



VOL. II.—No. 2.

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Notes.

WE are glad to hear that Mrs. Asquith was an "interested spectator" of the Demonstration organized by the Women's Social and Political Union last Tuesday. If passive interest turns into active work on our behalf, we shall find a greater cause for congratulation.

THE important announcement has been made that the Affiliated Associations of the Women's Liberal Federation are preparing to hold local meetings in October, followed by larger meetings of groups of Associations in November, and culminating in a central demonstration in favour of Women's Franchise at the Albert Hall on the afternoon of December 5th.

IT is quite refreshing to turn to a "Ladies' page" of *The Illustrated London News* and see at last in these pages that notice is being taken of the things that are of real importance. Some editors seem to think that "fashions" are the chief items of interest to ladies; but no longer can this be said of a vast number; consequently, as a sign of the times, we have a favourable paragraph on the Women's Suffrage Processions, and also a shorter one on the "wider interests and influence of women" as manifested in the Pan-Anglican Congress.

WE notice with some amusement that the Paris correspondent of *The Standard*, after relating a rather noisy scene that took place a few days ago in the Chamber of Deputies, uses the following words in a paragraph below, reporting the "great triumph for the British delegates, Mrs. Rigby and Mrs. Manson" at the Women's Rights Congress:—

"The lively interest taken in the proceedings and the irrepressible excitement shown may be taken as an earnest of what Parliaments may be like when women sit as Deputies. There will be evidently little of the *calm slumber*" (the italics are ours) "so often enjoyed at present by the stronger sex."

Do we see always that peaceful atmosphere among the "stronger sex" even in our own House of Commons?

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

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

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

The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

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

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

THE breaking of windows as a means to show disapproval of Mr. Asquith's "tactics" in regard to the Suffrage Movement is mild compared to the far more despicable behaviour of Anti-Suffragists at Tunbridge Wells, who not only broke up a suffrage meeting there, but pelted the lady speakers with "eggs, potatoes, and even stones." Which does the law take most account of, throwing stones at a window, or at people? If the latter, why is it that the paper from which we took this account fails to report the arrest of any perpetrators of this outrage?

THE WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY have issued a leaflet giving a terse précis of the qualifications necessary for election to any of the following: County Council, Town Council, London Borough Council, Urban District Council, Rural District Council, Parish Council, or Board of Guardians; on the other side of which leaflet will be found equally admirable notes for the guidance of women who are qualified to vote in one or more of the following Elections: In England and Wales (not including London), for the County Council, the Town Council, the Urban District Council, the Rural District Council, the Board of Guardians, the Parish Council; in London (not including the City), for the County Council, the Borough Council, the Board of Guardians; in the City, for the County Council, the Board of Guardians. Every would-be Woman Citizen should apply to 17, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W., for some of these leaflets, which cost only 4d. per dozen, 2s. per 100, or 8s. for 500.

THE two committees of the Women's Reform Union and the Bristol and West of England Women's Suffrage Society gave an "At Home" at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, on Monday evening, the 29th ult. There was a crowded assembly of enthusiastic workers and supporters, who were eager to hear personal accounts of the procession from those who had marched. Miss Moore had walked with the Oxford women graduates, and she gave an account of the distinguished groups which formed that detachment. Mrs. Gronow Davis said she felt honoured by having joined in one of the greatest peaceable demonstrations of all time. One thing had been conclusively proved—that women were good organizers. Miss Helen Sturge said the success they had achieved was very encouraging, but they must not rest there. She spoke of the respectful attitude of the Press towards Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Seargeant, an old worker for the cause, who had

helped to carry the banner of the Women's Reform Union all the way to the Albert Hall, said they must go on squeezing the Prime Minister. Mrs. Green-Armytage spoke of the movement as the "outcome of a nation's need in the twentieth century." Mrs. Treble spoke for herself and other working women who had gone from Bristol, of their great enjoyment of the memorable day, which had sent them back far more enthusiastic than ever. Miss Mabel Duncan asked for help at the open-air meetings (to be held twice a week through July, one in the city in the dinner-hour on Thursdays, and one on the Downs in the evening on Tuesdays) by speaking, by holding banners, and by distributing literature. She said they had the last tug before them, and they wanted the help and co-operation of all women.

Miss Mabel Tothill spoke of the splendid work of the London Committee in organizing the procession, and she spoke also of the efforts of the local hon. secs. in carrying out arrangements for the Bristol contingent.



She. "What are you two talking about?"  
 They. "That our cooks can't cook, and we can't teach them. But you are a Suffragette with a soul above cooking!"  
 She. "And with a mind to do it. Try my cake—it's not so bad."  
*"The Proof of the Pudding is in the Eating."*

Miss Hodgson, who presided, followed with a description of her part of the procession, with the Cambridge graduates, and of the enthusiasm with which Miss Emily Davies had been greeted. She said they wanted a really great effort in Bristol, and for this they needed numbers and unity.

WE are indebted to Mrs. and Miss Shillington for 12s. for one man's wages for a week in answer to our appeal last week; to Miss M. Crofton for subscription to two M.P.'s for six months; to Miss L. Bone for subscription to the Hither Green Public Library for twelve months; Miss E. Montgomery is going to post her copy to the Public Library, Edinburgh. We also acknowledge, with thanks, 15l. from Mrs. Kayser and her sister Miss Hitchcock, and five guineas from Miss E. Severs towards expenses of advertising the paper.

FURTHER ADDITIONS TO THE 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE' FUND.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Crowdy, Miss .. .. .	0 1 0	Brought forward ..	9 15 0
Dalby, Miss M. E. .. .	1 5 0	Michael, Miss M. J. ..	0 12 0
Dalby, G. B., Esq. .. .	2 0 0	Militant, Sheffield ..	0 2 0
Davidson, Mrs. C. H. M. ..	2 0 0	Six Friends, per Mrs. K. A. W.	
Graves, The Hon. Mrs. Spencer	2 0 0	Thomas .. .. .	1 0 0
Hughesdon, Miss, and Shannon,		Spencer, Mrs. M. .. .	0 5 0
Miss .. .. .	0 10 0	Sutton, Councillor Edith ..	0 10 6
Meyerstein, Mrs. C. .. .	2 0 0		
Carried forward ..	9 16 0	Total .. .. .	£12 5 6

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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

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

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.

Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON.

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

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

Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

Telephone: 1060 VICTORIA.

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. MCLAREN.

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

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

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

LADY STRACHEY  
 And the Hon. Officers,  
*ex officio.*

Memorial to the King.

THE following memorial has been sent, on the occasion of his visit to Bristol, to the King, through the official channel, the Home Office:—

SIRE,—On the joyful occasion of the visit of Your Gracious Majesties to our Ancient City of Bristol, we, Your Majesty's loyal and law-abiding subjects, members of the Bristol and West of England Women's Suffrage Society, desire to draw your attention to the grievous disability under which we suffer inasmuch as we contribute to the Maintenance, Safety, and Welfare of this Crown and Realm, and have no voice in the expenditure of the Revenue, or in the Conduct of Public Business.

Signed on behalf of the General Committee  
 COURTNEY OF PENWITH, Vice-President.  
 LILIAS ASHWORTH HALLETT.  
 GERALDINE HODGSON,  
 Chairman of Executive Committee.  
 S. J. TANNER, Hon. Secretary.

Current Topics.

WE regret to state that Miss Frances Sterling has retired from the Executive Committee of the National Union, and also from her post as honorary secretary to the Union. Miss Sterling had overworked for the cause, and pressing family business made this step necessary. We shall all support the resolution passed by the Executive, that while accepting Miss Sterling's resignation with deep regret, we hope she will be able to offer herself for re-election in January.

Miss Ward, who was lately co-opted on to the Executive Committee, has kindly undertaken the duties of honorary secretary in Miss Sterling's place, and Miss Lowndes, of the Artists' Suffrage League, has accepted an invitation to serve on the Executive Committee. We are glad to know that the National Union will henceforth benefit by Miss Lowndes's splendid powers of organization. Her work in connexion with the Procession is well known to us all, and went far towards making it the undoubted success it was.

The Committee of the National Union has accepted the very generous offer of the Artists' Suffrage League to allow the banners made by them for the Procession of June 13th to go to Manchester July 16th and 17th, and to Cambridge at the beginning of August. Should these exhibitions prove a success we are anxious to arrange for an autumn tour. Secretaries are requested to send us in applications giving a choice of dates before July 18th, as the tour must be mapped out before the next Committee.

The official list of speakers is being revised, and secretaries of all our Societies are asked to send in the names of local speakers to Miss Corbett as soon as possible, as in this way the usefulness of the list will be much increased. A copy will be sent to every secretary.

We would remind delegates to the quarterly council meeting at Edinburgh that cheap return fares are being given from many places for the Scottish National Exhibition in Edinburgh.

A correspondent writes from Amsterdam: "Some results of the International Congress are already visible. A Dutch Men's League is being formed, and the Lutheran Church has given votes to their women members in the church matters. Besides this the Suffrage Societies show a considerable increase in numbers all over the country."

The New Zealand Times has a significant comment on the tone adopted by The Times' attitude regarding Woman's Suffrage: "When The Times attacks the fiscal policy of the Liberal Government, it is wont to speak of Australia and New Zealand as 'Sister Nations,' but when we are cited on the strength of our enlightenment and sense of justice in removing the disabilities of women, we are mere municipalities."

Canon Scott Holland has contributed an excellent article on 'The Coming of the Women' to the July number of The Commonwealth. He especially enlarges on the absurdity of the physical force argument. "Were we aware," he asks, "that our possession of a vote hung on the muscular possibility of being able to knock an opponent down if we fail to convince him by argument." Apparently an election is no battle of wits, but rather is modelled on Dr. Keats's famous methods with his confirmation class: "Boys, you must be meek; yes! meek; you have got to be meek; and if you arn't meek I'll flog you."

We gratefully acknowledge a donation of 3l. 7s. 10d. to the 5,000 Guineas Fund sent, per Miss Ray Costelloe, from the students of Girton College, Cambridge; also 5s. from Miss Gunter, and 1l. from Mrs. White Birch.

The People's Suffrage Play.

SEVERAL very successful performances of 'Man and Woman,' the people's Suffrage play, have taken place. The last was at Letchworth Garden City. The Institute was crowded, and the audience showed itself most sympathetic and appreciative, both of the comic and tragic elements of the little piece. Some of them announced their intention of at once utilizing the impulse they felt the performance had given to the Suffrage Movement in the locality for the formation of a Suffrage Society. There and then they arranged to hold a Suffrage meeting on the following Monday, and so set the ball rolling. Miss Eley played most charmingly the part of Mrs. Fairly, the bright, contented, superior wife of a good honest artisan; Miss B. A. Smith put the audience in good humour with her amusing rendering of Lady Bounder, who is canvassing for her husband's election to Parliament; Miss McCheane gave a very telling presentation of the chief character in the play, Mrs. Burdens, a down-trodden charwoman with a drunken husband; Mr. Louis von Glehn (of King's College) "brought down the house" with the vigour and fun of his presentation of the pompous Parliamentary candidate, Sir Reginald Bounder; Miss Rachel Townshend, in the garb of a hospital nurse, made a very pretty and attractive Suffragist; Mr. Eustace Tillyard, as her brother, and a member of the Men's League, helps her to effect the conversion of Mr. and Mrs. Fairly; and last, but not least, Mr. G. R. S. Taylor, played very simply and naturally the part of John the artisan.

### Exhibition of the Artists' League Banners in the Provinces.

This heading will, we know, excite great interest among our readers, as it is already evident that the matter has aroused keen enthusiasm. Care has been taken to obtain, so far as possible, the consent of all concerned, that this magnificent collection may be kept together for a time for the purpose described above, and it is most encouraging that this consent has been almost unanimous. It has been fully recognised that the artists' work should be used for the good of the cause in this way. If by oversight any contributor has not received a communication on the subject, she is asked to forgive the omission, and to write at once to the office.

Undoubtedly we have here an opportunity of presenting an artistic feast of the first order under circumstances that make it in itself, and in all the attendant conditions that may be grouped round it, a unique act of propaganda. The *Times* said: "He who wins the eye, wins all." This the artists have done; it now remains for us to hold and strengthen and confirm this "all."

The provincial exhibition scheme is no longer only in the air, it has become a fact. A show has already been held at Pudsey as a sequel to the National Union by-election work there—one is being arranged for July 16th and 17th at Manchester, and, early in August, we hope to go to Cambridge—if, as we have reason to hope, Cambridge will welcome us. There we shall find University Extensionists from all parts of the world, as well as graduates and undergraduates already returned to spend a portion of the "long" in study, whom, it is confidently expected, a show like this will tempt to neglect these studies. Happily, one of life's little ironies is, that no man or woman wins in the race of life, who never stops to pluck the wayside flowers.

The Pudsey show was of special interest in revealing all the possibilities of the thing, good music, good competitions, good speakers, good discussions, new friends, &c. Properly speaking, the little Yorkshire town seemed too small and too thrifty for us, but "Go to Pudsey" is a local catch saying, and go to Pudsey we had felt we must, and we stoutly maintain that in spite of all seemings to the contrary, the choice was a good one.

To quote Miss Gardner's letter, "The exhibition has been a most excellent thing... All our real friends have come, and have helped and have joined the Society. We have now a real solid foundation for a society which we should never have got without the exhibition."

Among these real friends we cannot refrain from mentioning Miss Whyte, Miss Asquith, and Miss Harmsworth, of Pudsey, who were among those who gave us splendid support, and who mean to make our National Union a living force in the district. We had also every assistance from several ladies of our Bradford Committee, as well as other speakers, and musicians from the neighbourhood. The Rev. C. J. Hill spoke eloquently on our behalf, and told us that most of the Pudsey clergy are our friends. Miss I. O. Ford most kindly interested Mr. Ben Turner, and he was good enough to deliver two stirring addresses in one day. Both he and another speaker with real knowledge emphasized that our demand for the vote "on the same terms as men" is sound policy, and would enfranchise large numbers of working women, not only the leisured classes, as our enemies delight to declare.

The banners looked gorgeous as the afternoon sun fell softly upon them, and the interest they created was enhanced by an excellent little competition to decide upon "the six best banners." A young ladies' school came and found, we hope, as Miss Gardner had told their head they would find, that the banners were most instructive. In this connection it may be added that we have an idea of arranging little lectures on the various great women, at Cambridge.

One final word as to the unifying effect of a Banner Exhibition. Happily our by-election policy is such that it arouses little of the bitterness and heart burning of party strife, but it is remarkable how the quiet friendly intercourse

of the Exhibition time tends to consolidate our work, how it interests and encourages old friends and wins new ones.

All who have ideas about suitable places and times for a Banner Exhibition are invited to write to us, so that the possibility of further plans may be considered at the next Committee meeting.

### Pembrokeshire By-Election.

MR. LORT-WILLIAMS (Conservative) and Mr. Roch (Liberal) have both answered all the six questions put to them by the National Union in the affirmative. We have therefore to confine ourselves to propaganda work.

The chief difficulty of our work in this constituency is caused by its extremely scattered nature, and the poverty of the train service, which makes it very hard to get about. Moreover this fine weather keeps many of the men in the fields hay-making till late at night.

We have decided on Narberth as our centre for the present, and have there a small committee-room, though as the town has only 1,000 inhabitants and most of them are at work all day, we have few visitors, and do not attempt to keep the committee room open all the time. We have also two large windows of a shop which is only used once a week—on market day—where we display all our posters and bills.

We arrived at Narberth on Thursday evening, after making investigations at Tenby first, and we held an impromptu open-air meeting at 9 o'clock at the request of our landlady, who said that the people would be much disappointed if we did not. In spite of the fact that no notice had been given we had an audience of about 300, who were perfectly orderly and attentive, and crowded round for leaflets when it became too late for us to go on speaking.

On Friday morning we prepared our committee-room and shop-windows, and in the afternoon we went by train to Whitland, and held a meeting there which was attended by about 100 people. Here we passed a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage with only one dissident (who had not been present during the meeting!). Thence we proceeded by train to Begally, because we had heard that Mr. Lort-Williams was billed to speak there, and we hoped—when he had gone—to secure the audience which he had collected. I had also not yet received his replies to our questions, and so aimed at an interview. When he arrived he was, I think, somewhat dismayed to find us lying in wait, as he explained that he had hitherto altogether escaped the clutches of Suffragists; but he answered every question satisfactorily in the presence of his supporters, who crowded round to hear his replies. We then attended his meeting, and he opened it with a declaration of his belief in Women's Suffrage. When this meeting was over we held one in the open air, and practically every one stayed to hear us; on this occasion our resolution was passed unanimously. We had to drive back to Narberth as there are no evening trains hereabouts.

Saturday morning I spent at Tenby getting information about local ladies likely to help start a branch of the Society here, whilst Miss Rowlette and Miss Macmillan kept the committee-room open. In the early afternoon we met at Saundersfort, a beautiful little sea-side place, and addressed a meeting of about 100 people, who showed a good deal of enthusiasm. Here we were hospitably entertained by the district nurse before we went on to Templeton, where we had arranged to have an evening meeting. It is quite a small village, so that we considered our audience of about 50, mostly responsible men, very creditable. They showed keen interest, and many emphatically promised to do all they could to help us. Indeed, we have received many such promises at all our meetings. Our supporters are, of course, very anxious to be told which candidate to vote for.

At these two meetings we sold 77 penny badges, mostly to the men, who are wearing them in their hats or on their coats. We are arranging to cover as much of the district as possible, before we go up North, as we intend to do next week. We are received everywhere with the most perfect courtesy, and find all our audiences both attentive and enthusiastic.

MARGARET ROBERTSON.

### Campaign among Rate-Paying Women.

GIANT petitions and declarations have served their turn, but what we want now is to secure the active sympathy of rate-paying women everywhere. The National Union has therefore decided that a great campaign should be carried on among all women, but chiefly among those women who would be enfranchised by Mr. Stanger's Bill. Only the strongest faith in the righteousness of our cause and in the loyalty of our supporters enables us to start on so long and arduous an undertaking. We want every Suffragist in the country to make up her mind to canvass 10 to 1,000 women ratepayers and to convince them on this question.

Any news as to figures for and against, and the general tone of the locality should be sent to the office. We hope this work will lead to the formation of many new branches, for, as heard from New Forest last week, 100 members were enrolled at once where no interest was supposed to exist.

Miss Corbett would be glad of help at the office, to address envelopes and to mount press cuttings for filing.

Orders for 1d. badges should be sent in at once.

### Branch Societies.

**BIRMINGHAM, Olton.**—A garden meeting was held on July 1st, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Small, the local Hon. Secretary. It resulted in a most enthusiastic meeting.

Mrs. Reid, of Birmingham, made a very earnest and impressive speech, and her arguments must have carried conviction, as nine new members were enrolled on the spot, and others influenced, so that future membership is assured. This, together with a well-attended and orderly out-door meeting, held the previous evening by Miss Alice Schofield, shows that Olton is alive to the increased responsibilities of the situation.

The following resolution was passed without a dissident, and the Secretary was requested to send a copy of it to the Prime Minister: "That this meeting earnestly appeals to the Prime Minister to bring in a Bill for the enfranchisement of duly qualified women during the present Parliament."

**BRISTOL.**—A crowded meeting of enthusiastic workers and supporters was held at the Victoria Rooms on the 29th inst. It was called for the purpose of enabling those who could not attend to hear about the Procession and Albert Hall meeting. The room was decorated with inspiring banners and posters. Miss G. Hodgson was in the chair. The speakers included Miss Moore, Mrs. Gronow Davis, Miss H. M. Sturge, Mrs. Sergeant, Mrs. Green Armytage, Miss M. Tothill, and others. Miss Mabel Duncan asked for more supporters at their open-air meetings to help, either by speaking, holding banners, or distributing literature.

**HUDDERSFIELD.**—A meeting was held on the 1st at the Portlands, Lindley, by kind invitation of Mrs. Montgomery. Mrs. Jagger and Miss Kilburn gave interesting reports of the Procession and Meeting at the Albert Hall, and Mrs. Studdard, hon. sec., told us about the International Congress at Amsterdam. On the motion of Councillor E. A. Beaumont these ladies were thanked for representing Huddersfield in London and Holland respectively. They have not only devoted time and energy to the cause, but have also paid their own expenses. The motion was carried with enthusiasm. A resolution was carried urging the Prime Minister to arrange for Mr. Stanger's Bill to be passed in the House of Commons. Miss Kilburn, in supporting the resolution, made the welcome announcement that Miss Brook of Edgerton felt the justice of their claim so much that she had sent them £5 as a donation.

**LLANDUDNO.**—A very successful garden At Home was held at Preswylfa on July 3rd in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Haslam, who were staying in the town. Mr. Pugh presided.

Mr. Haslam restated the case for Women's Suffrage, in a fresh and forcible manner, and kept his audience deeply interested.

Mrs. Haslam gave a brief sketch of her public work, beginning in Ireland in 1846, to the present time, when Dublin boasted 18 lady guardians. She touched with delightful Irish humour on the two London Processions in July in which she had taken part. Truly the vigour and youthfulness of this octogenarian couple is astounding. A resolution calling on the Government to give immediate facilities for the passing of Mr. Stanger's Bill was proposed from the chair and carried unanimously.

FLORENCE H. WRIGHT, Hon. Sec.

**PORTSMOUTH.**—A most agreeable "At Home" was held at The Dell, Portsdown Hill. The early part of the afternoon was devoted to an address by Mr. Prelooker, to whom the many guests listened with great attention and evident enjoyment. Mrs. W. C. Hawksley, wife of the vicar of All Saints, Landport, was in the chair. She was supported by Mrs. Laphorn (chairman of the committee) and Miss N. O'Shea, hon. sec. The latter gave an enthusiastic description of the great procession on the 13th. The Portsmouth banner came in for a good deal of attention. There were cries of "Well done, Portsmouth!" and "Good old Pompey!" One sailor marched with them for some time, and wanted to carry the banner.

**SEVENOAKS.**—One of the most exciting meetings experienced here in recent years took place on May 26th, when the Club Hall was crowded by an audience eager to support or to thwart the Women's Suffrage Movement. An immense crowd had also collected outside the Hall. The chair was taken by Mr. Mackenzie Bell, who was supported by Mrs. Fawcett and others. For about ten minutes Mr. Bell endeavoured to make himself heard; but to no purpose. He was greeted with cries of "We want Mrs. Fawcett." He therefore resumed his seat, and Mrs. Fawcett was given a fair hearing for nearly three-quarters of an hour.

**SUNDERLAND.**—A garden party was given on the 25th inst. at the Poplars, Ashbrook Road, by kind permission of C. E. Thompson, Esq., Mrs. Rackham of Cambridge and Mr. Stuart, M.P., were the speakers, and many friends who are not in active sympathy with us joined with members in supplying provisions, and Messrs. Hills & Co. kindly printed the invitations. It is hoped that the influence of the society will be much extended by this meeting.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

JULY	Event	Chair/Hostess	Time
13th	<b>Birmingham, W.S.</b> Meeting, 166, Broad Street	Chair, Miss S. E. S. Muir	
	<b>Edinburgh, Annual</b> Meeting, Queen's Hall	Speakers, Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D. Miss Margaret Ashton Miss I. Ford Miss M. I. Corbett, B.A. Walter McLaren, Esq.	
	<b>Reigate, Open-Air Meeting</b>	Speaker, Miss Ramsden	10.30 A.M.
14th	<b>Edinburgh, Quarterly</b> Council Meeting of N.U.W.S.S., Royal Arch Halls		
	<b>Garden Party</b>	Hostess, Lady Steel	
17th	<b>London, N. Hackney,</b> Garden Meeting	Hostess, Miss Richards	6 P.M.
20th	<b>Birmingham, Public</b> Meeting, Midland Institute	Speakers, Mrs. Cooper, of Nelson H. Y. Stanger, Esq., M.P.	6
	<b>Reigate, Garden Meeting</b>	Hostess, Miss Adeney	
	<b>Cranford, Reigate</b> Open-Air Meeting	Speaker, Miss Hammond	
21st	<b>London, Highgate,</b> Suffrage Tea	Hostesses, The Misses Sharpe Speaker, Miss Janet Case	
	<b>Richmond, Invitation</b> Meeting	Hostess, Miss Foster Newton Speaker, Miss Hammond	
	<b>Stratford, Women's Co-</b> operative Guild, Meeting of Members re Suffrage, Work- man's Hall, Romford Road.	Speaker, Miss Abadam	8
23rd	<b>Bermondsey, Debate,</b> 'Tem- perance and W.S.,' Christ Church Branch of Church of England Total Abstin- ence Society	Speaker, Miss Swankie Cameron	8.30

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

## VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

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

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

National Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG

## A Review.

By ALICE DRYSDALE VICKERY.

*Woman under the Law.* By W. G. Earengy, LL.D. 4d. net. This remarkably useful and interesting little book has just appeared, and should be studied by all those who are anxious to have a correct understanding of the legal position of women as it now exists. The book opens with a chapter, introductory and historical, showing how the Feudal System is mainly responsible for the existing regime of masculine favouritism and predominance. Dr. Earengy shows how warlike customs led to grants of land being made by King and Lords to subordinates, from the highest to the lowest, who could render military service in return. For this reason, males were preferred to females, elder sons to younger sons; while if there were no sons, the daughters inherited equally, and in this case the Lord protected his interests by compelling them to marry, and naturally contrived that they should so marry as seemed best to suit his interests.

The wife's possessions passed into the control of the husband, who became her deputy to render services due to the Lord on her behalf. The wife thus became absolutely dependent upon her husband for the necessaries. The husband's rights over the wife's person were large in consequence, and hence arises the difference in the law with respect to fidelity, separation, and divorce, giving rise to the immorality of our so-called moral code.

The sole obligation on the husband, in return for the rights he obtained over his wife's property and person, was that of maintaining her; but the common law, in the eccentricity of its wisdom, gave the wife no direct power to compel him to do this. She could only enforce her claim in an indirect manner, by becoming chargeable to the parish; and it was no uncommon occurrence for a wife to bring her husband a large fortune on her marriage, and come to utter destitution through his reckless prodigality.

Abuses of this kind became so odious that at length the equity judges deemed it necessary to intervene, and allowed a woman to hold property independently of her husband if it were given to trustees for her separate use.

The first Act of Parliament directed toward effecting a breach in the hopeless state of dependence of married women was passed in 1870. This Act secured to married women the right to enjoy their own earnings, in any employment carried on separately from her husband, or obtained by means of the exercise of her literary, artistic, or scientific skill.

A second and far more important Act was passed in 1882, which was apparently intended to give to every woman married after the close of that year the rights of a *feme sole*, i.e., full right of enjoyment, management, and disposition in respect of her present and future property, and presumably full liability for all obligations contracted or incurred by her. But here the logic of the law showed itself lamentably deficient between two opposing claims.

On the one hand, there was a strong desire to improve the position of the wife by giving her power to hold property and to make contracts.

On the other hand, there was the strongest feeling against any legislation which should curtail the husband's right to the enjoyment of his wife's society.

Full liability for all obligations contracted and incurred by her would have meant full liability both as to property and person, and personal liability would have carried with it the

possibility of imprisonment for failure to comply with the order of the bankruptcy court for payment should she become bankrupt—thus depriving the husband of her society and services. The liability of a married woman is therefore limited to the extent of her separate property and her personal liability is nil; whereas a man, a single woman, or a widow incurs also a personal liability in respect of contract, and can be sent to prison for failure to comply with the order of the Court. It is the exceptional position of married women with respect to contracts, and liability for debt, which gives plausibility to the wailings and protests of men like Mr. Belfort Bax, who talk so much of the privileged sex. But a little examination of this so-called privilege will soon show it to be but a "disability in disguise."

The reason for the restricted liability in property and person, for debt or failure of contract, of married women, is that "her owner (her husband) must not be deprived of the enjoyment of his property, by the imprisonment of his wife." So that, we see, this privilege—so-called—is not created in the interest of the wife, but in that of her owner, her husband. The operation of this false privilege on her side, is to restrict her powers in business, and often to a large extent to deprive her of the benefit of the Act, by forcing her to join her husband's name with her own in the purchase of investments—thus cutting her off from that full and free right of disposal and enjoyment of her property which the Act was intended to confer. Hence the constantly reiterated inquiry, in the case of women acting in any business capacity as to her status with regard to marriage—no such inquiry being deemed necessary in the case of men.

Again the "restraint upon anticipation" which, perhaps, may have been of service in the past, has probably ceased to be other than a second "disability in disguise," since the gradual improvement of laws and usages in respect to a wife's risks of ill-treatment by her husband.

Since the Jackson case women are no longer compelled to remain with their husbands and submit to ill treatment against their will. Therefore the restraint against anticipation with the power thus conferred of evading the payment of creditors, and other unfortunate results is too often only an incentive to fraud, and an evasion of just liabilities. It is therefore a privilege (?) which would be much better without, "as being repugnant to her full ownership."

Two other points may be mentioned in which the so-called privileges of married women afford an excuse to those who say that privilege and equality of right cannot co-exist, and therefore the women being in certain cases privileged persons, have no claim to the franchise.

A husband may still be joined with the wife in a suit for libellous statements made by her, and thus become liable for costs and damages, even if living apart. Those who claim the vote for women also claim that women should be liable for damages for misbehaviour.

The second point is the right of the wife to insure the life of the husband, although there appears now to be no corresponding right on the part of the husband to insure the life of the wife.

Women are becoming more and more economically self-supporting and self-dependent, and in consequence the reason for this distinction is ceasing relatively to be a valid one.

These are instances of some of the muddles and complexities arising out of the illogical state of the law—which apparently desires to conserve the privileges and powers of the husband side by side with a partial abolition of married women's disabilities, and the conferring upon her of a larger measure of freedom and responsibility.

(To be continued.)

## Branch Notes.

**Central Branch.**—Mrs. Holmes will give an address on 'Pioneers and Prisoners,' on the 16th, at 8 p.m. All members please attend and bring friends and sympathisers. P. H.

**Edinburgh Branch.**—A meeting was held in India Buildings last week, at which Mrs. Bell gave an account of the Women's Suffrage Demonstration held in London on the 13th of June. There followed a keen discussion on the practical utility of such demonstrations, and the present situation with regard to the Suffrage agitation. It was decided that every effort should be made to keep the object of the present Suffrage Movement, which is simply that duly qualified women should not be deprived of the rights of citizenship solely on account of sex, absolutely distinct and apart from the question of adult Suffrage, or any party movement whatsoever.

**Middlesbrough Branch.**—The Duologue given by Mrs. How Martyn and Miss Hodgson to the members of this Branch and their friends last month, proved a very bright and pleasing interlude in the history of their meetings.

The audience was most appreciative, and listened throughout with critical attention to the speeches delivered. A plentiful supply of stewards of splendid physique and enterprise had been very easily secured, but nothing ill-intentioned occurred, and there was an absence altogether of any disorderly element or harsh and superior opposition.

Perhaps the best tribute to the success of the meeting was shown in the fact that almost all those present signed the memorial to the Prime Minister, calling on him to put the question of "Votes for Women" for further consideration this session.

Although the weather has been so warm, yet the attendance at the Branch Meetings is well maintained. At the last meeting it was reported that the Executive Meetings could not be held in Middlesbrough in September, as had been hoped; but that it was possible to hold certain Sub-Committee Meetings in the town. It was decided to make that occasion an opportunity for public demonstrations.

A specimen membership card was submitted, which should show the attendance and payment of members, the rules of the League, and also a syllabus of half a year's subjects for debate.

At the close of the business a thoughtful address was given by Mrs. Best on the subject of the feeding of children. An interesting discussion followed, to which Mrs. Jacob, of New York, who writes much on the suffrage question, contributed some useful remarks.

WINIFRED M. JONES.

**Hampstead Branch.**—Hampstead, though for some reason it has hidden its light under a bushel, has not been behind in the open-air campaign. A series of meetings have been held this summer commencing on May 28th, and have attracted large and attentive audiences. Last Wednesday some of the crowd were disposed to heckle the speakers, and a Scripture allusion was taken up by a professed Atheist, who did his best at question-time to open up a theological argument and draw away interest from the main question. Miss Mary Smith and an American delegate have spoken for us, otherwise the Branch has relied almost entirely on local oratory.

**The Western Branch, Glasgow,** held its last meeting of the term on the evening of the 17th. It was well attended, and deep interest was taken in the reports of several of those who had joined the procession of the 13th. A long discussion followed, in which members visiting from other city branches also stated their views. So encouraging were all these that it was regretted that Glasgow had not been better represented.

A matter that was early remarked upon was the kindness shown to Scots representatives by those friends in London who had taken much trouble to so hospitably entertain them.

The Meetings in the Academy Rooms, Partick, will be resumed in September.

Among the first will be a Social Evening, when Mrs. How-Martyn will be present. The visit of the Hon. Secretary is being looked forward to with much pleasure.

A public meeting has been arranged to be held in Partick Burgh Hall on Oct. 8. Since such speakers as Mrs. Billington-

Greig and Mr. Stanger, M.P., have been secured, there is no anxiety as to the success of the meeting. It is hoped that the Lady Frances Balfour will also be present on this occasion. Many successful open-air meetings are being held throughout the city this month, the branches not meeting as usual meantime.

A. C. M.

**Dundee Branch.**—On Thursday, June 25th, Mr. Churchill visited Dundee and addressed two meetings—one in the afternoon, principally for women, and one in the evening, from which women were most rigidly excluded. Tickets were given to those who worked for Mr. Churchill at the election, but for the afternoon meeting the applicant had to undergo a searching cross-examination and prove to the officials that she was not a "suffragette" before securing the coveted ticket. In spite of these precautions many members of the W.F.L. managed to be present in the hall. The hour of the meeting, 3.30 p.m., was an insult to the working women of the town, and proves how much sincerity there is in the Liberal cry, that if women had votes on the same terms as men, the working man's wife would be left out in the cold. How many women, with household duties to attend to, could leave their homes and children at such an hour? The interruptions made by our members were all relevant. For example Mr. Churchill said he was a convinced suffragist, and a woman asked why he did not vote for Mr. Stanger's Bill. Instead of crushing the questioner with his reply, Mr. Churchill stood calmly waiting until she was removed. In one case, at least, quite unnecessary violence was used in ejecting a woman. In all, three members of the W.F.L. and two of the W.S.P.U. were thrown out of the meeting. In the evening we gave out handbills to men entering the hall, and were most courteously treated. Not a single rude word was addressed to any of us, and only in three cases were our bills refused. Then a protest meeting was held at the High School Gate, when Miss Clunas presided, and Mrs. Donaldson, who spoke for us last week, did so again. The large crowd was sympathetic, and Mrs. Donaldson quite excelled herself and made a splendid impression. Mr. Geddie, one of our members, also made a thoughtful speech. We feel that Mr. Churchill's visit has shown that the militant Suffragists are not downhearted at the recent Liberal triumph.

L. C.

**Maida Vale Branch.**—The work of this branch has fallen into abeyance during the last few months, owing to the illness of the hon. secretary. It has been suggested that a special effort should be made to hold a series of open-air meetings in Kilburn, Willesden Green, and Cricklewood, commencing on or about July 10th. Members willing to speak or distribute literature are requested to send in their names to Miss Baenziger, 134, Portsdown Road, Maida Vale, W.

## The Dumbartonshire Campaign.

A FURTHER meeting organized by Miss Eunice Murray and friends was held at Garelochhead on Friday, June 5th. Miss Murray took the chair and Mrs. Billington-Greig was the speaker. A large motor conveyed a number of Helensburgh friends up the side of the loch to the place of meeting. The next meeting is to be at Cardross, when Miss Munro will speak, and there are plans afoot for a big meeting in Dumbarton and for a Garden Party.

T. B. G.

## Notices.

VAN ROUTE.—Cranbrook and Benenden, July 4th-6th; Tenterden, July 6th-9th; Wittersham, July 9th-11th; Rye and Winchelsea, July 11th-14th; Hastings and St. Leonards, July 14th-21st; Bexhill and Pevensey, July 21st-28th.

We much regret that owing to lack of space we have again to omit Miss Matters's interesting report of the Caravan Campaign. Mrs. Hicks, Miss Matters, and their co-workers are received everywhere with encouragement and support.

Ed. W.F.L.

### East Fife Campaign.

A FINE shop has been secured in Station Road, Ladybank, the centre of the constituency, and Mrs. Donaldson has been placed in charge for the first month. A series of four opening meetings were held at Ladybank, and seven on June 1st and 2nd, when Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Billington-Greig visited the constituency. Committees of women are to be formed in every village and town, and petitions and post cards are in preparation. An earnest appeal is made for volunteers to share the work here. Pressure can be brought upon Mr. Asquith much more directly and readily from East Fife than from any other part of the British Empire. Later workers to visit the constituency will be Mrs. Sanderson, Miss Munro, Miss Eunice Murray, and Mrs. How Martyn. Our greatest need is volunteers.

FRIDAY 26th.—Letham, which was next visited, is a pretty village about three miles from Ladybank. Under a wide spreading tree we told the story of woman's long fight for political freedom to an interested and sympathetic audience.

MONDAY 29th.—In Ladybank the third meeting was held, we had a fair number of women.

TUESDAY 30th.—Cupar was again visited; the meeting was interrupted during most of the time by a tipsy man. (I sometimes wonder what a Cabinet Minister would do if he had this difficulty to contend with during the whole of a meeting). He attempted to come into the machine where I was standing, and was flourishing a stick in my face, which I took from him, and told him I would keep it as a rod of correction. That little incident gave the *Courier* a tit-bit to report. How very faithful the press is in regard to those little matters.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1st.—A second visit was paid to Auchtermuchty. The meeting was not so largely attended as the last. I was told that some did not care to show an interest, owing to the reports in the morning papers regarding the scenes in London. Truly it is a hard thing to live in a small place and dare to think for one's self. Having experienced it, I sympathize.

THURSDAY 2nd.—Dunshelt was visited for the first time, and a very pleasant meeting was held; the villagers turned out well and gave a very attentive hearing. I have never received the slightest sign of any antagonism, and the majority admit the justice of our claim. JANE DONALDSON.

### Holiday Work.

WILL any members who are thinking of spending their holidays in Bournemouth or Eastbourne, and who would be willing to help in holding open-air meetings, distributing literature, &c., kindly communicate with the Hon. Secretary?

### Birmingham and District Notes.

During the past week several open-air meetings have been held in Glasgow. Mrs. Billington-Greig and Miss Munro spoke to large and attentive audiences.

The summer campaign at Dunoon opened on Saturday with large and attentive audiences. A large and effective banner in red and white proved an effective draw. Mr. Sclanders, of the Men's League, presided at both afternoon and evening meetings. The people were attentive and sympathetic at the evening meeting, moving spontaneous votes of thanks, one man remarking that he was ashamed to belong to the Liberal party after hearing from the speaker an account of the treatment meted out. It was his first suffrage meeting. Many youths who scoffed and sneered at the beginning remained to contribute to the collection and buy postcards of the speaker.

If the glorious weather continues we shall have a most effective and successful summer of propaganda work. Acknowledgment and thanks are due to Mrs. Graham Moffat, Mrs. Sclanders, Miss Link, and Mrs. Mackay for their assistance.

One afternoon I was present at a very unique gathering—a meeting of the Suffrage Society. The members of the Society are very young indeed, but the speeches delivered by the secretary and treasurer, aged respectively eleven and nine, would have done credit to much older individuals. We shall, indeed, be strong if the children, who are the hope of the future, are with us. A. M.

### Scottish Summer Centres Fund.

Already acknowledged .. .. .	£5 0 0
Anonymous (Edinburgh) .. .. .	9 9 0
Cake and Candy Sale .. .. .	1 4 0
Dr. Marion Gilchrist .. .. .	0 5 0

### London Council Cycling Corps.

A VERY good meeting of the cycling corps was held on Saturday, the 27th ult., off King's Street, Hammersmith, near one of the entrances to Ravenscourt Park, at which I presided. Miss Molony spoke admirably, and the crowd listened most attentively. Miss Lawson made a splendid but short speech. She was much applauded, and the people seemed disappointed they could not hear more of this speaker.

A good collection was taken, and a few sensible questions were asked.

After the meeting we were entertained by Mrs. Johnson, of 11, Fielding Road, who, I would like to point out, was not altogether in favour of this movement, but has changed her attitude to a very great extent since hearing the two very good speakers before mentioned. Two ladies gave their names, and wish to become members of the Freedom League. A gentleman also gave his name and address, and intends to join the Men's League. I hope to see a Bedford Park branch of the Freedom League formed in the very near future.

The Corps will not meet on the 11th July, but a meeting is being arranged for the following Saturday, the 18th.

HELEN LEVY, Hon. Secretary Cycling Corps.

### PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS. July 9th to July 19th.

Thurs. 9.	"At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	Miss Molony	P. M.
	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	C. V. Drysdale, Esq., D.Sc.	3.30
		Mrs. Toyne and Members of Central Branch	8
8, 9, 10, 11.	—The Empire, Islington	Miss Irene Miller	7.45 and 10.20
Sun. 12.	Battersea Park, S.W. Gate	Miss Molony	3.30
	Brockwell Park, S.E.	Mrs. Duval	
		Miss Miller	3
		Mrs. Despard	
		Mrs. Winton Evans	
		Miss Molony	
		Mrs. Toyne	3
	Finsbury Park, N.	Mrs. Duval	3
	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Mrs. Colby	12
	Wandsworth Common		
Thurs. 16.	"At Home," Caxton Hall		3.30
	18, Buckingham St., Strand	Mrs. Holmes	8
Sun. 19.	Battersea Park, S.W. Gate	Mrs. Duval and others	3.30
	Brockwell Park, S.E.		3
	Finsbury Park, N.		3
	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch		3
	Wandsworth Common	Mr. Duval and others	12

Saturday, July 11th, 8 P.M., entrance 7.15.

Open-air performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,'

at the Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, will be kindly given by the Elizabeth Bessle Comedy Company for the benefit of the Women's Freedom League Funds.

Mendelssohn's Incidental Music will be kindly rendered by the South Place Orchestral Society. Tickets, 7s. 6d., 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s. 6d., may be obtained at W.F.L., 18, Buckingham St., Strand.

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

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

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Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

### Notes and Comments.

WE desire to call the attention of all our readers to a new pamphlet, entitled 'The Sex Symphony; or, Some Missing Political Instruments.' It is written by Mr. John Russell, M.A., a member of our league, than whom there is no more enthusiastic or hard-working suffragist. Those who have heard Mr. Russell speak on Women's Suffrage will know what we mean when we say that it is extremely difficult to find words in which to express our admiration of his new pamphlet. The central idea is beautiful, and it is expressed in language which derives force from its very restraint. The enfranchisement of woman is here placed in its true setting as the crown and completion of moral, social, and political progress. We are all prone to forget the dignity, the great moral significance of our cause. The enfranchisement of women is not on the plane of ordinary legislative work; it ranks higher than a Patents Act; it is a greater thing than a Daylight Bill, for which the Government has been able to afford facilities.

'A Sex Symphony' has given us more pleasure than any contribution to Suffrage literature for many months, and we cordially recommend it to converted and unconverted alike. Copies are now to be obtained from the publishers, Arnold Fairbairn & Co., Ltd., Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., or from the Literature Secretary, Men's League for Women's Suffrage, 38, Museum Street, W.C. Price: single copies, 3d.; 12 copies, 2s.; 100 copies, 12s. 6d.

The question raised by Mr. Joseph Clayton in a letter which we print below is a serious one. What are the bulk of men doing for the cause? There is no doubt at all that many men are so struck by the enthusiasm and the self-sacrifice of the women that they are prepared to listen to the foolish advice of many speakers, "after all it is the women who must carry this thing through." In our opinion the man who admits that the cause is a just one cannot be content with an annual subscription. It was the work of men that made women voteless; by all the canons of justice and chivalry it is they who should repair the injustice. Moreover, it is they who, being the sole voters, must ultimately do the work.

Those, for example, who regard the Westminster demonstrations as necessary to the cause cannot abstain from being present and affording moral support to the women. Even those who honestly believe that such demonstrations are intrinsically bad, or have become so by repetition, should certainly be present to see that the women are not hustled or affronted by the eadish ruffians whose presence in large numbers constitutes a very serious danger to all concerned.

We confess that we are often disappointed by the lethargy of our friends. Would that all would say with Mr. John Russell, "I desire few things so keenly as to live to be present at the first performance of the Sex Symphony with a Full Orchestra"—and act accordingly.

### The International Congress.

ONE of the most frequently reiterated statements of the masculine objector to Women's Suffrage has been that women were incapable of organizing or controlling large assemblies, and that they would be too strongly influenced by feeling to deal temperately with large questions. If such objectors had been present at the International Conference at Amsterdam, their complacent superiority would have received a rude shock. The

Woman's Suffrage Movement is now probably the most active and exciting topic of the day, and its supporters range from the most domestic and conservative women, to whom the mere notion of unladylike conduct or notoriety is abhorrent, to the militant Suffragettes who are imprisoned for demanding admission to the House of Commons or interviews with Cabinet Ministers, or who visit by-elections. There are those who strongly support the Liberal party, those who will have nothing to do with any party, and those who will work for nothing but adult suffrage. All these were represented at the Conference, in the persons of delegates of all nationalities and languages, and burning with enthusiasm; but in spite of all these diverse elements, not a note of discord was heard. The speeches were brief and to the point, the order and procedure perfect; a large proportion of the officers and delegates could speak fluently in three languages, and the chairman ruled over this large and diversified assembly with a firmness and fairness that would do credit to any Minister. To judge by the recent accounts of the proceedings in most of the parliaments of Europe, there are few of them whose members would not be the better for a study of the methods of the International Suffrage Alliance.

There is no need to attempt a detailed account of the Conference, but a few remarks on matters of special interest from the masculine standpoint may be welcome.

The most noticeable feature of the Conference—as indeed it has been of the whole campaign, militant and otherwise—was the absolute absence of sex antagonism. In no instance was any outcry raised against "the tyrant man," in spite of the rebuffs in so many quarters. On the contrary, the assistance of men as sympathizers was often gratefully alluded to, and when roll call was called on the Monday morning, and the delegates answered to their names and announced their organizations, the reply "Men's League for Women's Suffrage" elicited one of the warmest bursts of applause. The interest taken in our League was enormous, and, in almost every interval, journalists crowded up asking for literature and particulars of the League, &c. At the various fêtes and excursions, young men desirous of helping the women's cause, came up to inquire into the constitution of our League, and were particularly anxious to know whether, in view of their being admitted to the women's organizations in Holland, there would be any scope or *raison d'être* for a Men's League in their country. It may be confidently anticipated that one result of the Conference will be the formation of more than one Men's League on the Continent.\*

A most striking feature of the Congress was that three of the woman delegates were from countries where women's enfranchisement has been won, i.e., Australia, Norway, and Denmark. These delegates were sent not from women's organizations, but as official representatives of their Governments, showing, as was expressed in their messages of greeting, that the men as well as the women in their countries recognized the advantage of the reform, and were desirous of helping to further it in other countries. The president emphasized this by pointing out that in each case the Government concerned was defraying the entire expenses of its delegate. Messages were also read from the Ministers and other prominent persons in these countries, recording their experiences and opinions of the change, and the sum and substance of these letters were as one would have expected, that while nothing revolutionary had happened, the women had taken up their new responsibilities earnestly, and had worked steadily in the direction of improving the tone of politics, and of moderate and beneficial reform. Those who airily state that women do not want the vote, and that few of them would use it if granted, may be referred to the experience of New South Wales, where the admission of women to the

\* Since this was written, news has come that Mr. E. W. van Straaten is about to start a Men's League in Holland. We are in communication with him, and at his request have sent him a full account of our League.—Ed.

Franchise has resulted after a few elections in about 80 per cent. of the woman electors exercising the privilege, and in also increasing the proportion of male voters. The results have already been seen in the securing of equal pay for equal work for women and men in some professions, which means that women will no longer undersell men and displace them, except by fair competition; in raising the age of consent; and in promoting moderate temperance legislation—reforms which most intelligent people of any party would approve. There have certainly not been signs of undue conservatism and reaction, nor of ecclesiastical domination, nor has family life suffered. On the contrary the unanimous testimony of the writers was that home life had gained in interest by the discussion of political questions in the homes, instead of in the clubs and taverns.

Recent events in this country have already begun to disabuse the public mind of the idea that the champion of woman's rights is a loud-voiced masculine female of unprepossessing appearance, who neglects her home, husband, and children; and the Amsterdam Conference certainly finally disposed of such an idea. It would be difficult to find any gathering in which so many charming and versatile women were gathered, beautiful not only in themselves, but with that doubled charm and animation which comes from the pursuit of a large and noble aim, instead of the vapid boredom of the narrow pleasure-seeking existence. As to the families, all that need be said is that the men, many of them young university students, who crowded up to obtain particulars of the Men's League, were husbands, brothers, and sons of these forward women, and their only cry was "How can we help the women"?

An amusing scene took place on the Monday evening when the addresses of welcome were given in the large hall of the Concerts-Gebouw. A choral concert was given under the direction of the gifted composer and conductor Madame Catherine van Rennes, who had composed a special cantata in honour of the occasion. The choir consisted of school girls and boys to the number of some five hundred or so, and the cantata contained a verse for the boys only. To see and hear these closely cropped little Dutch blusters breathing defiance on all tyrants, and announcing their intention of fighting for the freedom of their women, was delicious, and brought down the house. We may hope that by the time they reach fighting age their services will not be required.

It is most unfortunate that our chairman Mr. Herbert Jacobs, who was to have represented the League in person, was prevented from coming; and as Mr. Mitchell also was unable to be present, the address of welcome which was given on behalf of the Men's League lacked that authority and detail which it might have had. It was, however, extremely well received, and a special message was sent by the President, Mrs. Chapman Catt, on behalf of the Alliance, expressing great pleasure that a men's organization had for the first time been represented at the Conference, and thanks for its work.

C. V. DRYSDALE.

### The Windows of Downing Street.

GLASS windows have become such a commonplace of civilization that we have ceased to see their moral significance. And not until they are broken in ways other than accidental do we remember how frail is the partition which preserves to the rank and wealth of this country that atmosphere of comfort and seclusion from which they look out with so unimpeded a view upon the mingled life of the street. Any one who passes along the deserted streets of the West End during the hours between midnight and dawn may deduce from those unshuttered and unguarded frontages this at least—that there is for the present a very general acceptance of or submission to the social conditions and inequalities which divide class from class. If it were not so our London police-force would have to be multiplied by ten, or, as an alternative, the rich would have to erect outer shutters to defend themselves from the off-hand

resentment of the poor. Now this parable of the unthreatened windows of the rich is applicable also to the general economy and ease with which we carry on our constitutional government. It is the consent of the governed which prevents the cost of government from becoming a crushing charge upon the community. Within this country all the strongholds of law and order have wide windows comparatively unprotected; and that we can afford so to construct our public institutions is not only a great comfort and economy; it is also a moral emblem.

The millions of glass windows that remain unbroken are an emblem of peace in the State, and the connection between the failure of consent to be governed and the failure of windows to remain intact has ever been a close one in the history of our democracy. Say what you will about the folly of such action, it has always been an accompaniment of strong political agitation, and it does not occur save as the outcome of a movement which has behind it considerable urgency and force.

On Tuesday evening last, when a crowd, estimated by some of the papers at 100,000, had gathered about Westminster to watch the arrests of the militant Suffragists, two women performed what I conceive to have been the merely symbolic action of breaking two panes of glass at the official residence of the Prime Minister of this country. Had their main intention been to cause damage they would, I imagine, have broken many more; and the fact that they stayed their hands when they did is surely a sign that their action was meant as a political warning to the Government, and more especially to Mr. Asquith.

It is, I conceive, a warning that government without the consent of the governed is an expensive luxury. Questions as to that expense have already been asked in the House of Commons; and the two months' imprisonment of the offenders is going to cost this country considerably more than the mere repair of Mr. Asquith's windows. Very similarly, repeated demonstrations outside the House of Commons are going to cost the country money, and at the same time are going to cost the Government prestige and popularity. The police may behave as they did on Tuesday, with conspicuous moderation and tact; but it is impossible to manipulate a turbulent crowd for three or four hours without arousing some of that sense of antagonism to authority which wise governments always seek to avoid. If an organization which has as its basis a just cry for reform long-delayed, has also the power to draw together vast crowds to watch and applaud its militant action, then you may be sure that the course of a resisting government is going to be a course of waste and of expense, infinitely more wasteful than would be the allotment of a few days in Parliament for the furtherance of a brief measure which has already passed its Second Reading by a large majority. For a time, at all events, the glass-windows of government are going to be an expensive luxury, and a very effective forecast of that fact is this ten shillings' worth of damage done in Downing Street on Tuesday last.

I have carefully refrained from saying one word upon that action, either of approval or of condemnation; all that I do wish to point to is its significance, and the cost to this country which will be entailed, if the Government still fails to read the signs of the times.

LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

### Pembroke Election.

THE Liberal candidate, Mr. Walter F. Roch, is a member of the Men's League, having joined us in July of last year. He is a very keen suffragist, whose presence in the House of Commons would undoubtedly, in itself, strengthen our cause. Of course, those of us who believe that the only policy is to oppose the Government, will necessarily regard this as of less moment than the success of an anti-Government candidate. Mr. Roch's candidature is, however, one of those cases in which the policy of disregarding the candidate's personal attitude is most open to question. It is rather difficult for the uninitiated to understand why a member of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage should be opposed by women suffragists.

### Correspondence.

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

#### What are Men Doing?

DEAR SIR,—The question is, What are we men doing just now for women's political enfranchisement?

This matter of Votes for Women is, of course, of very first importance and interest to us. We can all see quite plainly that the refusal of the Government to admit women to citizenship is an insult and an injustice all round—to men no less than to women; and we, as electors, are a party to this discreditable and disgusting state of things unless we are doing our best to get it altered.

What, then, are we doing? and what can we do?

If we take any part in politics we shall, as a matter of course, use our vote and our influence at by-elections to keep out every supporter of a Government which refuses votes to women. The time has come for all of us to make the Government understand we are against it as long as it is against justice to women.

If we can't take part in elections we can identify ourselves much more closely with the active propaganda of the Women's Movement. I don't suggest that it is in any way desirable to break and get into prison—constitutional methods denied to women are still open to men. But we need to lay aside the natural modesty and shyness of the male, and make it plain that the Woman's cause is ours, and that we are awaking to our political and social responsibilities (after all it is the Votes of Men that must finally end the present injustice).

The number of men who marched in the great Procession to Hyde Park was absurdly small considering how many we really are.

Again, at Westminster last Tuesday (June 30) the great majority of men present (I was walking about in the crowd from 7 P.M. to 10) were sympathetic spectators—content passively, to admire the "pluck" of the women—one heard such expressions of admiration on all sides—and leave it at that.

Why if all the men had cheered, as we might have done but for our fearful shrinking from public notice, the noisy little mob of anti-suffragists would have been silenced altogether, and our shout would have been heard within the House of Commons itself.

Then, whenever women get up to question cabinet ministers at public meetings, why aren't more of us present to insist that these questions shall be answered?

It is little enough men can do at this crisis, but at all events we ought not to conceal our convictions, and now that we may safely claim the majority of men in favour of Women's Suffrage we can at least shout with the largest crowd.

Yours faithfully, JOSEPH CLAYTON.

Prospect House, Hampstead, N.W.

#### Reply to Walter Davidson.

MY DEAR SIR OR MADAM,—It is true, as is pointed out by your correspondent, that the average man does not take the Franchise for Women seriously, and that is why those who desire it, and are not of the so-called militant type, have come forward and had their procession, held public meetings, and sent deputations to those in power, realizing that they have too long been working quietly and getting no forwarder the last forty years or more, while the movement has gained immense impetus from their noisier sisters, to whom they gratefully give the credit, and though still keeping to the more orthodox way, they rightfully add their support.

Your critic admits their doings were the same as those of men in like circumstances. But it was not in them laughed at and considered "funny." Surely that is not the fault of the Suffragettes, but of those papers who put in such headlines as mentioned. It has always been a grievance with them that

they were either ignored or else some garbled version far from the truth was inserted, holding them up to ridicule. This has been done to please their men readers, who are accustomed to the women being made fun of in most common entertainments. I have resented this treatment of women from my youth, now a very long time since. I cannot, therefore, allow the poor Suffragists to have that placed on their shoulders. Now the women among the well-connected classes have come publicly forward, the tone of the press has altered for the better; they realise that the large body of earnest cultivated women desiring representation can no longer be ignored without maybe injuring their own circulation.

If Mr. Davidson would read Mill's 'Subjection of Women,' he would have a better understanding of the views held by those in this movement for enfranchising women, but perhaps, like many men, he has an instinctive feeling that there is something against man in it, and so puts his back up and closes his ears and mind to a fair inquiry into the question. Whereas if men would try a new version of the saying, and put themselves in her place, and consider what would best enable their own womenkind to have a better and a fuller life than they have at present in this country, we should have support instead of derision. They enter the struggle for a livelihood, and in it are seriously handicapped by this position of political inferiority to men. Their work is underpaid, and many careers and callings are closed to them. Why should they not have the same opportunity that men have to use the faculties nature may have given them, in whatever way they tend? Is it not disgraceful the struggle women have passed through before being allowed to become doctors or take part in municipal affairs? Has she had justice done her in education in the past, and even now many doors and degrees are closed to her.

Talk of men's chivalry to women! Where is it shown today, when women are asking only for power to vote for those helping to govern the country and to make laws which they equally have to obey? The woman who fulfils the conditions that give the vote to men is more intelligent than the average working man, and more law abiding, and would bring stability in these times of unrest and change.

I confess it astonished me to think of any thoughtful mind wishing to keep women from obtaining the vote, for, as worker or idler, it must have an elevating influence on themselves and their surroundings. All honour be to the men who, perceiving this, are helping the movement all they can.

Yours,

A NON-MILITANT SUFFRAGETTE.

DEAR SIR,—Your note in the issue of *Women's Franchise*, for yesterday unintentionally misrepresents the attitude of the Labour members in the Woolwich Borough Council on the question of Women's Franchise.

The Labour Party's original motion, moved by Councillor Newman, was:—

"That this Council declares itself in favour of the immediate enfranchisement of women, and petitions Parliament to immediately institute this reform."

Councillor Widger, for the opposite side, moved as an amendment:—

"That this Council is of opinion that the Parliamentary Franchise should be extended to women having a similar qualification to that now required for that purpose by men."

The Labour Councillors agreed to accept the amendment provided it were strengthened, and finally the Council unanimously passed the following resolution:—

"That this Council is of opinion that the Franchise should be extended to women having a similar qualification to that now required for that purpose by men; and that all future extensions shall apply alike to men and women."

"That Mr. Asquith be requested at the earliest opportunity to introduce a Bill to this effect in Parliament."

Yours faithfully, GILBERT SLATER.

84, Eglinton Road, Plumstead.

July 3rd, 1908.

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