

THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.)

VOL. I.—No. 23.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and MANAGING DIRECTOR respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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WHAT WE THINK.

Restless Rest.

We have had brief breathing space—a brief respite from active work—but the rest was full of restlessness. Throughout the length and breadth of England there is a feeling that a crisis is at hand—a crisis for which every male elector is preparing himself. The Liberals have formed a great league to guard themselves against any possibility of the country "going wrong this time." The Tories are also getting ready, are summoning their stalwarts and lining their war-chests. And we, too, are not idle. Still outside the electorate, we shall, when the time comes, prove once more our ability to penetrate into the most difficult constituencies to make our voices heard in the midst of the turmoil, and to point out to the male electorate which way justice lies. The Liberals will offer the country the choice of the People or the Peers, the Tories will offer Tariff Reform or Free Trade, and we, in our turn, standing outside the polls as we stand outside the parties, shall offer them the choice of the removal of the sex disability and with it the possibility of a fresh, untrammelled body of electors, unbiassed by party, prepared to go for Reform under any ægis, or the continuance of the old system, unfair and cruel to a sex that represents many sections of the population—a system which is incapable of showing which way the pendulum of popular feeling is moving, and whose inherent faults members of that government which has refused to change it are now acclaiming loudly from any platform which will give them a hearing.

There is yet time for Mr. Asquith to make some pronouncement agreeing to give Government support to a Bill for women's enfranchisement. If there is another election within the next couple of months the Government will need all the help it can get from the Liberal women both in personal service, in funds, and in influence, and if it does not offer them a *quid pro quo* it will have to face the active hostility of a large section of them. And hostility, whether from friend or foe, is particularly dangerous to a party which has internal divisions and a depleted war-chest.

Mr. Bottomley's Amendment.

At the Shop Assistants' Conference at Liverpool the Member for South Hackney will ask the Committee to consider "what steps should be taken to make the House of Commons more representative of the people and to secure its predominance." In answer to the first part of the amendment we would have no hesitation in suggesting that

the removal of the sex disability would, at the present time, be the only possible measure to make the Commons representative. After that it would be time enough to think of their predominance.

The New Bond.

When anti-suffragists are busy telling us that we and our cause are "as dead as door-nails," it is interesting to find Mr. Spencer Leigh Hughes observing, in the course of a witty and well-written article in the *Tatler*, on "Mild, Medium, and Full-Flavoured Members," that "the great topic of woman's suffrage has done something to bring together political opponents, either as friends or as enemies of the cause." Judging by the small number of avowed opponents that the question has in the present House, we may feel eminently self-congratulatory.

Women Magistrates Needed.

There is a committee sitting at present to inquire into the appointment of magistrates, and some representation should be made to them of the necessity for the appointment of women magistrates to hear cases which concern women, such as affiliation cases, cases of assault, &c. The records in daily papers afford continual examples of the need for some reform in the appointment of the petty judges.

The Mayor of Denver, (U.S.A.) has just made the following recommendation: That a woman associate judge be appointed to sit with the police magistrate at the second session of the court (dealing with women and first offenders), her recommendations to be advisory. He says, "the presence of a woman as an officer of the court would soften the proceedings, temper justice with mercy, and inspire courage as only a woman can. She could do a good work by investigating outside the court the causes and conditions leading to a woman's arrest, and help untangle domestic or moral wrongs." The recommendation is an admirable one, and might be copied with advantage on this side of the Herring Pond.

The German Women's Protest.

It is interesting to remember in connection with the recent revised regulations for possible suffragist prisoners in the future that German women suffragists sent a strong protest to the Cabinet in the matter of the treatment of English women political prisoners. It is not pleasant for any government to receive such criticism of its conduct in domestic matters from the women of a foreign nation, and more particularly from the Germans. It was said that during the last election the Tory agents in some districts were urging the electorate to vote against the Liberal on the grounds that otherwise "the Germans will be here in a fortnight." Perhaps the Cabinet were nervous lest indignation might make this prophecy literally true, and that justice would be meted out to them presently by German women.

Shop Assistants' Wages.

At the Shop Assistants' Conference at Liverpool the question of the minimum wage was raised, and though it was decided to endeavour to legalise three-fourths of the men's rate for women in certain departments, it was, after much discussion and with several dissentients, agreed that women manageresses of departments should be paid at the full rate for men. The political condition of shop assistants and the difficulties of the male section in registering their political convictions were commented on.

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A QUESTION.

At Mr. Lloyd George's meeting at Queen's Hall, under the auspices of the Gladstone League, of which he is President, Mrs. Manson, who until the Liberal Government showed its hostility as a government to the women's demand, was one of the most ardent adherents the party had amongst Liberal women, rose to ask a question. Mr. Gardiner, the editor of the *Daily News*, had just explained that the object of the new League was to prevent intimidation, but evidently the preventer and the practiser of this objectionable policy may be one and the same person, for the moment a woman's voice was heard saying "Mr. Chairman, may I—" a perfect pandemonium of what even a Tory would describe as "intimidation" ensued from a noisy section of the audience. Anxious stewards, with fingers twitching to consign her to the other side of the door, appeared from all quarters. Yells of "Chuck her out!" "Go home and nurse the baby!" "Go home and do the washing!" were heard from throats which presently made themselves hoarse in cheering Mr. Lloyd George's indictment of feudalism and in acclaiming Mr. Trevelyan's description of the brave Scots who marched three times round Robert Bruce's statue before they voted *en bloc* for the Liberal who represented the freedom of the free man in a free country. Only after a considerable time did the "chair" restore order when the chairman had intimated his desire to know what the lady wished to ask. Then it became known that the hubbub on the part of the gallant free-born, aching-to-be-rid-of-intimidation Liberals was due to a mild query, "Might I ask a question at question time?" Renewed pandemonium—renewed exhibition of what a free man feels towards a subject woman—immense and awful astonishment of the noisy section when Mr. Lloyd George, looking somewhat ashamed of his supporters, emphatically expressed his intention of answering the question at question time, which he described as "a small price to pay for silence."

At question time Mr. Lloyd George asked for the question amid considerable expressions of dissent from the same section of "free men" amongst his audience which had just become frenzied with joy at hearing that "the Franchise was the most valuable possession of the worker." Mrs. Manson asked: "Since Gladstone in 1864 declared 'political agitation ought to be prevented by a wise and provident measure of reform,' will Mr. Lloyd George pledge himself to relieve Suffragists from further political agitation by the introduction of 'a wise and provident measure' of Women's Franchise, and so enable Liberal women to return to their party and join the Gladstone League?"

Mr. Lloyd George gave no specific answer to the question, but he made a brief speech in favour of women's franchise, which met with some dissent from the same noisy section, though there was also a sane and reasonable measure of support from the mass of the audience. His words were as follows: "I am pleased to answer the question, inasmuch as I fully recognise the fact that ladies have behaved very well at meetings for the last two or three months, ('Hear, hear,' and laughter.) And I think if they had pursued this course a little earlier I should have been able to give a much more satisfactory answer

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to the lady. I have always been in favour of the extension of the vote to women. (Cheers.) I have always voted for it. (A voice. "Sorry to hear it.") Nothing that has happened since can alter my convictions on the subject, because I do not consider that the vast majority of women in this country are in the slightest degree responsible for the tactics of a small minority, and I do not think they ought to be held responsible. I have never been able to appreciate the strength of the arguments against women's suffrage, and as a Liberal I believe that the presence of women on the register of electors would be an enormous advantage in the solution of every great problem that affects the lives and homes and condition of the people. I have always been in favour of it, and I believe that the question would have been farther advanced now if the last Parliament had had a fair opportunity given it to carry out the convictions of the members there. But no Parliament likes to be henpecked. (Cheers and laughter.) It never got a real chance, and I would warn the friends of women's suffrage from what has happened at this meeting as to the strength of the feeling which they are rousing, not against themselves personally, but against what they consider as of far more importance—the cause for which they are prepared to devote their lives. They are rousing a real feeling of indignation and anger. They are rousing a temper which makes it difficult to convince people, and I do entreat them, as a sincere friend of the cause of women's suffrage, to give their cause fair play. I think they are doing it now, and if they will only pursue the present sane and rational course, I believe that in a very short time they will witness a triumph in what I regard as the cause of justice. (Cheers.)

A CALL TO WORK.

All London members are urged to make known and attend the Mass Meeting in Trafalgar Square, April 3rd next. It is not very often that we can collect such speakers as we have on this occasion at one meeting—Miss Manning, Mrs. Manson, Miss Matters, Miss Neilans, Mrs. Sanderson, and Mrs. Sproson. Members are therefore begged to do all in their power to ensure success by chalking and giving out handbills, which may be obtained from Miss Leyson at the office. Notices inserted in local newspapers would also be valuable.

Although the Suffrage question is now in a quiescent stage, the public must be shown that it is not dead. Those who do not take part, for various reasons, in militant work should help us in the quiet educational work which is to be done up and down the country, and perhaps needs doing in London more than elsewhere, where the great majority of ordinary men and women still know nothing about the agitation. In the series of public meetings all over London which are being held from next week onwards by all branches, such members can help, and help valuably. We appeal to you to come forward with help now. Will you do it? We want stewards, chalkers, and handbill distributors.

Remember April 3rd, Trafalgar Square. SIME SERUYA

LIVERPOOL CAMPAIGN.

The short campaign in Liverpool finished with two very successful meetings—one on Sunday, at the Alexandra Hall, Islington, at which Mrs. Hammond took the chair, and Miss Matters spoke to a most interested audience, mostly composed of members of the Liverpool Secularist Society.

On Monday we crossed the water to New Brighton. Miss Edith Dunn had arranged and worked up a meeting in the Victoria Assembly Rooms, which was quite a triumph. The notice was so short, and the people had seemed somewhat shy of Suffrage; but they turned out well, and appeared much impressed by the speeches of

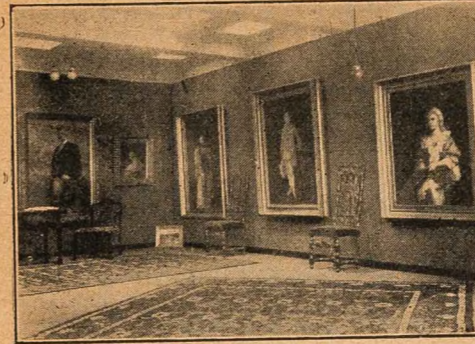
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Miss Matters and the Rev. Mathieson Forson, who took the chair. As usual, *The Vote* sold very well. Needless to say, we are more than grateful to Miss Dunn for her generosity, and to Mr. Forson for his sympathetic speech.—VIOLET TILLARD.

MID-GLAMORGAN BYE-ELECTION.

LIBERAL CANDIDATE, MR. GIBBINS. LABOUR CANDIDATE, MR. VERNON HARTSHORN.

POLLING DAY, THURSDAY, MARCH 31ST.

The fight in Mid-Glamorgan becomes fiercer every day. Excitement is intense. It is quite impossible to prophesy the issue of the contest, for the constituency is divided as it has never been divided before. At recent elections the *soi-disant* progressive parties have been strongly united against a small Conservative section. This time, however, the Labour Party, which has stood aside so long in favour of Sir S. T. Evans, claims the seat uncontested as a right, while the local Liberal Association, spoiling for a fight, resents the dictatorship of headquarters. There are rumours that the Conservatives will support the "Independent" Liberal candidate.

But the cleavage-line of Liberal and Labour is by no means distinct. There is a large body of undecided voters on the Liberal side of the margin. By these men the plea of the women for a true democracy, independent of sex, is being seriously considered. Mr. Gibbins commits himself to votes for women in every speech, but crowds are quick to see that the attitude of the Government is the key to the situation. Our request to "keep the Liberal out" excites no personal hostility even in the Liberal strongholds. Votes are undoubtedly being turned, and we have strong hopes that we shall affect sufficient to incline the balance of the polls against the Liberal candidate.

We have held most successful meetings at Abergwynfi, Cymmer, Caerau, Pontycymmer, and Ogmores Vale. Miss Muriel Nelson, M.A., was the principal speaker. She is very much appreciated, and the crowds seem as if they would listen to her for ever. We have great difficulty in getting away.

Mrs. Seyler has been over again to help us, and at Caerau made a stirring speech, in which she called upon the men to aid the women in their fight. Our hon. treasurer, Miss Benett, is now with us, and is doing invaluable service on our return visits to the above places. Mrs. Manson (N.E.C.) and Miss Heyes (Manchester) are coming down for the last week, when we mean to tackle the other side of the constituency. Miss F. M. Thomas has kindly placed her house in Pontycymmer at our disposal. I will be very glad of any subscriptions to help pay the bills.—M. McLEOD CLEEVEES.

A CONTRAST.

Mrs. Cleeves drove Miss Nelson and myself in her dog-cart nearly thirty miles yesterday (Saturday) through beau-

tiful Welsh scenery, in the most perfect weather; and in grim contrast to all this delightfulness was the number of drunken men and youths we passed on the road. I think the sight should have given wings to the words we spoke at our meetings. To me there is no stronger ground of appeal for help of every kind in our work of winning freedom of power for women, than the social needs of our country. I will quote Henry George, "I am convinced that we make a great mistake in depriving one sex of voice in public matters, and that we could in no way so increase the attention, the intelligence, and the devotion which may be brought to the solution of social problems as by enfranchising our women."—S. B.

MISS MURIEL MATTERS' "SEND-OFF PARTY."

Miss Edith Craig has very kindly lent her flat for Miss Matters' "Send-off Party," which will take place on Monday, April 4th, at 31, Bedford Street, from 7.10 p.m. Miss Matters sails on April 7th, so this will be "positively her last appearance" for the present. Several members of the A.F.L. have promised to help with the entertainments. There are a few tickets left, which may be obtained from me. Admission, including refreshments, 1s.—VIOLET TILLARD.

ADVERTISING "AT HOMES."

Will all those members and friends who have any spare time to help us advertise our "At Homes" and meetings, either by distribution of handbills, chalking, sandwiching, or in any way, either call, or write to me at the office, 1, Robert Street, stating which part of the work they will undertake, and how much time they are prepared to give?—E. LEYSON, Advertising Organiser.

A STEP ONWARD.

How surely, if slowly, the tide of confidence in women, of trust in their ability, of belief in their executive capacity is turning was shown in the choice of a woman as vice-president, and therefore president-elect, of the National Union of Teachers by a majority of nearly 7000 votes over the number polled by a man at the National Union of Teachers. Miss Cleghorn, of Sheffield, the first lady to occupy this position, is the recipient of this unique honour. She is head-mistress of the Heeley Bank School, Sheffield, and was chosen last year a member of the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education.

A FRIENDLY CONTRADICTION.

From Mrs. Anna M. Haslam, Hon. Secretary of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association, we have received a letter calling attention to the fact that the Suffrage "At Home" held at Lord O'Brien's residence was not the first of its kind held in Dublin. Since 1870, she writes, there have been innumerable meetings in connection with the suffrage held in Dublin, and within the last two years she herself has attended no fewer than a dozen drawing-room meetings. Ireland has always been in the front rank of reforms where women's rights and wrongs are concerned, and if it has not done much so far, it is because "the way and not the will's the want." We are pleased to make this correction, particularly as it comes from such a staunch and veteran suffragist as Mrs. Haslam.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS. HICKS.

By MARION HOLMES.

"This is often called a young woman's movement, and certainly to one who has worked for a good many years in the cause of 'Votes for Women' it is most inspiring to see how eagerly young and ardent women are crowding into the ranks; but 'active service' has proved very attractive to many of us older Suffragists as well," said Mrs. Hicks.

"A fact for which everyone is duly grateful," I answered. "You have been a Suffragist—"

"All my life," promptly. "My father was a great believer in woman's capability, and trained both his daughters to manage their own affairs and depend on their own judgment just as carefully and thoroughly as he trained his sons—a very unusual proceeding in mid-Victorian days. And my husband, too, held the same broad views about our sex, so you see I have enjoyed quite unusual advantages."

Mrs. Hicks' conception of "active service" is a generous and far-reaching one. She is one of the most indefatigable members of the N.E.C., and has given invaluable aid—not only as an interesting and convincing speaker, but in the business management of the League as well. Its members may well join in her tribute of gratitude to the foresight that gave her such wise training, for they have reaped many advantages from it.

"For twenty years after I was married I lived in a village in East Anglia called Great Holland, and I organised a number of meetings in the district," said Mrs. Hicks, in answer to my question as to the work of the "pre-militant" days. "Mrs. Fawcett came to speak at one of them, I remember. But it was very uphill work to get anyone to attend. People were not interested, and a keen Woman's Suffragist was looked upon as a crank of the first water."

"And yet we are told that we have killed the movement!" I said.

Mrs. Hicks laughed. "When I think of the sparsely filled drawing-rooms of the old days, and then of the Albert Hall filled to overflowing time and again, and the thousands of great meetings all over the country crowded with enthusiastic supporters, I am inclined to think that we have killed the old movement, and a very good thing, too. I cannot help sometimes contrasting the present suffrage agitation with the one that was supposed to sweep the country for the agricultural labourer's vote. I helped in that, too. My husband was extremely interested in it, and he and I organised and spoke at many meetings in our neighbourhood. But though there was a good deal of earnestness and determination in their demand, there was nothing to compare with the fire and fervour, the self-

sacrifice and devotion, that have made our agitation so memorable."

But it is the cause of the children that appeals to Mrs. Hicks perhaps more powerfully than any other, and during the last eight or nine years she has served as school manager to a group of elementary and also of special schools in North St. Pancras.

"As a member of most of the committees I visit the schools regularly, and fight the women teachers' battles when necessary. I am afraid I often think it right to take the woman's part, for our sex is really so badly handicapped under present conditions that we ought to give each other all the help we can. When I first came to London—soon after the death of my husband, some seventeen years ago now—I did a good deal of work for the Charity Organisation Society. I was on the North St. Pancras Committee for some years, and always protested very strongly against the atrociously unequal pay that was given to the men and women secretaries. Although this was defended on the ground of custom, I finally resigned my post on the committee as a protest. But, of course, we cannot deny that it is the custom to pay women at a much lower rate than men. The Government is the greatest sinner in this respect, and every other employer follows its example as a matter of course. And they will go on doing so until we have the power to raise our status and demand equal pay for equal work."

"And when did you take up 'active service,' as you call it, though it seems a misnomer when one considers how much you have always done?"

"My daughter and I joined the militant society at the dinner that was

given to the Lobby demonstrators when they came out of prison some three and a half years ago, and we have been members of the Freedom League during the whole of its existence."

Miss Amy Hicks, M.A., who gives her time and talents for the Cause after the same generous fashion as her mother, is our hon. Literature Secretary. I thought of the long hours this brilliant University graduate has given to routine work—work that neither asks for nor receives public recognition, and—but that is another story.

Mrs. Hicks took part in a deputation to Mr. Asquith last August, and was arrested in company with Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson. They were sentenced to a fine of forty shillings or seven days' imprisonment. The appeal against the decision failed, and but that the fine was paid by some mysterious and anonymous agent, Mrs. Hicks would have worn the broad arrow and figured in her country's list of criminals. But that list, as we



[Lena Connell, Grove End Road, N.W.]

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know, contains the names of some of the noblest and best women of our time, and, as she says, she would have been in honourable company.

In spite of the fact that she has not yet seen the final triumph of the cause for which she has worked so long, Mrs. Hicks is full of hope and courage.

"I am a confirmed optimist," she told me. "All things work together for good to them that love good, and our cause is such a righteous one that it must succeed. We must just go on working and trust each other, and never get despondent."

Amidst all her multifarious duties Mrs. Hicks has found time to travel widely and read extensively.

"I have also made a hobby of the study of Egyptology in my spare time," she said. "It is unwise to allow ourselves to get narrow and restricted in interests, even if we are fighting in the greatest cause in the world."

Then she hurried off to an important committee meeting, and I was left wonderingly speculating as to the extent of this delightful and energetic lady's "spare time"!

101 POINTS IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

These points will cover the legal, social, and economic grounds on which women demand the vote, and will call attention to the glaring inconsistencies which demand a change in the present condition of the franchise.

13.—"THE FATHER IS THE SOLE GUARDIAN OF ALL CHILDREN BORN IN WEDLOCK. HE ALONE HAS POWER OVER THE CHILD: HE ALONE FIXES ITS EDUCATION, ITS RELIGION, ITS PROFESSION. IT IS ONLY TO THE UNMARRIED MOTHER THAT THE STATE ALLOWS ANY RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS HER CHILD."

When one considers the insistence with which it is urged that the woman's proper place is the home, and that her first duty is to her children, it is interesting to remember that, if she is legally married, these children are not hers, and that not even in the matter of their religion has she any voice. The unmarried mother, on the other hand, is made primarily responsible for the maintenance of her child, and is liable to indictment for manslaughter or even murder should harm come to it. Thus motherhood is treated with contempt and penalties by the State which, were no women to perform this onerous service for it, would presently cease to exist.

And the conditions under which many women slave out their lives for a miserable pittance! In stinking, rickety garrets, so near the slates as to freeze in winter and choke in summer, sewing themselves blind and bent! No Factory Act gets near them, no laws of safeguard shield them. If women had the Parliamentary vote they would have the handle to the only tool by which they can ever hope to improve the conditions under which they work and live.—THOMAS JOHNSTON.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1910.

THE WARNING-BELL.

Those who "go down to the sea in ships," as I have done in the past, will probably have gone, more than once, through a grim experience. It comes at night or in the early morning, when passengers are deeply sleeping in their berths. We awake with a start. What is it? The old hands know. It is the fog-bell. Again and again we hear, dismally booming out, its note of warning, and we try, some of us with chattering teeth, to reconcile ourselves to the conception that we are surrounded by a fog, thick as a blanket, which shrouds us from the view of passing ships, and that if the nerve-shattering sound ceases, if our crew are not on the alert, something, riding now on the high seas, may crash into us, and then farewell to pleasant security! Till the fog rises and the fog-bell is heard no more there is a tension of spirit and nerve on board the ship that the most inexperienced traveller cannot fail to feel. I have seen sailors cheerful in a cyclone; but never in the strain of a sea fog.

Some of us have met with a warning-bell even more grim and sinister in its menace than that which goes out upon a Newfoundland fog. That warning-bell is pain. Nature has been outraged. Over-work, heavy strain, severe nervous tension, conscious or unconscious breach of the physical and spiritual laws which are behind us, and behold! one day we find ourselves in the grip of pain. We set our teeth and try to bear it. We are vanquished. Acute, intolerable, it breaks us down; and, at last, there is flashed upon us the conviction that if we would avert a final crash we must look over our life-ledger and amend our ways.

These two illustrations sum up, to my mind, the present political situation.

We are surrounded with a fog. There are no great leaders. The mental atmosphere is choked by earth-vapours, so that our statesmen cannot perceive the truths, knowledge of which can alone make a people free. Bewildered politicians feel vaguely that danger is around them, but cannot tell how to avert it. And meanwhile the bell of warning perpetually rings out its message.

Again, men and women of heart and conscience are being stung into a perception of wrongness somewhere by the whip of pain. Society is one. We are members one of the other. Dimly, through this warning voice from the invisible, we are beginning to see that the laws of the universe are not to be broken with impunity; that where injustice is, where waste and extravagance on the one hand, bitter, undeserved privation on the other, are allowed to be, other dread things will follow in their train—such things as wasted human strength, a deteriorated race, an impoverished, and soon, if we do not listen to the warning-bell, a dying people. To put it plainly, there is a deadlock in the House of Commons to-day, while the House of Lords, fearful of being reformed off the face of the earth, is trying its hand at self-reform. Government by party, unequal to the gigantic task of averting the dangers that menace the country, is, practically, breaking down. So complicated are the issues before us that many are afraid to face them. Of questions deep in significance, such as the Poor-Law, we hear they are too big to tackle.

"In Heaven's name!" cry our tortured legislators, "keep quiet! Let us sleep again!"

And, in fact, as I gather from the daily Press, there is a moment of respite.

It cannot prolong itself. Every day is making it clearer that the old political sleep is at an end. For women as well as men are awake; women as well as men are realising that the earth with all its gladness belongs to all the children of men.

What is to be done? The answer is not far to find by those who seek truly.

The Liberal Government, with Mr. Asquith, discredited now, at their head, have failed to do justice, and therefore this confusion has fallen upon them. Professing to be democratic and boasting of freedom, they have denied citizen-rights; they have refused freedom to the larger half of the people. Could they expect anything else than this that has fallen upon them?

If our statesmen would but learn that it is righteousness and not material wealth or limitless possessions which exalteth a nation, if they would be true to their own democratic principles, if, once for all, they would shake off convention and prejudice the fog would rise, slowly perhaps, but surely, and grim phantom of needless pain would pass away.

Let it be remembered that the main issues are economic. Most of the misery from which we suffer has come about through bad national housekeeping. We women standing outside, and longing ardently to save our national ship, which is moving so heavily on the fog-shrouded sea, have seen for many a long day what is happening. It is this vision, indeed, which is at the back of the campaign we are so strenuously waging with our spiritual sense, keener in some directions than that of men; we know—we have long known—that the way we are going means shipwreck—means being run down or drifted on to the rocks.

For the sound of the warning-bell is in our ears; for the whip of our brothers' and sisters' pain is perpetually stinging us; and it is therefore we are demanding to stand as citizens inside the gates, and to give our help to that reconstruction of our national life which, we feel, must begin in real earnest if we are to be saved from national shipwreck.

C. DESPARD.

AN EARLY SUFFRAGETTE.

Mary Wollstonecraft was (according to Miss M. S. Clayton, in the *Human Review*) a pioneer in the Woman's Movement. She says of her: "Courage is the note of Mary Wollstonecraft's life and doctrine, courage is her message to women (or men) struggling to be free. She utters her warning to all over-cautious people who are afraid to do anything unusual or unexpected."

Prudence is ever the resort of weakness, and they rarely go as far as they might in any undertaking who are determined not to go beyond it on any account ("Letters from Sweden").

And again:

Women content to fade away must not expect to be valued.

The cry for universal suffrage for men had been raised in the eighteenth century by Major Cartwright and other Radicals. Mary Wollstonecraft claims the vote for women, realising the reception her demand will get.

I may excite laughter; for I really think women should have representatives, instead of being arbitrarily governed without having any direct share allowed them in the deliberations of government.

I lament that women are systematically degraded by receiving the trivial attentions which men think it manly to pay to their sex, when, in fact, they are insultingly supporting their own superiority. So ludicrous do these ceremonies appear to me that I am scarcely able to control my muscles when I see a man start with eager solicitude to lift a handkerchief or shut a door when the lady could have done it herself had she only moved a pace or two.

Miss Clayton has brought out a *brochure* on Mary Wollstonecraft, which is published, price 3d., by Frank Palmer, Red Lion Court, E.C., and can be had from the Literature Department of the W.F.L.

MR. BALFOUR AS ADVOCATE.

In the recently-published Gathorne-Hardy Memoirs an entry in Lord Clonbrock's diary, dated thirty years ago, is not without considerable significance, in the light of current and future politics:—

"May 18.—I had a long spell at the War Office and a very long evening on the Universities Bill, which approaches its end in Committee. A wrangle at the end, brought on by Balfour advocating women's rights, occupied more than an hour, and delayed other clauses. Now comes our holiday, but probably foreign affairs may call for Cabinets."

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Dundee Branch.

The members of the League spent a very enjoyable evening on Wednesday last. The gathering was held in the Foresters' Hall, and was largely attended. Buffet tea was served on entering, and the Misses Wyse and Smart contributed piano selections as it was going on. Miss Husband then announced the main object of the function, which was to present Miss Wyse, one of our most active members, who is leaving Dundee to make a new home and take a new name, with some tangible recognition of the esteem in which she is held by the Branch.

The gift took the form of a very daintily-bound set of Jane Austen's works. In making the presentation, Miss Husband alluded to the loyalty of Miss Wyse to her own sex and her readiness on every occasion to do what she could for the Cause. Miss Wyse feelingly replied, thanking the members for their great kindness to her. A bright and happy evening was spent in song and sentiment, finishing up with progressive whist. Votes of thanks to the president, to the singers, and to the committee closed the proceedings. On Monday last the Dundee Parliament very fittingly closed their Session with a debate on Woman Suffrage. Ladies were invited to be present and take part in the discussion. There was a crowded meeting, and for fully two hours the Ayes and the Noes held forth. The Antis had nothing new in the way of argument, the twin bogies "Decadence of chivalry" and "Women cannot be soldiers" being duly trotted out, but well demolished by Miss Angus in her reply. The women were easily first as regards speaking, both in humour and logic, Miss Clunas and Miss Wilkie disposing most effectively of their opponents. At the end a vote was taken on the motion, and resulted in a clear majority of those in favour of "That the vote be granted to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men." In his closing remarks the speaker cordially thanked the ladies for being present.

Edinburgh.—17, Upper Gilmore Place.

Mrs. Dodds was hostess at the afternoon "At Home" on

Tuesday, March 22nd. Miss Wood, Treasurer of the Branch, took the chair, and explained that Mrs. Joseph Dobbie had kindly consented on very short notice to give an address on "Women's Suffrage in Other Lands." This account of the manner in which the suffrage was gained in the more enlightened States, and of its practical results, was both interesting and instructive.

In the evening Mrs. Bell, President, presided, and Miss Margaret Drummond, M.A., read one of the most delightful papers it has been our pleasure to listen to this session, the subject being "Woman and Education." Miss Drummond dealt mainly with the education given to women since Grecian times, and also with the work of prominent women educationists. The knowledge of the fight that has had to be waged for every advance encourages us in the struggle that is now going on. We are now looking forward to the arrival of Miss Madge Turner, who is to be with us for April.—HELEN MCLACHLAN, Asst. Sec.

BRANCH NOTES.

Central Branch.—1, Robert Street, W.C.

We held our first open-air meeting at Regent's Park on Sunday morning from 12 till 1 p.m. The lorry ordered did not turn up, but, nothing daunted, Mrs. Manson, who opened the meeting, stood on one of the park chairs, and in a few seconds drew dozens of men and women around her, who proved most attentive listeners. Miss Guttridge having written to tell me she was compelled to take a rest, Mr. Gugenheim, of the Men's League, most kindly, in a very excellent speech, did duty for her and for himself. We gradually attracted quite a large crowd. Questions were asked and answered by Mrs. Manson. There were one or two Antis present, but not objectionable or rabid ones. Altogether we were very satisfied with our first attempt this year, and we have promised to be at the same spot next Sunday, April 3rd, when we hope the lorry will not fail us. I regret to say the Kennington Park meeting fell through, but next Sunday I hope all our speakers will have returned from their holidays with renewed strength to educate the public, and if we have as good meetings at Kennington Park as we had at Regent's Park we shall have nothing to complain of.—EVELYN DE VISMES.

Hackney.—97, Upper Clapton Road, N.E.

The Hackney Branch wish to bring "Votes for Women" prominently before every man and woman in the district, and have therefore again opened a Suffrage Shop at 4, Clarence Road. The windows have been artistically arranged by Misses Sorabji and Guttridge, and we are prepared for business from 6 to 10 p.m. nightly. The formal opening took place on March 19th, when a good attendance of members and their friends came to a conversation, and arranged the work to be done. Mrs. Jones gave a very interesting address, and tea was dispensed by Mrs. Errington. Mrs. Holmes has arranged to hold a work party at the shop every Tuesday from 6 p.m., and members are urged to give all the time they possibly can to carry out the needlework orders already in hand. Wednesday evenings are given up to public meetings, and the first of these was held on March 23rd at 8 p.m., when the address was given by Mrs. Mustard. Members are asked to meet at the shop on Saturday for the open-air meetings. These take place at Morning Lane, Hackney, and at Forrest Road, Kingsland Road, N.E., at 7.30. Help is urgently needed at both places. Members have arranged to canvass the neighbourhood.—S. A. M.

Ipswich.—160, Norwich Road.

On Tuesday, March 23rd, we held a very successful meeting in the Constitutional Hall, Bury St. Edmund's. Mrs. Henry Tippet determined to rouse Bury and to make the people there interested enough to come to a meeting; she was richly rewarded, for the hall was crowded. Miss Andrews presided, and Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Tippet were the speakers. Mrs. Despard was listened to with rapt attention whilst she spoke in her usual magnificent way. Such speaking is new to Bury, and is evidently appreciated. Mrs. Tippet dealt very cogently with the Anti-Suffrage arguments. As so much interest was evinced the meeting will be followed up. Already a drawing-room meeting is being arranged for, and the starting of a branch is anticipated.—CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

Average Wages.

Speaking at the Roscoe Rooms on the subject of "Working Women and the Vote," Mrs. Bonwick, of London, said that there were in this country between 5 and 5½ million women workers, and their hours were longer and their wages lower than the men's, the latter averaging 15s. a week, while women only averaged 7s. 6d., because of the sex difference. At college young men and women paid the same in fees, but when they started life in the teaching profession the lady teacher would go through life with a smaller wage than the man.

We call the attention of our members to an entertainment which is being organised by the New Constitutional Society, and which will be found advertised on our front cover. This new society is exceedingly enterprising, and anyone who goes to this "social" will have the great question driven home by wit and propaganda.

"WHY I WANT THE VOTE."

** Under this heading we shall have from time to time the personal opinions of our best-known supporters, giving the reasons why they want the vote. We all know the broad reasons why we want it; but the intimate reasoning which has led others of us into the ardent fighting front ranks has a special interest. This week a well-known Scottish member of the W.F.L. declares her faith openly.

"The crowning fact,
The highest act
Of freedom is the freeman's Vote."—WHITTIER.



MISS EUNICE MURRAY.

the home, and yet women are debarred from expressing by means of the Vote their opinion upon these domestic matters. All legislation which concerns women and children, the right of married women to work, the education of the young, or the housing of the poor, are matters which deeply affect women, and until the woman's voice is heard in politics all legislation must be one-sided and unrepresentative.

Women have recognised the fact that no class or sex can have its interests properly protected unless represented by direct suffrage. Members of Parliament have only time to attend to the demands made upon them by their men voters; time after time women have found that these same members had no time to spare for their affairs, and that their grievances went unredressed. I want the Vote because I believe that certain reforms cannot be carried unless the women's Vote is there helping to bring these reforms about. When I was a small child I was taken to hear Lady Henry Somerset and Miss Frances Willard speak upon temperance. To this day I can hear Miss Willard's opening words, "There are two things about which every woman in this hall should care: the one is temperance, without which the country cannot be saved, the other is the women's Vote, without which temperance cannot be won." I have never forgotten the impression these words made upon me. I believe that not only temperance, but that every social and moral reform will be greatly strengthened by the women's Vote.

I want the Vote because I believe it will add to the prosperity of the country. If we are to have a strong nation, capable of carrying on the industries of our land, strong enough to protect our country-people, our Colonies, the conditions of women must be improved. It is not enough to bring children into the world; they must be cared for when there; the awful infant mortality must be stopped, the women's sweated work must cease, and I am convinced if women had the Vote they would use it to protect themselves and their children. They have done

so in the countries where Women's Suffrage has become a reality; they will do so in this country.

And, lastly, I want the Vote because for women who are interested in politics it is a mockery to allow them to label themselves Conservatives, Liberals, or Labour, and yet withhold from them the power of directly helping the party whom they favour. It is unfair that their money should be taken to form different political organisations, and that the same men who accept their money and their service should keep them without the pale of practical politics.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

WHAT WE ARE SAYING AND DOING.

"If any man is for captivity, into captivity he goeth."

BOOK OF REVELATION, XIII. 10.

** In this column we propose to give W.F.L. news items in tabloid form week by week.

Send-Off Party.

There will be a very pleasant send-off party to Miss Muriel Matters at 31, Bedford Street, Strand, on Monday, April 4th, and members of the Actresses' Franchise League will help in the entertainment. (See page 267.)

In Dublin.

Miss Muriel Matters said that since the extension of the franchise to men the rate of the men's wages had increased, but there had been no corresponding improvement in the wages paid to women. There should be an equal wage for men and women for the same work.

Our Advertisers.

We have a number of very reliable firms supporting our advertising columns, and we expect all our members, when they require goods of any kind, to consult our pages, and if they can get their requirements through "our" firms, to give them preference.

Mid-Glamorgan Writ.

Miss Muriel Nelson, writing to the *South Wales Daily Post*, says: "Quite irrespective of Mr. Gibbins' personal opinions on the votes for women question, we shall work against him, not, as our enemies assert, because he is a Liberal, but because he belongs to the party of the Government in power. In this Parliament, as in the last, there are over 400 members in favour of extending the franchise to women. But the private member as such is powerless. The Women's Freedom League realised this four years ago. We recognised that private members' Bills to remove the sex disability might be introduced year after year for the next century, but that, unless the Government gave special facilities, they would perish, as their predecessors had done, before reaching the third reading."

Mass Meeting.

We are having a great mass meeting on Sunday, April 3rd, at 3 p.m., at Trafalgar Square. Keep your afternoon free. The speakers will be Edmée Manning, B.A., Katharine Manson, Muriel Matters, Alison Neilans, Amy Sanderson, and Emma Sproson.

The Munro Doctrine.

An admirer of Miss Anna Munro has sent us an effusion, from which we cull the following:—

"She mounts the chair with airy grace,
And to the crowded populace
Her doctrine she doth quote:
To show why women of our race
Should with the men take equal place,
And exercise a Vote."

Rousing the Belgians.

Mrs. Cunningham paid a flying visit to Brussels lately, and was asked by the President of L'Union Feministe of Belgium to speak on suffrage in England at a "réunion intime."

Many delegates attended, in spite of bad weather, and the deepest interest was evinced in the heroic struggle of English women reformers for liberty. Mrs. Cunningham spoke in French, and at the conclusion of the meeting the Conference decided to send a strongly-worded protest to Mr. Asquith on the subject of the treatment of political English prisoners.

Eager questions were asked as to our methods of work, propaganda, and otherwise. The leaflet "Why Women Want the Vote" was much liked, and the President will have it printed verbatim for distribution in French and Flemish.

Though so many factories exist all over Belgium, and so much lace is made, there are only two women factory inspectors in the whole country.

Belgian suffragettes quite understand that the struggles and sufferings of their English sisters will make the path easier for them and all women in every clime. At the same time they consider that English men only understand "knocks and blows."

Ruining the Movement.

At the Borough Polytechnic, Mrs. Despard said that a man once asked her, hadn't what he called the suffragette outrages ruined the movement? Her answer was this: "If it had not been for the methods which you condemn I don't think you would have been here asking the question at all."

WOMAN—THE SPOILT CHILD OF THE LAW.

The Lady Catherine Castleton lay dying in the stately bed-chamber of Castleton Hall. Night and day they had sought for my lord in clubs and gambling dens and well-known haunts of vice and pleasure; but they did not know of the rose-grown cottage on the Thames which he had taken for his latest inamorata.

When they told my lady the child was a girl she had given a low cry—"God help her," and had turned her face to the wall. Great obstetricians summoned by telephone had sped in flying motors from town, but they stood baffled and helpless by the bedside of the young woman, who lay so still and indifferent, making no effort to live.

In the library the family lawyer and the white-haired admiral, her father, sat signing cheques for the great specialists, who had done so little and charged so much.

When they had gone the admiral, who loved his daughter, swore long and vigorously with the picturesque variety of the seafaring man, and the lawyer listened with fascinated approval.

"I told her what her life would be with a loose-living scoundrel like Castleton, but she would not listen—madly in love with him and his handsome face, and now he has killed her at twenty-two."

"I had a very distressing interview with Lady Catherine a few weeks ago. She went away in disgust and despair when I had to tell her that I did not think she had sufficient evidence for a divorce, and that she must prove cruelty or desertion as well as adultery."

"D—d shameful law, sir; can't think how the country puts up with it. But she shall be safe from him if she lives, my poor little girl."

Then they were silent, for the shadow of death crept nearer.

Outside the park gates at the end of the village, in Castleton Union, another girl lay dying. The local practitioner had been called in on his way back from consultation with the great gynecologists, and as at the hall, so in the workhouse, he found his patient sinking. "She came in late last night, sir," said the nurse, "and the child was born almost immediately. Her pulse is very weak, and I can't rouse her; she won't even look at the child."

"I hear it is Jennie Appleton, the carpenter's daughter at Kingsford—very respectable people. How did she get here?"

"Usual thing. Got into trouble at her situation in London; the man promised to marry her, but he kept putting it off, and then one day he disappeared, and wrote to her from Glasgow, saying that he was a married man. She came back home, but her father drove her out

with blows and curses, and she walked here from Kingsford goodness knows how. It is a sad case, and the relieving officer tells me she will probably not be able to get any affiliation order enforced, as the man has evaded liability by going to Scotland."

"Abominable," said the doctor; then he went towards the bedside of his patient, felt her pulse, glanced at the temperature chart, and his face grew grave.

Taking the babe from the cradle he laid it beside the mother: "You have a pretty little girl."

The eyelids flickered, and, as the Countess had spoken, so spoke the pauper: "God help her."

"He will," said the doctor, who was a religious man. "He didn't help me; He let me come to this, and I was born respectable. She is only a little come-by-chance maid."

"Cheer up, my lass. My wife will help you; she knows it has not been your fault."

The doctor gave a few directions, and then left looking puzzled and worried. He was a good *accoucheur*, and hated to lose a case. What was the matter with the women that they seemed to have lost the will to live.

Three days later, in the glory of the May sunshine, there was a double funeral in Castleton churchyard.

MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON.



[Barratt Photo Press, 8, Salisbury Court, E.C.]
SUFFRAGETTES AT HOME.
(4) Alison Neilans Cleans the Stove.

DOMESTICITIES.

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Good coffee is the great test of housekeeping, and no woman can afford to spoil the effect of a good dinner by having it brought to a conclusion by inferior coffee. The P. R. Wallaceite coffee is delicious, and is free from caffeine. It is one of the few coffees which can be trusted to never fall below standard, and it is a splendid digestive after dinner, and if taken at breakfast is an excellent staff to begin the day's work on. A free sample will be sent on application to the Wallace P. R. Foods Co., 465, Battersea Park

Road, London, S.W. If it is once tried, it becomes a fixed habit, and a day without a cup of Wallaceite coffee is a dreary waste.

Comfortable Shoes.

In spring one is more inclined for pedestrian exercise than for the inevitable 'bus, and for walking comfortable shoes are a necessity. The walking Court shoes in glacé kid, tan, patent and velvet calf, of which Messrs. A. S. Ayliffe and Sons, 171, Kensington High Street, make a speciality, are ideal wear, and just the thing for this pleasant weather.

A march specially harmonised and arranged for Suffragettes has just been published by Mrs. Marion Cunningham. The air is that of an old battle-song of the Netherlands, and is very inspiring. The price is only 4d. per copy.



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FRENCH GIRL STUDENTS.

Ten years ago the genuine girl student in the Latin Quarter was always a Russian or a Pole, and generally held by Parisian opinion to be either a lunatic or a Nihilist, or both, while the French "étudiant" of the "Boul Miché" never studied anywhere but in the beer saloons of the Café d'Harcourt. Now the girl students of the University of Paris are founding an association, and the preliminary steps for incorporating it were taken recently. The Association des Etudiants is a power in the land, and treats with Cabinet Ministers and the Prefect of Police, and is unique among Parisian corporate unions in being genuinely non-political and un denominational. The new Association des Etudiantes, as yet only a few days old, hopes in time to share the power of the men's society on an equal footing.

Some say that, as a matter of fact, the étudiante is gradually beating the étudiant. Who keeps the book-selling trade alive to-day? Not the men, say the booksellers; our trade is poor enough as it is in these days of motor-cars, outdoor sports, and aeroplanes.

In the old times the man student may not have worked any harder, but when he was not larking he idled over books and magazines. Nowadays, when not larking, he is spinning along the road or soaring through the air. He never thinks of stopping at home to read even a novel. No, sir; our trade is bad enough, but it would be completely dead were it not for the ladies.

"Whoever buys novels? The girl student. Whoever buys serious books on physiology, law, political economy, differential calculus, and Professor Bergson's new metaphysics? The girl student.

Nothing is too indigestible for her. Three-quarters of our sales of serious reviews—and Heaven knows French reviews are serious when not light—are ensured by the girl students. If the present state of things increases proportionately, in another ten years the only people left in the Latin Quarter to read anything at all will be the girls.

When men and women grow out of studenthood the difference becomes still more marked. The business man has given up reading entirely. It is his wife who has learnt to read."

This throws a new light on the evolution of French society. In bourgeois families, where it was hardly the thing even only ten years ago for the ladies of the family to read anything but fashion papers and magazines of the home chitter-chatter type, ponderous volumes of solid lore lie about on the boudoir table, and the girls of this period are allowed a thousand miles more latitude in reading than their mothers.

In another way the French girl is feeding her brain furiously, by the spoken as well as the written word. Society lectures have multiplied at an amazing rate in the last few years. No mother is at all doing her duty by her daughters if she does not take them to ten lectures a week on every subject under the sun, from Shakespeare to astronomy, and the literary girl especially swarms in drawing-rooms. No party is complete without a poetess of one-and-twenty. As for the men, the booksellers say they never buy a book, which is perhaps an exaggeration, but what is certain is that they never attend a society lecture. "Conférenciers" speak of audiences consisting solely of ladies, and some of them, like M. Jules Lemaitre, count their worshippers, of all ages but of one sex, by the thousand.

The Association des Etudiantes has chosen the right psychological moment for starting itself. In a few years it may have monopolised all the learning of the Latin Quarter. But one objection is raised by some. Why found a separate association of girl students? The latter, by agitating for their admission into the men's association,

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which would certainly be compelled eventually to receive them, would wrest still more power, and at the present rate of progress they might hope in time to come to rule the roost entirely. The Latin Quarter, governed by genuine girl students, would stagger Henri Murger and Du Maurier indeed.—*Daily Telegraph*.

SUFFRAGE IN OTHER LANDS.

The Netherlands.

In Holland, as in almost every constitutional country, women as well as men may approach the Prime Minister and lay their wishes and needs before him. In view of the pending revision of the Constitution an advisory State Commission is about to be appointed, and the President and Vice-President of the Suffrage Association sought and obtained an interview with the Prime Minister to urge the appointment of one or more women on this Commission. No decided answer was given, Mr. Heemskirk observing that for a place on such a commission much special knowledge was required, such as he feared, women did not possess. It was pointed out to him that there were at any rate some Dutch women who did possess it, but it is not thought possible that the request will be granted. Still, it is of great importance that it should be made, and that no opportunity should be lost of calling attention to the fact that women are as much concerned as men with the constitution and laws of their country.

It has been decided to set aside June 15th, the anniversary of the first session of the International Suffrage Alliance at Amsterdam as a Women's Suffrage Day, specially devoted to propaganda. The newer society, the Bond for Women's Suffrage, is also extremely active. A propaganda tour arranged by this society for Dr. Kate Schirmacher proved a great success and won many new members for the Bond, which has been joined by several members of Parliament.

Austria.

The Diet of the crown domain of Carniola has adopted a new electoral law for the capital Laibach, which gives votes to women. This is to be a personal and not a proxy franchise, such as women exercise in some parts of Austria; and there is a special provision appointing certain hours during which they may record their votes. It will be remembered that a similar step was taken some months ago by the little province of Vorarlberg, so it may be that eventually the proceedings of the smaller provinces will help to counterbalance the reactionary proceedings of the Austrian Empire and the larger provinces, and help to pave the way for advance even here.

United States.

In the *Woman's Journal* Mrs. Chapman Catt, President of the International Alliance, publishes a most interesting account of the formation of the New York Woman Suffrage party. Its aim is to unite all the various societies in the city, which work for this object, and to subdivide the work in accordance with the political divisions, so as to make a continuous and systematic effort at converting the whole city. The organisation exactly follows the plan of the political organisations, and men as well as women are eligible for membership. The political unit is the assembly district. The assembly district leaders united to elect a city committee, composed of a chairman, a vice-chairman, treasurer, and secretary; and a similar board of officers was elected for each of the five boroughs into which New York is divided. Each assembly district contains about thirty election districts, and for each of these a captain will be appointed, whose duty it will be to form a committee of suffragists who will canvass the whole of the district. As the population of New York is six millions, it will be seen that American suffragists are undertaking no light task. It is, in fact, on a par with the conversion of London. As Mrs. Catt herself points out, "the important thing to be remembered is that the woman suffrage party aims to convert the City of New York. It assigns to each captain a definite task of converting a certain number of men and women. It may be done by conversation, literature, meetings, indoors or outdoors, or whatever method may seem desirable. Collectively there will be bolder undertakings, but the individual work will be the basis of all effort."

The opening of the new headquarters in New York has given a great impulse to the work there, and provides an object lesson in the development of the movement. Branch headquarters have recently been opened at Albany, the capital of the State, and efforts are being made to induce the Legislature to submit the question of women's suffrage to the voters. This has never been done before in this State, and as Mrs. Ida Husted Harper says in *Jus Suffragii*, "it will be a miracle if it is done now, but miraculous things sometimes happen." May we not add that it is the business of women suffragists to see that they do happen!

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| Snow, Mrs. J. E. | 1 1 0 | Middlesbrough Branch.. | 0 4 6 |
| Armstrong, Mrs. | 0 2 6 | South Shields Theosophi- cal Society | 0 15 0 |
| Smith, Miss L. | 0 1 0 | Tickets | 16 7 6 |
| Tritton, Mrs. | 0 5 0 | Collections | 8 3 11 |
| Duval, Mrs. V. | 0 5 0 | Borrmann Wells, per Mrs.: | |
| Heath, Mrs. | 1 1 0 | P. and A. Brigade | 0 8 8 |
| Fox Bourne, Mrs. | 0 10 0 | Goods sold | 0 2 8 |
| Counter, Mrs. | 0 2 0 | Tickets | 0 9 0 |
| Wareham, Miss A. | 0 2 6 | Hornchurch Meeting col- lections, per Miss Guttridge | 0 5 6 |
| Le Mesurier, Miss | 0 2 6 | Matters, per Miss: Middlesbrough Branch.. | 0 11 0 |
| Lockyer, Mrs. | 0 1 0 | Woking | 0 5 0 |
| Mirovitch, Mme. | 0 2 0 | Sheffield | 0 12 7 |
| Carr-Shaw, Miss L. | 1 1 0 | Tillard, per Miss: Matters, Miss, Lecture fee | 1 1 0 |
| Kent, Miss B. | 0 10 0 | Dunn, Miss E. (Collec- tion, New Brighton) .. | 2 14 6 |
| Seraya, Miss S. | 1 1 0 | Manning, per Miss: Manchester Central Branch | 3 0 0 |
| Benét, Miss S. | 1 1 0 | Collection, Sale | 0 1 6 |
| Clark, Mrs. A. M. | 0 2 6 | Gentry, per Miss (Goods sold) | 3 1 0 |
| Arncliffe Sennett, Mrs. ... | 28 0 0 | Leyson, per Miss: Anonymous | 0 2 0 |
| Special Effort Receipt fee | | Goods sold | 0 4 0 |
| Cunningham, Mrs. | 0 5 6 | Snow, per Mrs. J. E. (Street sales) | 4 9 11 |
| Haslett, Miss M. | 0 7 0 | Ashby, Mrs. | 3 4 6 |
| Buchanan, Miss E. M. | 0 8 6 | Ashby, Miss | 0 7 6 |
| Baenziger, Miss Y. | 0 2 6 | Tickets | 2 17 0 |
| O'Brien, Miss | 0 3 0 | Collections | 1 10 10 |
| Martin, Miss | 0 1 0 | Total | £2326 11 2 |
| Watt, Miss W. | 0 6 0 | | |
| Harris, Miss | 0 1 3 | | |
| Northern Heights, per Miss Dyer | 0 1 0 | | |
| Smith, per Miss N. | 0 5 0 | | |
| Whitley, Mrs. | 0 1 0 | | |
| Williams, Miss M. E. | 0 1 0 | | |

SUFFRAGE SHEARINGS.

Madame Hubertine Auclert.

The woman who really for the first time focussed public opinion upon the question of female franchise was Madame Hubertine Auclert—she was, in reality, the first militant suffragist in the Republic of the French people. As early as 1880 she refused to pay either rates or taxes. Not content with this, she appealed against decision after decision; and by this means managed to carry her case from a court of first instance to the highest court of appeal, Le Conseil d'Etat. Of course, the main object of this good suffragist was to attract public attention to the position of women, and, if possible, to show women their powers if they would only use them. Immediately after commencing this plan she started a weekly paper called *La Citoyenne*, which a few years later was changed to the name the *Journal des Femmes*, under which title, I believe, it still continues to appear as a monthly paper.—*The Planet*.

Mr. Churchill's Changes.

Speaking of Mr. Winston Churchill's improvement in prison régime for suffragette, the *People's Journal* says: "In this country we make no distinction between political offences and crime, and when political offences take the form of assassination, bomb-throwing, fire-raising, and the like, it is, of course, absurd to attempt a distinction. But one's sense of right is shocked when one finds a person treated precisely as a thief or a wife-beater is treated, though the offence that person has committed is one which in no way affects her or his position in decent society."—*People's Journal* (Newcastle).

Suffragists Abroad.

The attempt of Mme. Pelletier, a French barrister, to stand as member for the Chamber of Deputies has aroused considerable comment on the world movement. The main point to note is the fresh evidence provided of the rapid advance which is being made in elevating the status of women throughout the Continent. In Scandinavia, Denmark, and Finland they have been granted the franchise, and in Italy and other southern countries they are steadily progressing that way. Although, therefore, we may smile at the idea of the woman's charter being granted in its entirety, our British suffragists have everything to encourage them in pressing forward to their goal.—*Nottingham Guardian*.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.



DARE TO BE FREE.

- Friday, April 1st 37, Park Road, St. John's Hill, Battersea Branch, at 8 p.m. Business: Election of Sec., Treas., and Lit. Sec.
- Sat., April 2nd National Executive Committee, 1, Robert Street, 11 a.m.
- Sun., April 3rd **Mass Meeting, Trafalgar Square**, 3 p.m. Mrs. Amy Sanderson, Miss Muriel Matters, Mrs. Sproson, Mrs. Manson, Miss Manning, B.A., Miss Neilans. (Helpers meet at the Office, 2.30.)
- Mon., April 4th Farewell Party to Miss Muriel Matters. Tickets can be had at 1, Robert Street.
- Tues., April 5th 1, Robert Street, Adelphi: London Branches Council, 6.45.
- Wed., April 6th Croydon Branch, Katharine Street, at 8 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Marion Holmes.
- Wed., April 6th Bow: Mrs. Manson, at 8.
- Wed., April 6th Central Branch, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, at 8.15. Speaker, Rev. C. Hinscliff on "Evolution."
- Thurs., April 7th **Caxton Hall**, 3 to 6 p.m. Miss Benett, 3.15 p.m.; Mrs. Amy Sanderson, 3.30 p.m.; Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, 5 p.m.
- Thurs., April 14th **Caxton Hall**, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard.
- Thurs., April 14th Ruskin Hall, Ackerman Road, Brixton, 8 p.m. Miss Underwood.
- Fri., April 15th Spears Memorial Hall, Highgate, 7.30. Mrs. Despard.
- Wed., April 20th Barnsbury Hall, Upper Street, N., 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard.
- Wed., April 20th Central Branch, 8.15. Mrs. Ennis Richmond.
- Thurs., April 28th **Queen's Hall**, 3 p.m.
- Thurs., May 5th **Queen's Hall**, 8 p.m.
- Thurs., May 26th **Queen's Hall**, 3 p.m.
- Mrs. Despard, when in London, is at the office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, and will be pleased to see members of the League who wish to consult her.

THE PROVINCES.

- Friday, April 1st Gorleston. Miss Muriel Matters.
- Tues., April 5th Grove Hall, Eastbourne. Speaker, Mrs. A. Sanderson. Chairman, Rev. E. G. Hawkins.
- Wed., April 13th **Mass Meeting**, Eccles Town Hall. Speakers, Mrs. Amy Sanderson and others.
- There will also be a few drawing-room meetings, and possibly a big open-air meeting at York.

SCOTLAND.

- Sat., April 9th Cake and Candy Sale, Dennistoun Branch.

WALES.

- Fri., April 8th Cardiff, at Occidental Café, Queen Street 3 p.m.: Mrs. Despard. 8 p.m.: Mrs. Despard.
- Thurs., May 5th Swansea, Albert Hall: **Woman's Pageant**. Miss Cicely Hamilton and Miss Edith Craig. Speaker, Mrs. Despard.

OUR COMPETITIONS.

PRIZES FOR STREET SELLERS.

To encourage her corps of street sellers, Mrs. Snow is offering prizes for the largest number of VOTES sold in April and May. All copies must be obtained from Mrs. Snow, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi. The first prize will be 15s., or three fully-paid shares in the Minerva Publishing Co.; the second 10s., or two fully-paid-up shares; and the third 5s., or one fully-paid-up share. There will be a special VOTE Week, May 23rd to May 30th, particulars of which will be announced later. A VOTE At Home will be held June 2nd. New recruits to the Street-Selling Corps will be welcomed by Mrs. Snow, who will give them pitches if applied to at 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

"Suffragettes at Home."

Under the heading of "Suffragettes at Home" a series of photographs is appearing in THE VOTE which should be an object lesson to the male "anti" who so frequently requests us to "go home and do the washing," "mind the baby," or "darn the husband's socks." Mrs. Thomson-Price, one of our directors, is offering a prize of a guinea for the best photograph showing Suffragettes doing

these and various other domestic duties. It is not necessary that all the subjects of the photographs should be important personages, but they must be members of the Women's Freedom League. We reserve the right to publish any of the photographs sent in. Competition photographs must be sent to the office of THE VOTE, 148, Holborn Bars, E.C., before April 9th.

COMPETITION FOR RECEIPTS.

Owing to the interest taken in last month's competitions, and as the advertising is the mainstay of the paper, we have decided to encourage the keeping of receipts for goods bought from advertisers by our readers by continuing our offer of monthly prizes for the largest number sent in.

(1) The first prize for the largest number of receipts will be 10s., or two fully-paid-up shares in the Minerva Publishing Co.

(2) The second, for the largest total amount spent, will be 6s. 6d., or a year's subscription to THE VOTE, post free.

Entries for the first competition must be sent in before Saturday, April 9th. The results will be announced in the issue dated April 16th.

NOTICE.

Mrs. How Martyn is taking a holiday. During her absence Mrs. Amy Sanderson, a member of the N.E.C., will take her place at the office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., from April 1st to the 13th, and Mrs. Manson, another member, for the remainder of the time.

Mrs. Catherine Breshkovsky pleaded guilty to being a member of the Socialist Revolutionary party at her trial which has just closed. She was sentenced to perpetual exile in Siberia.

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| FINLAND. | SERVIA. |
| THE NETHERLANDS. | CANADA. |
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