who would not have been much in agreement with Viennese customs. From the date of their first meeting he spends day after day in Angela's company at Aston's house. The young people—Aston's two daughters, Angela, and Albrecht—read together, practise music, study, and discuss; and every day he is more and more impressed by the perfections of Angela's mind and disposition. She knew Latin, Greek, French and English, "as much mathematics as is necessary for a general understanding of natural philosophy," and, indeed, rather more, since she had, at her own desire, learned astronomy. That she should have read books about psychology and the rights of man was generally regarded as laughable, but she considered them needful to a comprehension of history:—

"Oh, she is a learned woman—a paragon," say many of her sister women; but I think it is envy with many of them, and narrow-mindedness with many others. The men say she must be insipid—and yet he who says so shrivels up pitifully in her presence, even when the talk is only of everyday matters.

You will not ask me where she finds time, for it was you who first showed me—squanderer that I was of this precious gift—how astoundingly abundant it is when one plans it out properly and does not foolishly throw away the smallest particle of it. You will understand, however, how much time she had when I tell you, from Lucy's mouth, that she never learned, and cannot do, a number of things which every girl in Vienna would think it a disgrace not to be able to do. For instance, knitting. It rejoiced me to hear that. Oh, the everlasting stocking-knitting that our young women nibble at—there is nothing more barren and mindless than the incessant poking and poking, while an unfortunate man looks on.

Nor could Angela do wool work, an occupation over which her contemporaries spent so many of their long leisure hours; her tutor declared such employment to be a most sinful waste of time:—

The finished thing is no work of art; if it has any beauty the merit lies in the pattern, not in the worker who copies it; generally speaking, however, it falls far below the most mediocre picture, and, indeed, cannot, from the manner of its making, attain the standard of a picture, but yet takes so much time and trouble that one might have become a true artist in colour in the same space.

Posterity will some day be amazed that the daughters of the noblest races could have spent three-quarters of their youth upon such soulless doings merely to produce a cross between art and finery, the merit of which was that it contained a million stitches.

Then they have another catchword in which they enwrap themselves and with which they settle everything: Domesticity. But this domesticity is a mere messing about with ribbons and rubbish, an arranging of balls and menus and parties and a superfluous showiness of clothes and furnishing. It is quite true that a woman and all the servants about her have their hands full with it. But if domesticity really means only keeping house, clothes and food in proper order, it may truly form a part, though but a small part, of a woman's vocation—one, moreover, so easy to fulfil that plenty of time will remain for greater and higher duties, since Nature herself prescribes the greatest simplicity in such matters and punishes disobedience with sickness of all sorts. In this latter sense Angela is highly domesticated, for her dress, though simple, is always almost conspicuously clean and fine; and I hear that her home, which she superintends, looks like a chapel.

Another beautiful part of a woman's duty she performs as few of her contemporaries do, the education, that is, of a future mother's heart. Who knows whether a Socrates, Epaminondas, or Gracchus may not rest there as a helpless infant, demanding and having a right to demand from it the first sparks of spiritual life? How, then, if she were not equal to her mission, and allowed the great soul to degenerate into an Octavianus or a Nero?

Finally, even preparation for the fulfilment of a mother's responsibilities is not the whole of a woman's sphere. Is she not also here for her own sake? Does not the mental and the physical world stand open to her? Shall not she, no less than a man, only in a different way, glorify her Creator by a beautiful existence? Has she not, moreover, to make the happiness of a husband, and ought she to bring him, instead of a noble heart, a mere domestic capacity, which thinks itself clever enough if it is but innocent? To do that is to be the servant who hid his talent in a napkin.

The events of the story are but slight, and the happy ending easy to be foreseen. Its interest—apart from a literary charm that largely evaporates in translation—lies mainly in the thoughts and moods of Albrecht and in those amazingly liberal views of his about women that must have seemed almost revolutionary when Stifter enunciated them. Only a man of an unusually fine character could have felt and written thus at that date; and, indeed, the whole six volumes of his "Studies" show him to have been such a man. In others of the tales he represents women as capable, initiative persons, who create and organise independently. Women should hold in grateful remembrance a writer who accorded to them in advance the position that they have since learned to demand.

Björnson's "Gauntlet."

The Play Actors gave on Sunday evening an interesting performance, repeated on Monday afternoon, of Björnson's "Gauntlet," a remarkable play which has not hitherto been represented in its entirety in England. Its theme is the rejection by a girl of the man to whom she is betrothed when she discovers him to have been the seducer of another woman; and its excellence lies in the vital truthfulness with which the conflicting views of half-a-dozen persons are displayed. Among these half-dozen, however, the young man himself is not included; we never learn what Alfred really thought or felt about his past conduct and its effect upon his relation to Svava. If Alfred's mind were revealed as his father's is we should be left at the end knowing whether there could or could not be hope of any re-union. The deeds of a man, as Lessing says, are so seldom his; and we cannot guess how far Alfred was really responsible for what his past had been.

The honours of the performance were with Miss Winifred Mayo and Mr. A. M. Heathcote as the heroine's parents. Miss Ernita Lascelles' rendering of Svava, meritorious at many points, was not wholly successful, but it must be remembered that the demands of the part are such as perhaps no actress now on the English stage could fulfil. She hampered herself (as actresses in this country continually do) by dressing unsuitably and too conspicuously. No real Svava would have worn the glaring garments in which she was arrayed, nor appeared of a morning in white satin slippers. These details are not mere trifles. They mean that while the performer is trying to present to our minds the image of one kind of person, she is insistently presenting to our eyes the image of another kind of person. She blurs the picture she would be painting—and that is not a trifle.

The translation, by R. Farquharson Sharp, ran fluently and pleasantly. We must, however, protest that "except I" is not English.

London County Council Elections.

Women householders in London will very shortly be called upon to vote for their representatives on the London County Council, and we urge upon them, before deciding how to give their votes, to study the following division list. The proposal before the Council was for the improvement and broadening of the representation of women, on lines almost identical with what was known as the "Dickinson" amendment to the defunct Franchise Bill of the Government. Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE will, it is hoped, vote only for those Councillors who by a narrow majority saved this very reasonable proposal from defeat.

FOR THE AMENDMENT, 54.

Adler, Miss	Jephson, H. L.
Alexander, Sir George	Jesson, C.
Benn, Sir John	Johnson, W. C.
Bray, R.	Karslake, J. B. P.
Briant, F.	Leon, A. L.
Bruce, G. L.	Lidgett, Rev. J. Scott
Buxton, A. F.	Lithgow, S. (Teller)
Casson, W. A.	Lloyd-Taylor, W.
Chapman, T.	McDougall, Sir John
Claremont, A. W.	Mathew, C. J.
Cotton, H. E. A. (Teller)	May, James
Davies, W.	Meinertzhagen, E. L.
Dew, G.	Norman, R. C.
Ecroyd, W. H.	Rostron, L. W. S.
Edmonds, G.	Russell, Arthur B.
Gates, P.	Smallwood, E.
Gautrey, T.	Smith, Edward
Gee, Stephen	Spicer, Evan
Gillett, G. M.	Stettauer, C.
Gordon, H. H.	Tasker, R. I.
Gosling, Harry (D.C.)	Thomas, Arthur A.
Haddo, Lord	Thynne, Lord Alexander
Harris, P. A.	Ward, Henry
Headlam, Rev. Stewart	Warren, W. R.
Hobson, T. F.	Williams, Howell J.
Hunter, J. H. (V.C.)	Wood, H. K.
Hunter, T.	Yeo, A. W.

AGAINST THE AMENDMENT, 48.

Anderton, F. R.	Jackson, Cyril
Brandon, Jocelyn	Jones, G. W. H.
Cavaye, Col. W. F.	Lewis-Barned, Major H. B.
Cobb, C. S.	Lorden, J. W.
Cripps, H. L.	Lygon, Hon. H.
Debenham, E. R.	Machell, P. W.
Domoney, J. W.	Morrow, F. St. John
Easton, E. G.	Pannell, W. H.
Evans, B. B.	Parsons, Sir Herbert
Fisher, C. U.	Pilditch, P. E.
Fisher, Rt. Hon. W. Hayes	Preston, E. M.
Gilbert, John W.	Probyn, Lt.-Col. C.
Glyn, M. G. C.	Reynolds, W.
Goff, T. C. E. (Teller)	Rowe, H. V.
Goodrich, A. O.	St. Helier, Lady
Granville-Smith, R. W.	Salmon, Isidore
Gray, Major Ernest	Sankey, Stuart
Greenwood, H. J.	Simmons, P. C.
Hall, F.	Squires, W. J.
Haydon, W.	Stanhope, Earl
Holland, Bernard	Taylor, Andrew T.
Holmes, J. Stanley	Thompson, W. Whitaker (Teller)
Hume, G. H.	Warburg, O. E.
Hunt, William	White, Sir Edward

To the names of women candidates for the London County Council published last week may now be added those of:—Miss Miall Smith (East Marylebone); Miss K. Wallas (Chelsea); and Mrs. St. Clair Stobart (Westminster).

A Church Parade.

Some ladies will attend the 7 o'clock service at St. Ethelburga's next Sunday, and will wear black dresses with orange scarves. Dr. Cobb has promised to reserve places for all who send word beforehand. The group will be headed by Mrs. Stanton Coit, from whom, at 30, Hyde Park Gate, the scarves can be obtained.

10,000 6d. POWDER LEAF BOOKS FREE.

Oatine Powder Leaves are put up in dainty booklets containing 100 leaves. They will be found most useful to all ladies, for, being small and neatly packed, they are easily carried in the purse or pocket. All that is necessary is to tear out a leaf, rubbing it over the face. The paper will then absorb and remove all oiliness, perspiration, and dust from the skin and leave in their place a delicate deposit of powder. The Powder Leaves are supplied in three tints and are delicately perfumed.

To introduce this dainty toilet requisite the proprietors will give one of these 6d. Powder Leaf booklets, absolutely free, to all who send for one of the Oatine Shampoo Powders, the price of which is 2d., and send a further 1d. for postage. Address, The Oatine Company, 282B, Oatine Buildings, Borough, London, S.E.—[ADVT.]

Some New Books.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO . . . ? By Elizabeth Robins. Heinemann. 6s.)

Miss Robins has written a novel which it is impossible either to lay down unfinished or to forget. Yet the character drawing is not remarkable and there is but one striking situation. That one, however, seizes the imagination so strongly precisely because of the background that has already been quietly and deftly laid in. The two sisters, guarded with even morbid care by their nervous mother, have, by the time of their being entrapped into "one of the most infamous houses in Europe," become so well known to the reader that when the catastrophe comes, there is no need for the author to insist upon the horror. And at this point Miss Robins's style becomes so simple as to appear merely lucid. The facts seem to tell themselves. Really, of course, she is exercising remarkable artistic skill; and these seventy pages are a technical triumph. Unfortunately this level is not maintained afterwards—perhaps could not be. The true end of the story falls at page 299; and whether it is the reader or the author who first flags at that point is not easy to say.

We have been considering the book as a work of art; but it has another aspect—that of a cry to the public conscience. In this character, too, it would better fulfil its purpose without the last dozen pages. The essence of the true stories that are like that of Miss Robins's Bettina is that for the outer world they break off short; a curtain of darkness falls; a silence like death but worse than death takes the missing one and releases her no more. How many such stories there are who knows? In any case Miss Robins, by telling one of them, has done something towards diminishing the number.

ST. COLUMBA: A STUDY OF SOCIAL INHERITANCE AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT. By Victor Branford. (Patrick Geddes and Colleagues, Edinburgh.)

As Professor Geddes has sociologised the ancient gods, so his disciple, Mr. Branford, seeks to sociologise the saints—that is, to show their relation to human life and their place in social history. Modern psychology claims to have discovered a flowering-time or poet phase in the youth of every man; and the saint, by Mr. Branford's showing, is only the poet in another aspect, "the poet grown old, writing his love poem in the dreams and deeds of life."

St. Columba was the most typical of poet saints. Taking the record of his singularly complete life for a text, Mr. Branford works out a theory of the normal course of all human lives from youth to age, showing the ideals and the corresponding activities proper to each stage. Thus, the business of youth is a Quest, having some definite object, such as personal salvation. In maturity man has a Mission: he seeks the salvation of others and achieves his aim best by bringing to them general truths. In old age man goes on the Perfect Pilgrimage whose end is in the City of Heaven. During this last stage he perfects himself in the essential qualities of sainthood: love of God and men and self-sacrifice, which is "the daily toll that must be paid by the traveller towards perfection."

The business of saints, Mr. Branford thinks, is to transmit ideals, implanting them in the hearts of adolescents; and incomplete transmission of ideals is the cause of most of the maladies of modern life. Thus, the deepest need of this age is for saints, and the restoration of conditions favourable to their development is the capital problem of education.

As a study of the psychology of sainthood the book is as profoundly suggestive as it is lucidly expressed.

W. FAIRFIELD.

THE SECRET OF THE CLAN. By Alice Brown. (Constable, 6s.)

Stevenson used to declare with truth that most people forget their childhood. Evidently Miss Alice Brown is one of the few who remember. The children of "the Clan" are real children, and what infusion there is of the fairy tale in this volume, concerns itself with the grown up. A chapter in which a little band of playfellows devote their whole energies, first, to getting a horse up to the higher storey of a barn, and then, after the expostulations of a senior, to getting it down again, unaided, contains more of the essence of juvenility than many treatises upon education and psychology. One of the participants, recalling the incident, is made to say:—

We were overjoyed. What we wanted to get him up there for, not one of us knew. What we were going to do with him now he was there, we couldn't have told. But it had seemed the most absolutely desirable thing in the world to do, and now that it was accomplished, the triumph was superb.

As a gift for intelligent girls of any age from nine to fourteen, and incidentally for the reading of women donors, "The Secret of the Clan" may be warmly recommended.

Extracts from the Press.

The Government's Ordeal.

"THE STANDARD," February 15th, 1913:—

"The Government emerges from its twelve months' ordeal with full credit and an added diminution of prestige. Mr. Asquith's reputation as a parliamentarian has suffered badly from his handling of the Franchise Bill and the Suffrage question. On the latter subject he so managed matters as to offend everybody, without, it is to be presumed, satisfying himself. No wonder the rumour of his impending resignation has been revived."

The Labour Party and Suffrage.

"THE DAILY CITIZEN," February 14th, 1913:—

"Whatever Liberals may boast of themselves, the Labour Party alone is a democratic one. Manhood Suffrage is absolutely anti-democratic, and therefore against Labour principles. Manhood Suffrage can never be a step towards adult suffrage; while an extension of the present franchise for men, with some measure, however small for women, would be a great triumph for the principle of adult suffrage and make its realisation sure."

"By stating in clear terms their determination to abide by their principles at the late Conference the Labour Party have converted thousands of too often disappointed, weary women into a hopeful, vigorous army of workers. 'The Daily Citizen' reminds us day by day that there are men working for and with women as equals, not merely talking about it."—(Extract from Correspondence.)

"THE DAILY CITIZEN," February 15th, 1913:—

"The Management Committee of the Northumberland Miners' Association have adopted a resolution and sent it to the Prime Minister to the effect that the Labour Party is in favour of women being placed on a franchise equality with the men, as the trend of legislation was to interfere more and more with the homes of the people."

"THE LABOUR LEADER," February 13th, 1913:—

"The Women's Labour League recognises very fully the tremendous importance of the Suffrage decision of the Labour Party's Conference, and the League's first work in the coming months is to forward their effort. No more quickening means can be found to make the Liberals eager in the cause than to increase the membership of the Labour Party by means of the Suffrage agitation. As a first step the W.L.L. are issuing a short and straightforward handbill calling on working women who want the vote to join the League and help the Labour Party to get it—and telling them why they want it and what the Party Conference pledged itself to carry out. Any branch can have these leaflets to distribute at cost price in numbers of not less than 1,000, with the name and address of the branch secretary printed on them."

The Speaker's Position.

"THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN," February 13th, 1913:—

"Mr. Healy appealed to the Speaker to refuse to certify the Appropriation Bill as a money Bill under the Parliament Act seeing that it had other objects than that of raising money—namely, the amendment of section 3 of the Insurance Act. The point raised by Mr. Healy was whether the Bill was 'only' for the appropriation of public money or for some other collateral purpose as well, and this the Speaker evaded. Actually the issue would not have been important, but it might have been. Are we, then, to understand that the Speaker is to have the power of refusing his certificate at the very last moment, and so enabling the Lords to defeat the financial provision of the Commons for the year? And even if he is to have this power, is it to be his practice to spring his refusal of his certificate as a surprise upon the Government? It is the same point of Parliamentary practice that came up in the discussions on his last ruling. 'The Government has no access to the Speaker,' Mr. Ure then said. It certainly ought to have. These eleventh-hour surprises if they became frequent would bring Parliamentary institutions into contempt and ridicule."

"THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE" on the "Free Vote" (reprinted in "The Irish Citizen").

"Mr. T. P. O'Connor describes the confusion caused by the Grey Amendment, and the movement against its acceptance 'inspired mainly,' he says, 'by the feeling that Premier Asquith is the greatest asset of the Liberal Party, and the most powerful and trustworthy friend of the Irish cause, and that any amendment which would force on him acceptance of Women's Suffrage, in view of his well-known hostility, would be bound to humiliate and weaken him.'"

"The Speaker's announcement heightened the confusion, and the Irish leaders were of opinion that no such measure could be pushed within a divided Cabinet without providing personal as well as party differences within its ranks, which would wreck its unity and authority, and afterwards its existence."

A Government Measure.

"THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN," February 15th, 1913:—

"The only thing was to force the Government of the day to make the measure a Ministerial one. It might be said that Mr. Asquith was an Anti-Suffragist, and so long as he was Prime Minister nothing of that sort would be done. But Mr. Snowden was not sure of that. He had seen something of the pliability and adaptability of politicians. It was a great deal more likely that Mr. Asquith would agree to introduce a Suffrage Bill as a Government measure than it seemed in 1884 that Mr. Gladstone would ever introduce a Home Rule Bill. The National Liberal Federation had more than once passed a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage, declaring it to be a matter of the greatest urgency. Mr. Asquith had himself made great progress in that direction."

"He did not think there was the ghost of a chance for a Women's Suffrage Bill passing unless it was a Government measure."

Correspondence.

THE NATIONAL UNION AND A PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL.

It is important that members of the National Union shall have full opportunity of weighing all that can be said on both sides of the difficult and disputed questions of policy, which they will have to decide next week.

Mrs. Swanwick argues, in her article in last week's issue, that by working for the private Member's Bill we should, to a certain extent, condone the Prime Minister's "political dishonesty" in refusing to give us a full equivalent for his broken pledge. Why so? If we had the power immediately to exact a full equivalent, of course we should do it. As we have not the power, why should we not, like every sensible creditor, accept as much of our debt as we can get, and continue to press for the remainder? Secondly, says Mrs. Swanwick, if we work for the Bill and it fails, we lay ourselves open to the charge of having accepted a test, and then, when it went against us, repudiating it.

This proposition seems to me based on just the same fallacy as the last. To work for the Bill does not in the least imply accepting the voting on it as a fair test of the "free" opinion of the House on the merits of Women's Suffrage. On the contrary, we have prophesied all along that the voting will not be "free," i.e., that it will be largely influenced by considerations of party tactics. But as we cannot, even if we wished, prevent the Bill from being brought forward, our chance does not lie between a biased vote and a free vote, nor between a biased vote and no vote at all, but between a vote taken with the pressure of the National Union behind it and a vote taken without that pressure.

Unless we are prepared to say that the influence of the National Union counts for nothing in determining doubtful votes and keeping the timid straight, we must face the possibility that our abstention from work for the Bill may turn a victory into defeat, or a defeat into a worse defeat. After all, the Conciliation Bill was only lost in March by fourteen votes, fifteen Labour M.P.'s, all Suffragists, being absent in their constituencies on business connected with the strike. Was that a defeat so decisive that we are justified in refusing to accept combat under similar conditions again. As a matter of fact, the conditions are not quite similar, and if some have changed for the worse, others have changed for the better. The threat of Ministers' resignations, which was said to have done much harm in March, has been finally disposed of. No M.P. is likely to be genuinely frightened by that bogey again. The argument that it would "humiliate" Mr. Asquith if he were obliged to keep his promise by making himself responsible for a measure of which he personally disapproved, cannot be applied to a private Member's Bill for which Mr. Asquith has not promised in any event to undertake responsibility.

Lastly, Members of Parliament have had time to recover a little from the condition of hysteria into which the first window-breaking outbreak threw them, and are less likely than before to exaggerate the significance of similar episodes.

But, it may be said, even if the private Member's Bill succeeded in passing the House of Commons once, it cannot possibly become law, as a private Member's Bill, during this Parliament. The House of Lords is certain to throw it out, and the Unionists will refuse in a body to help it to pass by means of the Parliament Act. That may be perfectly true, but it does not follow that even a Second Reading victory is not worth working for. Mrs. Swanwick tells us to spend our time and our money in working for a united Government to introduce a Government measure. Well and good! But what if the best way of working for a Government measure is by means of a private Member's Bill? Do not, at any rate, let us imitate the mistake that the W.S.P.U. made a year ago. Do not let us supply weak-kneed supporters in the House with a ready-made excuse for breaking their pledges and deserting their principles by allowing them to say that the Government gave us an opportunity, and that we deliberately threw it away.

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

THE NATIONAL UNION'S POLICY.

While thanking you for your courtesy in inserting my protest, I should like to ask for space to reply to the note which you append. It seems to me that the change from "Non-Party" to "Party" is no mere "change of policy" in the usual tactical sense, but amounts to a complete transformation of the Union;

and that consequently the Council is not morally competent (whether it be so legally or not), any more than the Executive, to make so momentous and far-reaching a change without first consulting the individual members.

JOHN A. HERBERT.

[The policy proposed and discussed by delegates at Council meetings of the National Union is previously discussed by the Societies of the Union, who give to their chosen delegates whatever instructions they please. If a body of such delegates is not morally competent to decide upon the Union's policy, it becomes difficult to know what body would be competent. Mr. Herbert's contention, if accepted, would seem to render it impossible for any change, great or small, to be ever made in the policy of the Union.—ED. C.C.]

A Hostel for Women.

This week has seen the formal opening of Albion House, South Row, Kensal Road, North Kensington, a hostel for working women in one of the most crowded districts in London.

The question of the housing of women who may find themselves stranded by night in the city's streets has for some years been weighing on the conscience of the community, but, as Sir Thomas Hewitt, the Mayor of Kensington, said from the chair at this initiatory ceremony, while "Rowton Houses" for men have been established in the metropolis and in almost every large city of the Continent, the organisers of such hostels for men had in their talks "never got beyond the theory of similar homes for women." In all England, the Duchess of Marlborough thereupon pointed out, there are only three municipal lodging-houses for women, while there is hardly any large town without at least one for men.

The need of a refuge from the streets by night is, of course, equally pressing for women who, by accident or misfortune, may find themselves on occasion shelterless and ignorant of the whereabouts of a respectable lodging in a large city.

To meet such cases of distress the National Association of Women's Lodging Homes has come into active existence, and it is through its initiation that this hostel in North Kensington has been started, although the funds necessary to administer the scheme have been contributed by private enterprise. A further £500 is needed to complete the task, and it is hoped that this will soon find its way into the hands of the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Hylton Dale (60, Onslow Gardens, S.W.).

Albion House is well situated for the purpose which it is destined to fill, for it lies in the centre of a district where laundries congregate and where life is hard and often grim, or grey. Formerly "the house" was known to the neighbourhood as a public-house, and the warmth and light it poured into the night through its extensive windows served but as a lure to the undoing of its guests. But now the cheerful brightness that streams out into the darkness beckons the worker into a haven of rest and cleanliness.

The hostel can house twenty-seven women, the charge being at the rate of 4½d. to 6d. a night for sleeping accommodation. The dormitories and bedrooms are bright and airy, and there is ample and suitable washing accommodation. A bath-room on each floor, supplied with hot and cold water, is placed free-of-charge at the disposal of the inmates, and there is also a separate earthenware "tub" for the laundrying of small articles of clothing.

In a large hall on the ground floor, where stood the public-house bar of former days, there is now a pleasant place for meals where cheap and wholesome food of most excellent quality can be obtained, as the present writer can testify from personal experience. A little group of women were taking tea at small tables decorated with the spoils of this early springtide on the day of her visit, others were sitting by the hearth, sewing and chatting by the firelight after the cheerful manner of happy womankind. One or two of these hostel guests were domestic servants, who were homeless in the interval between two situations, one was a "pit brow lassie," Sarah Walker, of Northern fame, who has come to London to continue her training as hospital nurse and has no home the while, and one was there because shut out of her home by accident for a night. These are typical cases of the daily visitors to such a hostel, and those who know of the evils that may so easily befall the homeless girls and women in a great city can only feel that the provision of a single house for their accommodation is a step forward, for which the gratitude of the community should be forthcoming.

L.

The Election Fighting Fund.

North-Eastern Federation.

WORK IN GATESHEAD.—It is now some months since it was decided to undertake organisation in Gateshead, and under the guidance of Miss Eleanor Sheard, who is in charge of the constituency, work is proceeding apace. Miss Sheard sends the following report:—

IN THE TRADE UNIONS.—On December 3rd, 1912, Dr. Ethel Williams, Miss C. M. Gordon and Miss Sheard went on a deputation to the Gateshead L.R.C. to explain the E.F.F. policy and to ask for their co-operation in our work. As a result of this deputation several members of the L.R.C. have joined the Gateshead Society, and three are working on the Sub-Committee of the Federation which deals with Fighting Fund work in Gateshead. It was decided to approach the Trade Union Secretaries, and as most of the members of the L.R.C. present were Trade Union officials, they undertook to prepare their branches to receive suffrage speakers at their meetings. The most satisfactory outcome of this proposal for co-operation is, however, that a joint Labour and Suffrage meeting has been arranged to take place in the Town Hall on March 17th, when Mr. Philip Snowden has promised to speak. Suffrage addresses have also been given to half the Trade Unions affiliated to the L.R.C., at whose meetings the resolutions were passed practically unanimously; there being only one exception, which is due to the fact that that meeting was held on the memorable night of January 27th, when Mr. Asquith was solemnly engaged in the interment of the Reform Bill, and we did not know where we stood. The average attendance of Trade Unionists at the various meetings was 100. This work is still going forward, although it is somewhat hampered by the difficulty of getting Secretaries to answer letters, the still greater problem of finding them "at home" to interviewers, and slightly by the fact that some of the Unions—more especially those which are not affiliated to the L.R.C.—have an extraordinary objection to politics being discussed at their meetings.

On January 17th circulars were sent to those Unions which had been unable to arrange for speakers in time, asking them to pass a resolution calling on Sir H. Elverston to undertake to support the Suffrage Amendments to the Reform Bill. Owing to the long intervals between their meetings, however, only one reply was received. Postcards addressed to Sir H. Elverston were also distributed at the meetings, his well-worn answer being that he "could not embarrass the Government and thus endanger such great Liberal reforms as the Irish Home Rule Bill and the Welsh Reestablishment Bill."

* * * * *

OFFICE AND COTTAGE MEETINGS.—Two of these have been held every week in the office at 115, High West Street, those on Wednesday afternoons being social meetings for women. Until Christmas those held on Tuesday evenings were largely for men. The attendance of women at the social meetings has been quite satisfactory, especially during the last few weeks when the numbers have been steadily improving. Local women speakers are found to be very popular. Considerable time has been devoted to the organising of "Ward Suffrage Association" meetings to be held in the office every fortnight, and there is every sign that these meetings will be extremely popular and successful. Two of these Associations are already practically formed for working-class women, and one held its first meeting on January 30th at the office, when about thirty-two women were present. They all signed "Friends" cards and joyfully announced their intention of coming to the next meeting on February 13th.

The second Association began at a cottage meeting, convened by a Labour councillor, among a few women householders in his ward. Fourteen women were present, thirteen of whom signed "Friends" cards.

When the task of educating the members of these Associations on the subject of Women's Suffrage is a little more advanced, it is hoped to explain to them the policy of the Labour Party, which there is good reason to believe will be well appreciated and have the result of bringing grist to the Suffrage mill in the form of valuable helpers.

Other organised bodies which have been addressed, besides Trade Unions, are the Women's Labour League, the Co-operative Women's Guild, and the Oakwellgate British Women's Temperance Association.

FRIENDS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SCHEME.—This scheme is being worked from the office, and is carried on by sixteen "visitors," under the leadership of Miss Ruth Dodds. Every one who comes into the office is asked to take a card, sign it, and return it to the office, and a corresponding brown card is given to the visitor, according to the district. Although odd "Friends" have been collected during the whole of the three months, the scheme has only been in working order since Christmas, and it promises to be extremely valuable and interesting. Between two and three dozen regular helpers have been got together, who help in the office, canvass, and assist in various other ways.

Houghton-le-Spring.

The North-Eastern Federation and the E.F.F. Committee are hoping that the by-election in this constituency will prove a case for the employment of the Fighting Fund. We have not yet sufficient information to make a definite statement on this point before going to press.

Scottish Federation.

The Scottish Federation has been eager to undertake E.F.F. work, but, owing to various circumstances over which they had no control, it was not possible to begin until January. E.F.F. work is now proceeding rapidly in the Leith Burghs, Miss Pressley Smith, under the direction of Miss Alice Low, proving a most successful organiser. Miss Robertson sends the following report:—

Although the work has not been going on for much more than a month, over 50 members have joined the Society, and between 70 and 80 "Friends" have given in their names. Fourteen meetings have also been held, and about 150 voters' cards have been sent to Mr. Munro Ferguson.

The local Labour party are proving themselves enthusiastic and consistent supporters. We never appeal to them for help in vain. Indeed, we had scarcely been in the constituency a week when strong suffrage resolutions were passed by the Trades and Labour Council and by the Women's Labour League.

Mr. Currie, the Unionist candidate, has been questioned on the subject of Women's Suffrage at every meeting he has held in the constituency of late, and his expressions of sympathy and support have always been received with cheers.

The women of the Labour League and of the Co-operative Guild are unanimously enthusiastic; indeed, all our workers rejoice in the fine spirit which exists amongst the working men and women in the constituency. They give us no mere academic support, but keen sympathy and active help.

There are in the constituency some hundreds of working girls, organised by the National Federation of Women Workers, who are employed in ropery and golf-ball factories at a very low wage. Miss Pressley Smith is getting in touch with them, and there is little doubt that they will be amongst our strongest supporters.

Our work in Leith is greatly facilitated by the fact that both local papers, the *Leith Pilot* and the *Leith Observer*, are strongly sympathetic with the cause. The *Observer*, especially, gives us splendid treatment.

In Edinburgh we are still waiting to know which constituency Labour is going to contest. Mr. Keir Hardie stated definitely at his meeting last Sunday week that one of the divisions would be contested. There is a possibility that it may be South Edinburgh, and it would give Suffragists keen pleasure to assist in the removal of Mr. Charles Lyell, M.P., Mr. Asquith's private secretary and a strong supporter of the Anti-Suffrage League.

GREAT CARNIVAL FÊTE,

CAXTON HALL, on MARCH 1st,
3 p.m. till Midnight.

Opening by Lena Ashwell and George Lansbury at 3.30 sharp.
Continuous Entertainments by well known Musical & Dramatic Artists.
ELLEN TERRY will give prizes for Fancy Dress Competition.
Cicely Hamilton and her "Wax Works."
Dancing, "Surprise Tea" and many other attractions.
Enjoy yourself and help the International Suffrage Shop.
Details, 15, Adam Street, Strand. Admission and
Side Show Tickets at reduced rates, if bought before 28th February.

In Parliament.

SHOPS ACT AMENDMENT.

On the 11th of February a Bill for the amendment of the Shops Act was read a third time. It provides that in the case of persons engaged in the sale of refreshments the ordinary provisions of the Shops Act may (if the occupier of the premises and the majority of the assistants employed thereon signify their wish) be superseded by others which will secure for each assistant: (a) a week of not more than sixty-five hours' work; (b) one day's rest in seven, to be made up by forty whole day holidays on week days each year, at least two of which must occur in the course of each month, and (c) twenty-six whole Sundays "off," so arranged that at least one Sunday in every three shall be a holiday. Two half-holidays on week days are to count as one whole holiday. Meal intervals must be given of not less than one hour on half-holidays and two hours on other days, and no assistant must be employed more than six hours without an interval of half an hour. But if an assistant begins to work as late as nine o'clock and leaves off by three o'clock, three-quarters of an hour's interval only need be allowed.

WOMEN TEACHERS AND PENSIONS.

On Wednesday, February 12th, Mr. Charles Bathurst addressed to the President of the Board of Education a question, the purport of which was that a majority of the women teachers in elementary schools were desirous to have the option of retiring with a suitable pension at an earlier age than sixty-five; and that many who had begun to teach at from fifteen to twenty years old were now conscious of an inability, "through physical or mental weakness," to perform their work in the most efficient manner, but were not able to claim a breakdown allowance since they could not be medically certified as permanently incapable owing to infirmity of mind or body. He wished to know whether in fairness to such teachers, and in the interests of school efficiency, the desirability might be considered of inaugurating a system of earlier optional retirement for women.

Mr. Pease replied that the Departmental Committee which was appointed last year will be prepared, if money is available, to take evidence on various proposals, including earlier optional retirement from service.

It is to be hoped that it will be found possible to arrange for teachers, if they wish, to retire with a pension before the age of sixty-five; but any differentiation on this point between men and women is to be deprecated. Many women enjoy better health between fifty and seventy than at any other period of their lives, and many men find teaching exhausts their strength long before they come to sixty-five. The option should be a matter of individual choice, not of sex.

INFECTED MILK.

Mr. Burns, on the same day, in reply to Mr. F. Hall, said that, although he could not give the number of epidemics due to infected milk, nor of deaths resulting therefrom, which had occurred between 1906 and 1912, he could say that a number of outbreaks of enteric fever, scarlet fever, and diphtheria had, during the last six years, been traced to the consumption of specifically infected milk.

It is surely deeply to be regretted that when the Government found themselves debarred by the ruling of the Speaker from proceeding with their Franchise and Registration Bill, they did not devote some of the time thus left at their disposal to the passing of the Pure Milk Bill. In the opinion of many sensible women the passing of that Bill would have been a more valuable public service than any which this Government has yet succeeded in performing.

WOMEN AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRANCHISE.

The event of the week in respect to Suffrage has been the introduction by Mr. Arnold Ward (on February 12th), of a Bill to amend the law in regard to the Local Government Franchise. The object, said Mr. Ward, was to make a very substantial addition to the women on the local government electorate, by enfranchising the bulk of married women who do not enjoy the local government vote at present. The Bill proposes to enfranchise the wives of occupiers, provided that they reside in the same premises, and its sponsor urged—very truly—that married women have "a natural interest in and great experience of matters with which local authorities chiefly deal, such as education, housing and sanitation." He himself had, he owned, a further aim in view, namely, the creation of "a representative body of registered women" who could serve as the constituency for a possible referendum on Women's Suffrage. On the subject of a referendum, the opinion of suffragists would probably differ from that of Mr. Arnold Ward; but in respect of what his Bill would actually do they can but agree with him, and hope that he will succeed in passing it.

The By-elections.

I.—The Campaign at Chorley.

The campaign has been fought very hard, and every conceivable sort of society has opened rooms and has preached from street corners. Our position politically is rather difficult and has met with a good deal of local opposition, but our gatherings have been exceedingly well attended, wherever we have been. The mill-girls have received us enthusiastically at our mid-day meetings and do not only think it "sport" to listen to our arguments, but come again and again.

Although the whole election staff consists of three people we have been able to have two or three meetings every day, apart from dinner-hour meetings. Miss Deakin has come down from Liverpool to help us, Mrs. Mütter Wilson from Manchester, Mr. Councillor Sandham has lent us his pony and trap and Mr. Richard Evans, a former Ruskin College student, has taken the chair for us.

The police have been marvellous, and have looked after us so well that we have felt more like Royalties than Suffragists. Our stall in the market attracts a good deal of amusement and discussion, and a man was evidently so struck by our originality that he offered us first choice of a dromedary, which he was bringing to the town, for three days for advertising purposes.

Miss Royden spoke at a meeting arranged before the election campaign started on "The Religious Aspect of the Women's Movement," Mr. Todd, of Preston, taking the chair.

Miss Eskrigge has been working here before and is well-known, and we are now reaping some of the advantages of her spade work earlier in the year.

II.—Work at Houghton-le-Spring.

Committee Rooms:—

SUNDERLAND: Twelfth Avenue (Central Committee Room).
HETTON DOWNS: 35, Market Street, Miss Sheard.
RYHOPE: 86, Ryhope Street, Miss Beaver.

After two years' immunity, enjoyed by the North-Eastern Federation, from by-elections, a vacancy has occurred in Houghton-le-Spring, a county constituency in Durham. Mr. Robert Cameron, Liberal, the late member, was returned unopposed in December, 1910. The last contest was in January of that year, when in a straight fight the Liberal majority was 6,011. This time there is a good prospect of a three-cornered contest, but as yet neither Liberal nor Labour has chosen a candidate.

A considerable amount of suffrage work has been done in the division which is thickly populated and honey-combed with coal mines. During the autumn public meetings have been held at Houghton, Ryhope, Hetton, Silksworth, Seaham and other centres, and on last Monday took place the first committee meeting of the Houghton-le-Spring Society. This is the only branch of the National Union in the constituency, but closely adjoining we have Sunderland, Chester-le-Street, Durham, Gateshead and Newcastle, Sunderland lying within, and the next three on the borders of the division. The National Union has to make a big effort at this moment, and the Federation officers appeal for help of all kinds. Donations and names and addresses of volunteers should be sent at once to Miss C. M. Gordon, 3, Osborne Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Deputation to a Conservative Candidate.

Mr. T. Richardson states that he is in favour of Women's Suffrage, and is prepared to vote both for a measure on the lines of the Conciliation Bill and for one similar to Dickinson No. 2. He is prepared to oppose any further extension of the franchise to men until women have some measure of political freedom, and considers that on the present basis the vote should be given to men and women on equal terms. In his opinion, however, the question should be submitted to a referendum, and, though he would prefer that referendum to be to women, he considers the municipal electorate inadequate, owing to the small number of women who are municipal voters, and, therefore, desires that the referendum should be to the present Parliamentary electors.

"Public Support of Women's Suffrage."

Some errors were made in the article thus headed in last week's issue. The heading "Number of Meetings Held" should read "Number of Places where Meetings Have Been Held." The name printed "Putsworth" should be "Portsmouth." The names of the Beverley, Hull and Sculcoates Board of Guardians and of the Beverley Town Council should not have appeared in the lists.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
 President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
 Hon. Secretaries: Miss I. B. O'MALLEY (Literature).
 Miss K. D. COURTNEY, Miss EDITH PALLISER (Parliamentary), Miss CATHERINE MARSHALL (Press), Miss EMILY M. LEAF (Press).
 Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. AVERBACH.
 Secretary: Miss GERALDINE COOKE.
 Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Annual Council Meeting.

We are looking forward to a very representative Council meeting this year, and are pleased to see that many of our newest Societies are sending delegates. It is hoped that delegates will be careful to have their tickets with them, so that there will be no delay at the door.

We spare no pains at Headquarters to ensure that the tickets are sent out. They are placed in a separate envelope and enclosed in the large envelope containing the Agenda.

The ballot is an important feature of the Annual Council meeting, and care must be taken to ensure that only accredited delegates gain admission.

This year there will be a contest for the office of Hon. Parliamentary Secretary. It is thought that it will be more satisfactory to have two distinct ballots, as the result of the voting for the Parliamentary Secretary must affect the voting for the Executive Committee. We are, therefore, arranging to open the first ballot from 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, February 27th, and are issuing a separate ticket for this. The name of the elected Parliamentary Secretary can be announced before the close of the afternoon session. The ballot for the Executive will be opened at 5 p.m. on that afternoon and will be continued at 10 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. on the following day. Admission will be by the perforated slips on the delegates' tickets.

The Holborn Hall is in Gray's Inn Road, about half way up. Omnibuses pass the hall from Baker Street, Euston, St. Pancras and King's Cross; from Tottenham Court Road and Holborn; and from Victoria Station. A tramcar also passes which runs along the Embankment, and can be taken from Westminster, Waterloo Bridge, or Kingsway. The nearest Underground Railway Stations are King's Cross (Metropolitan), and Chancery Lane (Central London).

Arrangements for Public Meeting.

The N.U.W.S.S. is arranging to hold a public meeting as soon as possible after the Annual Council meeting to announce the policy of the Union, in which important developments are expected. The meeting will take place at the Kensington Town Hall on Friday, March 7th, at 8.30 p.m., and amongst the speakers will be Mrs. Fawcett, Lord Lytton, Mr. Philip Snowden, and Mrs. Swanwick. The London Society has kindly undertaken the organisation of the meeting, and tickets, price 5s., 1s., and 6d., may be obtained from Miss Strachey, at 58, Victoria Street, as well as handbills for distribution.

Members are advised to make early application for tickets, as the demand will be great. A larger hall would have been taken had it been possible to secure one on a suitable date, and a crowded meeting is expected.

We greatly regret that the date fixed should coincide with the meeting to be held in the Queen's Hall by the Anti-Sweating League. The hall had been engaged, and the principal speakers invited before the announcement of the Anti-Sweating League meeting was made, otherwise the National Union would have made an effort to alter the date.

By-Election.

A by-election was announced in Houghton-le-Spring last Friday, and steps were at once taken to prepare for work there. As it was impossible to tell for some days under what conditions the contest would be fought, our election workers were asked to hold themselves in readiness for a sudden call.

At the time of going to press we have heard that the Durham



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LONDON SOCIETY OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.
 58, Victoria Street, S.W.
PUBLIC RECEPTION To-day, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 3.30 to 6.15.
 WESTMINSTER PALACE HOTEL, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.
 Chair: The Honble. Mrs. SPENCER GRAVES. Speakers: Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D., Mrs. C. A. V. CONYBEARE, Miss EMILY HILL, P.L.G. Next Week (Feb. 28): Miss PALLISER, Rev. L. SMITH, Dr. F. WILLEY and others.

Miners' Federation have given permission to their President, Alderman House, to contest the division if invited by the organised workers to do so. The Liberal Executive has recommended the adoption of Mr. Tom Wing, of Grimsbury, while it seems probable that the Conservative candidate will be Mr. Thomas Richardson. By the beginning of next week work will no doubt be in full swing.

Treasurer's Notes.

Another by-election is upon us, calling for money as well as to hold a public meeting on March 7th to announce publicly the policy decided upon by the Council. Please consider how you can help to make the collection on that occasion adequate to the immediate needs of the Union.

The Younger Suffragists have once more given a handsome donation—the more generous as they give the Cause and our Union so much personal service. One donor expresses what must be in all our minds:—"Alas, that it has to be," and she adds:—"The waste of money is but a small evil compared with the strain of work and suffering and endurance which it involves on our noble workers. . . . I am always thinking of our dear brave Mrs. Fawcett and her band of helpers."

An example of real devotion has just reached us from the Southern Counties. A woman, whose means allow her no margin, has decided to do all her own household washing in order to save something to send to the National Union. This is the spirit which will carry us to victory.

F. M. STERLING
 (Treasurer, pro tem.)

Election Fighting Fund.—Treasurer's Statement.

Last week we made a special appeal for subscriptions and donations to this fund on general grounds. Now we are faced with a by-election, which makes our need the more urgent. Who will give to help the work in Houghton-le-Spring?

Contributions to the General Fund.

Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1912 ... £ 1,004 10 5
 Received February 10th to 17th —

Subscriptions.	
Miss B. R. Bruce	1 1 0
Mrs. T. B. Bruce	1 1 0
Miss I. O. Ford	2 0 0
Miss Frances M. Sterling	5 0 0
Mrs. E. Holme	2 0 0
Mrs. R. Upcher	1 1 0
Mrs. Hermon	2 2 0
Mrs. J. Day	0 2 0
Mrs. E. Gray	1 0 0
Miss Greswell	0 2 0
Miss Mabel Shaw	0 6 0
Mrs. G. Wild	0 1 0
Mrs. F. A. Geoghegan	0 5 0
Donations.	
Mr. H. L. Christie (change)	0 2 0
Miss Christian Wickham	5 0 0
Mrs. Hermon, 10s. 6d. (new Societies), 10s. 6d. (organisers' salaries)	1 1 0
South Western Federation (towards Organiser's expenses)	15 0 0
Mrs. Overton	5 5 0

Affiliation Fees.	
Scarborough W.S.S. (additional)	0 4 9
York W.S.S.	3 2 6
Crowthorne W.S.S.	0 12 6
Holt W.S.S.	0 5 0
Hawkshead W.S.S.	0 17 6
Wallasey and Wirral W.S.S.	1 15 0
Selkirk W.S.S.	0 8 6
Buckingham W.S.S.	0 5 0
Ascot W.S.S.	0 13 0
Cheltenham W.S.S.	1 5 0
Southwold W.S.S.	0 16 9
Shoreham and Otford W.S.S.	0 12 6
Glasgow W.S.S.	10 0 0
Street W.S.S.	1 5 6
South Shields W.S.S.	0 12 9
Woolerbury W.S.S.	0 6 6
Falmouth W.S.S.	1 7 6
Knutsford W.S.S.	0 7 6
Huddersfield W.S.S.	1 14 9

Emergency Fund.	
N. and E. Essex W.S.S.	1 3 0
Winchcombe and District W.S.S.	0 5 9
Great Yarmouth W.S.S.	0 6 6
Haslingden W.S.S.	0 5 0
Teignmouth W.S.S.	0 12 6
Maidenhead W.S.S.	1 2 6
Eccles W.S.S.	1 0 6
Crieff W.S.S.	1 0 0
Hull W.S.S.	4 7 6
Llandudno W.S.S.	1 17 0
Whitby W.S.S.	1 10 9
Tiverton W.S.S.	0 5 0
Harwich W.S.S.	0 12 6
Penmaenmawr W.S.S.	0 8 3
Stafford W.S.S.	0 12 6
Church Stretton	0 7 6
High Wycombe W.S.S.	1 5 3
Blackhill and Consett W.S.S.	0 5 3
Crowborough W.S.S.	0 6 6
Felixstowe W.S.S.	0 8 6
Folkestone W.S.S.	0 16 3
Deal and Walmer W.S.S.	0 18 0
Aldershot W.S.S.	0 17 0
Wrexham W.S.S.	0 11 9
New Forest W.S.S.	1 3 6
Worcester W.S.S.	1 12 0
Heywood W.S.S.	0 17 6
Wokingham W.S.S. (additional)	0 1 3
Exeter W.S.S.	2 11 6
Oswestry W.S.S.	0 10 0
Cromer W.S.S. (additional)	0 0 9
Bedford W.S.S.	2 3 9
St. Ives (Cornwall) W.S.S.	0 10 0
Nottingham W.S.S.	5 3 0

Mrs. Hogg (Dublin)	5 0 0
Miss Earp (per Oxford W.S.S.)	0 10 0
Mrs. Davidson	1 0 0
Mrs. Fitzroy Hacht	2 2 0
Miss Phoebe Wynn Elias	0 10 0
Mrs. Wace (per Oxford W.S.S.)	0 10 0
£1,119 2 5	

Election Fighting Fund.

Election Fighting Fund.	
Already acknowledged	£ 4,262 10 1
Received since February 10th:—	
Mrs. J. Frankland	0 10 0
Mrs. C. N. Kennedy	1 0 0
Miss A. Bateson	50 0 0
Mrs. Clothier and Mrs. Gillett	2 0 0
Younger Suffragists	20 0 0
Mrs. Upcher	0 10 6
Miss Violet Upcher	0 2 0
Mrs. A. D. Fyfe	0 6 0
Two Friends	0 10 0
Mrs. F. Cavendish Bentinck	10 0 0
Miss Jessie Clarke	0 10 0
Mrs. Fitzroy Hecht (3rd donation)	1 1 0
Mrs. H. M. Gregory	1 1 0
£4,350 0 7	

English Folk Songs at South Kensington.

The Potteries Fund, which has been working continuously for several years to assist women and girls in the Potteries district who are suffering from that appalling—and preventable—disease, lead-poisoning, is holding an entertainment for the enlargement of its financial resources on March 5th, at 25, Bolton Gardens, Wetherby Road, South Kensington, S.W. A lecture on English Folk Songs, with vocal illustrations, will be given by Mr. Clive Carey, who, it will be remembered, is intimately connected with the Folk Song movement in this country, and who has recently given evidence of his knowledge and skill in the arrangement of the dances in the present production of "The Winter's Tale."

Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, Chairman of the Potteries Fund Committee, will take the chair at this entertainment at 5.30 p.m. A further attraction will be an exhibition of leadless glazed china and earthenware.

Tickets (including tea at 4.30) are 5s., and can be obtained from Miss Phillips, 45, Gloucester Street, Belgrave Road, S.W.

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The Club has been formed as a Social Club for

MEN AND WOMEN

interested in the Suffrage Movement.

CONSTANT LECTURES ARRANGED.

LECTURE.—Tuesday, February 25th, at 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss C. NINA BOYLE. Subject: Woman's Vote and the Empire.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE,

PUBLIC MEETING

AT

CAXTON HALL,

WESTMINSTER,

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26th, at 3.30 p.m.

Speakers—Surgeon-General EVAITT, C.B. (on "Florence Nightingale—The Greatest Woman Citizen")

Miss C. NINA BOYLE.

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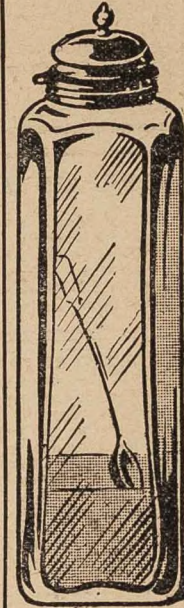
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I herewith enclose cheque postal order for £ s. d., the amount of my annual subscription.

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(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.