

# Women's Franchise.

No. 49.

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## Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

**Weekly Numbers, 1d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; half-yearly, 3s. 3d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. All Subscriptions must be paid in advance. Back Numbers can still be obtained at the Office.**

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

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

The paper is on sale at Messrs. Smith & Son's Depots.

## Notes.

IT has been suggested that *Women's Franchise* should figure officially in the Procession of the 13th under a device of two mammoth quill pens crossed with ink-pot rampant and a banner pendant bearing the motto: "The pen is mightier than the sword." For this suggestive bit of pageantry we are indebted to Miss Abadam's imagination, but we need to carry it out effectively not only the loan of a motor-car as requested in last week's number, but also half-a-dozen or more volunteers who will walk by the car and distribute specimen copies of the paper to the populace. Who will offer?

AN interesting encounter took place on the 26th in the House between Mr. Asquith and our good friend, Lord Robert Cecil, on the subject of the Premier's recent pronouncements with regard to the political enfranchisement of women. Lord Robert inquired whether the Prime Minister intended to introduce a measure of electoral reform before the next General Election, and, if so, will it be introduced in this session or next session? Also, did he propose to give no facilities for the enactment of a Bill conferring the franchise upon women except in connexion with a measure of general electoral reform? Mr. Asquith replied that no such measure will be introduced during the present session, and that he was not yet in a position to make any statement with regard to the business of next year. With reference to the latter part of Lord Robert's question, Mr. Asquith referred him to the speech he made to the deputation last week. Thereupon Lord Robert inquired whether an authorized copy of that speech could be circulated. No answer was returned, and there were Ministerial cries of "No." It is a significant fact that the Liberal papers omitted to mention this incident.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON, presiding at the Quarterly Meeting of the North of England Society for Women's Suffrage, which was held on the 22nd, said she hoped that a great many Liberal women would walk in the great Procession of June 13th; many from the North had already expressed their intention of doing so. She condemned the weakness of women in party politics in that they would not stand shoulder to shoulder when it comes to a question of working for themselves, and emphasized the fact that women want to appeal to the Government as a united body, not of one party, but of all parties.

THE first of a series of meetings was held in the horse fair, Bristol, in the dinner-hour on Thursday. Mrs. Cooper, from Lancashire, a member of the textile workers, Cheshire, was the chief speaker, supported by a band of women. Canon Talbot was in the chair, and addressed a crowd who quickly assembled, and introduced Mrs. Cooper. That lady held the crowd for three-quarters of an hour, Women's Suffrage being the subject. Other women speakers followed, who were all well received. The meeting was quite orderly, men and women listened attentively, and eagerly received the suffrage literature that was distributed. A similar meeting was held on the Downs at seven in the evening, Canon Talbot, the Rev. Donald Fraser, and Major Edwards supported the women, amongst whom were Miss Mary Clifford and the Misses Priestman. A few youths attempted to interrupt the meeting, but without success, as the speakers were listened to with attention for an hour and a half. Open-air meetings will be held in various parts of Bristol, and addressed by Mrs. Cooper and others.

THE banners designed by the Artists' Suffrage League are so beautiful in device and workmanship that special arrangements have been made for viewing them before Suffrage Saturday. They will be shown in the Caxton Hall on Thursday, June 11th, from 1 to 6 P.M., and on Friday, June 12th, from 12 A.M. to 10 P.M. (Admission 6d., Tea, 6d.)

Short speeches will be delivered at intervals; among the speakers being Miss Lowndes, Chairman of the Artists' League, Miss I. O. Ford, of the N.U.W.S.S. Committee, and Miss Cicely Hamilton, the author of "Diana of Dobson's" (now running at the Kingsway Theatre), and of various publications on Women's Suffrage. The time is short for making this Exhibition known. It is hoped that all who can will apply for packets of leaflets about it, and distribute them. Offers of maids to help with the tea will also be gratefully received. Miss Ward, at 25, Victoria Street, is making the necessary arrangements on behalf of the League.

It may be added that all details about the Procession, with plans of its grouping, will be obtainable at the Exhibition.

WE are indebted to Mrs. Morsland for subscription for the *Women's Franchise* to be sent to the Free Library, Waterloo, Liverpool; to Mrs. Kayser, for the paper to be sent to the Fleet Circulating Library; to Mrs. Shillington for a donation of 5s. for the paper to be sent to Members of Parliament, and to Miss C. A. Coombs for 1s. towards the expenses of publishing *Women's Franchise*.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

**RUSSIA.**—On April 22nd and 23rd the scattered members of the Russian Union for Women's Rights met at Moscow. The question of legalizing the Union was again raised, and once more negatived, on the ground that it would lead to still closer police supervision, at any rate in the large towns. It was decided to take an active part in the first Congress of Russian Women, also to send delegates to the International Conference at Amsterdam.

In spite of the extreme difficulty of working on progressive lines in Russia, the idea of women's liberty is slowly penetrating all grades of the population. Nowhere is this more remarkable than in the action taken by the Mussulman women of the Southern Caucasus, who have organized a "society for the promotion of education among the Mussulman women," with the motto, "Down with the chadra [the piece of cloth worn over the face]. Light and Liberty." The women of the Government of Orenburg even sent an appeal to the Duma against the tyranny exercised over them by the men. They pointed out that according to the Mussulman Scriptures women have the right to learn, to travel, to go to the mosques and to Mecca, also to participate in trade and commerce. "Thus in Arabia and other countries the Mussulman women have organized societies, have built churches and founded philanthropic institutions, and have written books; there have been many authors and poets among them; the wife of our prophet had accompanied her husband to the war, she had studied foreign languages and science. Now our husbands forbid us even to study our religion and to read religious books." They point out the inequality in the treatment of men and women, and go on: "We Mussulman women, thanks to Allah, are lately beginning to get education; and now that we understand our holy shariat, which has not deprived the women of any right, we understand that we Mussulman women are also human beings. Mussulman deputies in the Duma, you must demand all the necessary rights for the Mussulman women; you must obtain a law which shall protect us from the tyranny of those despotic husbands, from oppression and suffering. We are the mothers of the nation, the companions of men; the education and progress of the nation is in our hands. If our husbands do not alter their conduct towards us let them know: a day shall come when they also will become slaves; and then the whole Mussulman race will perish."

It is stated that this appeal has met with a sympathetic reception from the progressive elements of the Mussulman nation, men as well as women. The Mussulman Society in Moscow has promised to support the claims of the women of Orenburg in the Duma.

**HUNGARY.**—At a meeting held to protest against Count Andrassy's reply to the deputation that approached him on behalf of Women's Suffrage several members of the Social Democratic party expressed themselves strongly against the extension of the franchise to women. The result was to arouse the indignation of the better members of the party, which in theory has always been pledged to Women's Suffrage, and at the party meeting held at Buda Pest at Easter a resolution was passed pledging the party to do all in its power to assist the cause. Though Hungarian Suffragists have no reason, judging by the past, to hope for much active assistance from this quarter, they may at least hope not to be hindered by it, and even that is something gained. They have now been invited by members of the Peasant party to undertake a propaganda among the peasant women.

A. ZIMMERN.

A Correction.

In *Women's Franchise* of May 28th, under the above heading, the name of Mrs. Fawcett was given as one of the speakers at the young people's meeting on June 17th. This is a mistake. Miss Rendell, of Newnham College, Cambridge, will be the English speaker on this occasion.

Scottish Women's Social and Political Union.

Organizing Secretary: MISS HELEN FRASER.  
COCKBURN BUILDINGS, 141, BATH STREET, GLASGOW.  
Telegraphic Address: "SUFFRAGE, GLASGOW."  
Nat. Telephone: 416 DOUGLAS.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

We demand the Vote on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

Glasgow Meeting.

On Saturday, May 23rd, we had a most successful meeting in Charing Cross Hall, when there was quite a list of speakers.

The Rev. Dr. John Hunter made an excellent Chairman, and Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Mary Gawthorpe, our principal speakers, made a very fine combination. Dr. Margaret Tod, Miss Una Dugdale, and Miss Helen Fraser also spoke.

Mrs. Fawcett's speech was a comprehensive survey of the Women's Movement in its widest aspect, and she dealt with the world-wide rising that is taking place now. Her comments on Mr. Asquith's pronouncement were excellent—and she showed clearly how little and yet how much had been gained—how little politically, but how much of recognition. Her appeal to all women to help, and her clear showing of how much this movement means, was much appreciated.

Miss Gawthorpe's speech was militant, vivacious, and telling—containing a clever defence of our by-election policy and tactics. Both speeches were enthusiastically received. Mrs. Hunter, Miss Burnet, Miss Irwin, Mrs. Pearce, Mrs. Hector, Miss Underwood, Dr. and Mrs. Beilby, and Mrs. Martel were also present.

Holiday Plans.

THIS week at headquarters we have been planning future work, summer campaigns, and open-air work. On the west coast we shall have Rothsay and Oban as centres, and our east coast centres will be decided later.

We need workers for these campaigns in July and August—workers to take the chair, to speak, to chalk pavements, to sell literature, to give away leaflets, to talk to inquirers, and to be missionaries for "Votes for Women." Will those who could give some of their holiday time write to me so that we may make arrangements early?

The Edinburgh and Midlothian branch, whose opening At Home took place on Wednesday, June 3rd, have also been considering the possibility of having a summer campaign in their district. We are going to see what the Stirling members can do in summer, and Aberdeen is going to help with the east coast.

Our At Homes at 141, Bath Street, will be continued till July. On Saturday we had a very successful meeting.

I wish also to make an appeal to our members and sympathizers for financial aid. We have spent a considerable amount at the by-elections, and the exchequer needs replenishing. If my readers cannot give money, will they not try to raise some for us by garden parties, cake and candy sales, entertainments, or by giving us a piece of their work to sell for the funds? and I shall also be delighted to have suggestions for money-raising from any who are interested.

HELEN FRASER.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

From June 6th to June 13th.				P.M.
Sat. 6.	At Home, 141, Bath Street, Glasgow			4
Sun. 7.	Darvel (open air)	Miss Helen Fraser		3 and 7
Mon. 8.	Marykirk	Miss Helen Fraser		7.30
Tues. 9.	Auchinloch	Miss Helen Fraser		7.30
Wed. 10.	At Home, Albert Buildings, Shandwick Place, Edinburgh			4 till 6
Sat. 13.	At Home, 141, Bath Street, Glasgow			4 till 6
Sat. 13.	Public Meeting, Galashiels	Miss Helen Fraser Miss Esson Maule		8

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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

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

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.

Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON.

Hon. Secretaries: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. MISS FRANCES STERLING.

Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

Organiser: MISS E. M. GARDNER, B.A.

Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA.

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. MCLAREN.

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

MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT M.P.  
MISS EDITH DIMOCK  
MISS I. O. FORD  
MISS MARTINDALE, M.B., B.S.

MRS. BROADLEY REID  
HON. BERTRAND RUSSELL  
MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN

LADY STRACHEY  
And the Hon. Officers,  
ex officio.

Correspondence.

MADAM,—I feel that possibly some of your readers may make the mistake of supposing that Mr. Russell's short article on the above subject in *Women's Franchise* for May 28th was an expression of the views of the Executive Committee of the National Union. Of course, Mr. Russell himself is not in the least responsible for this mistake should it arise; but it is as well to point out that the Executive Committee meets for the first time since Mr. Asquith's pronouncement on Thursday next, June 4th, and that Mr. Russell's article expresses no more than his own individual opinion.

My own individual opinion on reading the report of Mr. Asquith's speech was that he was keeping up his character as an opponent of Women's Suffrage by trying to run our barque on the rocks of Adult Suffrage. He was bound to make some apparent concession in order to pacify the deep and growing discontent in the ranks of the Women's Liberal Federation, which was so forcibly expressed in the resolution quoted in your columns ten days ago. In offering this "concession" it appears to me that he contrived to do as much harm as possible to the Women's Suffrage Movement, and refrained completely from identifying his party with it. On being questioned on Tuesday in the House of Commons whether, if a Women's Suffrage Amendment were carried on a Government Reform Bill, Women's Suffrage would then become part of the programme of the Liberal party, Mr. Asquith replied: "My hon. friend has asked me a contingent question in regard to a remote and speculative future." His Government is now pledged to give more enfranchisement to the already enfranchised men, but is wholly unpledged to give any enfranchisement to the wholly unenfranchised women. To him that hath shall be given. The benefits to a reasonable scheme for women's enfranchisement, from what Mr. Asquith has said, appear to me "remote and speculative"; but there are two certain advantages to be derived from his speech. The cant phrase about "the mandate" is for ever dismissed to limbo; for no one can pretend that this Government has a mandate to introduce Manhood Suffrage. It is also useful to have an authoritative statement from the Prime Minister that two-thirds of his Cabinet are in favour of Women's Suffrage.

I remain, sir, yours obediently,

MAY 29th, 1908. MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

MADAM,—I have read with great interest, but with considerable surprise, an article headed "Mr. Asquith's Pronouncement" in your last issue. The views of the writer of this article must naturally command the serious consideration of all members of our Society. But the very fact that they will carry weight makes it important that they should be considered as the basis of free and open discussion, and not as in any way whatever possessing the finality of an official pronouncement. The earnestness of Mr. Asquith's move is apparent even in the advice which Mr. Russell, our old friend, gives us. He says, "It will not be the business of the Suffrage Societies to draft the Amendment," "it will be the business of the Suffrage Societies to support whatever Amendment our friends in Parliament may introduce." I am not concerned to dispute these two statements, but Mr. Russell also observes that "in order to fulfil Mr. Asquith's con-

dition (the Amendment) must not merely propose to extend the present franchise to women, but must be so drafted as to enfranchise the majority of working women." Now, whatever differences there may be in method, the four Women's Suffrage Societies present an absolutely united front in demanding that the parliamentary franchise be extended to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men." This attitude has received recognition from a very large number of friends of the cause, both in and out of the House. Surely Mr. Asquith has not as yet proved himself so trusty a champion of women's rights that at his bidding it should be lightly departed from. The study of *Aesop's Fables*, and the study of modern political history, alike teach us women "furiously to think."

I am, &c., W. H. A.

DEAR MADAM,—Allow me to give an unqualified denial to the statement in *Women's Franchise* of March 14th, that this League is supporting Lord Duncannon. From the manner in which it is inserted in Cheltenham's account, this seems intended to give the impression, that we are more "Conservative," than "Franchise."

We have more important work to trouble about than what Lord Duncannon thinks, or does not think, and he has not been approached in any way by us. He will have had time to learn more of the subject than he knows at present, by the time we think it necessary to interview him on the question. On his reply will depend our action.

I remain, yours truly,  
H. H. WRIGHT, Hon. Organizing Secretary.

The 5,000 Guineas Fund.

The following contributions have been received since May 26th, 1908:—

Collected in Leeds (per Miss E. H. Ford)	£ s. d.	Arthur Richardson, Esq.	£ s. d.
.. .. .	10 12 4	.. .. .	0 5 0
Mrs. Ben Dowson .. .. .	2 0 0	Miss D. F. Cholmeley .. .. .	0 10 8
Mrs. W. E. Dowson .. .. .	3 10 0	Anonymous .. .. .	0 5 0
Miss Jackson .. .. .	1 0 0		
Miss A. M. Dowson .. .. .	1 0 0		
Dr. Sarah Gray .. .. .	0 5 0		
			£19 7 10

Suffrage Shop in Westbourne Grove.

THE North Kensington Committee, aided by members of the S. Kensington and Paddington Committees, will open No. 100, Westbourne Grove, W., as a Women's Suffrage Committee Room, from Friday, June 5th, for a week. Hours 10 A.M. to 8 P.M. The shop is capable of holding over 100 people, and has a large window in which banners and posters will be exhibited, and literature, including *Women's Franchise* and post cards, will be on sale. The rent of the shop is heavy owing to the excellence of its situation; we are, therefore, very anxious to justify the initial expenditure by the success of our work, but we cannot do this if we are crippled for want of helpers and money. Donations, however small, towards hire of chairs, printing and working expenses are urgently needed in order that we may hold as many meetings as possible and carry on a very active campaign.

Helpers will be badly wanted for canvassing, bill distributing, meetings, &c. Will all who can give a little time in that week write at once to Miss F. G. Wright, 10, Linden Gardens, Notting Hill Gate, W., stating which days and hours they are willing to give?

### Times Danaos et dona ferentes.

It is interesting to observe that upon the consideration for and treatment of women extremes meet. The foolish dandy, who values himself upon his appearance and the wastefulness of his expenditure, is apt to make insolent generalizations about women, speaking of them as dolls to be dressed or possessions to be fought for. So amongst the roughest of the working classes the same attitude of mind is maintained against all change in other ranks of society, and serious resentment is felt at the notion that a man may not do what he likes with his own, including the chastisement of his wife when she is rash enough to incur his resentment.

Existing laws very often reflect the opinions of a bygone age, and seriously outrage the consciences of all but the thoughtless or mindless in the upper classes, and the reckless in the lower. This is undoubtedly the case, in spite of many improvements within the last twenty-five years, with the laws affecting the status of women. Perhaps the most flagrant example is to be found in those relating to bastardy. A short time ago a man was brought before me for deserting his five children, and leaving them in the workhouse. He pleaded that his wife, the mother of his children, had died in the workhouse, and as he had not married her until after all the children were born, he was not responsible for them in law, and nobody could make him so. And he was right. The law does not permit anybody to prove the paternity of bastard children except the mother, although overwhelming evidence may be forthcoming, including repeated admissions by the father. The law further places such hindrances in the way of the mother who desires to obtain an order, that a large proportion of male parents escape all responsibility. The anomalies and injustices connected with this subject are many, but the moral of them all is summed up by this idea; to men the self-indulgence, to women the burden and the disgrace. Such laws were made by men at a time when nobody thought of treating women as independent and equal human beings.

There is an analogous wrong and inequality of treatment running through all the laws affecting marriage. A man who finds his wife committing adultery may cast her adrift without a penny, and even leave her to maintain his children without contribution, unless the guardians of the poor intervene. A woman, on the other hand, who finds her husband committing adultery, has no redress whatever in a police-court unless her husband has combined with his unfaithfulness a neglect to maintain her, or some form of active cruelty. The position is intolerable, but not uncommon, of a husband defiantly insisting upon his marital rights, because he is maintaining his wife, although he is at the same time supporting another woman. Or take this case, which is of constant occurrence. A wife gets a separation order upon her husband for persistent cruelty, and is given the custody of the children and an order for maintenance of herself and family. The man neglects to comply with the order, and goes to prison rather than support his wife who has dared to have the law of him. The wife, burdened by a young family and incapable of earning enough for her children, is driven to accept the protection of another man, and the husband thereupon becomes entitled to have the order made upon him rescinded. He deserves a harder punishment than the law allows to be given him in the first instance, and, being himself the direct cause of his wife's wrong-doing, he ought not in the second instance to be entitled to derive any benefit from it. Such inequalities might be enlarged upon in many directions, but sufficient has been said to illustrate the character of thought and the nature of laws which maintain in the lower ranks of society the detestable view that women exist only for the pleasure or service of men by whom they are willing to be maintained. It is not uncommon for a woman complaining of an assault before a police magistrate to excuse herself by saying: "I should not have taken any notice, your worship, but the man knocked me down as if he were my husband, whereas I hardly know him." It is sometimes urged that women who use such language do not desire and would not make use of a vote. This is not true. The working-class women have their fashions like their betters, and lip service to the superiority of men and the rightful sub-

mission of women is one of them, but when seriously questioned on the subject they have no hesitation in saying that they want more consideration as independent human beings, not only before the law, but also in their workshops, as well as in their homes, and they believe that the vote would go a long way to securing it for them. They want the vote to mend their own manners, as well as those of their employers and their husbands. A great deal might be said on the subject of employment, but it would extend this paper beyond reasonable limits. Every day Parliament is busying itself with questions which directly affect women, and the pity of it is that they who are so vitally interested cannot express themselves effectively upon anything. I will give, and conclude with, one example only, as it may be of use to sound a note of warning. A departmental committee of the Board of Trade is considering the question of sweated labour and fair wages. Everybody hopes that women may be benefited by it, but it appears that under the pretext of fighting for women having a living wage the trades unions are insisting upon women being paid at the same rate as men. Women know that this would be fatal to their employment, and there is danger of men altogether ousting them from competition in the labour market, while appearing to fight for their interests. I hope I am wrong in this opinion, but I am certainly right in insisting that women ought to be consulted upon the matter. "Times danaos et dona ferentes." CECIL CHAPMAN.

### Further Donations to the Procession Fund.

Mrs. Homan .. .. .	£1 1 0
Miss H. M. Smith .. .. .	0 10 0
Mrs. Stuart .. .. .	1 1 0
Mrs. E. Smith .. .. .	0 10 0
Mrs. Close Shipham .. .. .	0 1 0
Miss J. Wedgwood .. .. .	5 0 0
Miss S. Widdows .. .. .	0 2 6
Mrs. A. Levine .. .. .	0 10 0
Miss S. R. Courbauld .. .. .	0 5 0
Miss Davenport Hill .. .. .	3 0 0
Miss A. Farmer .. .. .	0 5 0
Mrs. Parsons .. .. .	0 1 0
Mrs. Waley .. .. .	1 1 0
Mrs. Allen .. .. .	1 0 0
Miss Lake .. .. .	0 10 0
R. F. Cholmeley, Esq. .. .. .	0 10 0

15 7 6

[Many further Donations received will be inserted next week.]

### PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

	June.	P.M.
9th	London, N. Kensington, Open-Air Meeting, corner of Pembridge Gardens and High Street, Notting Hill Gate	8.15
	Speakers, Surg.-Gen. Evatt, Miss Abadam, Miss F. G. Wright, and others	
10th	Marylebone, Drawing-Room Meeting, 23, Woronzow Road, St. John's Wood	
	Hostess, Mrs. Kenyon Caird Speaker, Miss M. Robertson	
11th	N. Kensington, Open-Air Meeting, corner of Archer Street and Westbourne Grove	8.15
	Speakers, Mr. W. L. George, Councillor C. S. O'Dell, Miss Cicely Corbett, Miss A. Wright	
16th	St. Pancras, Drawing-Room Meeting, 82, Sinclair Road	
	Hostess, Mrs. Hesilrigge Speaker, Miss M. Robertson	
17th	Drawing-Room Meeting, 40, Camden Square	4-4.30
	Hostess, Mrs. Sykes Speaker, Miss M. Robertson	
Exhibition of Banners at Caxton Hall, Westminster, Thursday, June 11th, 1 to 6 P.M.; Friday, June 12th, 12 to 10 P.M. Admission 6d.; Tea 6d.		
Procession and Meeting at Albert Hall, Saturday, June 13th.		
Tickets to be obtained from Miss Strachey, 25, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.		

\* \* \* Kindly address all communications relating to the work of Societies in the N.U.W.S.S. and all paragraphs intended for these columns to Miss Harcastle, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.; to reach her by first post Saturday. Please write only on one side of paper.

# SUFFRAGE SATURDAY, JUNE 13th.

## PROCESSION.

### Societies Taking Part.

We commented last week on the representative character of all the proceedings on Suffrage Saturday. In the procession there will be with us the Women's Co-operative Guild, which represents the best type of England's industrial women, who are, in fact, the backbone of the nation. The Women's Employment Defence League, whose principal object it is to oppose all legislation likely to lessen women's earnings or deprive them of employment, will also walk with us. The presence of these women is particularly significant in view of the recent utterances by Mr. Burns with regard to married women's labour. Indeed, the most remarkable phase of the whole effort is the manner in which the working women are coming forward and asking to be allowed to testify their sympathy by joining us. Hundreds of London working women not necessarily belonging to any society will be present. The Union of Ethical Societies and the Fabian Women's Group will represent different phases of thought. The presence of members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will prove that a keen desire for the Suffrage is not incompatible with the profession which is held to be above all others womanly. The nurses will be backed by a group of women interested in physical training and education. The National Union of Women Workers is perhaps the most representative of all the societies taking part, as it unites in a common bond all women working for the public weal.

Among the university women will be students from nearly all the women's colleges, who will take part as individuals. They will not march under the college banners as was inadvertently stated last week, but will come unofficially.

### Provincial Societies.

The arrangements for country members arriving in our special trains are now complete, and everything possible will be done to spare them fatigue. Many will be coming from very long distances, a contingent of twenty leaving Newcastle at 4 A.M. to join us. Each of our specials will be met at the station of arrival by a London member (easily recognized by her red and white scarf), who will escort the party by tube or underground to the Embankment. The first place in the procession will be allotted to the Provincial Societies, who will be marshalled in alphabetical order on the Embankment at the bottom of Northumberland Avenue. They will thus have the shortest distance to walk, and will be the first to reach the Hall. After the meeting is over tea will be offered them by the kindness of friends, and special trains on the Metropolitan will convey them from South Kensington to King's Cross or Praed Street. Railway inspectors in uniform will personally conduct parties from the Albert Hall, and the start from the Hall should be made not later than 6.50. Tickets for these special Metropolitan trains are obtainable through the secretaries of the National Union branches, and will be available also for use by other trains before or after the specials.

### Robing.

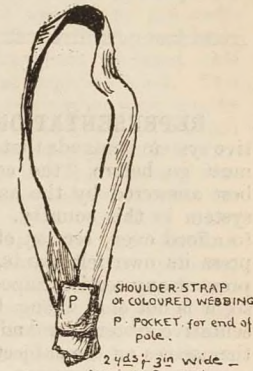
MEDICAL and University women who will join the Procession in academic dress are asked to be at Buckingham Street, Strand, at 2 P.M. on June 13th, where robing rooms will be provided at Nos. 18 and 19. Hats and coats will be taken in boxes to the Albert Hall, where they will be found after the meeting in a room specially reserved for them.

### Men's League.

THE Men's League have most kindly offered their assistance as stewards on the Embankment. Their duties will be multifarious, and we accept their generous offer with warm appreciation.

### Shoulder-Straps for Banner-Bearers.

THE design shown on this page is the one adopted by the Artists' Suffrage League, as it enables the wearer to carry the pole without difficulty. The pocket (P) should be firmly stitched on to the ends of the coloured webbing, and made large enough for end of pole.



### Formation of the Procession.

THE Procession will assemble on the Embankment with its head at the bottom of Northumberland Avenue. It will be formed up six abreast, and will stretch to Westminster Bridge, turn up Bridge Street, and round the corner into Parliament Street, where it will continue along Whitehall. The Provincial Societies will lead the way, and the London Society, marching in constituencies arranged alphabetically, will bring up the rear.

The Procession will form in eight separate blocks.

BLOCK I.—HEAD AT NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE. Provincial Societies, arranged alphabetically; Colonials and Internationals.

BLOCK II.—HORSE GUARDS AVENUE AND YORK PLACE. Medical Women, Graduates, and Education.

BLOCK III. Business, Office, Shorthand Writers.

BLOCK IV. Professions.—Writers, Artists, Actresses, Musicians, Nurses, Physical Training, Gardeners, Farmers, Home-Makers.

BLOCK V. Co-operative Guilds, Women's Employment Defence League, National Union of Women Workers, Ethical Societies. Review of Reviews Association.

BLOCK VI.—BRIDGE STREET, PARLIAMENT STREET. Political Societies, Liberal Women, Conservatives and Unionists, Fabians.

BLOCK VII. Women's Freedom League.

BLOCK VIII.—OPPOSITE DOWNING STREET. London Society.

### Carriages and Motors.

CARRIAGES will assemble on the Embankment between Charing Cross and Waterloo Bridge, and motors behind the carriages at Essex Street. They will fall in and proceed at the end of the procession of walkers. At some point on the route the police will direct the carriages to pass the walkers and drive on to the Hall, to enable them to set down before the rest of the Procession arrives. It is hoped that all will assist by leaving their carriages as quickly as possible.

TICKETS, price 1s., for seats in brakes can be obtained (up to June 10th) from Miss P. Strachey, 25, Victoria Street. These brakes will be stationed on the Embankment, near Charing Cross Railway Bridge, and will fall in behind the walkers in the Procession.

## VOTES FOR WOMEN.

## Women's Freedom League (late W.S.P.A.).

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

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

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.  
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. GRAHAM MOFFAT.Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.S.C., M.R.C.S.  
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

National Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

## Notes.

**REPRESENTATION.**—The suggestion that a representative system demands that the subject of women's enfranchisement must go before "the country" before it can become law is best answered by the assertion that there is no representative system in this country. The only reason for such a system is to afford every section of the community an opportunity to express its own felt wants, and, what is still more important, to prevent any section imposing its will upon another. This being so, it is not only wrong, but highly illogical, to say that a representative system demands that men shall be asked to express themselves on the subject of women's interests. Men do not and cannot represent women, and the moment they cease to represent themselves and begin laying down the law for others, the representative system may be said to have broken down. A representative system should ensure, for instance, that the opinions of fishermen be obtained on legislation affecting the fishing industry, but it does not follow therefrom that the fisherman is an authority on the question of admitting women to the franchise.

The Cambridge graduate may be an authority on "ragging," but we do not feel inclined to trust his wisdom on such subjects as infantile mortality, mothers as factory workers, Women's Suffrage, or any other essentially woman's question. It was not thought necessary to consult the women of the country on the subject of male enfranchisement, and we decline altogether to assent to the proposal that in our case it is necessary to go beyond the fact that the enfranchisement of women is right, and that we demand it. It is not that we fear the result if the present male electorate is consulted on the matter, it is that we deny its right to be consulted, if its decision is to be regarded as final.

Mr. Asquith is more sane when he states that women themselves must show that an overwhelming majority desire the vote, but weakens his position by saying it is not for him to say how it should be done. Perhaps he is aware that it is impossible. Everybody must know that women cannot demonstrate publicly in the way men can. When men desire to form a procession, for instance, it is a simple matter. Nearly all men are free on Saturday afternoon or Sunday. Not so with women, whose work is never done. Thousands of women will desire to join the Suffrage procession on June 13th, but will be unable to on account of homes, babies, and husbands. Every person who has canvassed the women of a working-class district knows that it is not on account of apathy that numbers do not join the movement, but on account of exacting home duties and by reason of fear. "I must stop in and get my husband's supper"; "I should like to come, but my husband would half kill me when I came back"; "My husband doesn't believe in it." Then there are the women who have been taught to dread publicity, and who, though recognizing that their disenfranchisement is unjust, would rather die than break through a convention in order to protest against it. These are some of the reasons which prevent women showing by an "overwhelming majority" that they desire the vote. There are also the authorities, like the hospital boards, who are forbidding their employees to take part in the coming procession. Women must not be freed till they show that they want to be free; but they cannot show they want to be free, because they are not free; and so the vicious circle ever goes round.

It remains with the minority who have a comparative degree of liberty to be as "overwhelming" as possible, and to make up by enthusiasm for the absence of the bound and fettered many.

## Sex Prejudice and Sex Antagonism.

I HAVE often wondered why it is always assumed that sex antagonism is of the feminine gender. When a woman points out that certain disabilities are unjust and ought to be removed, the average person tries to silence her by exclaiming, with a look of pious horror, that she is stirring up sex antagonism, though whether in her own breast or her opponent's is left ambiguous. As a matter of fact, it is generally the latter, because there is more antagonism on the man's side than on the woman's. As a matter of history and of experience, I am convinced that women love men, or at least are willing to love them, with a greater love than men have for them. It would, e.g., be quite impossible to collect from the works of celebrated women such a vocabulary of abuse of the opposite sex as Bebel selects from the pages of great men. And his selections are only a few random specimens. In normal women, when what is meant by sex-passion fails, there is always the maternal instinct for men to fall back upon, and we love best the thing that we have guarded and cherished and in part formed. Unfortunately, up to the present time the corresponding paternal instinct in men has not been developed to anything like the same extent. A claim to be treated as a citizen, as a human being, as an equal, does not necessarily imply the least unfriendliness. To ask a fellow creature, who happens to have power over you, to remove restraints on your liberty is not an act of antagonism, but it is an act of antagonism on his part if he refuses you and punishes you for asking. In the present Suffrage agitation, the real sex antagonism is in the minds of those men who are refusing to give women the civic and economic status that they need.

The women who have resisted subjection have not been the chimerical sexless or unsexed beings popular fancy invents. Most of them have been women with unusual depths of feeling and capacity for love. The Anti-Feminists have never forgiven Mrs. Browning because she claimed for her sex the right to exercise their artistic powers if they were born artists, yet we have not on record the name of any conventional woman who had a more beautiful idea of love or who carried out her idea more beautifully in her own life. Even Mary Wollstonecraft, who had personal cause for bitterness, surrendered herself to love with only too great self-abandonment. One of the first results of the woman movement in last century was to raise the idea of love and union between the sexes. The sanest and greatest feminists have all worked not only to free women, but to bring about a better relationship between men and women. In our own day Sarah Grand, e.g., does not confine herself only to attack, but suggests a more wholesome friendship between the two.

Real permanent antagonism between the two sexes would be a horrible condition, worse far than hatred between race and race, or between class and class; it would be as unnatural as hostility between parent and child. But there is antagonism now, and it is caused entirely by existing abuses and evils in the present sex relationship. The only thorough way of removing it is to remove the abuses. The first step is to become conscious of them and to resent them.

There may be resentment, and even bitterness, in the minds of some women, and temporary opposition to men. But it does not originate with them, it is a reaction from the antagonism of the other side. Women cannot be so tame spirited as to go on offering love and worship when they are being treated with contempt. Besides they know, too, that this submission does

not increase men's respect for them, but in fact makes them more despised than before.

The reason why the woman movement has revived lately is that there has been a strong movement towards degrading and subjecting women. The revival itself is not inspired by sex-antagonism; it is a protest against it. That sex-antagonism came into England through the degenerate German philosophy of Schopenhauer and Nietzsche. In Schopenhauer the antagonism is quite open and unabashed. Nietzsche concludes his section on woman with advice to use the whip amongst them. These are the prophets of a large number of Englishmen.

Their philosophy is simply reasoned sensuality. It is reflected in the fashionable novels and tales and articles of the day, and the writers urge, with a mere affectation of humour, that women should be "tamed," "mastered," or (as I have more than once seen it expressed) "brought to heel." One journalist was applauded for declaring that women differed from men in never being forgivable—the judgment of the Jews who brought their fellow sinner before a juster judge than they, in the hope of seeing her stoned. These insulting claims to master, punish, tame, all are the offspring not of sex friendship, but of sex hatred, and women ought to protest and resist them. Every woman who respects herself should resent this sort of degradation. Every man who respects his wife or mother should befriend her. The average Englishman has not yet got beyond the Punch and Judy idea of humour, and he enjoys this not because it means nothing, but because it has a meaning to him. It is the humour of unfriendliness.

The present situation in regard to the Franchise reflects discredit on our age, and future historians will condemn the Anti-Suffragists. We have the active and intelligent mass of Englishmen asking the most elementary right of citizenship, and men clinging to their own privileges with scarcely an attempt at reasoning. While the philosophy of sex degradation is rampant, and while men are opposing women's claim to form part of the nation, women may, against their will, be forced into temporary opposition. It is deplorable that they should have to fight, but they know well that they must resist the attacks of the other side. The English are a hard-fighting race, and they do not really like or admire those who submit to injustice. Male sex antagonism wants, of course, to hold its own, unresisted, to go on abusing women's nature and "taming" wives. Male prejudice wants to be left undisturbed, to grow great and multiply all over the earth. But the best thing to do is not to humour it but to rouse it up, and fight it and conquer it, and to put it to confusion and flight.

EDITH SEARLE GROSSMANN.

## The Caravan Campaign.

THE Woman's Suffrage van continues its propaganda work—work that is necessary—work that is full of promise, and which, though strenuous and laborious, richly repays the labour and thought spent upon it. Of the many kind friends who help us on our way and hospitably entertain us, we cannot speak individually, but their helpful sympathy and pecuniary support will be long remembered. We hope that this van is but the forerunner of others, the pioneer of the movement for awakening in country districts an interest in votes for women, and spreading the knowledge of what women want, and why they want it.

The programme of the van's future movements is necessarily not so fully mapped out now that Sussex is reached, but the dates fixed for milestones are: Bognor, June 5th; Littlehampton, June 8th; Worthing, June 11th; Finden, June 15th; West Grinstead, June 17th; Horsham, June 19th; Crawley, June 22nd.

L. M. HICKS.

THE van journeyed from Godalming to Haslemere on Saturday, the 23rd inst. The first meeting was held in the open air at 8 o'clock. All Haslemere turned out, and under perfect police supervision a fairly successful meeting was held, which occupied three-quarters of an hour. But as bells and whistles were used freely it was thought advisable to invite the feminine portion of the audience to a safe enclosure, where they could listen in peace to speeches made from the caravan. On

Monday a great number of visitors and sympathizers called; much information regarding the movement was given, and literature was sold. In the evening another caravan meeting was held. This was most successful, the audience listened with the greatest attention, and at the end there was a lively time answering the numerous questions. A good collection was taken.

On Tuesday a visit was made to Grayshott, where the campaigners met with many ardent Suffragists, and were the recipients of great kindness. Much disappointment was felt by the audience at the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Despard, who had been billed to speak. Old residents of Grayshott declared this meeting to be the largest ever held in that neighbourhood. The hall was packed to the doors, and a great number were unable to gain admittance. Beyond a noisy few at the back of the hall who rang the inevitable bell and dispersed strong smelling chemicals there was no trouble. The large audience seemed interested and kindly disposed, and gave the speakers, Miss Cowen and myself, a good hearing. The usual questions were put at the end of the meeting, and received their answers. A vote of thanks was passed by the audience to the speakers, and a most successful meeting closed. Wednesday night saw the close of the campaign in the Haslemere district, when a large audience gathered in the schoolroom. This was the most orderly meeting yet held. In absolute silence the audience listened to Mrs. Hicks and Miss Cowen. The latter's speech made a distinct appeal to the women from a health and sanitary inspector's point of view. A woman resident made a delightful speech in favour of "Votes for Women," and moved a vote of thanks to the speakers, which was passed heartily by the audience. More than usual thanks were expressed and sincerely felt by the workers to the police for their unusual care and attention throughout the Haslemere district. The campaigners left that neighbourhood feeling that they had not only left many friends behind, but had secured fresh converts to the cause. A start for Petersfield was made early on Thursday morning. Passing along the high road the Superintendent of Police from Midhurst, who had been informed by letter of the approaching visit of the caravan, drove up and assured us that we should have his care and supervision when they reached Midhurst next Saturday. On the way to Petersfield two cyclists joined the caravan: sympathizers who had come to meet the advancing force. On arrival in Petersfield we were met by others who volunteered assistance, and the police also were to the fore; under the guardianship of the sergeant and superintendent the van found a safe and beautiful pitch. In the market square at 7 o'clock the first meeting was held. A waggonee was kindly lent by a sympathizer, from which the speakers addressed a quiet and most orderly crowd. The interest was not great, but a good collection was taken, during which things lived up by questions being asked. An indoor meeting is to be held in St. Peter's Hall to-night, and the speakers are to be supported on the platform by several local enthusiasts. Everything promises well.

MURIEL MATTERS.

Petersfield, May 29th.

## Correspondence.

MADAM,—Appended is copy of letter sent to the editor of *The New Age* apropos of the discussion in its columns, "Should Women be Hanged?" The letter was not printed, but as I venture to think it of sufficient interest for publication, I send it to you. At any rate, my question is, as the Americans say, "up to you."

Yours faithfully,

T. BAYARD SIMMONS.

[Copy]

May 18th, 1908.

To the Editor of *The New Age*.  
SIR,—Extremes meet! To my vast surprise, I find myself, an ardent supporter of Women's Suffrage, Women's Freedom, and Sex Equality, for once in agreement with Mr. Belfort Bax. I am utterly opposed to Capital Punishment in any shape or form; but I do claim for women the right to be hung as well as to vote "on the same terms as men." This, I believe, repre-

sents the feelings of our Suffragette friends, and to test this may I publicly invite, through your columns, an expression of opinion from Mrs. K. Manson, who, in addition to being a prominent worker in the Women's Freedom League, is a member—the only woman member—of the Executive Committee of the Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment?

Yours faithfully,  
T. BAYARD SIMMONS.

### Branch Notes.

**Edinburgh Branch.**—Our Synod Hall meeting of May 22nd was most enjoyable, and passed off very successfully. Miss Cicely Hamilton moved the resolution in an effective speech, showing the necessity of the vote to the modern woman, who had to go out into the world to earn her daily bread, and who could only by one way—the ballot-box—make politicians listen to her needs. Earl Russell, in seconding, made two points clear—(1) that women wanted the vote precisely for the same reasons that men had wanted it—to make their opinions felt in the government of the country, and (2) that the reluctance of man to grant the vote to woman was due to egotism and sex dominance.

Mrs. Sanderson created an excellent impression by her vigorous defence of the militant tactics, and proving their success, and by her eulogium on the noble women who had suffered imprisonment in support of their principles.

Mrs. Fawcett, at noon on the day of the meeting, withdrew from our platform as a protest against the demonstration at Downing Street on the day previous to the meeting. A. B. J.

**Dundee Branch.**—Usual fortnightly meeting was held on Tuesday, May 26th, Miss Peter in the chair. In spite of the warm weather there was a large attendance. Miss Wyse, delegate to the Scottish Council, read her report. The recent pronouncement of Mr. Asquith on the subject of Women's Suffrage was discussed, and a resolution expressing dissatisfaction with it was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously.

On Thursday evening the first of our open-air meetings was held at Stobswell. Miss Daisy Anderson made her first appearance as a speaker by acting as chairman and making a capital speech. Miss Wilkie and Miss Clunas also spoke. There was a large and most attentive audience. We hope to be able to continue these open-air meetings throughout the summer months. L. C.

**Battersea Branch.**—Our members have been busy canvassing and distributing leaflets in connexion with the procession on June 13th. A pretty blue banner is being made, bearing the device, "Aliens of the Empire." It is hoped that it will be ready for the great day. The Battersea Park meetings are to begin next Sunday. E. DUVAL.

**The Central (Glasgow) Branch** has decided to have two meetings monthly on each second and fourth Wednesday. The latter is to be a social evening. The first of these meetings took place on Wednesday, May 27th, and was voted by members and friends present as most interesting. Miss Munro made an eloquent appeal for processionists, and we trust that, in spite of the cost in fares, many may be found willing and able to be present on that historic occasion, June 13th, even if some self-denial in other things has to be practised to make the trip possible. Next meeting, June 10th, at 8 P.M., in the Council Rooms, 30, Gordon Street, when Miss Jockyl will speak on Adult Suffrage. E. S. S., Secretary.

**Bromley Branch.**—A most successful social was given on Friday, May 22nd, in the Co-operative Hall, Bromley, Kent, by the members of the Bromley Branch. The hall was crowded at an early hour, and after tea, coffee, preliminary conversation, and music, Mrs. How Martyn and Miss Hodgson gave the duologue 'Granny Bo-Peep.'

As Granny Bo-Peep Miss Hodgson was inimitable, and Mrs. How Martyn, as her pretty granddaughter Jenny, by her clear and pointed rendering of her part, brought home forcibly to the

audience the lessons the little play is intended to convey. Unfortunately Mrs. Fels and Miss Fitzherbert were unable to be present (the latter through illness), but Mrs. Lewis W. Lewis, of Bromley College, made an effective speech in her capacity as chairman, in which she warmly upheld the policy of the Freedom League, and earnestly invited support.

Miss Margaret McMillan followed, earnestly advocating Women's Suffrage for the betterment of the conditions of women generally, but especially working women, and Mrs. How Martyn concluded the proceedings by clearly defining the policy of the Freedom League, exposing the fallacy that it supports any particular party, and giving the reasons for the dissatisfaction of the League with the attitude of Mr. Asquith towards Women's Suffrage.

It was our Hon. Secretary's first introduction to a Bromley audience, and to most of the members of the branch. She won all hearts by the charm of her personality and her power as a speaker.

Both duologue and speeches throughout were received with the greatest enthusiasm, and 28 names of members and sympathizers were given in at the close of the meeting.

AGNES EVANS, Hon. Sec.

**Wolverhampton Branch.**—Mrs. Emma Sproson, of Wolverhampton, addressed two very successful meetings on Sunday at Shrewsbury. Quite a large and attentive audience filled the Market Square in the afternoon when she dealt with 'Women's need of the Vote,' while an even larger audience put in an appearance in the evening to hear her deal with Mr. Asquith's reply to the deputation of Mr. Stanger. Questions were put to the speaker and answered, and a collection taken; the response of the Salopians at both meetings augurs well for the enfranchisement of women. F. SPROSON.

### News and Announcements.

MISS ANSELL, our latest **Passive Resister**, may be congratulated upon the success of her refusal to pay a tax of 1s. 6d. To make up this sum representatives of the Government entered her office and removed a Remington duplicator and a wicker arm-chair; these were put up to be sold by auction on May 27th, a large placard bearing the words "Stolen by the Government" being placed on the auctioneer's table. The goods were bought in for Miss Ansell by members of the League, and having obtained the courteous consent of the auctioneer, Miss Ansell made a speech to the crowd, explaining the motive for her action. The chair, with the placard attached, was then carried by Mrs. Fenwick Miller and Mrs. How Martyn through the crowd assembled in Holborn to see the French President. Members of the League followed distributing notices of a Hyde Park meeting of protest that evening. The police, though obviously uneasy, were wise enough not to interfere with this novel form of demonstration. Much sympathy was expressed by individuals in the crowd, and no hostility. The evening meeting, at which about 500 people assembled, was most satisfactory. Mrs. Toyne and others spoke, and the audience was thoroughly sympathetic. People are at last beginning to understand that women are right in protesting against being governed by force, and not by consent.

The only thing to be regretted was that the newspaper reporters were so busy watching the street show that this small though much more significant incident was not given the publicity it deserved.

**The Social Gatherings** on Thursdays at the Caxton Hall (Room 18) promise to be a great success. Mrs. Drysdale presided last Thursday over a very interested meeting, at which Miss Cecil Molony, our latest released prisoner, was welcomed, and presented with a prison badge of honour. Her sister, Miss Dorothy Molony, explained the bell-ringing episode at Dundee. Members are requested to make these meetings known to strangers who desire to inquire into our methods and policy.

**Our Social Organizer.**—Dr. Helen Bourchier will be in attendance at 18, Buckingham Street, to receive callers between

the hours of 11 and 1 in the morning on Monday, Thursday, and Saturday; and 2.30 and 5 in the afternoon, except on Thursday and Saturday. Interviews at other hours can be arranged to suit callers who do not find the fixed hours convenient.

On June 13th the offices of the Women's Freedom League, 18, Buckingham Street, will be at the disposal of those ladies who wish to don caps and gowns, or other distinctive dress in which to appear in the Procession.

A **Special Social Meeting** will be held by the Women's Freedom League at 7 P.M. on Tuesday, June 23rd, at Caxton Hall, to hear the report of the Delegates of the Women's Freedom League who have been present at the Congress of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance at Amsterdam. The speakers will be: Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington-Greig, Dr. Alice Drysdale Vickery, Mrs. Fenwick Miller, and others.

Tickets, 1s. each, can be obtained at 18, Buckingham Street, Strand. HELEN BOURCHIER.

### London Council.

ENTERTAINMENT TO EX-PRISONERS.

The supper to be given by the London Council will be held at Ken's Kabin, 28A, Leicester Square, W., on Thursday, June 11th, at 8 P.M., in honour of the following members, and to celebrate their release from Holloway Prison: Miss Eliz. Gibb (Lewisham), Miss Olive Ibbetson (Central), Dr. Eliz. Knight (Hampstead), Miss Cecil Molony (Central), and Miss Irene Miller, N.E.C. (Central). The chair will be taken by Mrs. Despard, supported by Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Miss A. Marian Thornett, F.R.C.S.I., Miss Octavia Lewin, M.B., B.S., Mrs. E. How Martyn, A.R.C.S., B.Sc., and others. Tickets—price 3s. each—are now on sale at the offices of the League.

### Subscriptions and Donations to W.F.L.

April.		May.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Mrs. H. M. Nidd ..	1 1 0	Miss G. Ballam—Lent Savings	0 7 6
Mrs. Zangwill ..	1 0 0	A Lady Suffragist ..	0 5 0
Dr. Jane Walker ..	1 1 0	Islington Branch ..	0 4 0
Mrs. K. Vulliamy ..	5 0 0	Northern Heights Branch ..	1 0 0
Women's Co-op. Guild—Grays Branch	0 4 0	Miss M. K. Finemore ..	0 5 0
Miss E. A. von Berg ..	0 5 0	Per Mrs. Billington-Greig:	
Miss A. von Berg ..	0 2 6	Kincardine Elector ..	0 2 6
Miss Hay ..	0 2 6	Miss Cugus ..	1 0 0
Mrs. Manning ..	0 2 0	Mrs. Stewart ..	1 1 6
Mrs. Nevinson ..	2 3 0	Visitor to Aberdeen ..	0 2 0
Mrs. Meeson Coates ..	0 5 0	A Dumbarton Member ..	10 0 0
Miss F. M. Brooke Alder ..	0 2 6	<b>May.</b>	
Miss S. Urwin ..	0 2 6	Mrs. Roy Rothwell (part proceeds of Suffrage lecture)	0 12 0
Miss C. I. Green ..	1 1 0	Miss A. Levaack ..	0 8 6
Mrs. Pedley ..	0 5 0	Mrs. M. A. Martin ..	0 10 0
Mrs. Woodworth ..	0 5 0	Lady Cory ..	0 10 6
Miss M. Jackson ..	0 1 0	Miss Benett ..	5 0 0
Miss E. Murray ..	0 6 0	Miss M. I. Saunders ..	0 5 0
Miss E. Renwick ..	0 10 0	Miss M. H. Saunders ..	0 2 6
Miss H. Jastrow ..	0 10 6	Miss H. G. Jones ..	1 1 0
Miss Jack ..	5 0 0	Mrs. Hyland ..	25 0 0
Miss C. Hamilton ..	1 15 0	Miss G. Hay ..	1 1 0
Mr. and Mrs. How Martyn ..	2 5 0	Miss M. Knowles ..	0 2 0
Miss Schofield ..	1 6 2	Mr. Kingsbury (per Mrs. Bevan)	1 0 0
Miss Scriven ..	1 0 0	Colliers' Kents Mission—Lecture fee—Miss Neilans	0 7 6
Hackney Branch (proceeds of Mrs. Billington-Greig's lecture)	2 12 0	E. B. Sargent, Esq. ..	1 0 0
Mrs. Larkecom Jacobs ..	1 5 0	Mrs. Drysdale ..	1 0 0
Mr. Simmonds ..	0 2 6	Mrs. Corben ..	2 0 0
Miss Newcombe ..	0 7 6	Miss Jolly (per Mrs. Billington-Greig)	0 10 0
Miss Benett ..	20 0 0	Two Dumbartonshire Friends ..	1 0 0
Croydon Branch ..	0 10 0	Dumbarton Afternoon Meeting ..	4 4 0
Miss Gwendoline Williams ..	1 1 0	Mrs. Barger ..	0 2 6
Miss Benett ..	20 0 0	A Friend (per Miss Murray)	1 0 0
Miss E. Reid ..	1 1 0	Miss M. A. Wood ..	1 0 0
Mr. J. P. Mansel Weale ..	0 7 6	Miss Munar (per Mrs. Sanderson)	1 10 0
Anonymous ..	0 9 6	Mrs. Sloan (per Mrs. Sanderson)	0 12 0
Mrs. Eustace Smith ..	1 1 0	A Friend (per Mrs. Sanderson)	0 2 6
Glasgow Western Branch ..	5 0 0	Mrs. Sanderson ..	0 10 0
Mrs. A. Shillington ..	2 0 0	Cheshire Branch ..	0 5 0
Mrs. Tudor ..	1 1 0	Miss N. G. Bacon ..	0 1 0
Miss G. H. Jacob ..	1 0 0	Mrs. N. Taylor ..	0 1 0
Miss R. Dupre Wilson ..	1 0 0	Anonymous ..	15 0 0
Mrs. Hyland ..	25 0 0	Miss M. Robinson ..	0 5 0
Mrs. N. Taylor ..	0 10 0	Miss McGilchrist-Gilchrist ..	5 0 0
Mrs. Moser ..	0 4 0	Miss L. How ..	2 0 0
A Sympathizer, London ..	0 10 0	Mrs. How ..	1 0 0
Miss Lansbury ..	0 3 0	Omitted from previous list:	
		Bromley Branch ..	1 10 0

### The Aristocracy of Intellect.

— APROPOS of the disgraceful bullying of the two undergraduates at Cambridge, whose crime was supporting Women's Suffrage and being members of the Fabian Society, Mrs. Purdie writes:—

"I would like to know since when Trinity Hall has ceased to be an educational institution, and become a 'Conservative College' (whatever that may be), and whether the change has been officially recognized. Evidently Mr. Gomme was unaware of its distinctive characteristic. Are we to take this incident as illustrative of Government under an aristocracy of intellect?"

"The well-known men who were among the raggers" would re-assure Mrs. Purdie on this last point. Their outburst of hooliganism was by way of protest against the introduction of anything of such a middle-class nature as intellect into their select Conservative college. Mrs. Purdie is surely not so innocent as to suppose that the average "gentleman's son" goes to Oxford or Cambridge to be educated. The curious part of the incident is that although the behaviour of these "gentlemen" was far more rowdy, unmanly, and ungentlemanlike than anything ever done or conceived by "Suffragettes," we do not hear a chorus of abuse such as that which has been raised time after time against Suffragette methods, nor do we read leading articles in the newspapers suggesting that the whole of the male sex should be disfranchised; and yet for cowardly and ignorant stupidity it would be difficult to find its equal. One would have thought it was enough to shock that sensitive paper *The Daily Chronicle*.

### PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

From June 4th to June 18th.

			P. M.
Thurs. 4	Suffrage Social, Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Despard	3.30
	Central Branch, 18, Buckingham St., Debate	Miss Pitts (Liberal Federation)	8
	Hillyfields, Lewisham	Miss Fitzherbert, Mrs. Manson, Mrs. Toyne and others	6.30
Sun. 7	Hyde Park (near Marble Arch)	Miss Mary Smith and others	3
	Brockwell Park, S.E.	Mrs. Toyne, Mr. Duval, Miss Lawson, Miss Levy, Mrs. Nevinson and other speakers	3
Wed. 10	Holloway Gaol, Camden Rd., N.		A. M. 8.15 P. M.
	Glasgow, 30, Gordon St.	Miss Jockyl	8
Thurs. 11	Suffrage Social, Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Miss Irene Miller	3.30
	Hyde Park (near Marble Arch)	Members of Central Branch	8
	Ken's Kabin, Leicester Square	Complimentary Supper to ex-prisoners	8
Sat. 13	The Great Procession from Victoria Embankment to Albert Hall		2.30 4.30
Sun. 14	Hyde Park (near Marble Arch)	Miss Mary Smith and others	
	Wandsworth Common, S.W.	Miss Fitzherbert and others	11.30
	Brockwell Park, S.E.	Mr. Duval and others	3.0
	Finsbury Park, N.	Mrs. How Martyn and others	3.0
Tues. 16	Tottenham, High Cross Institute, Sale of Work, Duologue, Speeches	Mrs. How Martyn, Miss Hodgson, Miss Matters	
Thurs. 18	Hillyfields, Lewisham	Mrs. Nevinson, Miss Cox and others.	6.30

### Special "Suffrage Day," June 13th,

Meet on the Embankment (Northumberland Avenue), 2.30 P.M., Albert Hall, 5 P.M. Tickets, 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d.

Overflow Meeting in Hyde Park.

\*\* All communications intended for the Women's Freedom League columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.F.L., 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C., and must reach her not later than first post Saturday morning.

## Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

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

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

### Notes and Comments.

WE are now well within sight of the two great demonstrations organized respectively by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies with the co-operation of the Women's Freedom League (June 13th), and the National Women's Social and Political Union (June 21st). It is, perhaps, unfortunate that these two demonstrations could not be amalgamated, so that the country might have had one single object lesson. Still, if both are strikingly successful, there will be two object lessons instead of one, and the man in the street will not have overcome his interest in the first when his breath is again taken away by the second.

Particulars of these demonstrations will be found respectively in the National Union columns of this paper, and in our esteemed contemporary, *Votes for Women*. There is, however, one subject connected with them which needs mention here. Since both these demonstrations are intended distinctively to show that women want the vote, the Men's League will not take any official part. At the same time we hope that all our members who can in any way arrange to do so will be present to swell the numbers, and render any help which they can.

#### STEWARDS' CORPS AND OTHERS.

For the former procession our help has been asked for certain specific purposes. Since the route—from the Embankment to the Albert Hall—is a long one, it is suggested that the banners, which will be carried by women in the procession, should be taken from their place of storage, Caxton Hall, to the Embankment by men. It will be necessary to start from Caxton Hall by 2 o'clock at the latest, preferably a little earlier, in order that they may be on the Embankment in good time.

Secondly, we are asked to supply men to assist in allotting places in the brakes to those who are unable to go on foot.

Thirdly, there will be some half-dozen banners which are too heavy for women to carry. For these twelve men will be required.

For these purposes we should like to provide nearly 100 men. Circulars have been sent to our London members, but there may well be men who, though they have not joined the League, would like to help in one or other of these ways. Will all such kindly write, without delay, to Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, Hon. Secretary Men's League, 38, Museum Street, W.C., who will send them full particulars. All helpers will receive special tickets for the subsequent meeting in the Albert Hall.

This and the National Women's Social and Political Union procession to Hyde Park on June 21st provide unique opportunities for all our members, whatever policy they may favour, to afford help to the cause. Since Mr. Asquith has asked for proof of "overwhelming support," it behoves us all to take every chance of swelling the ranks of those who publicly demand the vote for women.

We have not yet been invited to perform any special work for the National Women's Social and Political Union procession; but it will facilitate subsequent work and correspondence if all who intend to be present will communicate with Mr. Mitchell at once.

### Manchester.

FOR some weeks there has been a strong feeling that the time has arrived when a strong branch can be formed in Manchester. With this object a circular has been issued over the

joint signatures of Messrs. E. W. Hendy, R. Wilson Coe, and Sam Brooks, inviting all men who are interested to a social gathering in the Portland Café, Portland Street, on Wednesday, June 3rd. The programme consists of music and refreshments, after which speeches will be delivered by the Rev. Canon Hicks, Prof. S. Alexander of the Manchester University, Dr. Ida Smedley (also of Manchester University), Mrs. Annot E. Robinson, L.H.J., and Mrs. (Nurse) Eddy.

At this meeting the Manchester branch will be formed, officers appointed, and, probably, the terms of affiliation to the head society considered. All those desirous of joining the new branch, who are unable to be present, should communicate with Mr. Sam Brooks, 5, Hill Street, Radcliffe, near Manchester.

There is no doubt that the Manchester branch will be a very strong one. No individual member of the League has been more assiduous than Mr. Brooks in the work of bringing new members to the League, and during the last few months he has had the vigorous co-operation of Mr. Hendy of Alderley Edge. The branch will have the inestimable advantage of the prominent support of Canon Hicks and leading members of the professorial staff of the Victoria University.

### Liverpool and Birkenhead.

MR. A. R. ALLERTON, who is working for the foundation of the Liverpool branch, has arranged for a demonstration in front of the St. George's Hall on Saturday, June 13th. Among the speakers will be Mr. Ivory Cripps, whose brilliant address contributed so much to the success of the Birkenhead meeting in March.

Mr. Tattersall is hard at work in Birkenhead arranging for a meeting, at which the Birkenhead branch will be formed.

### Clapham Meeting.

ON Wednesday, May 27th, a meeting, under the auspices of the Clapham branch, was held in St. Anne's Hall, Venn Street, Clapham. The chair was taken by Mr. E. Duval, and the speakers were Mr. H. C. Brodie, M.P., Mrs. Winton Evans, and Mr. J. M. Mitchell. It had been hoped that we should have also Mr. F. Low, K.C., the Liberal candidate elect for the district, Mr. J. E. Raphael, and the Rev. E. W. Lewis. But circumstances at the last moment prevented these gentlemen from being present. The evening was beautiful, and the audience correspondingly small.

The chairman opened the meeting with a few well-chosen words of reproof to the meteorological department, and briefly summarized the position of the Suffrage movement. The resolution, "That the Parliamentary Franchise should be granted to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men," was then moved by Mr. Brodie, who has done yeoman service to the cause in the House of Commons. He addressed himself to the arguments generally given against Women's Suffrage, which he classified as physical, mental, and moral. His treatment was scrupulously fair and logical, but, in the opinion of an interested audience, extremely cogent. Mrs. Winton Evans discussed the position of women in relation to a number of questions which are prominently before the legislature at present, and showed how deeply concerned women are in all these problems—housing, education, temperance, and the like.

At the conclusion of Mrs. Evans's speech a man in the audience, who had evidently been labouring under a feeling of dissatisfaction, rose and asked permission to move an amend-

ment, which turned out to be a direct negative. The Chairman gave the desired permission, invited him to move it in a short speech from the platform, and subsequently invited a seconder to support it in due form. The audience, having heard the arguments of these gentlemen, voted against it with five exceptions. The original resolution was then put and carried by a similar majority.

Mr. Mitchell, secretary of the Men's League, briefly set forth the objects of the League, calling for new members of the Clapham branch, and then with the aid of Mrs. Evans dealt with some score of questions sent up from the audience. During the answers a collection was taken to defray the cost of the meeting.

Mr. Victor D. Duval, 20, Lindore Road, Battersea Rise, will be glad to hear from any men in the neighbourhood who wish to join the Clapham branch.

### Amsterdam Conference.

MR. HERBERT JACOBS and Dr. C. V. Drysdale have been appointed as representatives of the League at the International Conference at Amsterdam.

### Practical Reform.

*"Reginæ erunt nutrices tuæ."*

ONE of our members, who is also a member of the Education Committee in his town, has achieved a distinct success, in which our readers will be interested. At a meeting of a Sub-Committee, appointed to consider the medical inspection of school children under the new Act, it was suggested that a medical *man* should be appointed for the whole work. Our friend proposed that a man should be appointed for the boys, and a woman doctor for the girls, but was in a minority of one.

When the Sub-Committee's report was presented to the Education Committee, he pressed his point with so much success that the report was referred back. Ultimately the Sub-Committee approved the proposal, and the full Committee adopted it without a single dissident. Not only was a woman doctor recognized as necessary, but it was decided to give her the same salary as the man. "I am regarded," says our member, "as a crank on Women's Suffrage and the equality of the sexes, but I have scored!" We cordially agree, and congratulate the locality on having so practical a Suffragist on its Education Committee. It is often urged upon us that we are so bound up in theory, logic, ratiocination, sentiment, &c., that we are indifferent to the real needs of society and women's function in promoting them. It is well we should remember that the mere privilege of casting a vote is a triviality. What we are working for is that women shall be recognized as full citizens, and therewith shall be able effectively to aid society in dealing with the problems which confront it. It is in the belief that women will benefit not only themselves, but also the whole community, when the State shall have called them into its councils to share the burden of cleansing and uplifting the body politic, that we demand the abolition of the sex distinction in the civic sphere.

### Correspondence.

[*The Men's League is essentially a non-party organization, in which all shades of political opinion are represented. For this reason we feel bound to state that the League is not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.*]

#### Mr. Asquith's Pronouncement.

DEAR SIR,—IT is with regret that I find myself unable to share the confiding optimism of Mr. Bertrand Russell's letter in your last issue. I am much more disposed to agree with Mrs. Billington-Greig, that the statement made by Mr. Asquith is really a fresh insult to women in their demand for the vote. Let us consider for a moment what actually has been said.

Women have asked unanimously that Mr. Stanger's Bill should be given facilities for its further stages. However imperfect may be the electoral system upon which Mr. Stanger's Bill would have to be grafted, however absurd and unfair the details of its working might prove in some instances, it at least accomplishes the removal of the cardinal injustice by which thinking women are embittered. That is to say, it removes finally the electoral disqualification of sex by providing that the same conditions which are sufficient to give a vote to a man shall suffice for giving a vote to a woman. Once this admission of sex equality becomes law, the whole bitterness of the conflict is over, and the whole sting of the present position of women is removed. Everything else is mere machinery and mere detail, which men and women together can work out slowly by ordinary constitutional methods.

Mr. Asquith's reply to this unanimous request was an emphatic and decisive refusal, and that although there is to be the additional leisure of an autumn session. As definitely and as precisely Mr. Asquith has refused on behalf of the Liberal Government and Liberal Party to make Woman's Suffrage an item in the party programme. Further than this, the answer he does give to the demand is a promise to introduce additional facilities for enabling men to vote at Parliamentary Elections.

What, in effect, has been obtained? A refusal to allow women to be enfranchised now on the same terms as men: a refusal to adopt the enfranchisement of women as part of the Liberal creed, and a promise that if an amendment is moved to some problematical Reform Bill for men, the Government whips shall not tell against it. This is the concession which has been hailed with such delight. Where, however, parties are much split up or divided on any question, and the Government would stand a chance of being defeated even if the party whips do tell, it is not unusual to leave a question to the unfettered discretion of the House, to use the traditional euphemism. So often has this device already been adopted by this Government, that Tory speakers, taking a metaphor from the game of bridge, have described it as the "Leave-it-to-you" Government.

No one doubts that Mr. Asquith is a man of honour; no one doubts that he will fulfil his pledges; and I do not even deny that to have extracted this much from him is something. And it is all due, as *The Daily News* itself tells us, to the action of the militant Suffragettes. But I do not believe in women deluding themselves as to what actually has been promised, and I do not in the least agree with Mr. Russell that it is "to all intents and purposes as good as if the Government had directly taken up the enfranchisement of women." This being so, in my opinion the wise policy for women who desire the vote is to continue their tactics and not to allow themselves to fall under Circean enchantments from which they may have a rude awakening.

Yours faithfully,

RUSSELL.

### Woman's Freedom.

CHATS ABOUT PERSONS AND BOOKS.

No. 7.—An Harborouë, &c.—(continued.)

"Are there not in Englande women thynke you, that for their learynge and wysdome, coude tell their householde and neighbours, as good a tale as the best Sir Iohn there? I pray you what more vehemencye useth Paule, in the forbydnyge of women to preache, then in forbydding them to uncover their heads. He sayeth of the one, it is euyl faoured, and of the other: that it is against nature. And yet you knowe that in the best reformed Churches of all Germany, all the maides be bare headed, whiche the preachers and learned men, make noo greate accompte of. This I saye, not because I allowe either (for I assure you I dooe not). But that we should not in such pointes, grate upon the woordes to sore, as though in no respecte a woman may ope hir mouth to edifie. But if this be utterly taken from them in this place what maketh it against their government in a politik-weale, where neither the woman nor the man ruleth.

(To be continued.)

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