

The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of
Women's Suffrage
Societies.

Vol. III. No. 150.

Registered as
a Newspaper.

FEBRUARY 22, 1912.

ONE PENNY.



Photo: Lena Connell.

MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN.



Photo: Lizzie Caswell Smith, 309, Oxford Street.

MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

(President: National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.)

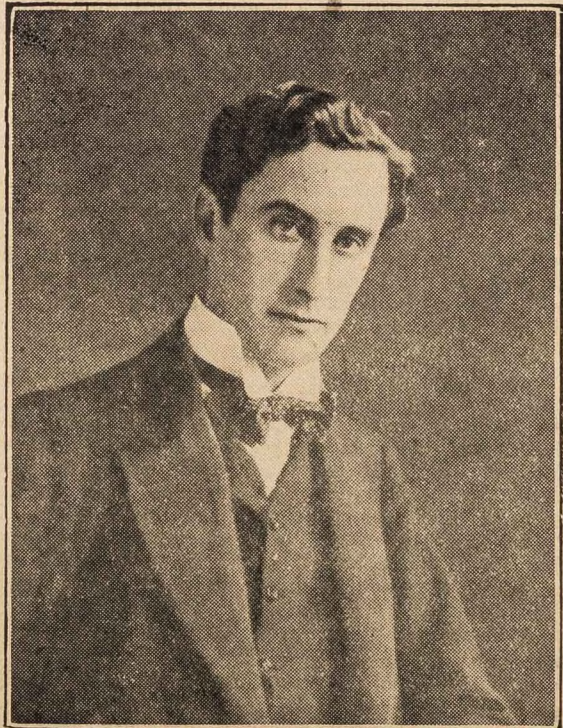


Photo: Ernest H. Mills.

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF LYTTON

(Chairman: Conciliation Committee).

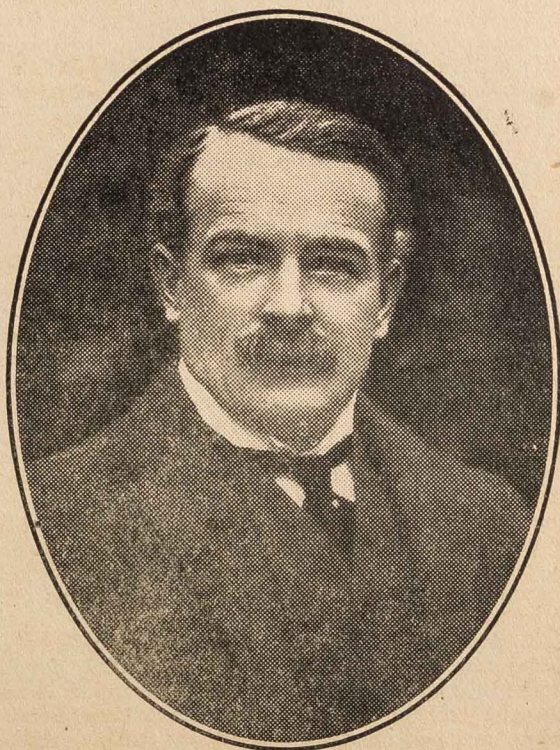


Photo: Heath, Plymouth.

RT. HON. D. LLOYD GEORGE, M.P.

THE SPEAKERS AT THE ALBERT HALL,

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1912.

Notes and Comments.

The Albert Hall Meeting.

The National Union's great meeting is to be on Friday, 23rd, and full particulars will be found on p. 782. We are glad to publish portraits of the Chairman and speakers. The portrait of Mrs. Fawcett was specially done for this occasion, and we think the one of the Chancellor of the Exchequer has not been reproduced before.

The Ballot.

Balloting took place on February 16th for private Members' bills and motions. The first place was won by Mr. Harold Baker, who will introduce a Bill for the abolition of Plural Voting.

Mr. Agg-Gardner, who won third place, will introduce the Conciliation Bill. Among the private Members' Bills which have come too low down in the ballot to have any chance of success is the "Right to Work Bill" introduced by Mr. Enoch Edwards. It is worth noting that Mr. Enoch Edwards was one of the miners' representatives who wished to deprive women of the right to work at pit-brows.

The Conciliation Committee.

It is thanks to the excellent organisation of the Conciliation Committee that we were practically certain their Bill would have a high place in the ballot. There were 50 Members pledged to use their "luck" for the Committee's Bill. Mr. Agg Gardner, Unionist Member for Cheltenham, is a steadfast Suffragist, and is said to have voted for the first Suffrage Bill introduced in 1870 by Mr. Jacob Bright, an occasion when he went into the same division lobby as Mr. Burt, whose name stands also as one of the backers of this Bill. The formal First Reading is to take place on Friday, 23rd, and the Second Reading on March 22nd.

The Threatened Coal Strike.

There is a sudden tendency to panic in the press concerning the danger of a coal strike. It is estimated such a strike would throw out of employment over a million men actually engaged in the industry, and with their families would mean something like four millions. But there is not a single person who will not be affected through the interdependent industries and the rise in prices. The dispute is therefore one of the utmost gravity. When it is over, when untold suffering has been inflicted, and nameless bitterness sown, some agreement will have to be come to. It seems like madness not to come to the agreement before inflicting all this suffering. The general strike is an infinitely greater power than any of the older forms of revolt; you can quell an armed revolution by force of arms, but no power on earth can make a man work if he will not, and if he will rather starve than work. The power to work, the value of persons to the community and the consequent power they have in withholding that value is a far greater force than that "physical force" of which the Antis prate so much, and women have it just as much as men, and could use it just as well as men if they could make up their minds to inflict suffering as men can.

Why Men have the Vote.

Mr. Hobhouse has almost ruled himself out of court by his excessive rudeness and his refusal to give reasons for his Anti-Suffragism except to packed meetings of his own supporters. We are not surprised therefore to read that at the Colston Hall, Bristol, "an elaborate system of tickets was enforced" (see *Standard* February 17th), and in consequence the resolution was carried by "an overwhelming majority." Mr. Hobhouse, being a "Liberal," advocated the referendum, and suggested that the question put should be: "Are you in favour of granting votes to women on the same terms as men?" This was the qualification in Mr. Stanger's Bill, which passed its Second Reading by a majority of 179; this was the qualification for which the National Union found such overwhelming support in their voters' petition; this was the qualification to which Mr. Hobhouse's own party took exception, because it would increase the "property vote"!

Mr. Hobhouse said: "Women must show the nation that the mass of women desired the vote, and were qualified to exercise that vote to the advantage of the State"; they must show that "Parliament had been blind to the interests and deaf to the cries of women, and that reforms necessary for the State had been unattainable and denied"; also, that "women were capable of sharing in all the burdens as well as the control of the affairs of State." "Those were the conditions upon which men had the suffrage!"

The New Knight of the Garter.

On the 13th it was announced that the King had been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Edward Grey, Bart., to be a Knight of the Order of the Garter. Suffragists throughout the country will feel glad and proud that a man of such candour and nobleness should have been so honoured. Sir Edward Grey has always been a friend to Suffragists, and more than once he has been the friend in need. We look to him for counsel and support. It will be remembered that in December he accepted provisionally an invitation to address the Council of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies at its annual meeting. This takes place at the Portman Rooms on Saturday, 24th, and we have great hopes that Sir Edward Grey's many and pressing duties will not prevent him from coming.

Sir Edward Grey in Manchester.

Sir Edward Grey answered questions in Manchester with great candour, and it is satisfactory to note (see page 782) that he thinks it would not be fair to submit the question of votes for women to a referendum of an electorate of men and that he would oppose such a referendum; also that he should regard it as "quite unfair" of the Government (of which he is a distinguished member) to introduce a Reform Bill so late in the session that it could not be proceeded with. Sir Edward Grey gave a gentle rebuke to those who look for "Government inspiration" to the gossip of party organs. The word of responsible Ministers is surely more important than the chatter of those who must "still be talking," and we regard it as not only bad manners but exceedingly bad tactics to keep on asking men "Are you sure you are not going to cheat me?"

Stone-throwing as a Policy.

A correspondent who was present at the meeting of the W.S.P.U. at the Savoy Theatre last Thursday writes:—"Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Pankhurst, and Miss Pankhurst appealed for volunteers for a "militant" demonstration on Monday, March 4th. As advertised, this "demonstration" is to take the form of stone-throwing at windows, and the audience was told that this required no physical courage, only moral courage. The audience was, however, adjured to "fight," and the example of certain Chinese women who have, it seems, enrolled themselves in a volunteer army was held up as one to be followed. These Chinese women are prepared to fight like real soldiers and will presumably need physical courage and be prepared to inflict wounds and death as well as to incur them. But we were told it needed no physical, only moral courage to break windows. The avowed object of the stone-throwing is to intimidate the Government into withdrawing its proposed Reform Bill and substituting a measure giving women votes on the same terms as men. Miss Pankhurst explained that she had "no illusions about the House of Commons," and she suggested that, left free, the House would vote against the enfranchisement of women, and the tactically wise course to pursue was for women, by throwing stones, to intimidate an anti-suffrage Prime Minister into compelling an anti-suffrage House to give women votes."

Taken merely as tactics, we ask our readers to contrast this with the policy which, believing that it would have been impossible for a majority for Women's Suffrage to persist in the House ever since 1886 unless there had been sympathy in the country, accepts the Prime Minister's offer to "bow to the will of the House," and puts upon the House the duty of expressing its will in unmistakable terms.

The Case of Mr. William Ball.

A question was asked in the House on Monday concerning the case of Mr. William Ball. The W.S.P.U. states that he was imprisoned at Pentonville for breaking a window, that he adopted the hunger strike, and was forcibly fed twice a day for five weeks. He was then certified insane, and removed to Colney Hatch, whence he was released after twenty-four hours, to the unconditioned care of his wife, and he is stated not to be insane at all. We hope that a really searching enquiry will be made into this case, for, whether a man be driven mad by treatment in prison, or whether, being sane, he can while in prison be certified insane, the case would be one of inhuman wrong and cruelty.

A Suffragist Preacher.

Dr. John Hunter, of Glasgow, formerly minister of the King's Weigh House Church in Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, will preach there on Sunday morning, February 25th. Many members of the National Union who will be in London for the Council will probably welcome this opportunity of hearing him. His views on the women's movement have been quoted in the N.U. pamphlet, "Opinions of Leaders of Religious Thought."

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.
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POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

British Isles: 6s. 6d., Abroad: 8s. 6d. per annum.
Copies of back numbers 1d. (post free), or 2d. when more than three months old. A few copies of Vol. I. to be had at 3d. each, post free.

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., accompanied by a stamped envelope addressed if it is desired that they should be returned. The Editor accepts no responsibility, however, for matter which is offered unsolicited.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices, and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents, however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long beforehand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last day possible, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and book-stalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., giving the name and address of the news-agent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

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Keeping Our Powder Dry.

"Proposals will be brought forward for the amendment of the law with respect to the franchise and the registration of electors."

Parliament met on Wednesday, February 14th, and the King's Speech contained the announcement quoted above, thereby removing the doubts which had existed in some minds as to whether the Government Reform Bill was after all going to be dropped. By this announcement the Government pledges itself to the House to bring in a Bill which shall deal not only with registration reform but shall amend the existing franchise, an intention emphasized by Sir Harry Verney in his speech proposing the Address, when he spoke of "the simplification and extension of the franchise." So far so good.

The *Pall Mall Gazette*, which is industriously sowing rumour, rushed out the day before with the sensational cry, "Women outwitted!" and stated that a "very well-informed political correspondent" wrote that "there is no serious intention of proceeding this Session with the Reform Bill," and he explained that this must be the case because the Reform Bill will be introduced "at so late a period of the Session—June is now mentioned—as will make effective progress impracticable." It is well to note this "reason," because, firstly, this mare's nest of the P.M.G. is no new discovery at all, and most of us have known for long enough that Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment would have precedence, and, secondly, it is impossible to see why a Government which was able to press through a measure of the complexity of the Insurance Bill in an autumn session (the date of second reading was May 29th, 1911) should not manage to get through a Reform Bill in the same time. The effectiveness even of its own rumour is, however, somewhat marred by the addition that "the wider reform policy advocated by Sir Edward Grey and Mr. Lloyd George cannot be dropped by the party"—and here we cordially agree—and yet cannot be effectively pursued under a Premier who has definitely denounced that policy as "disastrous," and the writer goes on to suggest that there is a likelihood of a change of Premiers before long. All this is rumour, and we express no opinion upon it. We give our readers the essential fact, and that is that so far the Government has in due course and in the proper place made the announcement that it intends to bring in a Reform Bill, and we hold the pledge that it shall be open to Women's Suffrage amendments, and there is nothing in Mr. Asquith's reply to the deputation he received on February 15th (see p. 781) or in Sir Edward Grey's statements in Manchester on February 17th (see p. 782) to lessen our satisfaction in the course of events.

The ballot for private Members' Bills did, however, introduce a complication, and there seems no doubt that it was a carefully devised one. Mr. Harold Baker, of Accrington, won the first

place, and he is using his day to introduce a Bill for the abolition of Plural Voting. Mr. Baker is a determined Anti-Suffragist of the kind that wishes to see Manhood Suffrage established. It is, of course, well known that the Coalition is desirous of abolishing Plural Voting, and now that the Parliament Act is established, it would be possible within three years to overcome the opposition of the House of Lords, and it is calculated that the passage of such a Bill would remove one of the reasons for desiring a Reform Bill. This is, no doubt, true. But it must not be forgotten that the circumstances which precipitated the introduction of the Government Reform Bill were not covered by the Liberal and Labour objections to Plural Voting. It was the decision on appeal in the case of *Kent v. Fittall*, which made it urgent to simplify the present fantastic tangle of qualifications, and there is no doubt also that Mr. Lloyd George's aversion to the Conciliation Bill and his knowledge that, left to the House, it must pass were instrumental in getting the Prime Minister to announce his Reform Bill for 1912. The women's question could not and would not wait any longer, and if it were to be fought out in 1912 the Government naturally preferred that it should be fought out under conditions more favourable for the chances of those who desired a wider Bill than the Conciliation Bill. Most Suffragists, on the other hand, recognised that by the opportunity of becoming part of a Government Bill, instead of taking the hazards of a private Bill not beloved of the Government, they were securing an advantage. They had not asked for a Reform Bill of this nature, but since it was promised, they decided to work for inclusion in it.

Mr. Harold Baker's notion is, no doubt, that if he can get a private Bill passed which will fulfil one of the objects desired by Liberals, he will have thereby weakened the motives for proceeding with the Reform Bill. But he forgets that the motives for proceeding with the Reform Bill are overwhelming. It is no use pretending that we think Governments have treated Women's Suffrage wisely or humanely in the past, but nothing that has happened in the past could cover the Government with the derision and ignominy which would be their fate if they abandoned the Reform Bill, of which they have talked since 1908. If really they did this, what possible justification could any of them find for the tyrannical refusal of time for the Conciliation Bills of 1910 and 1911? The proposal to give us "something better" was an explanation, and, to some minds at least, a justification of these refusals; but if, when the time came for giving us this "something," we were told at the eleventh hour that the Government had after all thought better of it, and would give us nothing, we should indeed have cause to regret the unmeaning violence of ordinary political language, for words would not suffice to convey the sense of indignation which would burn in every just man and woman in the country, and wither the power which had been so prostituted. The anti-Government Press gaily suggests such a betrayal, and actually uses the word "outwitted," when the plain English would be "cheated." The meaner type of Anti-Suffragist professes to think it good enough treatment for women (are they not the party that offer "chivalry" instead of "justice"?) but we refuse to think that any responsible leader in the Coalition, whether Suffragist or Anti-Suffragist, will be a party to such trickery, and so we shall proceed—trusting in God and keeping our powder dry—to consolidate our forces in the House and organise our supports in the country.

Sir Edward Grey gave a hearty encouragement in Manchester last week; this week we expect another from Mr. Lloyd George in the Albert Hall. Our cause is very simple and very great. The efforts of interested people to smash it up in countless littlenesses is bound to fail.

Infant Mortality and the Employment of Mothers.

The above formed the subject of a paper read by Miss Ethel M. Elderton (of the Galton Eugenics Laboratory) at University College, London, on February 13th. "To what extent is the outcry frequently raised against women's work justifiable in the interests of the race?" was a question which the lecturer set herself to answer as far as the data at present available would permit.

Suffragists believe the present appalling waste of child life to be an evil of the greatest national importance, and it is one which, as was pointed out, may be diminished more easily than the birth-rate may be increased, so that the bearing of the industrial employment of women on the problem is a matter of profound interest.

It was shown that there has been a great deal of loose generalisation on the subject, based on inadequate and indirect data. Several instances were given of the danger of confusing association with causation, and these showed the contradictory conclusions which this may lead to. In the cotton district of Lancashire, for instance, a high infant death-rate is found associated with the extensive employment of married women. On the other hand, in the Midlands and in London there is less employment, greater poverty and overcrowding, and a very high mortality. In Wales, Durham, Preston and Blackburn, the industrial employment of mothers has declined (in the two last since 1891) and the infant mortality has increased. In the West Riding of Yorkshire, employment has increased while the mortality has declined. Further data are required, and, largely owing to the work of the medical officers of health, women inspectors and health visitors, are becoming accessible. It is thus more possible than formerly to make scientific deductions founded on the consideration of the many other agents, social and physiological, which are at work.

The statistics quoted by the lecturer were drawn from a careful study of the reports of the medical officers of health and others of Blackburn, Rochdale, Salford, Birmingham and Westminster, and they contained many items of vital interest. One of the subsidiary objections brought forward by those who seek to prevent the industrial employment of mothers, is that it necessitates artificial feeding of the babies. The statistics drawn from a study of the reports of the Medical Officer of Health for Blackburn for the years 1908-9, when 500 children were inspected after birth, at the end of the first year, and in the majority of cases in between, seem at first sight to bear this out. Omitting those that died within a few hours of birth, it was found that the deaths per thousand of breast-fed babies was 63, and of bottle-fed babies 161. From this it might be contended that, because artificial feeding increases the infant mortality, and the children of mothers who go out to work are usually fed artificially, therefore the employment of married women is bad and should be stopped. The following more careful statistics however greatly modify such a conclusion:—

| | Deaths per 1,000. |
|--|-------------------|
| Breast-fed children | 63 |
| Children bottle-fed owing to health of mother or child ... | 262 |
| Children bottle-fed owing to insufficiency of natural milk ... | 196 |
| Children bottle-fed owing to return of mother to factory... .. | 60 |

A system of notation which gives the "co-relation factor" or the comparative direct causal relation existing between phenomena which are associated together, is in use in the Galton laboratory. A table was shown by the lecturer giving the proportional influence on infant mortality of various factors which are observed to exist in conjunction with it. This general scale ranged from zero to 1. The numbers for Blackburn—a town where there is little or no poverty or overcrowding, and where, therefore, the ill-effects of the mothers' working would be especially marked, are as follow:—

| Associated condition. | Corelation factor on infant death-rate. |
|---|---|
| Employment of mother before birth of child | .10 |
| Employment after birth of child | .05 |
| Cleanliness of home conditions | .17 |
| Food | .12 |
| Age of mother | .14 |
| Occupation of father | .19 |
| Wage of father | .11 |
| Weekly income | .37 |
| Number of persons per room... .. | .35 |

The age of the mother is an important factor often overlooked. The death-rate is greatest when she is under 22, least between 22 and 26. In Blackburn the mortality was higher in the families of the casual labourer than in those of the skilled workman.

The statistics obtained from the other four towns studied give much the same results. In Salford a poor district was selected where there is a low percentage of married women and where they are extensively employed in outwork. Here the co-relation factor for employment was as low as .03.

The observations from Birmingham are of particular value, as in the two wards chosen, two of the worst in the town, the home conditions of the employed and unemployed women are substantially the same. The housing conditions in these districts are very bad (in 1896 the percentage of back-to-back houses was 63) and the poverty is great. It was found that the loss of infant life was at the same high rate of 198 per thousand among both classes of mothers.

Emphasis was laid on the fact, that claims recognition, that the high death-rate, terrible as it is, has a certain use as a selection agent. In the districts investigated, which it must be remembered are all below the poverty line and have a very high mortality, it was found that the lower death-rate was associated with greater delicacy in the surviving children. This was true (and the figures were cited) not only of different wards (under the same medical officer, and therefore judged by the same standard), but also among the different races living in, for example, North Westminster.

| Race. | Percentage of delicate children. | Infant death-rate per 1,000. |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Italians (not many investigated) | 8.0 | 186 |
| English | 17.3 | 176 |
| Jews | 27.4 | 98 |

It would seem that extra care may preserve the life of delicate children, but, at least under the conditions which prevail, does not suffice to make them strong.

As regards the effect of women's industrial employment on the health of the surviving children, in Blackburn and Salford no effect at all was found; in Birmingham it was found to have a very slight deteriorating effect.

The problem, the lecturer pointed out, is twofold. We must make every effort in our power to lower the death-rate, but at the same time we should avoid, as far as is humanely possible, interfering with the beneficial results of natural selection. The wise educative influence of the health visitor, if used to discourage the marriage of the unfit or the immature and to encourage that of healthy men and women, may go a long way towards solving the second part of the problem.

The work is avowedly incomplete, and it would be helpful to have statistics showing the effect of employment on mothers who live and bear children under good conditions. It seems clear, however, that restrictions on women's work can only be justified if based on a far more careful and less superficial consideration than is usually given to the subject. Such restrictions are especially unfair when they are imposed by men legislators who are not responsible to women for their actions.

Industrial employment may be bad, but the amount of the weekly income is found to have, on the average, twice the effect on the lives of the children, and the raising of the marriage age of the mother to 22 would be 40 per cent. more effectual than stopping her work. The solution of the problem will probably be reached along the lines of improvement in the health of the parents and the conditions of the home.

The Insurance Act and the Organisation of Women Workers.

The sympathy and help of all Suffragists are asked on behalf of the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries. Eight years ago two or three working shorthand-typists, who have since become well-known Suffragists, started the Association under the title of the Association of Shorthand Writers and Typists. Their object was to organise this profession, so desperately difficult to organise, in order that the status and conditions of work of women employed in it might be improved, and almost their first step was to fix a minimum wage of £1 per week. Though the association never numbered very many women out of the 500,000 who are said to be engaged in clerical and secretarial work throughout the kingdom, it has more than once made its weight most effectually felt, notably when it went to the assistance of the Post Office women typists and secured that an "experimental" lower rate of pay should be abandoned and the wage raised to its former figure. (The adjective was only used after the victory had been won.) Last year the Association started a scheme of co-operative provision against unemployment, of which 60 per cent. of the members promptly availed themselves. This scheme for an entrance fee of 3d. and a quarterly contribution of 1s., gave unemployment benefit at the rate of 8s. a week for three consecutive weeks after the first week of unemployment, and undertook, after the first year, to extend the payment to eight or nine weeks, where it was found on investigation that further help was needed, and provided that there were sufficient funds for the purpose.

The scheme was in a flourishing condition when the Insurance Bill was passed and its own doom thereby pronounced. An extraordinary general meeting was called by the Association, and the members decided to start a campaign to increase their membership with a view to becoming an "approved society" under the National Health Insurance Act. In order to take in

a wider circle of professional workers, the title of the Association was altered to that of the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, and £50 was called for within a fortnight with which to begin operations. The members and their friends responded gallantly; the £50 was raised, and a public meeting was held at which Mr. Amery, M.P. for South Birmingham, and an authority on the Act, was the chief speaker. Mr. Amery, although so severe a critic of the Act as it stands, especially in regard to its treatment of women, urged all women workers to form their own societies if they wished to extract the maximum of benefit from the insurance scheme. The same advice was unofficially given to the association by certain persons in high authority who ought to know more about the working of the Act than anybody else, supplemented by a strong hint to waste no time about it. With this advice the campaign opened energetically, and is now in full swing, and what the Suffragists in the Association ask fellow Suffragists to do is to point out to women clerks and secretaries the advantage of joining their own professional organisation.

In the first place, women should control the funds contributed by women. This can only be done by the power of the vote. In any large organisation of men and women the women's vote would be almost certainly swamped, and until women and men obtain the same pay for the same work all along the line, such a state of affairs would be tantamount to the women's vote being swamped by the vote of their male competitors. Secondly, women clerks and secretaries are a healthy class, and the majority are single women. If women clerks and secretaries join friendly societies to which healthy women are admitted, and in which maternity benefits would probably prove a big drain on the funds, they will stand less chance of getting those "additional benefits" adumbrated in the Act. (On the face of it, this sounds like urging people to be selfish, but looking at the matter more closely two important facts emerge. The whole scheme as it affects workers is compulsory, and the men's and women's funds are distinct. Secondly, the "selfishness" is of the same order as what is generally admirably spoken of as *esprit de corps*.) Again, professional women need a contributory pension scheme far more than they need either sick pay or free doctoring. In most cases their employers pay their wages or salary during sickness, and, in any event, the doctoring is not likely to be of a very attractive kind if 23,000 medical men and women persist in refusing to work under the Act. United and organised, the professional women can only demand that the Insurance Commissioners should give them the alternative benefits which allow of a small pension being granted earlier than at 70, but they can put such strong pressure through the Commission on the Government as should force it to amend the Act in order to give professional women's societies full powers to use their own and their employers' compulsory contributions, with the State's quota, to work out a thrifty and useful superannuation scheme on the lines most suitable to their special needs.

And, lastly, the most important consideration from the Suffragist's point of view is this: all organisation along free and democratic lines will bring nearer the day when women's industrial position will be on a sound and fair basis, because organisation alone will win women the vote, and the vote alone will give women workers the weapon they need with which to defend their legitimate interests and win their economic rights.

8, Buckingham Street, Strand. VERA COLLUM.

Labour Party's Political Equality Demonstration: An Impression.

Our friends of the Labour Party can talk. They talked magnificently at the Albert Hall; one after another, men and women alike, swayed that vast audience with heartfelt eloquence. But though our friends are eloquent, we have known eloquent political speakers in the past, and the Labour Party would not be the trusty friends they are if that was all they offered. But the note of the meeting on February 13th was not words, but deeds. Again and again men and women of weight in the party expressed their sense of responsibility, and warned the audience that in passing the resolution they must do so not so much with enthusiasm (and of this there was no lack), but also "with determination." Mr. Ramsay Macdonald from the chair told us that "Labour will stand by the women, and see that the Reform Bill passes into law with women in it," but it was one word of his which drew loud and prolonged applause. To a voice singing out from the arena, "Will you turn out the Government?" the chairman, not only of that gathering, but of the party, replied "Certainly."

It sounded better than eloquence. Mr. Arthur Henderson proposed the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of men and women believing that the widest and simplest Suffrage affording to every person legal means for redress of grievances is the safest base for a Democratic State, insists that a drastic reform of the franchise, to include the complete removal of all the complications and absurdities of the present methods of registration, is long overdue, and that the time has come for the grant to every adult, man or woman, of the right to vote for all governing bodies both central and local. It assures the Government that no measure of Manhood Suffrage will be acceptable to the organised forces of labour throughout the kingdom, and demands a genuine measure of Adult Suffrage, conferring full rights of citizenship on all men and women."

This was his idea of what the situation demands:—"You have heard what your chairman has said—and I personally declare that no vote shall be given by me to the Government except to help to give votes to some women."

Mrs. Despard, rising to second, was the signal for three hearty cheers. She seemed happy among her friends, and her words though solemn were full of hopefulness, "Labour, that great spiritual force, and woman, that great spiritual force—for how many years have we yearned to see labour and women at one, and now they are united, no power in all the world can stand against us. . . ." "They tell us it is unnatural—yet men and women together are the most natural thing in all the world," and again, "As for the sweet, well-dressed Anti-Suffrage ladies—their education is so great that they know nothing *whatever* of life!" "Legislation now is a legislation of coercion, but the legislation of the future shall be a legislation of release, of release from cold, of release from hunger, of release from dishonour."

No one could have listened to Mrs. Despard and Miss Mary McArthur (Mrs. Anderson) and gone away really believing any longer that the "political equality" movement is anti-man, indeed it was delightful to see the chivalrous appreciation of the men speakers for the best there is in women, and of the women speakers for the best there is in men. And no one who listened to those ringing cheers from hardworking men, not so much for the flights of eloquence as for each word which showed the sincere intention of the speaker to act, could feel much fear for the future of our democracy. Miss McArthur concluded her fine speech with an appeal. "When we have won the battle, as win it we shall, let women remember the only party that backed up their demands. If they were right in this, may they not be right in other things?"

Mr. Will Crooks seems as bad as any woman about not thinking imperially. There was something in his opening words which produced roar upon roar of laughter from a most seriously minded audience. "The Constitution is in danger!" But the roars subsided as a voice cried, "Time it was!" Mr. Crooks knew that those in grim earnest can afford to jest. He told us what he, in the East End, thought of "our blooming Empire," with something of the lives of the women down there, whose daily heroisms are such that the heroisms of a bygone age are as nothing in comparison.

Mr. Anderson declared himself glad of the present unrest. "The unrest will continue until justice is won, and justice can be won in two ways—through strikes and such outbreaks, or through the ballot box. Social reform is not a man's question, social reform is not a woman's question—it is a human question." And Mr. Anderson, like the others, went straight to the point and did not shirk. "The Labour Party nailed its colours to the mast at Birmingham, it declared itself at this great meeting—the Labour Party will not accept a Manhood Bill."

Then, at the end, the chairman, with sound instinct, called upon all those in favour of the resolution to cry "Aye," and the deep grand volume of sound in those "Ayes" told us that to the men and women of the Labour Party Tennyson's words, printed on their programme, mean something so real to them that they are prepared for action and sacrifice because of them:—

"The woman's cause is man's; they rise or sink Together. . . . If she be . . . miserable, How shall men grow?" A. H. W.

The Trades Union Congress and the Prime Minister.

Mr. Will Thorne last week introduced a deputation from the Trades Union Congress to lay before the Prime Minister a number of resolutions passed by them, the most important being the one calling for a reversal of the Osborne judgment.

Mr. Asquith, replying to the subjects raised by the deputation, referred to their visit as an annual feature, and said if they compared the propositions they were making that day with those which were made four or five years ago, they would find

there had been very substantial progress. For instance, payment of members was an accomplished fact. In legislative and administrative affairs, he thought, the reasonable demands put forward by them on behalf of the organised trades of the country had received partial satisfaction (in this, one cannot refrain from commenting, showing marked contrast to the unintermittent, and totally neglected demand of voteless women).

On the question of electoral reform, the Premier said it was the intention of the Government to introduce proposals this year in the House of Commons upon that subject. He could not at that moment anticipate either the scope or the character of those proposals, but he repeated that personally—and in this respect he believed he voiced the opinion of all his colleagues—he was strongly in favour, and he had always been in favour, of sweeping away the artificial restrictions and limitations which at present obstructed those who desired to carry out the duties of citizenship, particularly in regard to the period of qualification, and of an alteration of the machinery of registration, so as to provide that the constituencies should more accurately reflect the opinions of those residing in the district. "I will not go," he proceeded, "into the question which was touched on—and I am glad to say only touched on—the vexed question of sex. I dare say we shall hear very much about that before we are much older than we are now. I will just leave that where it is."

Sir Edward Grey Answers Questions.

On Saturday last Sir Edward Grey after his speech, at the Manchester Free Trade Hall answered several questions as follows:—

QUESTION: Can Sir Edward Grey assure us that the Government will introduce no measure dealing with franchise reform other than the proposed Reform Bill (open to an amendment by which women should be included) during the present session?

ANSWER: I cannot give an assurance of that kind on behalf of the Government, and nobody can without consulting his colleagues. But the promise of the Government has been that in any measure of franchise reform, which means an alteration and extension of the suffrage, there shall be an opportunity of putting votes for women into the Government Bill, and that, being put into the Government Bill, it would be treated henceforth as part of the Government measure. (Hear, hear.)

QUESTION: Considering the strenuous agitation of the last few years for votes for women, the success of which is shown in the big majority in the House of Commons, why is the Reform Bill for men only when there has been no agitation for more votes for men?

ANSWER: Well, I am going to give three answers to that. The first is that when the Reform Bill is introduced it will be introduced for men only because the Government is divided in opinion on the subject of Woman Suffrage. My second answer is that till the Bill has been introduced, or, I will go further, until I have actually seen the provisions of the Bill, I am unable to make any statement about what the scope of it will be when introduced, and I have not yet seen it. My third answer is this, that I do not regard it as a Reform Bill for men only, for though introduced as a Reform Bill for men only, it will be introduced under the express condition that the House of Commons shall be entitled to turn it from a Reform Bill for men into a Reform Bill for men and women too, if the House of Commons is of that opinion.

QUESTION: What is the Government's attitude on the Referendum? Will the Government, as a Government, resist any attempt to add a Referendum clause to the Bill, just as they would resist an attempt to add a Referendum clause to the Home Rule Bill?

ANSWER: I cannot say what the Government as a Government on that point will do. Personally I do not think it would be fair to submit the question of votes for women to a referendum of an electorate of men, and I should oppose such a referendum.

QUESTION: At what period of the session will the question of votes for women be raised?

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

OBJECT: To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.
METHODS: (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in this country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.
Hon. Secretaries: Miss K. D. COURTNEY, President; Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D., Secretary; Miss GERALDINE COOKE, Hon. Secretary to Press Committee; Miss EMILY M. LEAF, Hon. Secretary to Literature Committee; Miss I. B. O'MALLEY, Telephone 1960 Victoria.
Telegrams: "Voiceless, London." Hon. Sec. to Literature Committee: Miss I. B. O'MALLEY, Telephone 1960 Victoria.
Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

From Headquarters.

ALBERT HALL MEETING.

Mass meeting to claim the Enfranchisement of Women in 1912, Royal Albert Hall (near South Kensington Station,

ANSWER: Well, I do not yet know.

QUESTION: Is it true, as the *Globe* puts it, the franchise proposals will be relegated to a place in the session where they will stand little or no chance of escaping the massacre of the innocents?

ANSWER: That is certainly not the intention of the Government, and I do not know that the *Globe* is the place in which I should look for Government inspirations. (Laughter.) If I may deal a little more fully with that question I would say this: If I understand the question aright it is founded upon an apprehension that the Government might introduce a Reform Bill open to a Woman Suffrage amendment so late in the session that they could not proceed with it, and having so introduced it they might count that as an opportunity for Woman Suffrage. That would be quite unfair—quite unfair, and, in any case, the promise which the Government made about the Conciliation Bill holds good.

[We take this report from the "Standard."]]

Text of the Conciliation Bill.

The Conciliation Bill is a private Member's Bill which has already passed its second reading once last year in precisely this form, and the year before with some differences. It is the Bill for which the Government has promised full facilities this year, and the date of Second Reading has been fixed for March 22nd.

A BILL TO CONFER THE PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE ON WOMEN.

- Be it enacted, etc.:
1. Every woman possessed of a household qualification within the meaning of the Representation of the People Act (1884) shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, and when registered to vote for the County or Borough in which the qualifying premises are situate.
 2. For the purpose of this Act, a woman shall not be disqualified by marriage for being registered as a voter, provided that a husband and wife shall not both be registered as voters in the same Parliamentary Borough or County Division.
 3. This Act may be cited as The Representation of the People Act, 1911. It will be seen that this Bill would not give the vote to all women, nor to women "on the same terms as men," but only to women householders, whether married or unmarried.

In Parliament.

THE KING'S SPEECH.

The King opened Parliament in person on Wednesday, February 14th. After references to recent events in Persia, China, and India, and to the Opium Conference, reference was made to labour disputes and legislation proposed "for the better government of Ireland," and "to terminate the establishment of the Church in Wales." Proposals will be brought forward for the amendment of the law with respect to the Franchise and the Registration of Electors, and finally, "A Bill will be introduced to give effect to the unanimous recommendation of the last Imperial Conference for the amendment and consolidation of the law relating to British nationality. You will further be invited to consider proposals for dealing by legislation with certain social and industrial reforms."

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

The debate ceased abruptly on the first day, after an interjection by the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Bonar Law) to the effect that he would "certainly" repeal the Insurance Act "if and when" he came into power. (Mr. Law explained this in a letter to the *Times* next day by stating that he only meant this in case the Opposition came into power before the Act had come into operation.) On Thursday, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald resumed the debate with an amendment on industrial unrest, urging the Government to take decisive action, and on Friday Mr. Hayes Fisher opened a debate on an amendment asking for subventions from Imperial funds in aid of local expenditure.

Unreserved, Balcony 6d. Ten per cent. allowed off the price of Ten Tickets and upwards paid for at one time. Admission Free (Gallery).

We give the price of the tickets, but as a matter of fact all are sold, and admission can now only be obtained by early comers to the free gallery.

If any ticket holders are unable to make use of their seats, they are requested to communicate at once with Miss P. Strachey, 58, Victoria Street, S.W., as there are long lists of those waiting for returned tickets.

A particularly beautiful scheme of decoration will be carried out by the Artists' Suffrage League, and a souvenir programme, including reproductions of some of the banners, will be on sale, price 3d.

The order of speakers will be found in the programme. The following resolution, "That this meeting calls upon Parliament to enfranchise women in 1912," will be put to the meeting."

Questions which are sent up to the platform in writing will be answered at the end of the meeting.

The stewards will all be women, and as already stated, the N.U. has demanded no guarantee from ticket holders, and does not anticipate disturbances.

A full list of those who have accepted platform tickets, and of those who have expressed their sympathy though unable to be present, cannot yet be published, as at the time of going to press all the replies have not been received. We give below a list up to date.

The following is a list of members of the House of Commons who have accepted platform tickets:—

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr. F. D. Acland. | Mr. E. Crawshaw Williams. |
| Mr. Atherley Jones. | Mr. L. Williams. |
| Mr. D. M. Mason. | Sir James Yoxall. |
| Mr. A. W. Barton. | Mr. W. Abraham. |
| Mr. W. Brace. | Mr. H. T. Cawley. |
| Mr. G. N. Barnes. | Mr. E. Marshall Hall. |
| Dr. Chapple. | Mr. J. D. Millar. |
| Mr. J. H. Edwards. | Mr. G. Hay Morgan. |
| Mr. J. Norton Griffiths. | Mr. T. O'Donnell. |
| Mr. F. W. Goldstone. | Sir Charles Rose, Bt. |
| Col. J. W. Greig, C.B. | Mr. Watson Rutherford. |
| Mr. J. D. Hope. | Mr. W. R. Rea. |
| Mr. F. Hall. | Mr. J. W. Gulland. |
| Mr. T. E. Harvey. | Mr. D. Maclean. |
| Mr. W. Hudson. | Mr. H. J. Glanville. |
| Mr. E. T. John. | Sir G. Baring. |
| Rt. Hon. T. Lough. | Mr. E. Jones. |
| Mr. A. Lynch. | Mr. A. Rowntree. |
| Mr. G. J. Lansbury. | Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones. |
| Mr. J. M. McCallum. | Dr. J. Esmond. |
| Mr. Munro. | Mr. R. C. Lambert. |
| Mr. W. S. B. McLaren. | Mr. D. T. Holmes. |
| Sir Henry Norman. | Hon. F. W. S. McLaren. |
| Mr. J. P. Nannetti. | Mr. A. Smith. |
| Mr. J. I. O'Shee. | Mr. J. Chambers. |
| Mr. I. O'Grady. | Mr. J. T. Baker. |
| Mr. R. Pearce. | Mr. P. Williams. |
| Mr. G. Palmer. | Mr. Leif Jones. |
| Mr. A. Rendall. | Sir A. Spicer. |
| Mr. J. Rowlands. | Mr. J. P. Hayden. |
| Mr. E. Shortt. | Mr. W. H. Dickinson. |
| Mr. A. Sherwell. | Sir J. Walton, Bart. |
| Mr. J. H. Thomas. | Mr. A. H. Marshall. |
| Mr. J. C. Wedgwood. | Dr. Macnamara. |
| Mr. T. Wiles. | Mr. J. H. Whitehouse. |

The following is a list of those Members of the House of Commons who support the extension of the franchise to women, but are unable to be present on February 23rd:—

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sir Edward Grey. | Rt. Hon. R. Rea. |
| Mr. W. Runciman. | Mr. P. W. Raffan. |
| Mr. J. T. Agg-Gardner. | Mr. A. Stanley. |
| Col. Burn. | Sir George Toulmin. |
| Sir John Emmott Barlow. | Sir George White. |
| Rt. Hon. T. Burt. | Mr. H. G. Chancellor. |
| Mr. W. P. Beale. | Sir W. H. Davies. |
| Mr. R. Cameron. | Mr. Edward Goulding. |
| Mr. J. A. Dawes. | Mr. A. Henderson. |
| Mr. W. Field. | Mr. H. Hope. |
| Mr. S. L. Gwynn. | Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald. |
| Mr. S. L. Hughes. | Mr. J. S. Hancock. |
| Mr. J. S. Higham. | Mr. W. T. Roch. |
| Sir Arthur Haworth, Bt. | Mr. P. Snowden. |
| Mr. J. Hodge. | Mr. G. Wardle. |
| Sir Alfred Mond. | Mr. H. Law. |
| Mr. J. Pointer. | Sir J. Rankin. |

Mr. J. M. Robertson.
 Mr. H. J. Tennant.
 Mr. H. W. Carr Gomm.
 Mr. H. B. Lees Smith.
 Visc. Wolmer.
 Mr. T. C. Taylor.
 Sir Rufus Isaacs.

The following are among the distinguished men and women who have accepted tickets for the platform:—

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Rt. Hon. Earl Russell. | Dr. F. A. Bather, D.Sci. |
| Rt. Hon. Lord Aberconway. | Dr. V. H. Veley, D.Sci., F.R.S. |
| Rt. Hon. Lord Farrer. | Mr. Harold Spender. |
| Lady Farrer. | Mr. John Galsworthy. |
| Winifred, Countess of Arran. | Mrs. S. A. Barnett. |
| Lady Winifred Gore. | Mr. A. F. Peterson, K.C. |
| Sir William and Lady Chance. | Mrs. Hamilton Fox. |
| The Lady Henry Somerset. | Dr. Drysdale. |
| Lady Stormouth Darling. | Mr. A. M. Langdon, K.C. |
| Lady Carl Mayer. | Mr. J. B. Falconer, K.C. |
| Muriel, Countess De La Warr. | Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. |
| Lady Strachey. | Dr. Dudley Buxton, M.D. |
| Lady Bamford Slack. | Rev. J. A. Lacey. |
| Sir Thomas Barclay. | Rev. B. C. Everett. |
| Sir Edward Busk. | Miss Jane Walker, M.D. |
| Sir George and Lady Gibb. | Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Trench. |
| The Rev., the Master of the Temple. | Mr. W. Pett Ridge. |
| Sir Hubert and Lady Maud Parry. | Mr. Richard Whiting. |
| Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves. | Mr. Ernest Bell. |
| Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttleton. | Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Chapman. |
| Hon. John Collier. | Mr. L. Herbert Stead, M.A. |
| The Master of Downing, Camb. | Mr. H. V. Esmond. |
| Prof. J. M. Kenny Hughes. | Mr. Rowland Prothero. |
| Dr. Josiah Oldfield, D.C.L. etc. | Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy. |
| Dr. Turner, F.R.S. | Mr. and Mrs. D. S. MacColl. |
| Prof. Gilbert Murray. | Mr. J. S. Cox. |
| Dr. H. G. Hele Shaw, LL.D. | Mr. H. R. Ricardo. |
| Dr. A. C. Haddon, F.R.S. | Mr. Eustace Miles. |
| Prof. Geldart. | Mr. G. H. Cleavel (Borough Coun.). |
| Dr. Bussell. | Mr. Wortley (Borough Coun.). |
| Rev. A. Caldecott, D.Litt. | Mr. Brogan (Borough Coun.). |
| Mr. and Mrs. Fred Verney. | Ald. W. Watts (Borough Coun.). |
| Mr. Sidney Low. | Mrs. de Selincourt. |
| Miss Ellen Terry. | Mrs. Simpson. |
| Mrs. Kendal. | Mrs. Sophia Bryant, D.Sc. |
| Mr. H. Holiday. | Mr. W. E. Johnson, M.A. |
| Mr. Jerome K. Jerome. | Rev. Canon A. M. Deane. |
| Mrs. Fabian Ware. | Mr. Sidgwick (Camb.). |
| Mrs. Gilbert Samuel. | Canon and Mrs. Barnet. |
| Surgeon-General Evatt, C.B. | |

The following is a list of sympathisers with the object of the meeting who are unable to be present:—

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Lord Selborne. | Ernest Walker, Mus. Doc. (Oxford). |
| Lord Brassey. | H. A. L. Fisher (Oxford). |
| Lady Brassey. | R. M. Burrows, D.Litt. (Manchester). |
| Lord Emmott. | R. S. Conway, D.Litt. (Manchester). |
| Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Hereford. | T. F. Tout (Manchester). |
| Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Oxford. | S. J. Chapman (Manchester). |
| Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Lincoln. | J. Hope Moulton, D.Litt., D.D., D.C.L. etc. (Manchester). |
| Rt. Rev. Sir Frederick Pollock. | C. H. Herford (Manchester). |
| Sir Norman Lockyer, C.B. | H. C. H. Carpenter (Manchester). |
| Sir Robert Hunter, K.C.B. | F. E. Weiss, D.Sc., F.L.S. (Manchester). |
| Sir Oliver Lodge. | S. Hickson, F.R.S. (Manchester). |
| Sir O. Roberts, D.C.L., LL.D. | E. Rutherford (Manchester). |
| Lady Roberts. | Alfred Hughes (Birmingham). |
| Bernard Bosanquet, LL.D. | Prof. Muirhead, LL.D. (Birmingham). |
| C. W. Saleeby, F.R.S. | Norman R. Campbell, D.Sc. (Leeds). |
| E. de Selincourt, D.Litt. | Montague Crackenthorpe, K.C. |
| E. H. Schäfer, LL.D., F.R.S. | W. P. Herringham, M.D. |
| Prof. G. A. Cole (Dublin). | Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Shaw. |
| Prof. Meredith (Belfast). | Mrs. Despard. |
| Marcus Hartog, D.Sc. (Cork). | W. de Morgan. |
| D. Maitland Ramsay (Glasgow). | William Rossetti. |
| Robert Latta, D.Phil. (Edinboro'). | G. S. Elgood, R.I. |
| C. G. Knott, D.Sc. (Edinboro'). | W. G. McNaught, Mus. Doc., F.R.A.M. |
| Prof. Gwatkin (Camb.). | Mr. and Mrs. Meynell. |
| Prof. James Ward (Camb.). | John Masefield. |
| W. J. Lewis, F.R.S. (Camb.). | Hugh Blaker. |
| Francis Darwin, F.R.S. (Camb.). | Lady Bunting. |
| Ellis McTaggart, M.B. (Camb.). | Major-Gen. John Swiney. |
| J. W. E. Conybeare (Camb.). | Rt. Hon. Lord Courtney of Penwith. |
| J. M. Cornford (Camb.). | Ven. Archdeacon of Coventry. |
| H. Rackham (Camb.). | Mrs. Henry Sidgwick. |
| Sir J. Rhys (Oxford). | |
| C. Grant Robertson, M.B. (Oxford). | |
| Arthur Sidgwick (Oxford). | |
| A. C. Clark (Oxford). | |
| M. W. Keatinge (Oxford). | |
| R. R. Marett (Oxford). | |
| J. L. Drummond, LL.D. (Oxford). | |
| R. Hartley (Oxford). | |
| D. S. Margoliouth (Oxford). | |

LONDON SOCIETY OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES,

58, Victoria Street, S.W.

PUBLIC RECEPTION, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27.

3.30 to 6 p.m.

Empress Rooms, Kensington (High Street Station),

Chair:—Miss HELEN WARD.

Speakers:—Miss K. D. COURTNEY (Hon. Sec. N.U.W.S.S.), Mrs. HARLEY, Miss G. DYKES SPICER. DISCUSSION INVITED.
 Recitation by Miss EMILY FORD "Eliza in Paris."

The Lady Laura Ridding.
Rev. Stewart Headlam, L.C.C.
The Very Rev. the Dean of
Durham.
The Rev. Dr. Clifford.
The Lady Elizabeth Cust.
Prof. Hobhouse.
Mrs. Ashworth Hallett.
Mr. A. F. Walden.
A. J. Webbe.
Thomas Kirkup.
B. Constable.
Howard Williams.

Edward Garnett.
J. P. Fagan.
Alfred E. Zimmern.
R. C. Carton.
H. S. Salt.
C. Gallaway.
John Russell.
Aymer Maud.
C. P. Scott.
Mr. and Mrs. Haslam.
Miss Agnes E. Slack.
Rev. A. Pinchard.
Rev. C. D. Read.

MISS DIMOCK.

Members of the N.U. will learn with great regret of the illness of Miss Dimock, which will prevent her from being present at the Albert Hall meeting and at the Council meeting. Miss Dimock is making a good recovery, but feels very keenly her inability to work during the last busy weeks.

THE OFFICE STAFF.

The sincerest sympathy will be felt for Miss Cooke and Miss Geraldine Cooke, who have during the past week suffered the loss of their mother. Mrs. McLelland, the mother of our admirable Literature Secretary, also died the week before.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the General Council of the National Union has been arranged to coincide with the Albert Hall meeting, and will take place on Saturday, February 24th, in the Portman Rooms, Baker Street. Morning session, 10.30; afternoon session, 2.30. If necessary, the Council will be continued on Monday, February 26th, but it is hoped that the business may all be transacted on Saturday. This will include the election of the Executive Committee, the adoption of the annual report, as well as amendments to the rules and general resolutions.

Delegates are reminded of the importance of bringing their tickets with them; none will be admitted without the ticket bearing her name and that of the Society she represents, and as the tickets admit to the ballot, this rule must be strictly adhered to.

NEW SOCIETIES.

Oxford, Berks, and Bucks Federation—BRACKNELL.
East Midlands—OUNDE AND DISTRICT.
South Wales—SWANSEA.
Manchester and District—BUXTON.

The Political Situation.

The expectation entertained in certain quarters that the King's Speech would contain no reference to the Reform Bill has not been fulfilled. The Reform Bill is announced in the following terms, "Proposals will be brought forward for the amendment of the law with respect to the franchise and the registration of electors," terms which are certainly not more evasive than those which refer to a Home Rule Bill:—"A measure for the better government of Ireland will be submitted to you."

The Executive Committee of the National Union met on Thursday, February 15th, and issued the following statement:—"In the opinion of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies no new situation has been created by the King's Speech. It is now clear that the widely circulated rumour that the Government were about to drop the Reform Bill and proceed only with a Plural Voting Bill was unfounded; and that opportunities will be afforded during this session in fulfilment of the pledges of the Prime Minister on November 17th for the House of Commons to adopt an amendment to the Reform Bill conferring the franchise on women."

"The National Union still believes that the wise and statesmanlike course would have been for the Government themselves to initiate legislation on Women's Suffrage; but they recognise that the present political situation is full of hopefulness for their movement. They are assured, after personal interviews with a considerable number of Members of Parliament, that a Women's Suffrage amendment to the Reform Bill will receive a very large measure of support."

"The resolution of the Labour party at their conference at Birmingham, and confirmed at their mass meeting at the Albert Hall on February 13, to vote against the third reading of the Bill unless women are included in it greatly strengthens the Parliamentary position, and there is, therefore, the strongest reason to anticipate that women will be enfranchised in 1912."

As the King's Speech deals only with Government measures, the National Union had not expected it to contain any direct reference to Women's Suffrage, the neutral attitude of the Government on this subject having already been expounded.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE LITERATURE.

The fullest information about the greatest question of the day is contained in the publications of

THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES,

14, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

Ask for the following new or recent publications:

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE this SESSION. By Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

(A Statement of the National Union's position by its President). *Just Published.* ½d. each.

WOMEN and the REFORM BILL. By H. N. Brailsford. 1d.

THE NATIONAL UNION. (Descriptive leaflet). 4d. per dozen.

DEMAND and ACHIEVEMENT. The International Suffrage Movement. By Alice Zimmern. 3d. each.

Buy at the Albert Hall Meeting, February 23rd, or write to—

LITERATURE SECRETARY, N.U.W.S.S.,
14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.
when full Catalogue will be sent.

This attitude the National Union considers neither wise nor statesmanlike, but it is prepared to make every possible use of the opportunities that offer for obtaining the enfranchisement of women in 1912.

Mr. Harold Baker's success in the ballot, and the announcement of his intention to introduce a Plural Voting Bill, have given rise to further rumours; it is said that this would give the Government the opportunity of proceeding with one part of the Bill whilst dropping that great part which refers to the extension of the franchise. This matter is fully dealt with in this week's leading article; we need only say here that while no doubt some Liberal Anti-Suffragists would be glad to escape from the difficulty in this way, we do not for a moment believe that the Government will break the pledges which Mr. Asquith gave on November 17th.

Suffragists have again been fortunate in the ballot; Mr. Agg Gardner (Unionist Member for Cheltenham) obtained the third place, and will introduce the Conciliation Bill, the Second Reading of which is fixed for March 22nd. Members of the National Union are urged to make sure that no favourable M.P. is absent unpaired from the House of Commons on that day. The majority for the Conciliation Bill this year must at least equal the majority of last May.

K. D. COURTNEY.

In Memoriam.

MARY LETITIA WIRGMAN.

Our movement has sustained another great loss in the death of Mrs. Blake Wirgman, which took place on February 13th after a long illness. Her chief characteristic was an unflinching, thoughtful, gentle unselfishness. She was deeply interested in Women's Suffrage, and a generous supporter of the National Union. One side of the question which appealed most to her was the hope which it offers of improving the position of the industrial woman. Her husband, the well-known artist, Mr. Theodore Blake Wirgman, shared to the full all her enthusiasm for the women's movement. He writes, "Up to the last conscious moment she thought of every detail that might be helpful to her relatives and friends, and your cause was much in her mind." Her example will stimulate us all to new readiness to give to our great cause the very best which it lies in our power to give. The National Union offer to Mr. Blake Wirgman and other relatives deep sympathy in their great loss.

M. G. FAWCETT.

Literature Department.

Please buy plenty of National Union literature at the Albert Hall meeting! Members of the National Union from all over the country have been most noble in volunteering to help, so there will be plenty of sellers—I hope there will be plenty of buyers, too, and that the sellers will soon be lightened of their loads. Mrs. Fawcett has written a leaflet on the present political position of the National Union on purpose for the occasion. There will also be two new postcards of her, one by the same firm of photographers as the one reproduced on the cover of this paper, and one from the beautiful picture in the National Gallery, which has already been reproduced in the COMMON CAUSE.

The new pamphlet for the occasion will be one by Miss Alice Zimmern, on the present position of the International Suffrage movement, called "Demand and Achievement." Miss Zimmern's book, "Women's Suffrage in Many Lands," is already well known to most members of the National Union; much has happened since this was published two years ago, and everybody who wants to see how the demand has grown all over the world, and how the achievement compares with it, should get her new pamphlet.

There will be a new edition of Miss Royden's "Votes and Wages," two editions of which have already sold out.

There will also be packets of new leaflets. One leaflet, which we have published since the last issue of the COMMON CAUSE, gives a short description of the aims and constitution of the National Union, and a list of Federations with the addresses of their secretaries. It is printed in red and green, and has a membership form attached. It is hoped that it will be useful for drawing-room meetings and for giving away to people who are interested in Suffrage but are not yet members of a society. Another new leaflet is that described last week, founded on the A.B.C. pages in the COMMON CAUSE. Its name is "To Women who are not well off." Its number is B 46, and its price 1s. 6d. per 100.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

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Historical Survey.

HISTORICAL SURVEY 1908-1912.—The article which appeared in the Manchester Guardian, and was reprinted in our last week's issue is now available in pamphlet form and can be obtained from the Secretary, Manchester and District Federation, 85, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester. Price 1d. Reduction for quantities.

The Manchester Federation intends to send a copy to the Hon. Secretaries of political associations, Members of Parliament and Candidates in the Federation area. It is suggested that other Federations might do the same, and also send to political agents and editors of newspapers. It is important that the actual parliamentary history of the last few years should be as widely and as accurately known as possible.

Mrs. G. F. Abbott (Miss Lamond).—A Personal Explanation.

Owing to Mrs. Abbott's absence from home the questions to candidates for election to the N.U. Executive Committee have not reached her; and in consequence no information appeared on the nomination papers. Mrs. Abbott is a member of the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage. She was formerly a National Union organiser, head organiser of the Edinburgh Society, and head organiser of the Scottish Federation. Mrs. Abbott was also one of the five members elected by all Scotland to sit on the Executive Committee of the Scottish Federation. She belongs to no political party and devotes her entire time to Suffrage work.

Contributions to General Fund.

Table with columns for names and amounts. Includes entries like 'Already acknowledged since Nov. 1st, 1911, 1,508 10 7' and 'Received from February 10th to 17th, 1912, 4 0 0'.

By-Election.

ST. ROLLOX DIVISION OF GLASGOW. Candidates: Mr. McKinnon Wood (L.), Mr. F. A. MacQuiston (U.). Polling Day: Monday, February 26th. N.U. Committee Rooms: 105, Castle Street. The West of Scotland has truly had more than its share of by-elections. N.E. Lanark, Tradesmen, Kilmarnock Burghs, North Ayrshire and Govan followed quickly one on the top of the other, and now St. Rollox, one of the largest constituencies in Scotland, has been sprung upon us, owing to Mr. McKinnon Wood's appointment as Secretary for Scotland. The campaign opened on Friday night, and is to be an unusually short one. The Glasgow Society has opened committee rooms at 105, Castle Street, and owing to the shortness of the time two organisers have been

Treasurer's Notes

As our Albert Hall meeting is to be on Friday of this week, may I remind those who intend to help us to a monster collection of the arrangements.

Cards will be provided, on which promises may be sent up to the platform, or which may be attached to cheques or purses. Collecting-boxes will also be passed round the hall, but we prefer that gifts should come up to the platform.

After paying expenses, all money not otherwise ear-marked will be equally divided between the 1912 campaign fund at headquarters, and the treasury of our London society. Gifts may, however, be allocated to either of these funds alone, or to any Federation or society in the Union, or to any special part of our work. If for more than one fund the proportion for each should be stated.

We are asking for money to be paid soon, and also for promises of payments to be made at intervals during the year.

For each of the last two years the National Union has had about £20,000 to spend; this year we need £40,000, of which at least £10,000 is wanted at headquarters.

We already have something in hand; will you help us to secure the rest at Albert Hall? It means a great effort and much self-sacrifice, but with a mighty pull all together, why should we not achieve it? At least, let us give the great campaign a magnificent send-off.

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

put in the field. The organiser sent by the National Union comes on Monday, and Miss Gorrie arrived on Friday. With their help we hope to carry on a brisk campaign.

As we had interviewed Mr. McKinnon Wood only a few weeks ago, the questions to candidates were posted to him, but up to the time of writing his replies had not been received. Mr. McQuiston received our deputation to-day, and expressed himself "in favour of an amendment to put municipal voters on the Parliamentary roll irrespective of sex." He promised to support the Conciliation Bill. Until our policy is declared we shall do propaganda work only.

Funds are urgently needed, and all those who can help, either financially or otherwise, are earnestly requested to communicate with me as soon as possible at the committee rooms.

KATHERINE W. LINDSAY.

London Society.

RICHMOND DEMONSTRATION. Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE who know already what a splendid success the Richmond Demonstration proved, will no doubt be glad to hear that the event was equally satisfactory from the financial point of view. The money subscribed by the following eight branches—Barnes, Ealing, Epsom, Esher, Kingston, Richmond, Sutton and Wimbledon—together with the collection and the proceeds from the sale of tickets, amounted to over £130, and as the expenses came to about £103, there will be a profit of at least £27 to hand over to the London Society for future work. The above branches feel deeply indebted to Miss Watson, the organising secretary, to whose energy and personal enthusiasm these gratifying results are mainly due.

F. E. M.

Federation Notes.

EASTERN COUNTIES. DEPUTATION TO MR. ALMERIC PAGET, M.P. A joint deputation from the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association (National Union), Cambridge University Men's League for Women's Suffrage, and the Cambridge Branch of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, waited on Mr. Almeric Paget (Conservative), M.P. for the Borough, in the Aldermen's Parlour, Guildhall, Cambridge, on the 16th inst. The speakers were the Rev. the Master of Selwyn College, Professor E. C. Clark, LL.D., Alderman Arthur Matthew, Mr. W. E. Heitland, M.A., Mrs. Bethune Baker, and Mrs. Henry Sidgwick. The deputation further included Dr. Glaisher, F.R.S., Mr. Francis Darwin, F.R.S., Lady Darwin, Rev. Prof. Bethune Baker, Mrs. James Ward, Hon. Sec. Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association; Mrs. Kennedy, Hon. Sec. Cambridge Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association; Mr. E. O. Vulliamy, Hon. Sec. Cambridge University Men's League; Mr. W. J. Mirrlees, Mrs. Kellett, Hon. Sec. Eastern Counties Federation (National Union); Miss Constance Jones, Principal of Girton College; Miss Clough, Vice-Principal,

Newnham College; Rev. A. S. Duncan Jones, and others. The speaking was of a high order. The Master of Selwyn made a strong appeal to the Conservative party to support Women's Suffrage as part of a programme of social reform, and Mrs. Bethune Baker dwelt on the depth and intensity of the feeling on this question, which, she declared, would never die till it has been satisfactorily solved. Mr. Paget's answers to the questions put by Mrs. Sidgwick were somewhat long and have already appeared verbatim in the Standard. He emphasised his fears lest the proposed Electoral Reform Bill should remove the existing property qualifications in the case of the male elector; if, however, the Bill should make it easier for those having the present qualifications to get on the register, he would "have no objection to support an amendment which would grant the franchise to women occupiers." Mr. Paget has already voted in favour of the Conciliation Bill on two occasions.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE.

The Federation Committee met at Norwich on January 30th. The distance was unfortunately so great from some parts of the area that only eleven out of the twenty-one societies were represented. The Committee learnt with much regret of the resignation of Miss Crewdson from the office of treasurer, for reasons of health. Mrs. W. H. Hazard, Harleston, Norfolk, was elected to the vacant post, and all the other officers were re-elected as follows: President, Mrs. Rackham; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. E. Kellett; Hon. Press Secretary Miss Fanny Johnson; COMMON CAUSE Correspondent Miss Coyle. Owing to the rapid increase of work in the Federation, it was decided to appoint an Hon. Assistant Secretary, and Mrs. R. Courtald consented to serve in this capacity. Miss Reckitt (Letchworth) and Miss Willis (Norwich) were asked to represent the Federation at the Provincial Councils of 1912.

During 1911, the number of societies within the Federation has been trebled, and there is every sign of equally rapid growth during the coming year. In view of the great opportunities only awaiting workers, the Committee decided to make a special financial effort in order to pay the expenses and part of the salaries of two organisers, if the N.U. can spare their services for the next six months.

Miss Eva Ward gave an account of her Norfolk campaign, and reports of the societies were read by their representatives. The annual report of the Federation will be issued shortly. A very hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Stuart, for kindly entertaining the Committee to lunch, and to Miss Willis, Secretary of the Norwich Society, for the excellent arrangements made for the comfort of delegates.

COLCHESTER.—A well-attended meeting was held by the Colchester Society at the Co-operative Hall, Colchester, on Monday, January 29th, at 8 p.m. Alderman Wilson Marriage occupied the chair and spoke warmly in favour of votes for women. Miss Ruth Young drew a sadly telling picture of the disabilities under which women are suffering, she proposed a resolution demanding enfranchisement for women in 1912. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Malcolm Mitchell who spoke hopefully of the future. The deputy Mayor, Alderman Frank Cant, and Mr. O. E. Stopes, spoke in support, and on the chairman putting the resolution it was passed with applause, there being only one dissident. Mr. Eustace Smith proposed, and Mr. Bensusan Butt seconded a vote of thanks to speakers and chairman.

An evening meeting was held in Horkesley School, near Colchester, on Friday night, February 2nd. Owing to the snow the audience was a small one, but they followed the points of Mrs. Alderton's speech with great interest and attention, and a resolution in favour of

extending the suffrage to women was passed unanimously. Our thanks are due to Mr. Sturt for the most able way in which he took the chair.

HUNTINGDON.—A meeting was held in the Town Hall on Tuesday, February 13th, H. C. Jones, Esq., was in the chair. Speakers, Mrs. Merivale Mayer and W. J. Mirrlees, Esq., supported by Lady Robert Cecil and Lady Darwin.

There was a large and enthusiastic audience. A resolution protesting against women's exclusion from the Reform Bill and calling upon Mr. Cator and Mr. Locker Lampton to do all in their power to secure the enfranchisement of women in 1912 was carried by a large majority.

NORWICH HEARS.—A well-attended meeting was held in the "Chestnuts," Stevenage, on Monday, February 12th. Mrs. Wathen, our treasurer, spoke to an interested audience on "First Principles of Women's Suffrage." This meeting was the first of five which have been arranged by the society, to take place fortnightly, dealing with the suffrage from different standpoints. A copy of the COMMON CAUSE has been accepted by the Conservative and Unionist Club, and the Working Men's Club in Stevenage, and will appear in their reading rooms every week. An appeal for the Albert Hall collection has had a fairly satisfactory result, and five new members have joined the society during the last fortnight.

NORWICH.—A good deal of work has been done in Norwich during the recent visit of Miss Eva Ward and Miss Sheard. A special meeting for teachers was given by Miss Margaret Hill, one for nurses by Miss Wise, two drawing-room meetings by Miss L. E. Sewell, and one by Mrs. Arthur Howlett. There has also been a debate, at which the resolution was carried, an address at a women's Adult School, and a public meeting, at Ayle—this latter being organised by Mrs. and the Rev. R. R. Young. But the chief event has been the public meeting of January 29th, held in conjunction with the Eastern Counties Federation. Most of the existing societies in the area were represented at the meeting. The hall was decorated with the different societies' flags, as well as posters from the Artists' Suffrage League, and a band played while the audience assembled. The H. N. Brailford, the chair being taken by Mrs. James Stuart. The resolution was carried with only two dissentients. Very good reports were given by the Press, and the cause of Women's Suffrage is fast gaining ground in Norwich and the neighbourhood.

West Riding (Yorks). DEPUTATIONS TO SHEFFIELD M.P.'S. In reply to a very representative deputation which waited upon him, Sir John Tudor Walters, M.P., stated that he had always been in favour of Women's Suffrage and had mentioned it in his election address. He preferred to give women the vote by instalments, and he would favour an amendment which would give the franchise to the wife as well as the husband on a joint qualification. He refused the pledge asked for—with regard to opposing the third reading of the Bill if no women have been included—because, being a supporter of the Government, he did not wish to see it defeated before it had given effect to other measures.

The deputation included Dr. Helen Wilson, Mrs. Styling, President of the local Liberal Association, Mrs. Burgess, President of Sheffield Branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild, and Mr. T. W. Flint, P.L.G.

On February 6th, Mr. Fitzalan Hope, M.P., received a deputation of representatives of the different Suffrage Societies, together with three city councillors. As Mr. Hope is considered "anti," the general case for the enfranchisement of qualified women was placed before him, and he was urged not to oppose the limited measure. He asked several questions on points of detail, and was interested to learn that 75 per cent. of the women who would be enfranchised by the Conciliation Bill would be of the working class. He refused to answer the questions, but stated that he would think over all that had been said and would consider any further communications.

DEPUTATIONS TO LEEDS M.P.'S. Mr. O'Grady (Lab.) promised to support any amendment to Reform Bill and also Conciliation Bill, and to oppose any Referendum proposal. He would not promise to vote against the third reading of Reform Bill if women were left out, but stated that he would have to give the matter consideration at the time and consult with his colleagues. He felt sure women would be included in some form. The Labour Conference at Birmingham has taken place since the deputation was received.

Mr. R. Armitage (Lib.) stated that his support of the Conciliation amendment or Bill could be confidently relied upon, but he would not promise at this juncture to vote for a wider amendment, nor to oppose the third reading of the Reform Bill, if he did not include women. He would certainly oppose the Referendum proposal.

Mr. T. E. Harvey (Lib.) wrote such an entirely satisfactory letter to the Hon. Secretary that a deputation was deemed unnecessary. Mr. Ogden (Lib., Pudsey Div.) has not been asked to receive a deputation, but has made it known that he will vote for any amendment to Reform Bill and Conciliation Bill, and would oppose Referendum, but would not vote against Government Bill if it did not include women.

ORGANISATION IN NEW DISTRICTS.

The organiser (Miss Clarkson) has been doing excellent work here, and has been successful in forming a Suffrage Society. She has addressed all sorts and conditions of men and women, including the Women's Liberal Association, Men's Liberal Club (where a unanimous resolution was obtained), Adult School, Socialist Association, Women's Co-operative Guild, and a Pleasant Monday Evening Meeting. A large W.S. meeting held in the Victoria Hall was successful in spite of the fact that at the last moment the principal speaker (Miss I. O. Ford) was unable to attend owing to illness. Mr. Rennie Foster (ex-"Anti") kindly acted as a substitute, and Mr. J. A. Sampson presided. Twenty-three new members joined the society, and the collection amounted to £1 18s. A resolution was passed unanimously.

SHIPLEY.—Although not much work has been done in Shipley, a good meeting was held here on February 6th. Miss I. O. Ford was unfortunately not well enough to be present. Mrs. Bauer presided, and Mrs. Aldersley and Miss Clarkson spoke. The resolution was passed with only one dissident (a youth).

KEIGHLEY.—A most enjoyable Whist Drive and Dance were held here on February 9th. Mrs. Philip Snowden speaks in this town on February 21st.

OTLEY.—Owing to the illness of Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Aldersley has been acting as her substitute in organising, etc., since February 12th. A large meeting is to be held in the Mechanics' Institute on February 22nd, to be addressed by Mrs. Philip Snowden and Mrs. Aldersley. Mrs. J. Maston (chair). Miss Stalk is organising a Liberal suffrage campaign in this district. This will no doubt greatly aid the cause.

BRADFORD.—Meetings have been held—January 1st, Brownroyd Congregational P.M.E., speaker Miss Hilston, January 2nd, Queensbury Women's Co-operative Guild, speaker Miss Hilston, January 3rd, East Ward W.L.A., speaker: Miss Hilston; Bradford Women's Co-operative Guild, speaker: Miss Hilston; public meeting, speakers: Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Swanwick. Resolution passed with twelve dissentients. February, Debate between Miss Margaret Ashton and Miss Gladys Pott, Resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage passed by a very large majority. Seating accommodation in the hall 500, admitted by ticket 450. The Society will be well represented at the Albert Hall meeting, and full force of delegates will attend the council meeting.

DEWSBURY.—A largely attended meeting was held on February 7th in the Town Hall. Mrs. Henry Fawcett LL.D. was the chief speaker. Mrs. Parrish of Leeds took the place of Dr. Jane Walker who was unable to be present, and Mrs. Condon of Leeds presided. It was announced from the chair that the Mayor and Mayoress of Batley—the latter a suffragist of thirty years' standing—had written expressing regret at their inability to be present. Amongst those on the platform were the Mayoress of Dewsbury (Miss Greenwood), Lady Oldroyd, Miss Walker, Mrs. Leonard Firth, Mrs. Pritchard, Mrs. T. H. Thomson (president of the Dewsbury Co-operative Women's Guild) and Mrs. A. E. Holme, Major Walker, Mr. R. Clough (prospective Conservative candidate for Dewsbury), Mr. E. Walker (prospect), Dr. Potter and Russell (Batley). Mrs. Fawcett in a statesmanlike speech, showed the urgent need for women's influence in legislation by their votes, dealt with the present position of the question and proposed the resolution, Mr. R. Clough (prospective Conservative candidate) in moving a vote of thanks to the speakers expressed his indignation that women were considered capable of canvassing and yet not fit to exercise the vote.

GOOLE.—A highly successful meeting was held here on January 26th, the Sailors' Institute being filled with 200 people to hear an eloquent address by Miss Ashton, M.A. Dr. Mary Murdoch occupied the chair, and Mrs. Richardson spoke in support of the resolution calling upon the Government to include women in any new franchise Bill. On the result, Mrs. Sidgwick, in a dissenting voice was raised. There was a good collection and about five dozen COMMON CAUSES were sold. Eighteen new members were enrolled.

HUNDESFIELD.—A reception was given on February 16th by the President, Miss Siddons, in the Town Hall, to meet Miss Christa Macmillan. Bouquets were presented by the officers of the society to Miss Siddons and to Miss Macmillan. Mrs. Studdard also presented one to Mrs. Dyson, who had travelled all the way from Cheltenham to sing. A resolution, moved by Miss Macmillan, and seconded by Councillor Beaumont, was carried.

LEEDS.—On Sunday, January 21st, Miss I. O. Ford spoke at the Hunslet Unitarian Adult School. The audience included a large number of teachers. On February 8th, Mrs. Renton addressed the Kirkstall Liberal Association and obtained a favourable resolution with only one dissident. On February 10th the annual meeting of the Leeds society was held at the Y.M.C.A. Miss Abadam gave a delightful address on "Women's Suffrage and the Moral Evil," to members and others. On February 14th Mrs. Parrish addressed an appreciative audience of men and women at the New Wortley Liberal Club. On February 15th a meeting of the Young Liberal League was addressed by Mrs. Renton, and a resolution in favour of amendments to the Reform Bill and (failing those) the Conciliation Bill, was passed unanimously.

SHEFFIELD.—Meetings of other societies addressed by our members. January 26th: Mrs. Sinclair spoke on suffrage and the Conciliation Bill to the Literary Class of the Attercliffe Spiritualist Church. An interesting discussion followed, and our society gained two new members. January 29th: Mrs. Sinclair addressed the Hallgate Sisterhood, Doncaster, on "Why Women want the Vote." Nearly 150 working women were present. February 5th: Mrs. Zarr addressed the Gleadow Women's Co-operative Guild on "Are Women Citizens?" There was a good attendance and great interest was shown. On the same evening Mrs. Sinclair addressed the Attercliffe Women's Co-operative Guild on "Women and the Vote." An ardent and protracted discussion followed, which threatened to result in an all-night sitting. February 26th: A debate was held at the house of Mrs. Edward Bramley, hon. sec. of the N.L.O.W.S., between Mrs. H. F. Hall, Press Secretary of our branch, and Miss Cordelia Moir of Manchester. Most of the audience were "anti," and the debate consisted to a great extent of "heckling," no vote being taken; but

we are grateful to Mrs. Bramley for the opportunity of making our case known.

ROTHERHAM.—On February 13th Mrs. Sinclair addressed a small meeting at Rotherham, convened by Mrs. Eastp. Mrs. Gill (our hon. sec.) being in the chair. Mrs. Sinclair spoke on the general question, Mrs. Gill on the economic aspect. Two new members joined and four ladies volunteered to help in a canvass of municipal voters, while others promised to write to the member urging him to refrain from opposing Women's Franchise. Literature was distributed and it is hoped that Rotherham will soon be strong enough to form a new branch.

SOVERBY BRIDGE.—A public meeting was held on Thursday, February 1st, in the Co-operative Hall, Sowerby Bridge. Miss Banks (President) was in the chair, and Mrs. Cooper (Nelson) was the principal speaker. Miss I. O. Ford, Leeds, was prevented from attending through illness. Miss Clarkson (organiser) gave a short speech in her place. There was a good attendance and the resolution was carried unanimously, and copies were sent to the Prime Minister and J. S. Higham, M.P., for the Sowerby Division.

East Midland. DEPUTATION TO MR. CRAWSHAY-WILLIAMS, M.P.

On February 15th a deputation from the Leicester W.S.S. had a short conversation with Mr. E. Crawshay-Williams, M.P., who was in Leicester for the purpose of speaking at an Adult Suffrage meeting arranged by the People's Suffrage League.

Mr. Crawshay-Williams promised that, failing an Adult Suffrage amendment to the Government Reform Bill, he would probably propose, and would certainly support, an amendment on the lines known as "Dickinson II." In view of the efforts now being made, he believed that such an amendment would pass the House of Commons, though possibly only by a very small majority.

He could not promise to oppose a democratic Reform Bill on the third reading, even if it applied only to men.

DEPUTATIONS TO M.P.'S BY THE DERBY SOCIETY.

On February 3rd a deputation from the Derby Society had an interview with the two members for the Borough, Sir Thomas Roe and Mr. J. H. Thomas. Sir Thomas Roe assured the deputation that he was still an ardent Suffragist, as he had been for forty years, but he was also a party man, and could not pledge himself to vote for any measure that might upset the Government. The answer of Mr. J. H. Thomas were entirely satisfactory. He said he was an Adult Suffragist, but would vote for a measure enfranchising even one woman, and would oppose the third reading of the Government Bill if Women's Suffrage were not included in it.

On February 10th a deputation organised by the Derby Society waited upon Sir Herbert Raphael, M.P., at his London residence. Sir H. Raphael gave a courteous hearing to the deputation, but maintained his well-known anti-suffrage attitude. He promised, however, to oppose the Referendum—at any rate, for this session.

E. J. SLOANE.

West Lancs., West Ches., and North Wales. PETITION OF CRICCIETH WOMEN RATEPAYERS.

A petition of the Criccieth women ratepayers has been sent to Mr. Lloyd George for presentation to the House of Commons, praying for the enfranchisement of women either by inclusion in the Reform Bill or on the terms proposed by the amended Conciliation Bill.

Of the 147 women ratepayers of Criccieth, 109 signed the petition, 23 refused, 10 were away from home and the remainder were either ill or out when called upon.

DOROTHEA PUGHE JONES (President, Criccieth W.S.S.)

West of England.

BATH.—The chief event of the month has been the inauguration of a men's section of our Society, and the organising by their committees of a meeting to be addressed by Miss Maude Royden on February 22nd. It is being enthusiastically supported by men of all parties, and should result in a large increase of membership. Office meetings have been held every Wednesday afternoon. On January 24th, Miss Von Donop took the chair, and Miss Tanner spoke of Josephine Butler and her work. She aroused much interest, and books and pamphlets kindly given by the chairman found a ready sale.

On February 14th Miss Story presided, and Mrs. Skemp dealt with "Modern School Education for Girls." Bristol.—Our annual meeting took place in the Queen's Hall, January 27th. In spite of the intense cold the room was packed to hear Professor Skemp, of the Bristol University, and Miss Courtney, who kindly supplied the place of Dr. Mary Morris, the latter being unable to attend owing to illness. Professor Skemp, whom we welcome as a most valuable recruit to the cause in this place, dealt in a masterly fashion with the general principles of our movement, and Miss Courtney, fresh from headquarters, gave a most encouraging report of

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TO WELSH SUFFRAGISTS.

Spread the Cause of Women's Suffrage in Wales by means of Welsh Leaflets! Extracts from Mr. Lloyd George's Speech at Bath } 9d. per 100, The Conciliation Bill Explained, } 6s. per 1000. Apply to Mrs. HUDSON WILLIAMS, Lit. Sec., Plas Tirion, Bangor, N. Wales.

GAIEY THEATRE, MANCHESTER. EVERY EVENING at 7.30. Mat., SATURDAYS at 2. MISS DARRAGH'S SEASON. THE FOUNTAIN. Preceded by SUSANNEN'S GEHEIMNIS (Susanne's Secret) an Intermezzo in One Act by WOLF-FERRARI. FEBRUARY 26th. EVERY EVENING at 7.30. Mat., SATURDAYS at 2. THE NOTORIOUS MRS. EBBSMITH. A Play in Four Acts, by Sir ARTHUR PINERO.

the present Parliamentary situation. The collection amounted to over £5, much literature was sold, our resolution was carried without a dissentient and altogether a great success was scored.

On February 3rd a debate took place at the headquarters of the Girl Guides, Clifton. Miss Ballantine took the chair, Mrs. Gladstone Solomon spoke for the N.L.O.W.S., and Miss Barrett for the N.W.S.S. The Guides showed interest in the discussion, many questions were asked and answered, and the effort should certainly be followed up.

Mrs. Smington and Mrs. Cowmeadow's campaign in Bristol East has aroused a great deal of interest in a constituency where the subject of Women's Suffrage has not received the attention it deserves, and where the member, Mr. Hobhouse, needs educating in our movement. Several thousand bills have been distributed and many meetings held outside and inside the factories of the district. A drawing-room meeting, held by kind permission of Mrs. Hek, at Shaftesbury House, Easton Road, gave Mrs. Cowmeadow a good opportunity of interesting the women of the neighbourhood. The speaker gave her audience a most inspiring address and several new members joined the Society. The campaign culminated in a public meeting held in the Dean Lane Mission Hall on February 6th. Mr. Cross kindly presided and Mrs. Cowmeadow and Mrs. Hicks spoke to an interested and attentive audience. This good beginning will be followed up next month when Miss Fraser will be with us.

CHELTEMHAM.—Accounts of the Cheltenham meetings for last month have already appeared, but the press work of this Society during the last week or so deserves special notice. Not only as already stated under the Press heading, have the Ezemmer and the Chronicle promised a monthly column for Suffrage news, but the Echo reported Mrs. Snowdon's meeting splendidly, and the Cheltenham papers generally show an encouraging "coming-on" disposition. The Society is also carrying out the poster scheme suggested by the Suffrage Atelier. In the most frequented part of the town on a special posting space, kept clean for Suffrage bills, a dozen of our largest size posters will appear for at least three months. They will be changed weekly or fortnightly, and will keep the man in the street, who thinks he has no time to study our movement, well informed as to our demand and its progress. As the cost of this form of propaganda, compared with its effect, is trifling, we hope other societies will "go and do likewise."

STREET.—On December 20th, a public meeting, with Mrs. Snowdon as speaker, took place here, and on January 23rd, Mrs. Hicks, of Bristol, interested a large audience with a most able speech on "Women and the Insurance Act."

WINSOMBE.—A public meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms on Tuesday afternoon, January 30th. The vicar, the Rev. J. A. Dodd, presided, and Miss Maude Royden gave an impressive address on "The Real Meaning of Women's Suffrage." The meeting was largely attended, was well reported by the Weston papers, and several new members were enrolled.

EXETER.—This young Society held a pleasant and successful gathering on Thursday afternoon, February 15th. After tea the meeting was addressed and questions were answered by Mrs. Clothier, honorary treasurer of the West of England Federation, who most kindly motored from Street in order to be present. Some humorous recitations and readings were then given by various members of the Society, new names were enrolled and copies of the COMMON CAUSE were eagerly purchased.

NOTE.—We much regret that owing to very great pressure on our space, we have been obliged to hold over many pieces of Federation Notes, even some monthly reports.

Letters to the Editor

Correspondents are requested to send their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for any statement made in the correspondence column.

Correspondents are requested to write ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY.

MID-OXON LIBERALS.

I see from a paragraph in this week's COMMON CAUSE that you have been misled by a report in The Standard of February 12th as to what took place in Mid-Oxon. It was the Men's Liberal Association which refused to discuss the suffrage resolution. The Women's Association passed a resolution in favour of women's suffrage at their annual meeting on November 22nd. The ladies who resigned from the Women's Association because the Men's Association refused to discuss their resolution, did so because the Women's Association has hitherto worked in co-operation with the Men's Association, for the men, and has done splendid work for them and a great number of the women have done the work for men for years on the understanding that the Men's Association were in favour of women's suffrage. They will no longer work for men who, to put it very mildly have not played fair.

H. FRANCES PETERSEN (Press Sec. Oxfo rd W.S.S.)

A DEGREE STANDARD IN HOME SCIENCE. Whilst I am glad to recognise the general approval of the Home Science scheme expressed in your paragraph on Queen Mary's Hostel in last week's issue I hope you will permit me to make some comments on the somewhat ambiguous terms in which it is couched. Since you have "nothing but approval" for the efforts of which this course forms part, I feel sure that you cannot be intending to describe its methods when you go on to speak of the addition of "a lot of scrappy recipes to the mental furniture" of the woman who has taken a degree course. Probably this description refers

to the case of a graduate in Arts or Science who has later taken a course in cookery from a practical cook. However, it is quite clear from the paragraph that the rock of offence is the suggestion of a degree standard, and it is on this point that I would endeavour to clear up some apparent misapprehension.

It is true that a degree standard is aimed at. The question whether it has been, or will be, attained must be left to the final decision of the University of London, and I think safely left from the point of view of the College I represent. For the high standard of this University seems to assure us that no risk of lowering the ideal of a degree will be run, whilst its liberal spirit promises that initial prejudice will not stand in the way of right judgment.

As to what is the true ideal of knowledge and education for a degree, the question is no doubt thorny. Perhaps no spirit is more prone to one kind of exclusiveness than the spirit of a special educational discipline. When History was introduced amongst the Oxford Schools a representative of the older point of view exclaimed, "Why will they be giving degrees in butterflies next!" Butterflies and other subjects more equivocal in character have since entered in. I know one good Cambridge Mathematician who still refuses to allow the name of Science to any but the Mathematical Sciences, and now we are told by Sir Walter Raleigh that technical subjects such as Agriculture and Domestic Science are rightly included amongst University studies. (I take the reference at second-hand from the Times Educational Supplement, February).

I have myself been conscious of a certain difficulty derived from my own training in admitting that any course can be truly humane except the Oxford Classical Greats, but

"Experience, like a sea,

"Soaks all-effacing in."

And may I therefore be allowed to confess that, after fairly wide observation of the effects of different forms

MRS. BILLINGTON GREIG

will open a discussion on "What should be the Policy of Suffragists if the Vote is not won in 1912."

at the INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 15, Adam Street, Strand, W.C. MONDAY, MARCH 21, at 8 P.M. Chairman MISS DORA MARSDEN. Tickets 2s. each from the INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP. No collection.

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of University education, I have been brought by recent experience to see that the grouping of studies, together with some amount of practical work in the King's College Home Science course is truly educational, i.e., that it is an excellent way of developing, at least in some minds, a really awakened and operative interest in life and its opportunities and the demands it makes on the will and the intelligence. I think I may say that this effect may be produced quite as well by Home Science as by the Pass courses at the Universities known to me. Such evidence makes one pause before condemning without fair trial any fresh study proposed for a University by intelligent and well-educated people.

May I therefore ask the liberal spirit of THE COMMON CAUSE to give further consideration to the subject of Home Science before deciding that there cannot be a degree standard in it? Yours faithfully, HILDA D. OAKLEY.

King's College for Women, Kensington Square. February 19th, 1912.

Other Societies.

YOUNGER SUFFRAGISTS.

A tea shop and cake sale will be held by the Younger Suffragists from February 21st to February 24th at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. The proceeds will be devoted to the "Younger Suffragists' Fund (1912) for the salary and expenses of the National Union Organiser in Devon and Cornwall. Gifts of cakes, sweets, butter, etc., flowers or little articles for the oddments stall will be most welcome. All communications should be addressed to the organisers, Miss M. C. Pyffe and Miss S. Bonnell, 12, Roxburghe Mansion, Kensington Court, W.

Forthcoming Meetings

ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION. (The meetings are given only a fortnight in advance.)

FEBRUARY 22. Leamington—Town Hall—"A Reply to the Antis"—Mrs. Cecil Chapman, J. Cameron Grant, Esq., Lady Willoughby de Broke (chair) 8.0. Accrington—Town Hall—Miss Ashton, The Lady Beatrice Kemp, Professor de Sumichrast Evening 8.0. Oxford—Mrs. Geldart's drawing-room meeting—Miss Helga Gill 3.0. Central Sussex—Station Hill, Burgess Hill—"Why Women Want the Vote"—Mrs. Dempster, Miss Chute Ellis (chair) 3.0. Hayward's Heath—Liberal Club—Debate on Government Reform Bill—Mr. Eric Stevens, Miss Spooner 8.0.

Bath—Mrs. H. H. Johnston's drawing-room meeting—Miss A. Maude Royden 3.30. Bath—Assembly Rooms—Men's meeting—Miss A. Maude Royden, Mr. W. C. H. Cross, The Archdeacon of Bath (chair) 8.0. Otley—Mechanics' Institute—Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mrs. Aldersley, Mrs. J. Maston (chair) 7.30. Walker-on-Tyne—Mechanics' Hall—Miss O. M. Gordon, Miss Margaret Mein, Councillor Dawson (chair) 7.30. Coventry—Mrs. Collington's drawing-room meeting—Mrs. Williams (Nuneaton) 3.30.

FEBRUARY 26. Birkenhead—Neston Town Hall—Joint meeting with O.U.W.F.A.—Mrs. Scoresby Routledge, M.A., Mrs. Duckworth, A. K. Bulley, Esq., Lady Norman Hill (chair) 8.0. Stevenage—"The Chestnuts"—Miss Susan A. Villiers 8.0. Eocles—Moston St. Andrew's School—"The Church League for Women's Suffrage"—Miss A. Maude Royden 8.0. Nottingham—Office, 54, Long Row—"At Home"—"Madam Roland"—Mrs. Hickling 7.30.

FEBRUARY 27. Peterborough—The Grand Assembly Rooms—Mrs. Fawcett, Miss I. O. Ford, the Dean of Peterborough (chair) 8.0. Limsfield—"Stoneshill"—annual meeting, hostess: Mrs. Osmonston. "Women's service to the State," Miss Kate Hessel, Miss N. O'Shea (chair) 3.0. Wallasey and Wirral—Heswall—drawing-room meeting—Mrs. Scoresby Routledge, M.A., O. Rohde, Esq., (chair) 3.0. West Bromwich—Library Lecture Room—Mrs. Despard, Councillor J. Wheatley (chair) 8.0. Eocles—Worsley Court House—"Church League for Women's Suffrage"—The Lady Beatrice Kemp, Miss A. Maude Royden 3.0. Hassocks—Hassocks Hall—The Lady Willoughby de Broke, T. A. Meates, Esq., J.P. (chair) 8.0.

FEBRUARY 28. Camberley—Drill Hall—Sweated Industries Exhibition, 2.30. Speeches—Miss A. Maude Royden, J. Cameron Grant, Esq. 5.0. Camberley—Drill Hall—Lantern Lecture on Sweated Industries—J. J. Mallon, Esq., Mrs. Bassett (chair) 8.0. Portsmouth—Drayton Road Schools—Rev. E. F. Piggott, Mrs. Laphorn (chair) 8.0. Worthing—31, Warwick Street—Miss Carr's and Miss Pember's "At Home"—"Shop Stewards and Sweating"—Miss Nicholas 4.0.

To Thinking Women

The Parliamentary Session which began on February 14, promises developments of national importance to the interests of women.

In such circumstances the thinking women of Britain naturally look to their own organ—to "Woman's Platform"—for guidance. And this has not been lacking. Beginning with its issue of February 5th, "WOMAN'S PLATFORM" in

THE STANDARD

has been publishing a series of pronouncements on the crisis in the Woman Suffrage Movement from the recognised women leaders of the day.

When it is mentioned that these messages include statements from Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Mrs. Humphry Ward, Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Gladys Pott, Mrs. Despard, Miss Violet Markham, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Lady Selborne, Mrs. Frederic Harrison, etc., it will be seen at once that no thinking woman in the country can afford to miss them.

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| Bournemouth—Assembly Rooms, The Avenue—"At Home" 4.6 | Bath—Post Office Chambers, Northgate Street—"The Vote as it affects Wages"—Miss Williams 4.0 | Oxford—St. Frideswide's Boys' School—Miss Helga Gill, A. D. Lindsay, Esq., Mrs. W. M. Geldart (chair) 8.0 | Oundle—Victoria Hall—Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Renton, The Lady Knightley of Fawsley (chair) 2.30 | Haywards Heath—Public Hall—Sweated Industries Exhibition—Address by Miss Mary E. Phillips—Opener, The Lady Willoughby de Broke 2.30-6.30 | Lantern lecture by H. Evans, Esq. 7.30 |
| FEBRUARY 29. | | | | | |
| Marple Bridge—Congregational Hall—Debate—Miss D. Darlington v. Miss Cordelia Moir 7.30 | York—Assembly Rooms—Annual meeting—Miss I. O. Ford 3.0 | Sevenoaks—The Club Hall—Lady Frances Balfour, Sir J. Cockburn, K.C.M.G., R. K. Berington, Esq. 8.0 | Keswick—Battersby Lecture Hall—"W.S. in other lands"—Miss Dover—"Why men want women to have the vote"—Mr. Lupton—Miss Sidney Knight 8.0 | Knutsford Society—Lostock Gralam—Mrs. Cooper (Nelson), Mrs. J. R. Tomlinson (chair) 7.30 | Melton Mowbray—Corn Exchange—Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Renton, Rev. E. Berosford (chair) 8.0 |
| MARCH 1. | | | | | |
| Jarrow—Miss Best's drawing-room meeting—Miss Margaret Mein 3.0 | Tunbridge Wells—Great Hall—Mass meeting—Sir J. Cockburn, K.C.M.G., Lord Aberconway, Miss Frances Sterling and others, Lady Brassey (chair) 8.0 | MARCH 4. | | | |
| Shildon—Schools—Annual meeting—Miss Margaret Mein 7.30 | Oxford—Summertown Congregational Lecture Hall—Miss Helga Gill, Prof. Geldart 8.0 | Nottingham—Office, 54, Long Row—"At Home"—"Madam Roland"—Miss Frettingham 7.30 | Crowthorne, Berks—annual meeting—Miss A. Maude Royden, J. Malcolm Mitchell, Esq., Mrs. Robie Unisacke (chair) 8.0 | Birmingham—Harborne Institute—Lady Stout, Mrs. Osler (chair); songs: Miss Elma Baker 8.0 | MARCH 5. |
| Bristol—111a, Whiteladies Road—Lecture, "Mazzini"—Mrs. Randall Vickers 5.0 | Maidenhead—Mrs. Roe's drawing-room meeting—Miss A. Maude Royden, Mrs. Robie Unisacke (chair) 3.0 | MARCH 6. | | | |
| Birmingham—Tyburn—Mrs. Watson's drawing-room meeting—Mrs. Ring, Mrs. Godlee (chair) 3.15 | Letchworth—Howard Hall—"The Sex War"—Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A. 8.0 | Bournemouth—Assembly Rooms, The Avenue—"At Home" 4.0 | Portsmouth—Penhale Road Schools—Miss O'Shea, Mrs. Newton (chair) 8.0 | | |

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| LONDON. | |
| FEBRUARY 22. | 8. Kensington—Mrs. Egerton Hensley's drawing-room meeting—Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A. 3.0 |
| | Penge—Men's Conservative Club, Beckenham Road—W.S. meeting—Miss H. D. Cockle, Miss Sinclair 8.30 |
| | Bermondsey—The Triangle, Grange Road—Miss Dawson, Miss Goddard 8.0 |
| FEBRUARY 24. | Portman Rooms, Baker Street—N.U. annual council meeting 10.30 and 2.30 |
| FEBRUARY 25. | Holloway—Ethical Society—Miss Ruth Young evening 8.0 |
| FEBRUARY 26. | Tower Hamlets—Ratcliff Settlement—"At Home"—Miss Ruth Young, Mr. Urwick (chair) 8.0 |
| | Southwark—St. George's Circus—open air meeting—Mrs. Merivale Mayer 8.0 |
| FEBRUARY 27. | Kensington—Empress Rooms, Royal Palace Hotel—London Society's "At Home"—Miss K. D. Courtney, Mrs. Hartley, Miss G. Dykes Spicer, Miss Helen Ward (chair) 3.30 |
| | Southwark—"Sons of Temperance" Hall, Blackfriars Road—Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A., S. Pascall, Esq., F. Briant, Esq., J.P., and others. Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves (chair) 8.0 |
| | Ealing—37, Uxbridge Road—Miss Debae's drawing-room meeting—Mrs. Stanbury 8.15 |
| | Poplar—Liberal and Radical Association—102, East India Road—W.S. meeting—Miss Emily Hill 8.0 |
| FEBRUARY 28. | Fulham—17, Glazbury Road, W. Kensington—drawing-room meeting—Miss A. Maude Royden 4.0 |
| | Kennington—Moffat Institute—Miss Susan Lawrence, Mrs. Stanbury, R. G. Bowers, Esq. (chair) 8.30 |
| FEBRUARY 29. | Blackheath—Concert Hall—Mrs. Pember Reeves, Rev. Llewellyn Smith, Sir Victor Horsley (chair) 8.30 |
| | Chelsea—22, Tedworth Gardens—Mrs. Arthur Whitting's drawing-room meeting—Mrs. F. T. Swanwick on "The Common Cause and the present situation"—tickets can be had on application to Mrs. Whitting 3.15 |

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| S. Norwood—Stanley Hall—Debate, Miss Abadam v. A. Maconachie, Esq., Alderman King, J.P. (chair) 8.0 | MARCH 1. | |
| N. Hackney—Rectory Road Lecture Hall—Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A., Mrs. Despard, Rev. C. Hinseliff, Rev. Fleming Williams (chair) 8.0 | MARCH 4. | |
| Tower Hamlets—Ratcliff Settlement—"At Home"—R. C. K. Ensor, Esq., Mrs. Peter Thomson (chair) 8.0 | MARCH 5. | |
| Kensington—Empress Rooms, Royal Palace Hotel—London Society's reception—Mrs. Fawcett, Miss J. H. Thomson, B.A., Rev. Llewellyn Smith, Miss Frances Sterling (chair) 3.30 | SCOTLAND. | |
| Glasgow—Office, 202, Hope Street—"The Insurance Bill"—Miss Dalziel 4.0 | Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—Public Meeting—Miss A. Beauchamp 4.30 | FEBRUARY 27. |
| Hawick—St. James' Hall—Musical and dramatic "At Home" 7.30 | FEBRUARY 29. | Dundee—Foresters' Hall—Annual meeting 3.0 |
| MARCH 1. | Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"Events in London, February 23, 24 and 26"—Miss Lisa M. Gordon 4.30 | Inverness—St. Margaret's—"An evening with the anti-suffragists" 8.0 |

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| IRELAND. | |
| FEBRUARY 23. | Dublin—33, Molesworth Street—Irish W.S. and Local Government Association—"Some conditions of a possible Utopia"—T. J. Haslam, Esq. 8.0 |
| MEETINGS ADDRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE UNION. | |
| FEBRUARY 22. | Bristol—Memorial Hall, Clifton—Debate—Miss J. M. Barrett v. Mrs. G. Solomon 8.0 |
| FEBRUARY 24. | Accrington—Oak Street Assembly Hall—Debate—Mrs. Chew v. Mrs. P. W. Craven 7.30 |
| FEBRUARY 26. | Cheadle—Literary Institute—Debate—Mrs. Chew v. Miss Cordelia Moir 8.0 |
| Eastbourne—All Souls' Men's Discussion Society—Miss Hare, Rev. B. Hopson, M.A. (chair) 8.30 | FEBRUARY 27. |
| Ecclestone—Women's Co-operative Society—"Women and citizenship"—Mrs. Sinclair 8.0 | FEBRUARY 28. |
| Hucknall—Byron Buildings—Adult School—Mrs. Cowmeadow 6.30 | FEBRUARY 29. |
| Abingdon—Corn Exchange—Debate: Mrs. Rackham v. Miss G. Pott 6.45 | Hucknall—Women's Liberal Federation—Mrs. Cowmeadow 8.0 |
| MARCH 1. | Bristol—Brunswick Square—League of Young Liberals—Debate: W. C. H. Cross, LL.B. v. H. Trapnell, Esq., LL.B. 8.0 |
| MARCH 5. | Bristol—West Bristol W.L.A.—W. C. H. Cross, Esq., LL.B. evening |

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Enfranchisement of Women in 1912

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SPEAKERS:

MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN

THE EARL OF LYTTON

AND THE

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