



Contents.

	PAGE
NOTES	61
THE SUFFRAGE IN OTHER LANDS	62
THE CASE OF WASHINGTON	62
A REVIEW	63
CORRESPONDENCE	63
NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES (Current Topics; Non Voters; Haggerston By-Election; Exhibition of Banners in Manchester; Open-Air Campaign in Reigate; Liberal M.P.s; County Campaign Fund; Branch Societies; Forthcoming Events)	64-66
WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE (late W.S.P.U.) ("We Demand the Vote"; The Parliamentary Committee; The Value of a Vote; Literature; Cinderella; Scottish Summer Centres; East Fife Campaign; Work at Cheltenham; Haggerston By-Election; Branch Notes; The Caravan; Seaside and Caravan Work; Programme of Forthcoming Events)	67-69
MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (Notes and Comments; Haggerston; An Open Letter; Correspondence; Woman's Freedom)	70-71

Notes.

A CONFERENCE has taken place at the House of Commons between the Executives of the English and Scottish Women's Liberal Federations and Liberal members who are favourable to Women's Suffrage, Sir Charles Maclaren being in the chair. A resolution was unanimously carried in favour of introducing next session a comprehensive Reform Bill, which would include provisions in favour of Women's Suffrage. All members who support Women's Suffrage are to be asked to ballot for such a Bill next session.

THE *Morning Post* gives a splendid and ungrudging tribute to the work of women inspectors:—"There are few public servants who show more zeal in the discharge of responsible duties than the factory inspectors, and there is no department of public work in which women have shown their powers to greater advantage."

SPEAKING quite recently at Glasgow, the Hon. William Kidston, Premier of Queensland, said equality and fraternity were watchwords in Queensland. They had given women the vote, and it would quicken temperance reform. As for general politics, the fact of women having the vote did not make any particular change in party arrangements.

THE last of a series of out-of-door meetings for July was held on the Downs on Tuesday, and at the Horsefair on Thursday, under the auspices of the Bristol and West of England Women's Suffrage Society and the Women's Reform Union. The interest shown in these meetings, which will be resumed in September, has proved that the Vote for Women is being recognized as one of the greatest questions of the day. Amongst those speaking have been Miss Baretti, Miss Bradfield, Mr. Clarke, Mrs. Duckham, the Rev. Donald Fraser, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Charles Spencer, Miss Helen Sturge, Miss Salmon, Canon Talbot, Mrs. Randall Vickers, Miss Walters, Mrs. Willis, Mr. Williams, and the hon. secs. of the two societies, Miss Tanner and Miss Mabel Duncan.

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Weekly Numbers, 1½d. 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.

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JUDGING the essays sent in in response to our paragraph offering a prize of 1*l.* 1*s.* has been a difficult matter, as the subject has been treated from so many points of view as to render comparison almost impossible. Happily the difficulty of deciding between two of apparently equal merit was saved us by the fact that one competitor had not conformed to the rules, and we therefore have had great pleasure in forwarding the sum of 1*l.* 1*s.* to Miss Kate Kilburn.

AFTER repeated questions as to the treatment meted out to the imprisoned Suffragists, the Home Secretary has acknowledged that "with regard to the treatment of Second Division prisoners, he was not satisfied, and had taken some action already." Thus, further good has been indirectly brought to others through women willingly suffering for "the cause."

WE note that the industry, resource, and genius of Mrs. Ayrton have placed the British navy in a position to obtain absolutely the best searchlight—one which burns with a steady light, without noise, and is much more powerful and better than anything which is used by any foreign nation. Unhappily for the reputation for unprejudiced business ability of our Admiralty, we also note from *The Daily Chronicle* that "the Admiralty does not, in fact, communicate directly with Professor Ayrton—still less with Mrs. Ayrton. A department of the Admiralty instructs a department of the Board of Trade, which communicates with the Imperial Institute, and the Imperial Institute forwards to Professor Ayrton its idea of what it thinks is the Admiralty's view of the matter under consideration, and he passes it on to his wife."

MISS R. POWELL has kindly sent us 2*s.* towards the expenses of distributing this paper. This has enabled us to give our sandwich-man a day's work.

OUR readers may be interested in the following extract from a letter written from one of the Territorial camps. "Once in three days we are cook's mate. I served a turn yesterday, laying the tables, waiting at meals, and washing up. We sat in a ring, peeled potatoes, and discussed Female Suffrage. There were quite a lot of supporters." Another proof, surely, if one were needed, that the Suffrage is the vital question of the day, the one that, wherever men or women are congregated, in "the court, the camp, the grove," first suggests itself to the imagination.

MISS ETHEL MONTGOMERY has sent a quarter's subscription on behalf of a club at North Berwick.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

FRANCE.—Full reports of the Women's Rights Congress are now to hand, and contain many details of interest to our readers. M. Marin's speech deserves special notice, since it shows the change of attitude in France as elsewhere in regard to the need for Women's Suffrage. "In the nineteenth century most of the advocates of this reform hoped to attain it on the ground of the abstract idea of equality. But however deeply founded this idea may be on justice and the profoundest sentiments of the human conscience, it did not exercise the same strong conviction on all as at the present moment, when backed by countless arguments based on social studies." He enumerated in particular the lower wage paid to women for equal work, an injustice which can only be remedied by the vote, the need of the complementary activity of men and women in public institutions, and the useful part played by women in many different civilizations. "Wherever votes have been given to women, riotous assemblies and coarse journalism tend to disappear as if by magic." At the recent "Return to the Land" Congress, remark-

able evidence was adduced of the excellent effect of women's votes on many popular institutions, and charitable, educational, and thrift societies. How many difficult problems, e.g., that of the *recherche de la paternité* would be promptly solved were a vote granted to mothers. In every domain of social study, arguments in favour of granting the Suffrage to women might be found. Everywhere the point of view was changing; and in France, too, a more favourable opinion was growing. They might hope therefore, that, with the assistance of England's example, it would not be long before the Parliament granted to French-women, first the Municipal, and then the Parliamentary Franchise.

A resolution in favour of Universal Suffrage, without distinction of sex, was passed by the Congress. It was pointed out that under the *ancien régime* women had enjoyed the same rights as men if owners of fiefs, that they had a vote for the communal and provincial assemblies, and for the States-General, from its origin in 1302 to 1789. It was at the Revolution they lost their rights. In 1848 they protested in vain against the so-called "Universal Suffrage," which excluded more than half the nation from participation in public affairs and a voice in the imposition of taxes.

Equally valuable and interesting were the discussions in the other sections of the Congress, which space prevents our noticing.

GERMANY.—A somewhat premature statement on the position of women at the Prussian Universities has appeared in some English papers. Though a large number of women pursue their studies at these, they have not as yet been allowed to matriculate, and are classed as "hearers," rather than "students," occupying in some respects a similar position to the women at Oxford and Cambridge. Nearly all the other German Universities now matriculate women, and hopes are entertained that in the autumn the Prussian will follow suit. The number of matriculated women at the German Universities at the present time is 376; but the total number of women-students, including the "hearers," is over 2,000.

The Case of Washington.

MRS. HUMPHRY WARD has referred to the taking away of the Suffrage from the women of Washington Territory. We have received a leaflet, by Alice Stone Blackwell, from the National American Woman Suffrage Association, setting forth the circumstances under which that happened, from which we quote:—

"Women voted in Washington for the first time in 1884, and were disfranchised by the Supreme Court in 1887.

"Equal Suffrage was granted to women by the Legislature of Washington Territory in October, 1883. The women at once began to distinguish themselves there, as they have done in Wyoming and elsewhere, by voting for the best man, irrespective of party. The old files of the Washington newspapers bear ample evidence to this fact.

"Next came the general election of November, 1884. Again the newspapers were practically unanimous as to the result.

"Charles J. Woodbury visited Washington about this time. In a letter to the *N. Y. Evening Post*, he said:—

"Whatever may be the vicissitudes of Woman Suffrage in Washington Territory in the future, it should now be put on record that at the election, Nov. 4, 1884, nine-tenths of its adult female population availed themselves of the right to vote with a hearty enthusiasm. What is the result so far?"

"He goes on to say that he arrived in Seattle on Sunday, and was surprised at the quiet and order he found prevailing, and at the general Sunday closing of the places of business:—

"Even the bars of the hotels were closed; and this was the worst town in the Territory (except Ainsworth) when I first saw it. Now its uproarious theatres, dance-houses, squaw-brothels, and Sunday fights are things of the past. Not a gambling house exists."

"Women served on the jury, and meted out the full penalty of the law to gamblers and keepers of disorderly houses. The Chief Justice of the Territory at that time was Hon. Roger S. Greene, a cousin of U.S. Senator Hoar, a man of high character

and integrity, and a magistrate celebrated throughout the North-west for his resolute and courageous resistance to lynch law. In his charge to the Grand Jury at Port Townsend, August, 1884, Chief Justice Greene said:

"The opponents of Woman Suffrage in this Territory are found allied with a solid phalanx of gamblers, prostitutes, pimps, and drunkard-makers—a phalanx composed of all in each of those classes who know the interest of the class and vote according to it."

"In his charge to another Grand Jury, later, Chief Justice Greene said:—

"Twelve terms of court, ladies and gentlemen, I have now held, in which women have served as grand and petit jurors, and it is certainly a fact beyond dispute that no other twelve terms so salutary for restraint of crime have ever been held in this territory. For fifteen years I have been trying to do what a judge ought, but have never till the last six months felt underneath and around me, in the degree that every judge has a right to feel it, the upbuoying might of the people in the line of full and resolute enforcement of the law."

"Gamblers and other bad characters, finding Washington too hot for them, crossed the border into British Columbia in such numbers as caused prominent men there to declare that British Columbia would have to adopt Woman Suffrage too, in self-defence. Hon. John D. Robson, in introducing a Woman Suffrage Bill in the Parliament of British Columbia, said:—

"The women of Washington are voting all the gamblers and blacklegs out of the Territory, and they are coming over here."

"Naturally, the vicious elements disliked 'the full and resolute enforcement of law.' The baser sort of politicians also disliked the independent voting of the women. The Republicans had a normal majority in the Territory. But they nominated for a high office a man who was a hard drinker. The Republican women would not vote for him, and he was defeated. Next they nominated a man who had for years been openly living with an Indian woman and had a family of half-breed children. Again the Republican women refused to vote for him, and he was defeated. This brought the enmity of the Republican 'machine' upon Woman Suffrage. The Democratic women showed equal independence, and incurred the hostility of the Democratic machine.

"Then the ever-present liquor question became involved. Dr. Abbott is careful to remind his readers that Woman Suffrage has not led to prohibition, either in Wyoming or Colorado. (This ought to be a recommendation in Dr. Abbott's eyes, since he is himself opposed to prohibition.) Neither did it lead to prohibition in Washington; but a Legislature elected by men and women together passed a local option law which was extremely unpopular with the liquor interest."

(To be continued.)

A Review.

Heroes and Heroines of Russia. By Jaakof Prelooker. (Simpkin Marshall & Co.)

THE author of this book is no mean champion of the woman's cause, as evidenced by the sacrifice made to "educate public opinion" on the subject of "no vote, no pay" (see *Sussex Daily News*, March 30th). The mutual sympathy engendered by this act does not, of course, commit us to any endorsement of his views on other questions, but it does lend an added interest to our study of this his latest collection of "true and thrilling revolution stories" (this may seem a somewhat inconsequent remark, but since we have been solemnly assured by a clerical friend that Women's Suffrage and assassination are intimately related, the disclaimer may not be so irrelevant as it seems at first sight). The book is as fascinating to the intellect as it is puzzling to the conscience. That in the year 1908 large numbers of men and women of every rank and creed should be ready to endure—and even to inflict—torture and death in the hope of mitigating the suffering under which they feel their country to be groaning, surely presupposes a condition of evil which is well nigh inconceivable? Of such evils we

have no claim to speak, neither can we dwell on the revelation which the volume affords of the psychology of the Russian mind. As we read through the volume, it seems to us that less evident bias would have considerably strengthened the author's case, but this is followed by a sense of the realization that if the haunting, iniquitous, infernally gruesome pictures which he presents are true, bias is the lesser of two evils—as dwelling on such horrors might well have produced mental unbalance.

What most closely concerns us is the extraordinary part played by women and girls in the great revolutionary upheaval of the European leviathan. The heights and depths of self-abnegation are surely reached here! The delicately nurtured lady is as conspicuous in the ranks as the peasant's wife and daughter, school teachers, princesses, lady doctors, and priest's daughters have gone out bravely, facing death, and worse than death, in the hope of alleviating the misery which fills their hearts with a more than human pity—this is the picture, which, in the most intimate way possible, these pages reveal to us. Let none read them whose nerves are not of the strongest, as the torture details sear the memory, but let none who would obtain a complete grasp of Russian thoughts and affairs neglect the phase of the question treated of, so passionately, so eloquently, and so well in the book under notice.

Correspondence.

[The Proprietors of "WOMEN'S FRANCHISE" do not necessarily identify themselves in any way with the opinions expressed by their Correspondents.]

SIR,—May I suggest to those who, while sympathizing entirely with this great movement, shrink from making themselves conspicuous to a great extent, that the international badge—a small medallion about the size of a farthing, with a figure of Justice and the words "Jus Suffragii" on it, answers the purpose of a badge (which, I take it, is to enable the adherents of a cause to recognize one another wherever they may be), without calling forth unfriendly remarks or words from outsiders. It seems to me that some of the other badges do thrust our cause down people's throats, and I am sure that many of us believe equally in the "suaviter in modo" and the "fortiter in re." I think we all ought always to wear a badge, as it also serves the purpose of introducing the cause to others sometimes, and the one I commend would never look out of place with any "toilette," which is, after all, worth a little consideration, isn't it? This badge can be obtained from the office of the National Union of W.S.S., 25, Victoria Street, S.W., or from the Woman Citizen Publishing Company, 13, Bream's Buildings, W.C., price 7*d.* post free.

Yours faithfully,

A MEMBER OF THE N.U.W.S.S.

SIR,—It may interest some of your readers to learn that at a well-known church in the north-west of London the prayers of the congregation have been asked Sunday by Sunday for one of the members now undergoing a month's imprisonment.

Feeling as I do the deeply spiritual significance of the movement, it is encouraging to find that an ever-increasing number of church people are realizing this fact.

Yours faithfully,

LUCY CRICKMAY.

DEAR SIR,—May I proffer the suggestion that, as both the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the newly formed Anti-Suffrage League are in want of funds, if a public debate between three leading women on each side could be arranged for the autumn, it would be very educational, and both societies could sell tickets, for which I doubt not there would be a good demand.

Yours faithfully,

AUGUSTA E. HARRINGTON.

3, Holly Terrace, West Hill, Highgate, N.

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.

Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON.

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

Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.

Organisers: MISS E. M. GARDNER, B.A. MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON.

Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA.

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. MCLAREN.

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

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

MISS WARD
LADY STRACHEY
And the Hon. Officers,
ex officio.

Current Topics.

We have received a copy of a circular which has been widely distributed in a district within two miles of Pontypridd, the place where Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Despard were recently refused a hearing. The circular is "An Appeal from the Cymmer Colliery Workmen and the WOMEN of the Locality," and it urges them to take up the cause of the Federationists as "the women and children will be the Greatest Sufferers should there be a cessation of work." By supporting the Federationists the women are told they will earn the gratitude of the Cymmer Colliery workmen. To refuse women a hearing and deny them the vote, while at the same time appealing for their co-operation on matters far outside the range of domestic duties seems a glaring piece of inconsistency. We wish we could make it the subject of a special leaflet and give it the fullest publicity in the district.

Most of the leading reviews for July publish articles dealing with various aspects of the Women's Movement. *The Nineteenth Century* gives us the Anti-Suffrage point of view by Lady Lovat; this article has been ably answered by Miss Palfiser in our pages. *The Contemporary* contains two excellent contributions on 'The Rebellion of Woman,' and 'Liberalism and Women's Suffrage,' by Mrs. Billington-Greig and the Hon. Bertrand Russell respectively. Mrs. W. Elmy writes on 'Party Politics and Justice to Women,' for *The Westminster Review*, and Mrs. Grossman contributes a most interesting account of the 'Woman Movement in New Zealand' to the same review. *The National Review* contains an article by Violet Stuart Wortley on 'Feminism in England and France,' and an Onlooker in *The Empire Review* in 'Suffragettes in Canada,' compares methods of dealing with the Suffrage question.

The Spectator of July 25th publishes an enthusiastic article of welcome to the Anti-Suffrage League. It rejoices in the fact that the constitution "places the whole of the direction of the movement, as it should be, in women's hands, and therefore precludes the opponents of the League from declaring, as they might otherwise have declared, that the movement is really a man's movement masquerading as a feminine agitation." Unfortunately for this statement, *The Times* of July 22nd, in a full account of the inaugural meeting of the Anti-Suffrage League, held the previous day, reports Lady Haversham, the Chairman of the Provisional Committee, as having said that "a few months ago, a Parliamentary Committee took up the question and appealed to the ladies, with the result that the latter formed a committee." It is perfectly obvious, therefore, if Lady Haversham has been correctly reported "that the movement is really a man's movement masquerading as a feminine agitation."

The analysis of the poll of the Fellows and Members of the Royal College of Surgeons regarding the admission of women to examination for the diplomas of fellowship and membership are interesting. They show a majority of 415 against their admission to membership, and a majority of 1,182 against their admission to fellowship. The votes of the

Fellows taken separately show a majority of 288 in favour of admitting women to the membership, and a majority of 34 in favour of admitting them to fellowship. The votes of the Members, taken separately, show a majority of 703 against admitting them to membership, and a majority of 1,216 against admitting them to the fellowship. 1,043 Fellows voted out of 1,373 available voters, and 8,543 Members voted out of 13,800 available voters. The report will be considered by the Council in October. This result is a good instance of the sex prejudice and jealousy which women have to contend against.

Non Voters.

July 29th, 1908.—Question: MR. YOXALL.—To ask the President of the Board of Education, if his Majesty's Inspector of Schools for the district has reported concerning the dismissal of several teachers at Aberdare who are married women, some of whom are near the pensionable age, and will therefore be unable to complete the maximum service entitling to a pension; whether he has been informed that some of the vacancies thus created are to be filled by the appointment of teachers who are related to a member of the Aberdare Education Committee; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

Answer: MR. RUNCIMAN.—I have not received a report upon this question; but in view of Section 35 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, it is within the power of a local education authority to terminate the engagements of teachers in their employment, and the Act gives the Board no power to intervene. I have no information as to the last part of the question.

We are constantly met by people who are unaware of any disabilities under which women suffer. The above instance is one which goads us into feeling how ignorant or hypocritical is much that is said about the reverence due to the mothers of the nation. Women teachers, if they have contributed 2l. 4s. per annum, and fulfilling certain conditions, may receive a pension at the age of 65. The women in question were nearing this age, and there could be therefore no question as to their neglecting their young children, yet these women, simply because they are married, are deprived of their livelihood at the instance of a local board of men. It is generally recognized that these Government pensions are a form of deferred pay, and therefore these women have been grossly swindled by their employers, who have had their work at a lower rate because of the advantage of the pension.

Surely it is hardly encouraging morality to deprive any woman, when she marries legally, of her wage-earning power.

M. I. CORBETT.

Haggerston By-Election.

July 31.

NOTHING could be more different from Pembrokeshire! Whereas there it was the extent of the constituency which created difficulties; here it is, on the contrary, its limitations. Within half a square mile innumerable agencies are at work, and the daily open-air meetings run into hundreds, all the best pitches being secured long before the time of meeting. We

have managed since Monday night to hold twenty-seven open-air meetings. Indoor meetings proved a complete failure, owing to the glorious weather. We could have done twice the work had more speakers been forthcoming, but nearly all our friends seem to be out of town.

Though the district is a wretchedly poor one, with not too good a reputation for morals or manners, we have had nothing to complain of. All our meetings have been perfectly orderly, and the questions quite exceptionally reasonable. There seems to be very little prejudice here against Women's Suffrage, but a great deal of opposition to the "Limited Bill," which they say will not enfranchise many Haggerston women. All our heckling has really come from the "adulterers."

An amusing incident occurred on Thursday, when Mrs. Cooper's audience insisted that a Tory speaker, who had risen up and called her speech "twaddle," should make her a formal apology. Until he did so they hooted and yelled down all his attempts at advocating Tariff Reform. Several ladies have been kind enough to help in distributing leaflets, and Miss Georgiana and Miss Emily Hill, Miss Kilgour, Mrs. Rackham, Miss Corbett, Miss Grove, Mr. Theedam, and Rev. G. Duncan, have kindly been down to speak. Miss Thomson has also been indefatigable in helping us in every way. The regular workers here have been Mrs. Cooper, Miss Rowlette, and myself.

MARGARET ROBERTSON.

Exhibition of Banners in Manchester.

THIS exhibition was held in the Memorial Hall in Manchester on July 16th and 17th and excited great interest. The galleries on the sides of the hall lent themselves particularly well to the display of the banners, which were arranged in two tiers, the larger ones hanging from the balustrade, and the smaller ones from the curtain poles above; others showed to advantage from wooden screens and from a line slung across the room. No one could fail to be struck by the wealth of imagination expressed in the design of the banners and by the perfection of their workmanship. Nor was the interest merely artistic, but also educational. It was felt to be an opportunity for honouring some of the women who have won especial glory in divers spheres of thought and action, and it was also a stimulus to those whose lives are still before them. Short speeches, delivered at intervals, were much appreciated, and the occasion was utilized for making an appeal for help in organizing a great demonstration and procession to be held by the North of England Society for Women's Suffrage on October 23rd and 24th. The value of such an opportunity of making known the work of the Society, of enlisting fresh supporters, and of arousing the enthusiasm of old ones, cannot be overestimated.

Open-Air Campaign in Reigate.

A VERY successful afternoon meeting was held on July 7th by the kind invitation of Mrs. G. Taylor. The chair was taken by the hostess, who spoke of the importance of the "burning question" of "Votes for Women." She was followed by Mrs. Jagger, who evoked constant laughter by her racy account of her adventures when canvassing for the meeting. She called upon all the women present to read and think and talk about the subject on every opportunity. Miss R. Pym, Hon. Sec. of the Society, then gave a few reasons why women want the vote, touching upon the social and industrial needs and duties of women of the present day. One member and five associates joined the Society on the spot.

The next meeting was held in the Market Square on July 13th at 8 p.m., the speaker being Miss Ransome, and a large crowd soon collected, who listened attentively to her clear and logical putting of the case for Women's Suffrage. Mr. Bart Kennedy, the well-known writer, who is a Reigate resident, and who has on former occasions championed the Woman's Suffrage cause in the borough, made a vigorous speech.

"You say women should not have the vote," he said, "because they won't fight. How many of you men here to-night

have joined the Territorial Army? Women, if need arose, could fight as well as men" ("With a copper-stick!" shouted a man). "And the copper-stick would do as well as anything else at a pinch," retorted the burly author-tramp. Two other gentlemen followed Mr. Bart Kennedy's example in taking up the cudgels for justice to women, Mr. Kershaw (the first Mayor of Shoreditch) and Mr. Andrews, of the Town Council, who remarked that the family life and the daily dinner would not be much upset because a woman slipped a piece of paper into a box once every few years.

On Monday, July 20th, Miss Adeney held an invitation garden meeting in the afternoon, and although the doubtful weather kept some guests away, a good many gathered to listen to Miss Hammond's able and humorous address. She dealt most skilfully with the Anti-Suffrage manifesto, taking it clause by clause, and unveiling its inconsistencies and weaknesses. Discussion was unfortunately cut short by the fact that Miss Hammond was speaking again in the evening at the open-air meeting, and had to hurry off to rest and refresh. She left her audience looking forward eagerly to hearing her again at some future time.

Liberal M.P.s

A VERY interesting meeting of the Liberal Members in favour of Women's Suffrage was held in the House on Tuesday, July 28th. Members of the Women's Liberal Federation were present. It was decided to bring in a Reform Bill, if possible, during next session, which, while simplifying the present complications of the Franchise for men, would extend these simplified conditions to women. By this means it is hoped the Government would be forced to declare whether the basis for Women's Franchise laid down was sufficiently democratic to fulfil Mr. Asquith's conditions of May 20th. Then if this private member's Bill is taken over by the Government, well and good, and if not, it would be possible to frame such an amendment to the promised Government measure as the Government could not possibly oppose. The Women's Liberal Federation will be asked to draw up an amendment for the consideration of the M.P.s.

County Campaign Fund.

Previously acknowledged.—Argyll, 1l.; Berks, 1l.; Berwick, 2s. 6d.; Cambridge, 10l. 10s.; Channel Islands, 1l. 1s.; Cheshire, 2l. 2s.; Cornwall, 1l.; Cumberland, 5s.; Devon, 1l.; Dorset, 5l.; Durham, 4s.; Forfar, 5s.; Glamorgan, 2s.; Gloucester, 10s.; Hants, 2l.; Hereford, 6l. 10s.; Kent, 19l. 9s.; Lanark, 2l.; Lancs, 31l. 3s.; London, 86l. 11s.; Middlesex, 14l. 13s.; Midlothian, 1l. 1s.; Oxford, 1l.; Perth, 1l. 1s.; Rutland, 10s. 6d.; Suffolk, 1s.; Surrey, 18l. 3s.; Sussex, 23l.; Warwick, 2l.; Wilts, 10s.; Yorkshire, 2s.

Further donations have been received as follows, making the total for each county as noted in right-hand column:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Antrim—Misses Macnaghten				0	2	0
Ayrshire.—Miss Bowman				0	2	6
Cambridge.—Mrs. Lewis, LL.D.	5	0	0	15	10	0
Clackmannan.—Miss Virtue				0	5	0
Essex.—Miss Hare				0	3	0
Gloucester.—Gloucester W.S.S.	7	10	0			
Mrs. Malleon	1	0	0	9	0	0
Hants.—Mrs. Benson	0	5	0			
Miss Keighly	0	2	6	2	7	6
Herts.—Miss Edith Bateson				1	0	0
Kent.—Mrs. George	0	10	0	19	19	0
Lanark.—D. M. Stevenson, Esq.	1	1	0			
The Misses Young	0	16	0	3	17	0

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Lancashire.—Mrs. Brocklebank	1	1	0			
“Two Schoolmistresses”	0	4	0			
The Misses Greene	0	2	0			
Miss Wübbe	0	10	0			
Miss Meade-King	5	0	0			
London.—Miss Gates	0	10	6			
Miss Green	26	5	0			
Middlesex.—Miss Leresche	0	5	0	14	18	0
Midlothian.—Mrs. O'Keefe	0	10	0			
Miss M. R. Cooper	0	5	0			
Miss Nisbet	5	0	0			
Miss Methven	5	0	0			
Mrs. Carlyle Gifford	0	3	0			
Miss Lawrie	1	0	0			
Notts.—Mrs. Dowson	1	0	0			
Miss A. M. Dowson	0	10	0			
Selkirk.—Mrs. Sim	0	5	0			
Somerset.—Mrs. Bogle	0	5	0			
Mrs. Latter Parsons	0	2	6			
Surrey.—Miss Justice	0	10	0			
Mrs. Flügel	2	2	0			
Miss Hale	0	5	0			
Sussex.—Miss Gaskell	5	0	0			
Grand Total to Friday, July 31st	307	8	0			

The sincerest thanks of the Union are also due to Mrs. Illingworth for a cheque for 105*l.*, and to Mr. Walter McLaren for one for 50*l.*, both received too late for acknowledgment above.

Branch Societies.

BIRMINGHAM.—A successful meeting was held at the Midland Institute July 20th, the speakers being Mr. Stanger, M.P. and Mrs. Cooper. The hall, which holds 1,000 people, was practically full—and the resolution was passed with only four dissentients. Afterwards Mr. Stanger and Mrs. Cooper addressed an out-door meeting in Chamberlain Square—which the Liberal Association had advertised—for the purpose of discussing Women's Suffrage. The resolution was passed here, too, with a large majority; but the speakers were often interrupted. The crowd followed Mrs. Cooper and Miss Taylor to Station Street—booing and hooting—but were more curious than dangerously hostile. The local papers commented on the foolishness of demonstrating against ladies who only pursue constitutional methods, and so it did more good than harm.

CHELTEMHAM.—A highly successful garden meeting was held on Saturday afternoon, the 25th inst., by kind invitation of Mrs. Frances Swiney, President of the Society. Between fifty and sixty persons were present, including Miss Faithfull, Principal of the Ladies' College, several members of Whiteway Colony, and one or two foreigners. Mrs. Swiney took the chair, and gave a brief but vigorous opening speech, after which the hon. sec. read a report of the Amsterdam Congress, which she had attended as representative of the Society. This roused considerable interest. The chief speaker of the afternoon was Mrs. Clara Bewick Colby (U.S.A.), who in a brilliant, amusing, and comprehensive speech gave the true history and present state of the American campaign for Women's Suffrage. She exposed the misstatements of the Anti-Suffragists, who, she said, existed for the purpose of stimulating Suffragists to fresh victories. A resolution was then carried unanimously “That this meeting approves the principle of Women's Suffrage, and urges the Government to bring it forward as a measure of first importance next session.” This was to be sent to Cabinet Ministers. Much business was afterwards done among the guests, eleven new members joining. A dozen badges were sold, and Miss Lilian How, the indefatigable literature superintendent, disposed of pamphlets, &c.

GLOUCESTER.—This society numbers now forty-nine members, eleven having joined since the last meeting on June 25th, when Mrs. Martin from Bristol came and gave an address, a very good account of which appeared in the *Citizen*, the local paper, the next day.

LONDON, Highgate.—A very successful Suffrage Tea was given on July 21st by Mrs. Thomson. Mrs. Garnett acted as Chairman, and in an able address Miss Janet Case discussed Mr. Asquith's recent pronouncement, and the consequent duty of all women in favour of the Franchise to definitely join one of the Suffrage societies. Dr. Constance Long urged all present to act as Suffrage missionaries during their holidays, and Miss Straker, in support of that idea, instanced that as a result of a paper read by her during her holiday last Easter at Milton (near Bournemouth), a branch was started which now numbers a hundred members.

At the close of the meeting several ladies joined the London Society, and copies of *Women's Franchise* and other Suffrage literature were sold.

Wimbledon.—Through the kindness of Lady Gibb, the members of our Society, as well as a large number of ladies and gentlemen interested in the Suffrage question, gathered on the 10th inst. to hear an interesting and amusing address by Miss Hammond, who dealt with several aspects of the question.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Portage, a garden meeting, under the auspices of the above-named Society, was held on July 22nd, at Wykeham House, Shirley Road, Southampton, a large number of members and friends being present. Miss Spencer, who was in the chair, in her opening address referred to the manifesto just published by the Anti-Suffrage League, wherein seventeen reasons were given why women should not have the vote. She thought it would be quite easy for their Society to find seventy very good reasons why women should have the vote.

Miss Corbett (Secretary of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies) gave an interesting report of the meetings of the International Suffrage Alliance recently held in Amsterdam.

Miss Boswell and Mr. Howard also spoke, and urged the necessity for individual effort. Mrs. Biggar proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Corbett, and also to Mr. and Mrs. Portage for so kindly lending their beautiful garden and entertaining the company. Mrs. Mitchell seconded, and the vote was carried by acclamation.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Mr. H. Y. Stanger, K.C., M.P., was the principal speaker at a meeting held here on the 17th ult. Seeing the admission was only gained by payment, the attendance was good, about 200 being present. Mr. Watson Caldecott, M.A., head master of the Grammar School, presided, and he was supported by Mr. Stanger and Miss Eden-Lewis of Oxford. The Chairman, dealing with the so-called argument of physical force, pointed out that nine-tenths of the men who served in the Army and Navy were disfranchised. Miss Eden-Lewis proposed a resolution calling upon the Government to deal with the question of Female Suffrage during the present Parliament by passing an Act “to give the Parliamentary vote to all duly qualified women.” Miss Lewis urged that if women were capable of influencing and persuading others to vote they were surely capable of exercising the vote themselves. It was on account of women's care for her home that she wanted to go into politics. Miss E. Jones, a member of the Education Committee, seconded the resolution. Mr. Stanger explained at some length the terms of the Bill, and said he was not without hope that the Government would deal with the question before going out of office. In conclusion, he said it was quite possible that the Committee who were dealing with this question might introduce a Reform Bill of their own next session, and see how that was criticized. The resolution was carried with only three dissentients. Councillor Henn proposed a vote of thanks, which was seconded by the Rev. S. R. Genge.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

August 6, 7, and 8, Cambridge. Exhibition of Banners, in Assembly Rooms, Downing Street.

Admission, 6*d.* and 3*d.*; Tea, 6*d.*

Opening Ceremony, 4 P.M., Thursday, August 6th, Prof. James Ward, Sc.D., LL.D., M.A., in the Chair.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

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

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. GRAHAM MOFFAT.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.S.C., A.R.C.S.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

National Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG

“We Demand the Vote.”

Ask with logic and with reason,
Ask it in and out of season;
Ask with nonsense and with sense,
Ask with speakings and beseechings,
Ask with pamphlet and with teachings,
Ask with poverty and pence.

Ask with meetings and petitions,
Ask with learned deputations,
Ask with faces sternly set,
Ask with anger newly risen,
Ask with martyrdom in prison,
Asquith adamantine yet!

MABEL COTTERELL.

The Parliamentary Committee.

LESS than fifty years ago marks the commencement of the agitation for Woman Suffrage in this country. To John Stuart Mill must be ascribed the honour of investing the movement with authority and gravity, but his great treatise was written on too lofty a plane of philosophic reasoning to move popular opinion, and its chief value is now to be found in the copious materials for argument with which it provides the advocates of the Suffrage. Very gradual was the advance of the movement during the sixties and seventies, but thinking people became by degrees impressed with the justice of the demand, and its advocacy passed from the study of the philosopher to the floor of the House of Commons; but there was little driving force in the movement, academic debates in Parliament were followed by derision which represented doubtful opinions, and often were regarded by those who recorded their vote in favour of the Suffrage as constituting no more than a pious opinion favourable to the idea of political equality. Later on some additional strength was given to the movement by the increase of the number of Suffrage societies, and the association with the movement of women well known in the world of politics, literature, and art. Thus for many years the movement progressed slowly and intermittently, until towards the end of the nineteenth century it seemed rather to have been set back than to have advanced.

But now a change so startling and sudden as to be almost unparalleled in the history of political movements has taken place. From the region of drawing-room symposia and debating society discussion it has passed into the larger arena of public meeting and popular demonstration. It is no longer the pleasant hobby of fashionable ladies; the lower middle class and the working class are beginning to recognize, with daily increasing force, that upon the votes of women must depend very largely the solution of those great social and ethical problems upon which depend the material and moral improvement of the community.

But there is one point of great and deplorable weakness in the Suffrage movement, and that is the lack of any effective organization in the House of Commons to promote the passage of an Enfranchising Bill, or to protect and advance the interests of women. What the efforts of a compact, if small, body of members can effect in the advancement of any cause with which it is identified, has been proved by the achievements of the Irish party, and in a larger degree of the Labour party. It is not reasonable to anticipate in the present position of political affairs, and indeed of public opinion, that constituencies will elect

members to form a Suffragist party, but it is quite possible to organize the friends of the movement in the House of Commons, so that there may be more unity of action and purpose in the pursuit of their policy than hitherto.

It is with this object that in connexion with the Women's Freedom League, a Parliamentary Committee has been formed. In association with it, as vice-presidents, will be a large number of M.P.s who have taken an active and friendly interest in the movement. From them the Committee hope to secure eventually something like organized effort in the House. Moreover the Hon. Secretary of the Committee is an M.P., and as a medium between the Committee and other members his services should be valuable.

The Committee will not neglect the work of propagandism by literature and public meetings large and small, and will make it a special business to provide speakers for all meetings, whether organized by the League or otherwise, and already they have a large number of meetings in view.

The want of such a Committee has long been felt, and with energy and perseverance it ought to achieve much for the cause.
L. A. ATHERLEY-JONES.

The following fourteen gentlemen have already accepted the positions of Vice-Presidents of our newly formed Parliamentary Committee:—

Mr. H. C. Brodie.	Mr. H. Y. Stanger.
Mr. T. Hart-Davies.	Mr. F. Summerbell.
Hon. Claude Hay.	Mr. O'Grady.
Mr. J. T. Macpherson.	Mr. Jowett.
Mr. J. Parker.	Mr. Percy Alden.
Sir J. S. Randles.	Mr. Samuel Roberts.
Mr. Philip Snowden.	Mr. F. Leverton Harris.

Miss Cicely Hamilton has returned from Switzerland, and will speak at the Women's Freedom League “At Home,” Caxton Hall, on August 27th.

Mr. L. A. Atherley-Jones, K.C., M.P., at our Caxton Hall At Home, last Thursday, gave a very interesting speech on the present political situation and the objects of the new Parliamentary Committee, and emphasized the vital importance of persevering with the militant tactics of the League.

The Value of a Vote.

If there be still nurses or midwives that need to be convinced of the importance of the Parliamentary vote to women, the experiences of Miss Rosalind Paget in her twelve years' hard work in the interests of the Midwives' Bill ought surely to convert the waverers. Writing to the editors of *Nursing Notes* her reasons for supporting the extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to women, she gives a picture of the different attitudes taken with regard to this particular Bill towards those who have and those who have not votes. The Midwives Act was a Bill that concerned women only; it was not a party measure. But it was not the opposition that hindered the progress of the Bill so much as the indifference of the House of Commons to a measure that concerned the safety and welfare of large numbers of women who, having no vote, could not make themselves felt.—*Nursing Times*.

Literature.

At this time of the year most of us are thinking of holiday-making, whatever we regard as such. To some it may spell rest in a quiet village, or a sojourn in one of the fashionable seaside resorts, to others a moorland tramp, or travelling on the Continent; but wherever we may be, and whatever we may do, we will find people, and furthermore we will try to convert them to "Votes for Women."

Are we well armed with facts; are we well equipped with literature? At holiday time one has such scope for disposing of the latter, and there is such a variety from which to choose. We must be able to interest every kind of person we come across, and also to leave behind us something over which they can think. The history of our movement is full of detailed matter of which the ordinary person knows next to nothing, and which is so useful if we wish to render our narrative graphic, and to catch the imagination of our listener.

Now the first book I recommend you to pack is 'Towards Woman's Liberty,' which really contains all the matter necessary for the preparation of a Suffrage debate. It gives a history of the movement, including a list of the numerous Bills which have been before Parliament, the reason why women should have the vote, and the arguments against. The book is well printed, has an artistic green binding, and is only 4d. It is just the thing for the unconverted, being concise and interesting to read, even on a fine day.

We have just published a book which was greatly needed. It is 'Woman under the Law,' and is written by W. G. Earengay, LL.D. Lond., who is a member of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage. It is so necessary that we should know exactly in what essential the law is not just to woman, because sooner or later, the unconverted is sure to ask us to define our objections. This book is also 4d., and is written in a style quite intelligible to the ordinary lay mind.

Mr. Asquith's promise of a Reform Bill reminds us that we should know the arguments both for and against the so-called Limited Bill. I believe the only book published giving both sides of the question is the verbatim report of the debate last December. 'Limited Bill v. Adult Suffrage.' The booklet is 2d., and should be widely circulated among people of either tenet.

The author of 'Towards Woman's Liberty' has written another book which you should have by you. It is a large pennyworth, and is called 'Tactics: Past and Present.' We have other penny pamphlets written by distinguished Suffragists, but three in particular I recommend to your notice: two by Israel Zangwill and the third by the Rev. R. J. Campbell—'Woman's Suffrage and the Social Evil'—whose title shows more eloquently than I can that the book should be in the hands of all.

Penny post-cards are perhaps the easiest way to spread the cause. A posted post-card portrait of Mrs. Despard, or our other leaders, goes through so many hands before it eventually reposes on the boarding-house hall-table, or in the hotel letter-rack, and all the while it is gently educating the public, be it only to the insignificant fact that all Suffragists are not the unsexed, awful-looking harridans depicted by the press. Besides these portrait post-cards we have cartoon post-cards concerning the movement, and in the course of a week or so we shall have on sale a post-card of John Stuart Mill's statue as it was during the recent Suffrage celebrations, also one of our caravan taken during a halt in Chichester.

We supply literature to our branches with a discount of 2d. in the shilling, and we will do trade with other Suffrage societies at the same rates.

We shall be glad to provide the trade with any of the literature published by the Women's Freedom League at the usual trade rates, and hope our members will help us to do business in this way.

Leaflets for free distribution can be obtained from us at the following rates:—

Suffragettes and their Unruly Methods :
Reasons Why Women Need the Vote, 2s. per 1,000 net.

Why Women Should Not Have the Vote;
Real Representative Government;
No Vote no Tax;
Adult Suffrage, 4s. per 1,000 net.
Membership Cards, 1d. each, 8d. dozen.
Badges "Votes for Women," 1d. each, 10d. dozen.
Red Badges, 1d. each, 10d. dozen. E. M.

Cinderella.

ONCE upon a time there lived a man, who had six sons and one daughter. He had a wife also, but she did not count. On the occasions of the birth of a son there was great rejoicing—the city bells rang out and the people danced with joy for that a man child had been born into the world. But alas! when a daughter was born, a bulletin was posted: "Only a girl." The expectant people turned away in disgust, the bells were silent, and "the parent" wept tears of disappointment. The boys were christened Victor, Roy, and other such names, suitable for those who should rule and govern the world. The little girl was called Cinderella.

When they grew old enough to share in the management of their father's estates, and in the profit and pleasure to be derived from them, the boys took for their portion all the management, all the profit, all the pleasure, saying, "We are men!" But they did not forget their sister. Of her they said: "Cinderella is a woman, therefore cannot rule—she is the 'weaker vessel,' therefore cannot work (at least, not for wages). She is female, and made to please, therefore requires no pleasure." "But," they added in a burst of generosity, "her weakness appeals to our chivalry; we will protect her, we will even feed and clothe her, we will let her sit by the chimney-corner in our home, while we work." But as time went on they found that a great deal of the work was irksome, some even revolting to their manly natures. So they said, "This must be woman's work, Cinderella shall do this in return for her keep, so that in serving us her happiness may be complete."

Poor Cinderella, whose opinion had not been asked on the subject, now found herself very busy. All the drudgery, all the work requiring patience—in short, all the work that the brothers did not like doing—was left to her. For some time she toiled on uncomplainingly, thinking it a great honour to serve the nobler half of creation; but one day when she was blackleading the chimney corner (she had no time to sit in it) a fairy-godmother appeared before her, and with a little wave of her wand said: "I bestow upon you the gift of Education." From that day Cinderella began to be discontented. She said to her brothers: "I, too, could manage and govern the estates if I chose. After all, they are mine as well as yours. I, too, ought to share in the profits, for, without my necessary work, humble though it may be, the whole would become disorganized. I can see, too, that you are not making a complete success of it—each one of you is thinking of his individual advantage; each suspects the other. There is no mutual co-operation, so the time is wasted in the efforts of one to undo the work of the others. As to my interests, they are altogether neglected. The estates are suffering from this system. I believe it to be not only my right but my duty to interfere." Then the brothers were very much amused, and laughed long and loudly. Cinderella shrank into herself for a time, until one day, when she was preparing the pigs'-wash, the fairy-godmother once more appeared, and said, "I bring you the gift of Courage." After that the sneers and laughter of the men did not deter her from urging her claim morning, noon, and night. At length the brothers stopped laughing, and got angry. "Go back to the kitchen and the wash-tub," they said; "that is a woman's sphere." But she was so persistent that at last, for the sake of peace, they held a council and determined to give her a small share in the management of the household. This, it was hoped, would put a stop to her complaints. Nevertheless, Cinderella, though pleased with the slightly added dignity of her position, was still unsatisfied. "I shall never be silent," she said to them, "until I obtain my share in the management of the estates, and until I am free to choose my work as you do, and until I gain the profit that the work creates." Her earnestness

and persistence were so great that one or two of the brothers began to admire her and to think that perhaps after all she was right. They espoused her cause, but only brought down upon themselves the dislike of their former companions.

Here we must leave them. The next chapter is in the future. But prophets tell us justice will be done to Cinderella, and that she and her brothers will live happily ever after.

Scottish Summer Centres.

Carnoustie.—The meetings on the East Coast continue to be largely attended. Arbroath, Broughty Ferry, and Monifeith were duly visited. At Carnoustie on Thursday last, owing to the temporary indisposition of Mrs. McNeill, Mr. Bowman, M.A., Lecturer in Logic and Psychology in the University of Glasgow, very kindly consented to speak, and, taking for his text the Aristotelian dictum that man is a political animal, dealt with the subject from the standpoint of the philosophic thinker. His address was listened to with keen interest. Miss Farquharson, at the same meeting, dealt with the arguments brought forward in Parliament and by certain women writers.

A Café Chantant and Cake and Candy Sale will take place on August 6th. F. M. McNEILL.

East Fife Campaign.

Commercial Road, Ladybank, July 31st.

THIS week an effort has been made to work up the smaller villages in East Fife. Meetings were held in Collessie, Dimshill, Strathmyglo, and Pitlessie. At some of these places we had a lively heckling. Everywhere our audiences have been very sympathetic, many people showing their sympathy by signing the memorial to the Prime Minister. A. C. SCOTT.

Work at Cheltenham.

OVERHEARD in a dairy here.

Lady, to friend, over an ice:—

"Did you spend last evening at the gardens?"

"No! I went to hear the Suffragettes: they talk absolute sense."

This was encouraging to the two novices who held an open-air meeting on Monday evening, and gained attentive hearing from a fairly large audience.

Another meeting was held last Thursday, with Mrs. Swiney in the chair. Madame Mirovitch spoke, and we had the unexpected privilege of welcoming a new supporter in Dr. Hadwen of Gloucester, who made an interesting speech to a large audience. Miss Howes of Bournemouth gave an account of her prison experience. E. W.

Haggerston By-Election.

OUR fight against the Government was carried on during the past week with great energy. Mrs. Moore held the fort at 97, Hackney Road (our committee rooms), while Mrs. Despard and a large number of other speakers made tours of the constituency throughout the day.

All three candidates declared themselves in favour of "Votes for Women." The Liberal candidate in his election address went so far as to exhort the electors to send us the heartiest message of encouragement in their power. This advice was taken, and the Government defeated by a majority of 1,143.

Branch Notes.

Manchester Branch.—The first open-air meeting was held on Tuesday, 28th inst., on a piece of ground the centre of four busy thoroughfares in Weaste. A large crowd gathered to hear Mrs. Mitchell, who was introduced by the Hon. Organizer. The crowd was very appreciative; a number of questions were asked, but, as usual, most of the work was done after the meeting was closed; small crowds congregating round the various members, who explained the difficulties away. An invitation to address some sympathizers in private was tendered and accepted for Tuesday evening next. Leaflets were distributed, literature sold, and a good collection taken. M. B.

Central Branch.—Members please note that during the month of August there will be no indoor meetings. Open-air meetings will be held every Thursday at 8 p.m. in Hyde Park. Please rally round and support us here.

Central Branch members have been having a very busy and exciting time during the Haggerston by-election, helping to try to keep the Liberal out. P. H.

The Caravan.

THE campaign in Eastbourne has gone very well. The ground had been well prepared by Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett. Meetings were held nightly at the Fountain and at Devonshire Place. The audiences and the general interest grew, and the various speakers were received with great sympathy. Especially does this movement appeal to the women of Eastbourne, because they support the town with girls' schools, colleges, and boarding houses. Our most ardent supporters perhaps were several charwomen who rallied round and roused much interest in the cause among their fellow-workers. Mr. Jaakoof Prelooker and the Misses Reid have given great assistance, and prepared the way for Mrs. How Martyn and Miss Neilans, who arrived July 30th (Thursday) to take charge of the van.

MURIEL MATTERS.

Mrs. Despard reached the Caravan on Aug. 4th, and it then left Eastbourne for Hailsham. The further itinerary will be Battle, 6th-10th; Rye, 10th-12th; Appledore, 12th-15th; Ashford, 15th-19th; Canterbury, 25th.

If any readers have friends near these places will they kindly send names and addresses to the Hon. Sec. (18, Buckingham Street, Strand), who will also be glad to hear of members who will help with the caravan any time during August and September.

Mrs. Despard will be with the Caravan during August.

Seaside and Caravan Work.

HELPERS are very urgently wanted at Weston-super-Mare, also at Eastbourne, and in East Fife,

also volunteers for Caravan work during August and September. Please send names and addresses to the Hon. Secretary, W.F.L., 18, Buckingham Street, Strand. Miss Woodall will be glad to hear of helpers at

Paignton and Bournemouth during August.

Address, care of Mrs. F. Smith, Ardarth, Osney Crescent, Paignton.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.
August 5th to 13th.

			P.M.
Wed.	5. The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath	Mrs. Nevinson Mrs. J. Brindley Mrs. Hicks	7.15
Thurs.	6. "At Home," Caxton Hall Westminster	Mrs. Despard Miss Molony Mrs. Wentworth Gosnell	3.30
	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Mrs. Nevinson Miss Lawson Miss Hillsworth	8
Fri.	7. Prince's Head, Battersea	Mrs. Duval Miss Underwood	8
Sun.	9. Wandsworth Common Battersea Park Brookwell Park Finsbury Park Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Mrs. Duval Mrs. Duval	12 3.30
Thurs.	13. "At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	Dr. Bourchier Miss Molony Dr. Thornett Mrs. Despard Mrs. Holmes Dr. Helen Bourchier	3.30
	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Mrs. Brindley Miss Benett Miss Hillsworth	8

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

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

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

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.
Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.
Hon. Literature Secretary: A. S. F. MORRIS.

Notes and Comments.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on the last Tuesday in July, it was provisionally decided to hold another great public meeting in January or February of next year. The date depends on arrangements still pending with the proprietors of the hall.

We have pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to a new pamphlet published by the Women's Freedom League. It is entitled 'Women under the Law,' and contains a clear and concise statement of women's legal status in all the various aspects of her life, both as an individual and as a member of the community. The author is W. G. Earengy, B.A., LL.D. (Lond.), a member of the Men's League. He is to be congratulated on the clearness and accuracy of his brochure on a subject which is essentially technical and does not lend itself easily to compression and simplicity of statement. Price 4d.

Haggerston.

THE Government reverse at Haggerston is an event of doubtful significance to Suffragists. All three candidates expressed themselves as favourable to our cause. Mr. Guinness, the victor, was perhaps weakest of the three, if one is to judge from his reply to inquiries, and from the absence of any mention of the cause in his election address. At the same time he is pledged to vote for the amendment to Mr. Asquith's promised Reform Bill, and that is all perhaps that we can expect. As regards Mr. Warren, his absence from the House is, on purely personal grounds, a distinct loss, inasmuch as he is very actively in our favour, and even addressed a Suffrage meeting pure and simple in the course of his short and busy candidature.

At all events Mr. Asquith will once again have his attention drawn to two salient facts. The first is that there is another woman's suffragist in the House of Commons; the second is that all three candidates for a London constituency pronounced themselves in favour of the cause. All these facts are precisely of the kind which he demanded in his last utterance on the subject, and as the days pass the answer to his fundamental inquiry is being given on every hand. How long will he stand out? Is he prepared to face the obloquy—for it will be obloquy—of having held back a Liberal Government from a just and much-needed reform for which there is a large and growing demand? He will find himself at odds with the electorate, and will have to retire from his position.

An Open Letter.

TO THE ANTI-SUFFRAGE LEAGUE.

YOU may—if, indeed, you condescend to glance at the foolish effusions of those who advocate Women's Suffrage—have wondered why my letter has been so spun out. No, my august friends, it is due not to any difficulty in replying to your arguments (observe how well bred I am!), but to the harsh interference of an Editor, who has twice cut me short just as I was getting vigorous.

You will permit me to quote your next paragraph *in extenso*, in order that there may be no suggestion of misrepresentation. It runs:—

"In making our strong protest against the extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to women, the promoters must not be

understood as disapproving their admission to the Municipal Franchise, and to membership—under the Act of last year—of Local Government Bodies. Women have done admirable work as elected members of School Boards, and Boards of Guardians, and as co-opted members of Education Committees throughout the country. They are here within their rightful province; but the field covered by the Local Government Franchise is broadly and clearly divided from that covered by the Parliamentary Franchise; and we take our stand upon the natural distinction which exists between the two."

Had you not specifically said that this is where you "take your stand," I should have been able to restrain myself; as it is I have frankly and brutally laughed. You do not disapprove of municipal franchise for women or men, active work on municipal bodies, and you see a "natural distinction" between these two things and voting for, or being a member of, Parliament. Now you cannot speak properly of a "natural" distinction in such a sphere at all; but let us pass that. At all events, we see the practical meaning of your distinction. It is harmless, and even desirable, for a woman to join in considering municipal lighting, trams, sewage, education, housing; but national matters she must not touch. Why? Nothing you have said in the early part of your manifesto explains the distinction. Respect for law would go if women shared in its making? What about municipal by-laws, the levying of rates, a decision about playgrounds? Have women lost their benign influence by having a municipal vote? Why, no! there is no sign of any difference whatever, unless it be in the opposite direction.

The duties of active work on local bodies are incomparably more exhausting than voting once in four or five years for a parliamentary candidate, and demand a far greater number of persons than are needed for both houses of Parliament put together. They are considerably more complicated, though of smaller importance, than those of an M.P., who can generally trust blindly—because he must—to the guidance of his chiefs. Local government is full of special committee work in immediate relation to practical affairs, and every person concerned is practically bound to devote to it much time and thought.

Correspondence.

43, Mitchell Street, St. Luke's, E.C., July 23rd.

DEAR SIR,—In *The Daily Graphic* of July 1st there was an illustration of gorgeously dressed women being entertained on the Terrace and inside the House of Commons, and this illustration was headed 'Women whom the House Delights to Honour.' In another part of the same paper were the women whom the house was "delighting" to send to prison for three months in the third division for trying to present their resolution demanding their enfranchisement.

The House has a right to select its own heroines, but I should esteem it a favour if you could find place in your columns to enter my protest as a taxpayer against the House being turned into a restaurant for entertaining and the entertainment of members and Cabinet Ministers. Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., in his article on the House in *M.A.P.* of June 27th says: "There are hours when you ask yourself whether the House of Commons is a legislative assembly or a great international hotel. You see crowds of fashionably dressed women; you see crowds of men in evening dress; and you hear the popping of corks, the loud buzz of conversation, the peals of laughter—everything, in fact,

that you expect to find, not in a grave, deliberate assembly, spending laborious nights in the study and discussion of momentous affairs, but in a caravanserai, a race meeting, or a fashionable regatta: you might think yourself on Epsom Downs, on Ascot Heath, or the river at Henley rather than in the Palace of Westminster, and I am sure that the gradual giving up of all housekeeping, which is one of the peculiarities of the modern legislator, is largely due to the fact that if he has to entertain his friends there is no place where he can go more agreeably to them or more conveniently to himself than to the dining-room of the House of Commons."

In to-day's *Times* we read that "the Right Hon. Mr. Lewis Vernon Harcourt, M.P., has entertained the French Senators, Deputies, and their wives in the House of Commons," and that "a dinner was given to the Prime Minister last night by Balliol men who are at present members of the House. The Chairman, in proposing the health of the Prime Minister, said some of the newspapers had apparently discovered that what marked off Balliol men from others was an intellectual pre-eminence."

It is, of course, interesting to learn that the House contains so much intellectual pre-eminence, but as a working woman, paying her quota of taxation to the country for the upkeep of the Cabinet and the House, I should be glad to see that intellectual pre-eminence put to the service of the State during the Parliamentary Session, rather than to the social obligations of its possessor.

It is a sad, but significant fact that the ladies "whom the House delights to honour" will shortly be off to the moors, the Mediterranean, and to Cowes, while the women who are making the brave fight the other side of the House are working out their time as common criminals in the third-class division, herded with those sad products of economic chaos, the drunkard, the wanton, and the thief!

Yours obediently,
MAUD ARNCLIFFE SENNETT.

[We are permitted to publish the subjoined letter which was sent to *The Times*, but not published.—Ed.]

To the Editor of the 'Times.'

SIR,—The able letters of Mr. Zangwill and Miss Harraden on Woman Suffrage, which appeared in your paper a few days since, emphasized the power of a movement which is beginning to command attention—and to inspire enthusiasm among a growing number of men and women. That phrase—men and women—carries with it a point which may be brought forward at this time to aid somewhat in a fuller understanding of the Suffrage movement. Will it benefit men as well as women. We note, as we read history, that all great reform movements advanced the interests of both. We know also that a norm or principle of tremendous momentum has, from earliest times, pressed upward for expression through humanity. An age-long push. A slow upheaval can be traced, which slowly transforms the inertia of ignorance into the propulsive power of intelligence.

Where this principle finds a hardy nation with better brain power and cleaner outlook, it displays a more rapid development and gradually sweeps that people into storm centres of reform. Then come attempts to throw off some yoke—some kind of slavery, some relic of ignorance. Therefore this latest phase of its power should measure up to this universal requirement or be content to take a lower place than its advocates claim for it. Perhaps it is too close for us to realize its significance. It might, indeed, be symbolized as an object too near the retina of human intelligence for its true proportions to be seen. We should turn it round and round, up and down, this way and that before we can hope to get a full view. Let us take just one view of it for a moment. We will select an average family of sons and daughters about to enter upon their real life among the people of their generation. The girls go out to social, business, or philanthropic circles, and one can readily see that, in the event of intelligent legislation in this matter of the Franchise, they would benefit enormously. Justice would henceforth be meted out to them as to men in the statutes of the common law, and before the courts of Christian lands. They would no longer be

subject to the disgrace of being a disqualified portion of a nation. They would have enlarged opportunities of usefulness, and enlarged consideration from their fellows. Their legal disabilities would be at an end, and their responsibilities and privileges would coincide with other law-abiding and intelligent adults.

The boys of this family turn to the business world, where they find, side by side with industrial slavery and discontent, irresponsible power and greed. Or they face the social world of selfish absorption, idleness, and frivolity. They enter diplomacy, only to discover that personal ability has been changed to personal prestige, wealth, social backing, and so on through many other avenues of activity. Can they, I ask you, find a rational, clean-minded world where they can exercise the talents God gave them without encountering overpowering hindrances and temptations? This is the moment when the established enfranchisement of women should bear invigorating and strengthening fruit. When even partially freed from the dominating influences of the lower types of mankind, the might of women's approval has always been on the side of clean living and high thinking. This is her natural plane. She has been dragged below it by her desire for approval and love. Her sins have ever been the sins which follow fear. When placed in her natural position—neither above nor below, but by the side of her brothers—the entire range of civilized activities ought to feel the benefit of her simplifying and purifying influence. Her judgment, as it advances nearer to intelligent freedom of choice, will inevitably demand a higher standard of living in public and private life. The movement is a cry for justice and a better type of morality, and those who try to withstand it are in reality striking a blow at their own and their sons' advancement in civil and spiritual liberties.

Woman's Freedom.

CHATS ABOUT PERSONS AND BOOKS.

No. 7.—An Harbourooue, &c.—(continued).

AYLMER enjoins support to Queen Elizabeth. "Is it not better to heale the mother and mistress of thy country with thy goods and body: then by withholding thy hande, and niggling, to make her not hable to kepe out thine enemy: haddest thou rather that thy auncient enemy the proud french man, or untrusty Scot, should come to ransake thy coffers, to defour thy wife, to rauish thy daughters, to beat thy childrens brains upon the walles, to fire thy house . . . drie away thy cattle . . . and bring thy country to naughte: then that the Queenes officer should take the 20. parte of thy possessio's, for thy defence? . . . If thou mystrust the mysspendyng of that thou geuest, and she taketh thou art to folish. For culd she that in al her lyfe, hath leued upon her owne, so humbly without pride, so moderately without prodigalitie, so maydenly without pompe: now fynd in her heart, in unnessary charges to lashe out thine? I pray the . . . marke these two poynts which I know to be true (although in that sexe they be straunge) vii yeres after her fathers death . . . in all that tyme she neuer looked upon those precious jewels that her father left her but ones, ad that agaynst her will . . . I am sure, that her maidenly apparel, which she used in Kyng Edwardes tyme, made the noble mes daughters and wyues to be ashamed to be drest and paynted like peoockes . . . And this all men knowe that whe' al the ladies bent upon th'attire of the Scottish skyrtes, at the commyn in of the Scottische Quene, to go unbrydled, and with their heares frowned and curled and double curled: she altered nothinge . . . An other thng to declare, how lytle she setteth by this worldye pompe, is this: That in all hir tyme, she neuer medled with monye but agaynst hir wyll . . . I haue suppressed my name that my penne might be the freer, wherfore if thou thinkest that either I speake more than I thynke, or do that I do for any hope of benefite: thou doest me wrong . . ."

(To be continued.)

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