

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. I.—No. 25.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

## NOTICE.

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

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

## EDITORIAL.

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

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## WHAT WE THINK.

### Liberal Bovril.

"Brother, they want more," say the members of the Cabinet one to another of the unappeasable Irish Party. Mr. Redmond, always on the verge of being satisfied, is still reported as wanting more. The political situation is unprecedented. No one is satisfied. The great unrepresentative House has been indulging in brilliant recriminations in the intervals of marking time. In the course of a wordy battle between Mr. Haldane and Mr. Austen Chamberlain some significant things were said. Mr. Haldane made the statement that taxes could be collected on the mere resolution of the House of Commons. Mr. Chamberlain asked why they were not being collected, and Mr. Lyttelton said they were. "Then," said Mr. Chamberlain, who, it will be remembered, is an anti-suffragist, "they are, but from whom?—from their own civil servants. *They are always strong against the weak.*" While standing wholly outside these party recriminations we can echo Mr. Chamberlain's words. The Liberal Government is strong against the weak. Mr. Asquith, grown fretful, tells his questioners to "wait and see." He has used similar cryptic utterances towards us, and we have grown tired of waiting. But it is not impossible that we may find that the insatiable demands of his allies will have caused him to soften towards us, whom, inasmuch as he tries to keep us weak, he probably regards as really so. Jacob outside the walls of Jericho wondered how he could rive them. And it was only after a long time spent in cogitundity of cogitation that he raised his eyes and saw the angel and her legions waiting to help him. This, of course, is but a parable. The angel's legions might help this modern Jacob, and they might not. But if Jacob would raise his eyes he might find the experiment worth trying. Meanwhile the Irish want more, and willy-nilly, the political housekeepers must provide it.

### The Ideal Home.

The ideal home, its structure and furnishing, has been attracting a good deal of attention lately, but the object has been mainly an advertising one, and the physical comfort of the inmates has been the be-all and the end-all of its originators. Physical comforts have not a little to do with happiness, but they are not everything, and as long as the law stands in its present relationship towards women even the ideal home can be broken up

again and again if it does not contain the ideal husband. In one of the daily papers last week a brick-layer was charged at Old Street with deserting his wife and four children whereby they became chargeable to the parish. Dressed in her workhouse clothes, the prisoner's wife, described as "a pleasant-looking woman," stood up and passionately cried: "I want a separation, sir. I don't want to spend the remainder of my days in the workhouse. This is not the first time he has left us to go on the parish. I come out of the 'lump' and get a bit of a home together, and then he finds his way back to me. He gets rid of that, and then away he goes again. Give me a separation. I can do for myself and the children, so long as he lets us alone, but what can I do as long as he has power to come and upset us and throw us all on the parish again whenever he likes?"

As long as a husband has the power of throwing his wife on the parish it is idle to talk or think of the ideal home.

### Prevention of Destitution.

In a House filled with sympathisers drawn from every party the Bill for the prevention of destitution came up for discussion. The majority report demands the reform of the Poor Law: the minority its abolition and the introduction of a new system. Now, the fact remains that there are more women paupers than men. And though in the drawing up of these reports both women and men had a share, yet for the final arrangements that will become law men and men only are responsible. In those dreary hostels for the poor throughout the country the flotsam and jetsam of womanhood, hopeless and weary, are housed; some obtain outside relief it is true, but their condition is often little better than that of those who are within the walls. Many of these women are poor old women who have given sons to the State; many of them are deserted wives; all of them are suffering through some flaw in the legal and economic system which has been made by men. "For every pauper there is a sin," says a great writer; but the sin is not necessarily that of the pauper, and it is a great scandal that legislation of this kind shall be initiated without first enfranchising the women of the country. The Children's Charter, with its strange and cruel class legislation, is sufficient to prove the incapacity of one sex alone to legislate in matters that affect the lives of the poor.

### A Brave Girl.

Continually in the unsavoury parts of London where disorder and lawlessness prevail we find women coming forward to protect constables who are attacked in the execution of their duty. A Sunday paper says that on Saturday at Stratford a girl named Katherine Sturt was commended by the magistrate for coming to the assistance of a constable who was being pelted with stones. The officer had to arrest a young man for disorderly conduct, when one of a large party of youths cried out, "Let's out him," and commenced throwing stones at him. The girl went to the constable's assistance, and was severely hurt by a stone on the temple. The Chairman remarked, "I think the police should be very much indebted to Miss Sturt for her assistance. It was very brave of her to interfere, with forty hooligans attacking the policeman."

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### LETTER FROM MRS. DESPARD.

DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS,—

In my leader of a few weeks ago, "The Political Wheel," I tried to call your attention to the dangers that at the present moment threaten our cause, and to the urgent need for increased work and added enthusiasm. I venture as one who has many sad experiences behind her to address you still more urgently. "The Political Wheel" shows signs of greater stability than was the case when I last wrote. It is true that none of the political parties are agreed as to what the issue of the present conflict will be. But the pressure being brought to bear on the House of Commons proves that the impatience of the electorate over this political deadlock is beginning to be felt both by the Government and the Opposition, and this means for us—what?

Surely that we must be vigilant, watchful, active. Soon—very soon—our moment may come. The question is—will it or will it not find us ready?

I have heard it said in various tones—now of regret, now of exultation—that there is a slump in the Woman's Movement. I do not believe it. I believe rather in that strong hidden force which is the source and secret of our spring forward, and therefore I appeal to you, my sisters in our League, set yourselves to prove by action that the Woman's Movement is not slackening; that, on the contrary, it is as vigorous and as thrillingly alive as it ever has been. Increase our membership. Every one member should, during this apparently inactive moment, bring another. THE VOTE wants volunteers—help us in that way. Help us by contributions to our exchequer. Place drawing-rooms at our disposal for meetings. Push our literature, a large selection of which we have in stock at 1, Robert Street, Strand. Give us personal service. If you have happy inspirations as to forms of propaganda or the raising of funds, send them or bring them to the office. I hope to be much there myself during the spring and early summer, and I shall be glad to see any who ask for me. I could tell them, for instance, of an admirable class for speakers led by Mrs. Chapin and initiated by our central branch.

These are a few suggestions. You will think of many other ways of helping. All I entreat is that you will lose no time in coming forward. The battle is to the strong; the victory to the brave.

Yours in our great hope,

C. DESPARD.

### CAXTON HALL "AT HOME."

The first "At Home" of the season was held at Caxton Hall on Thursday last, with Miss Bennett in the chair. Mrs. Amy Sanderson and Mr. Malcolm Mitchell were the speakers. Mrs. Sanderson spoke of the work of the League and of women's work in the future. She thought that it might take administrative form, and that they should even take their share in administering laws of which they did not approve so that the best results might ensue. She also warned them against allowing personalities to make them intolerant. They must not mistake the person for the principle and end by disliking both.

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Thinking about or discussing personalities was not good for either party.

Mr. Malcolm Mitchell (hon. secretary Men's League) observed that things were much more hopeful at the present time, and they were interesting supporters and forming branches all over the country. They had found that a small branch of the Men's League had more political significance than a large branch of a Women's League at election times.

### JOHN STUART MILL.

On May 20 the Women's Freedom League will once again celebrate the birthday of John Stuart Mill. It is proposed to have a "cortege" of carriages, motors, and vehicles of all kinds, large and small, to follow a floral tribute which Mrs. Despard will lay on the statue of our great leader.

Members are urged to make every effort to enlarge this "cortege," and to assist in every possible way to make the tribute a worthy one.

All vehicles must be decorated, and any private member or branch who will take part is asked to communicate at once and to send a description of the vehicle she will bring.

The Freedom League as a whole will be responsible for one wreath, but as many as are sent will be placed on the statue, and all will be welcome; all wreaths, however, should be in the Freedom League colours or in the colours of such other society as may care to send them.

Further particulars will be announced later.

All communications should be addressed to Miss SIME SERUYA, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

### FAREWELL PARTY TO MISS MURIEL MATTERS.

On Monday, April 4, a very successful "farewell-party" was held at 31, Bedford Street, Strand, to bid "bon voyage" to Miss Muriel Matters, and to Miss Violet Tillard, who accompanies her on her trip to Australia. About sixty of Miss Matters's friends and admirers were present, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. Our very grateful thanks are due to Miss Craig for so generously placing her flat at our disposal and to all those who contributed to the success of the evening. Mrs. Sproson, on behalf of Mrs. Billington-Greig, presented Miss Matters with a beautiful bunch of roses, and on behalf of the League wished her "bon voyage," success in her campaign in the Commonwealth, and a speedy return to us. Mrs. Holmes seconded her remarks. Miss Matters, in a feeling speech, thanked all those present for their kindness to her and spoke of her desire to convey to our sisters in Australia the truth of our movement here, to fight against the probable bringing in of the C.D. Acts in some of the States, and to return to us with news of the work which is being carried on by our enfranchised sisters. Telegrams were read from Mrs. Billington-Greig and others who were unable to be present. Several floral trophies in the colours were presented to Miss Matters.

### "GOOD-BYE" FROM MISS MATTERS.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

I want to thank all the members of the Freedom League for their sympathy and goodness to me since the day I first joined them.

It has been impossible for me to write to the many people who have proved themselves my friends, but I

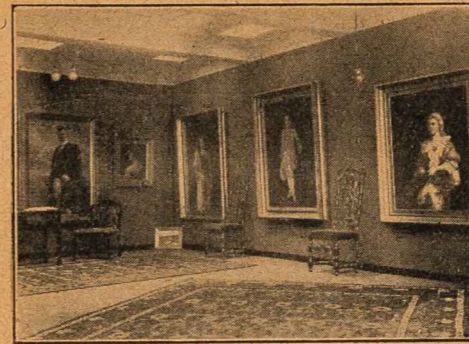
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want them all to know, particularly the members in the provinces, how truly grateful I am. During my absence I should like to let them know, through your columns, how the cause is prospering in Australia.—Yours sincerely, MURIEL MATTERS.

### SPEAKERS' CLASS.

The Speakers' Class was held at 1, Robert Street, last Tuesday evening for the second time.

There was a good attendance, and during the evening we had the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Despard come amongst us and listening to her kindly criticisms.

Mrs. Chapin, who is giving her valuable time, has inaugurated an entirely new system to us, the "Delsarte." She has commenced with scientific principles by which she hopes to develop to the fullest extent the vocal chords of our promising speakers.

It was originally intended to hold the class once a fortnight, but on Mrs. Chapin saying she was quite willing to give up one evening every week it was unanimously agreed to accept her generous offer.

Judging by the enthusiasm and talent shown, we shall soon have quite a number of clever speakers, fully qualified to deal with all kinds of heckling.—E. LEYSON.

### RESULT OF PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

In the competition "Suffragettes at Home" a large number of excellent and interesting photos were received from our members. The task of selecting the best was not easy, but it was finally decided by Mrs. Thomson-Price, who awarded the prize (£1 rs.), that it should be divided between

Mrs. Joseph McCabe,

16, Elm Grove Road, Cricklewood,

who sent in a delightful photo of "Washing Baby," and

Mrs. John Russell,

Holly Hedge Cottage, Well Road,

Hampstead,

for a photo "Home Nursing," showing her tending an aged relative. It is significant that both prizes were awarded for home subjects in which the importance of women's work in tending the helpless at the beginning and at the end of life is shown.

Honourable mention is given to photos sent in by Mrs. Dilks (Eastbourne), Mrs. How-Earengie (Cheltenham), Mrs. Scrimgeour (Glasgow), Miss Agnes Leonard (Sheffield), Mrs. Hicks (Hampstead), Mrs. How Martyn (Totenham), Miss Povey (Clapton), Mrs. Despard (Nine Elms), Miss Neilas (1, Robert Street), Miss Gill (Hampstead), and Miss Ballam (Hampstead).

The prize photos will be published next week and the week after, and the others afterwards in succession.

### "THE VOTE."

A Suggestion.

One of our VOTE organisers has written in to us suggesting that, amongst other ways of helping, mem-

bers of the W.F.L. might buy a dozen or more copies of THE VOTE each week, or as often as they can, and send or sell to friends, present to local libraries, or sell locally. To be responsible for at least a dozen copies at the small outlay of one shilling is surely a cheap way of helping the cause. Not a few of our members have come to us as a result of conversations with street-sellers, and those who undertake this kind of work are amongst our most valuable propagandists.

### An Offer.

The directors of THE VOTE, realising that there are many friends of the Suffrage who know of others favourably disposed to it, but not yet on the list of subscribers to THE VOTE, have decided to send the paper post free for four weeks to any address in the United Kingdom which shall be sent in by readers to THE VOTE. Address requests to the Managing Director, THE VOTE, 148, Holborn Bars, E.C.

### "WORSE THAN SLAVES."

A significant communication from the special correspondent in Leeds of the *Daily News* appeared in the issue dated April 2nd:—

A report which has been issued by Miss Jones, a well-known Yorkshire factory inspector, throws an unpleasant light upon the evils which attend the employment of married women in the textile factories.

"Married women in the West Riding of Yorkshire," says Miss Jones, "in addition to bearing the children and caring for the home, are often expected partially, and sometimes wholly, to support their family. In a number of cases which come under our notice the wives work all day in the mill, and on their return tidy the home, baking and washing for the family. Many do not retire until midnight, rising again early in order to make some preparation for a midday meal before going to work. In the dinner hour they quickly return, prepare the meal, serve the husband and children, swallowing their own food far too hurriedly, and again hasten back to their duties. Their lives often appear to be little better than those of slaves, and many at forty-five are broken-down women, prematurely aged.

"If a community is to be judged by the status of its women, certainly the condition of the working women here reminds one of coolie women in India or those of many of the African tribes, where women are more or less beasts of burden. The moral effect upon the men is very disastrous. It encourages them in selfishness and idleness, and many of them become exceedingly lazy."

"The remedy," Miss Jones thinks, "lies not in total prohibition, which would increase many moral dangers, but in fixing wages according to work done, and not, as now, according to sex conditions."

### Regent's Park.

The open-air meetings which are held by the Central Branch every Sunday morning at 12 in Regent's Park have attracted large crowds. Last Sunday Mrs. Amy Sanderson was the chief speaker, and held the crowd as much by her earnestness as by her logical arguments. Miss Cressy was in the chair and spoke well. A large amount of the success of these meetings is due to the energy of their organiser, Mrs. Raoul de Vismes.

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## MARION HOLMES.

By LOUISA THOMSON-PRICE.

I arrived just at the psychological moment for interviewing Mrs. Holmes on Suffrage matters, for she was dividing her attention between a pile of needlework and her youngest daughter—a small maid of six, whose constant interrogations demanded a good deal of consideration. That frequently-voiced assertion, on anti-suffragist platforms, that the bold bad Suffragette is an unsexed creature, for whom the claims of home have no charms, seems in constant danger of being relegated to the bounds of fiction, for our militants are so often discovered *in flagrante delicto*, and here was a case in point. If only I had had the good luck to be accompanied by THE VOTE photographer I could have secured one more subject for our series of "Suffragettes at Home" photographs.

Although Mrs. Holmes is another irritating disappointment to the "Antis," in that she will persist in being "a womanly woman," at any rate in the precincts of her own home, she is nevertheless one of our most militant of militants. There was no need to ask when she first became a Suffragette. When I heard her speak at Caxton Hall, several years ago, I knew then that she was one whose nature was opposed to injustice and that her desire for woman's freedom must have been an almost life-long intuition.

"I think I must have been born a fighter," said Mrs. Holmes. "In my early childhood I was brought in contact with the storm and stress of life. Brought up in the North, in a mining village, the terrible misery of the poor was ever present. My mother took a keen interest in the workers, and one of my earliest memories is watching the men who were out on strike for a living wage pulling a wagon round the villages to collect food for their wives and children. I had a passionate longing to grow up in order to be able to help those who work and suffer, so you see I was trained in a school which produces rebels."

"Did you read much on reform questions?" I asked. "Yes; when I grew older. As a child I was fond of imaginative literature. I read all Charles Dickens' works before I was thirteen; in fact, I was somewhat omnivorous. Nothing in the way of literature came amiss. I married when I was very young, and my husband's sympathies being broad and in unison with my own, married life had no cramping or stultifying influence on my energies."

"Another disappointment for the Antis," I ejaculated. "Most of the leaders in the militant movement are married—and happily married."

"Yes; I am afraid we have disappointed them in many ways. By all the laws of logic and reasoning, as

declared by anti-Suffragists, the militant societies should by this time have 'fizzled out'; yet we are increasing in numbers and strength month by month and year by year."

"When did you first take an active part in the Suffragist movement?" was my next question.

"My definite active work for woman's freedom dates back more than fifteen years. We went to live at Margate, and I made the acquaintance of Mrs. Wools, who, like myself, felt very strongly on the subject of the disabilities—legal, industrial, and domestic—under which women suffer. Together, we founded the Margate Pioneer Society for promoting among women an interest in all progressive movements, including, of course, the suffrage. The first meeting of the society was held in my drawing-room. The society grew and grew, until it numbered several hundred women. Party politics were entirely excluded. We recognised that the Suffrage, which was the fundamental basis for the attainment of most of the reforms for which we were striving, was a question of justice, and not of party."

"And it was at this time that you first began to speak for the Suffrage Cause?"

"Yes; we held many debates and discussions on the Suffrage and other progressive movements. Frankly, however, I am not fond of public speaking, and only engage in it from a sense of duty."

Remembering Mrs. Holmes's many powerful and eloquent addresses from the public platform, I expressed astonishment.

"Yes; I have spoken, and do speak continually," went on Mrs. Holmes; "but I love writing rather than speaking. It is quite true that I have lectured on

many and various subjects—garden cities, religious art, new thought, theosophy, and that darling of my heart, Woman's Suffrage—but I never face an audience without some amount of trepidation. I prefer to reach my public through the written rather than the spoken word."

Mrs. Holmes has a singularly rich and wholesome personality, one that touches life at an infinite number of points. She possesses the saving grace of humour—a valuable asset to a worker in the Suffrage Cause. That she is no mean artist is evidenced by the records of the brush which adorn the walls of her home, and she served for some time as a member of the Margate School of Art Committee. We of the Women's Freedom League have reason to be grateful to her for her able editorship of THE VOTE during the first few months of its existence, and we also owe her thanks for the admirable pamphlet she has recently published, entitled "The A B C of Votes for Women."



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In small shops it is often the wife who manages the whole business. Yet so long as she does not separate her trading name and capital from that of her husband's, the law makes no allowance for her industry, but awards to him the whole profit of the business.—LADY McLAREN.

### WOMEN AND THE LABOUR EXCHANGES.

The attitude of the new Labour Exchanges with regard to women's interests cannot be regarded as entirely satisfactory. For the present, at any rate, the Exchanges will have nothing to do with demands for domestic servants, and large numbers of women are debarred from registering. Very significant, too, was the reply given by the President of the Board of Trade last Friday to a question asked by Mr. Keir Hardie in the House of Commons. Mr. Buxton presented a statement of the names, date of appointment, position, and salary of the higher officers concerned in the administration of the Labour Exchanges Act, the list including Mr. W. H. Beveridge (director), £700 to £900; Mr. C. F. Rey (general manager), £600 to £800; Lord Basil Blackwood (assistant manager), £450 to £600; thirteen divisional officers at £400 to £600, and a lady organising officer for women's employment at £300 to £400. It is hard to see why the one woman appointed, whose duties presumably coincide, *mutatis mutandis*, with those of the divisional officers, should receive an initial salary of £300, as against a divisional officer's £400, and rise only to £400, as against his £600. A similar policy prevails with regard to the less important posts; comparatively few women have been appointed, and the principle of "equal pay for equal work" appears not to have entered at all into the calculations of the authorities.

### Mrs. Sproson.

Mrs. Sproson is available during April for Monday 25th, Tuesday 26th, Thursday 28th (evening), Friday 29th (afternoon). Her vacant dates for May are May 7th (evening), May 8th (evening), May 9th (all day). Any branch who will fix up a proper meeting for her, open-air, should apply at once to S. Seruya, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

"I think I remember that you were a worker in the Women's Liberal Federation in days gone by," said I.

"Yes; I am one more Liberal woman 'out on strike.' I was also one of the Fabians, but I have given up membership in all societies save one—the Women's Freedom League—for I hold it as an anomaly that a woman should be a member of any political society while her rights as a political unit in this country are unrecognised. Women who at the present day ally themselves with political parties are beating the air. The time has come for striking a decisive blow for freedom, and we cannot afford to waste valuable time. I feel most keenly the position of the woman in the home. The degraded industrial and economic position appeals to me, of course, but the inadequate recognition of the wife and mother under the law is a disgrace to civilisation. Women make the homes and homes make the nation, yet the position of the married woman is, legally, worse than in almost any other civilised country."

Mrs. Holmes is one of those in the front rank of militants who have supported theories by deeds as well as words. She took part in the lobby demonstration in the House of Commons in 1906, and formed one of the deputations to Mr. Asquith in February, 1907, suffering, in company with Mrs. Despard, arrest, and imprisonment within the walls of Holloway Gaol. She has done yeoman service for the Women's Freedom League at the bye-elections, and has addressed big and enthusiastic meetings in various parts of the country. To know Mrs. Holmes is a liberal education. She carries with her an atmosphere of geniality and broad-minded sympathy which impress not only her audiences, but those who come into personal contact with her in private life, and we who know how hard has been the fight and difficult the way have reason to be grateful that we have soldiers such as these to keep the flag flying.

### DEPUTATION TO LABOUR PARTY.

The deputation to the Labour Party at the House of Commons, which had to be postponed owing to the Mid-Glamorgan election, took place on Tuesday last.

The members of the deputation were Mrs. Despard (President), Miss Bennett, Mrs. Amy Sanderson, Mrs. Manson (members of N.E.P.), and Mrs. Cobden Sanderson. They were received by Mr. Barnes, M.P. (Chairman), Mr. Duncan, M.P. (Barrow-in-Furness), Mr. Parker, M.P. (Halifax), and Mr. Roberts, M.P. (Norwich). The deputation was introduced by Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Amy Sanderson, who asked that the Labour Party as a Party would support the removal of the sex-disability. Mr. Parker said that no such Bill would have any chance at present, but Mr. Barnes promised to report to the Labour Party on Thursday. He said, "We in this room are all in your favour. If the Party is disposed to make a declaration it would be in favour of adopting the removal of the sex-disability as a party measure at present, while advocating complete adult suffrage in the future." A reply was promised for Friday.

### Preliminary Announcement.

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and many others to be shortly announced.

TICKETS—Stalls, £1 1s. & 10/6 (reserved), 5/- unreserved—can be obtained from Criterion Restaurant, and from the Hon. Secretary, Actresses' Franchise League, Adelphi Terrace House, W.C. (Phone—City 1214), and at the Suffrage Societies.

## THE VOTE.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1910.

### THE ADULT SUFFRAGE BOGEY.

A step forward on the road towards a fairer appreciation of the demands of the Women's Suffrage Societies was taken recently at the Conference of the Independent Labour Party. It is a significant sign of the times that such a resolution as that sent in by Finsbury, re-affirming the demand for adult suffrage and the political equality of the sexes, and the immediate extension of the franchise to women on the same terms as it may be granted to men, should have been carried. Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., always the good friend of the Woman's Movement, and one who has shown his well-balanced judgment on more than one occasion when the questions of adult suffrage and the removal of the sex bar have come into antagonism, again showed the fallacy of insisting upon an extension of the franchise before those duly qualified persons from whom the vote is at present withheld had been given an opportunity of exercising the political rights which, from a human point of view, belonged to them.

The old adage that "there are none so blind as those who will not see" applies very forcibly at the present moment to those members of the various democratic parties who refuse to separate the two issues—woman's political enfranchisement and adult suffrage.

The adult suffragist who believes that, in a country whose traditions have been, for all time, on the lines of slow yet sure-footed progress, a wide-spreading democratic measure, such as the enfranchisement of every man and woman of full age, can or will come into almost immediate action, must indeed be either ignorant of the political history of England or blind to the fact that all real reforms are brought into being by a process of evolution.

Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., than whom there is, perhaps, no one more qualified to speak on the question of democratic reforms, was insistent and emphatic on this point when recently interviewed by a representative of THE VOTE. "I think," said he, "the women are very wise to ask for their enfranchisement in the way they have asked for it—as the mere removal of sex disability. Adult suffrage can only come by stages. And if the women allowed the question of their enfranchisement to become entangled with other franchise questions just now, they would arouse the opposition of those who were opposed on quite different grounds to those other questions, but whose feelings towards the removal of the sex disability were of the kindest."

The Women's Freedom League has recognised this from the outset. It has wisely refused to be drawn into any other issue than that of the removal of the sex bar. The tendency of those who have not sufficiently studied our point of view is to imagine that the extension of the franchise and the political emancipation of women are one and the same question. It is as well, therefore, that all who desire justice to women should be clear on this particular point. As a League, we naturally pass no opinion upon the merits or otherwise of the adult suffrage movement. While leaving individual members free to hold what views they choose on this question and on all other political, economic, and social matters, we are concerned at present only in fighting honourably and consistently for the removal of the sex disability.

The enfranchisement of women is not, in the strict sense of the word, a political question. By asking that the women who are qualified to vote should be allowed to make use of those qualifications in the only practical way which can repay them for the exercise of their compulsory responsibilities towards the State, we are asking

simply for human justice. In no sense can the granting of this elemental act of human justice "put back the clock" for adult suffrage, as so many of its advocates have asserted. Contrariwise, it clears the air. Surely it is better to clear the air than to beat it as so many adult suffragists are doing.

We fear that the Asquithian fog in which the political parties are enveloped at the present moment has obscured their brains to the true meaning of words. "The road must be cleared for the advent of full-grown and unfettered democracy," said Mr. Asquith recently in the House of Commons. A statement so apparently frank might easily be understood to be an expression of belief in adult suffrage. Mr. Asquith believes in nothing of the kind, however. Even if he could be induced to place adult suffrage on his next Election programme, the word "adult" would only stand for the masculine gender. The Asquithian translation of "Government for the people by the people" is "Government for the men by the men." The woman's point of view is neither considered nor desired. It is quite time, however, that those who are willing to admit that the word "people" stands for "men and women" should clear their minds of cant. Abraham Lincoln once said that "you can fool some of the people all the time, and all the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time." The adult suffrage bogey, which has been shaken so threateningly at women suffragists, had better be put back into its cupboard. The stalwarts of true democracy know that at present the real opinion of the people of this country is never voiced at the ballot-box, and that only by making men and women equally free can the road be cleared for true progress. There can be no real government of the people by the people until we admit the necessity, in the first instance, not only for "Two heads in council, two beside the hearth," but also for "two in the tangled business of the world."

LOUISA THOMSON-PRICE.

### SHAVIAN PHILOSOPHY.

Miss Lucy Carr Shaw (whose "Why I Want the Vote" appears in this week's issue), only sister of George Bernard Shaw, and a well-known member of the W.F.L., gives us leave to use the following excerpts from her "Kildonnel Letters." It will be seen that Miss Shaw has enunciated a Shavian philosophy, which, like that of her brother, contains common sense in trenchant form.

#### On Eating.

"In our civilised world of well-bred and cultured people are perpetuated daily three and sometimes four ravenous acts of Cannibalism in the shape of Breakfast, Luncheon, Dinner, and, when we go to the theatre, Supper.

"Apart from the outrageous humanity of the methods by which we obtain sustenance for our bodies, is the indelicate custom of assimilating that sustenance in full family publicity. Believe me, Theodosia, in a hundred years it will be quite as improper and shocking to pursue this detestable but necessary practice out of the solitude of one's private apartment as it would now be to bathe in the dining-room, change one's gown in the drawing-room, or put on one's transformation in the library. Such performances were, indeed, almost respectable in comparison with the horrible offensiveness of satisfying Nature's cravings in the sight of any eye other than the Invisible One.

#### Poverty.

"The Root of all Evil is Poverty, Theodosia; sordid, vile, demoralising, blighting, brutal, destroying; it is the father of all immorality, disease, misfortune; the blaster of Peace; the exterminator of Hope; the Pestilence that walks in darkness; the Destruction that wastes at noonday; any view of Poverty that may be presented to you from an ennobling, spurring, spiritualising, or in any way enviable or desirable point is a wilful and gross perversion of a Fact which has no aspect that is not evil and no output that is not of the Devil."



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### SCOTTISH NOTES.

Glasgow Office: 302, SAUCHIEHALL STREET, GLASGOW.  
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. JULIA WOOD.

Office Secretary: MISS KIRBY.  
Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas.

#### Dundee.—38, Rankine Street.

A Branch meeting was held on Tuesday last. Correspondence from London and Glasgow was read and discussed. Various plans were suggested for the selling of THE VOTE, more especially as the quiet, educative work now going on is completely ignored by the local Press, causing people to think, and say, that we are giving up the fight. Miss Husband, who had attended the I.L.P. Conference in London, gave an account of that part of the proceedings which more nearly concerned the woman's cause.—J. A. SMART, Hon. Secretary.

#### Glasgow Open-air Campaign.

Now that the Easter holiday is over, and Glasgow people are back in their homes, offices, and workshops, an active open-air campaign has begun. During last autumn the city and shopping districts received a great deal of attention. This spring we are devoting our energies more to suburban districts, rousing interest afresh in the question of Votes for Women, strengthening existing branches, and laying the foundation-stones of branches to be built up in the autumn. It is evident from our first meeting in Ibrox that suffragettes have not been active in that district. We were surrounded by a howling mob of boys and a large crowd of onlookers and would-be listeners. Missiles of all kinds—potatoes, stones, herrings, clods of earth, manure—were hurled at us: repeated attempts were made to dislodge us from our temporary platform; yet the police officers stood far back gazing complacently into vacancy over the heads of the crowd. At the close of the meeting determined attempts were made to hustle us and upset our collection into the street; but one gentleman (out of a large crowd of men) came to our assistance and let the hooligan element perceive that we were not quite without a champion. We came away feeling that here is a field of work for us. Tuesday next will find us back in the same place, and we shall continue to return until perfect order and sympathy are given us.—MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY.

#### Glasgow.—Suffrage Centre.

An "At Home" was held at the Suffrage Centre, Sauchiehall Street, on Saturday evening, April 9. After tea Miss Benten took the chair. In her opening remarks she touched on the

different points which go to the making of a militant suffragette. She observed that they were brought face to face with the fact that the one great weapon necessary to the fulfilling of our duty to our neighbours and ourselves was the right to voice our own and others' wrongs, with our own voices, and for that the vote was an absolute necessity. Miss Sidley then addressed the meeting. She explained more fully why the militant tactics were necessary. It was the militant action, first begun a few years ago, which revived a dying and seemingly hopeless cause. When M.P.'s realised that women were in deadly earnest, that they were prepared to risk liberty and approach even the gates of death in their fight for political freedom, then they put woman's suffrage in their election addresses. Miss Sidley then brought forward certain new prison rules, which, while being good enough, so far as they go, are not likely to have such far-reaching effects as to prevent a repetition of the hunger strike. After Miss Sidley's speech Miss Stewart gave two songs, which were much appreciated by those present. This brought to a close a very pleasant meeting, at which the interest and enthusiasm of those present made up for lack of numbers.—A. A. MCLAV.

£1,000 Fund.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
A. C. Wood, Esq. ...	10 0 0	Amount previously	
Miss McCallum ....	0 10 0	acknowledged .....	262 3 0
Miss Allan .....	0 5 0		
		Total .....	£272 18 0
			£10 15 0

#### Kirkintilloch.

The usual Branch meeting was held on Tuesday, April 5. After being refreshed by the "cup that cheers but not inebriates," Miss Kirby took the chair and explained that it had been suggested that for a change we should have a ten-minute speech by an "Anti," and that then the members would have an opportunity of refuting her arguments. The "Anti" then stated her case, and wound up by entreating her hearers to use their "womanly influence" to prevent such a disaster falling on the Empire as would be involved in giving "Votes to Women."

The audience were then invited to criticise, and in a very short time all the carefully-thought-out speech was torn into fragments, and its fallacies triumphantly shown up.

#### Edinburgh.—17, Upper Gilmore Place.

Open-air work has been resumed, and on Saturday, April 2, meetings were held at Musselburgh and Fisherrow. Miss Madge Turner and Miss A. B. Jack were the speakers, and good audiences were attracted. There were a good many questions of the usual kind, the adult suffrage difficulty in particular cropping up.

Owing to very bad weather the afternoon "At Home" on Tuesday was smaller than usual, but those present very much appreciated an address from Miss Turner, who spoke on the various forms of waste due to the present position of women. Miss Sara Munro was in the chair, and the secretaries acted as hostesses. At the monthly "At Home," held in the evening, there was a good audience. Miss Sara Munro again presided, and Miss Turner spoke on some of the objections to Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Joseph Dobbie then read a most exhaustive and interesting paper on the legal status of woman, with special reference to Scots law, pointing out that while in many respects, and especially with regard to Divorce laws, Scottish women are in a position much superior to that of their English sisters, yet the same fundamental idea affects them in both countries—the idea that a woman is not a responsible being, a person.

This was the last evening meeting of the winter syllabus, and in the meantime these meetings will be suspended; but we hope soon to resume in our own shop. It has been decided to open the shop with a Cake and Candy Sale, the date of which will be announced as soon as possible. In the meantime we hope that at this spring-cleaning and "fitting" time all our friends will remember the Jumble Sale on May 21.

A very good meeting of the I.L.P., Western Branch, was addressed by Miss A. B. Jack. It is encouraging to know that as a result of her stirring speech on "True Democracy," several former opponents of the "Limited Bill" saw the reasonableness of our attitude, and are now supporters.—HELEN MCLACHLAN, Assist. Sec.

### BELGIAN WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS.

COPY OF RESOLUTION SENT TO RT. HON. H. ASQUITH,  
10, DOWNING STREET, LONDON.

The Belgian United Societies of Women Suffrage express their indignation at the cruelty practised upon English Suffragettes in English prisons.

They protest against women political prisoners being treated as common criminals, and their health injured for ever, because of their political opinions. They protest against the bitter persecution, by a so-called Liberal Government, of Women Reformers who heroically lead an agitation unparalleled in history, and which only a measure giving immediate franchise to women can still.

(Signed) LA PRESIDENTE, J. GILAIN.

Mr. Asquith replied acknowledging receipt of the resolution.

### "WHY I WANT THE VOTE."

*\*\* Under this heading we shall have from time to time the personal opinions of our best-known supporters, giving the reasons why they want the vote. We all know the broad reasons why we want it; but the intimate reasoning which has led others of us into the ardent fighting front ranks has a special interest. This week the sister of our very good friend George Bernard Shaw gives with Shavian originality and wit her "Why."*



MISS LUCY CARR SHAW.

Since I am cornered into a position out of which there seems to be no chance of escape until I have frankly unburdened my conscience of personal reasons for wanting the vote, I have to confess that the most importunate one agitating my soul at the moment is the outrageous fact that I do not possess the necessary qualifications for making use of it, should that piece of tardy justice, the enfranchisement of women, be extended to my Alas, I am not an owner, an occupier, or even a lodger; I am merely that which, were I a man, would be whispered by my nearest and dearest as a "loafer"; therefore do I hanker after the unattainable with a frenzied and devastating longing. But also, at the same instant, by reason of the dread conditions under which alone I could exercise it, do I vehemently pray that this most necessary and exigent measure may be long in reaching me, the evading of it being an emotion of almost greater insistence than the gaining of it; for the only circumstances in which it ever can become possible that I enjoy citizen rights necessitate such a series of domestic catastrophes that infinitely do I prefer to remain the idiot and lunatic that I legally am, to efflorescing into the sane and reasonable person that such a calamitous alternative would precipitate. Thus am I placed in the terrible dilemma of rabidly demanding the vote in the same breath that I resist its advent with all the fervour of my heart and soul. It is obvious, then, that, from a purely personal point, I have quite as clear a case for *Why I don't want the vote* as for *Why I do*. This, however, does not render me a lukewarm champion, although my position may appear to be on the fence.

As a matter of fact, I am fighting for the "do," being, as a unit of a fighting nation, of a warlike disposition, and, since I cannot help myself, leaving the "don't" to take care of itself.

It is being incessantly reiterated in my tired ears that men and women are industrially, physically, and intellectually not equal, as though Providence had blunted our perception of the most obvious fact that faces us in every human relation. Certainly they are not equal; what other reason could there possibly be for the fortitude, endurance, and determination that are converging towards bringing about the inevitable consummation of an act that will enable us to raise men up to our super sphere, and in the ages to come, when perchance we have educated them into working as long-sufferingly, enduring as heroically, and understanding as intuitively and morally as ourselves, being able to welcome them to our own high plane of being, and to acknowledge with supreme thankfulness that at last we are indeed equal.

At a great meeting in Yarmouth, at which the W.F.L. was represented by Miss Matters, Rev. G. McLuckie said that the best brains in the majority and minority reports of the recent Poor Law Commission were women's brains. (Applause.) He had had university experience of the keenness and intelligence of women. Women's suffrage would strengthen the franchise from the standpoint of intelligence. Was it right to let the public-house loafer and the man who would sell his vote for half a crown have the vote, and deny it to intelligent women?

This possibly may not be exactly the point of view of a Government official, who said, "There's no good talking as if men and women were equal in industry, because the fact is, they are not"; but as it may be construed either way, let him have the benefit of a doubt which would place him far along the road to the higher life.

As we are all agreed upon the broad reasons why we want the vote, and these being many should include all personal reasons such as one does not mind being made public, I leave the extraction of my "Why" to the ingenuity of my Freedom League friends.

LUCY CARR SHAW.

### WHAT WE ARE SAYING AND DOING.

**"If any man is for captivity, into captivity he goeth."**—BOOK OF REVELATION, xiii. 10.

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

#### The Best Brains.

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#### Leaving the Parties.

At the same meeting Miss Matters said that some of them had been modest little primroses in the Primrose League or modest little violets for the Liberal party; while others had worked beside the Labour men, believing in them up to the hilt, but they had found out that the men simply intended women should be the servants of their masters. So women had come out of these parties and did not intend to return to them until they could go back as self-respecting women with the vote, in order that they might help their various parties.

#### Women's Wages.

At a meeting of the Church League, held at Glengariff, Kew, Miss Matters said there were thousands of working women who could not earn more than 4s. or 4s. 6d. a week. Mr. Lloyd George had said, "Whether it be in work of hard, manual kind, or in delicate manipulation and touch, women are the equals of men, and I am sorry they do not get the same rate of pay. Such a state of things would be impossible if women had the power to call Governments to account."

#### Concerning Stupidity.

A series of articles by D. Triformis in the *New Age* have appeared, condemning militant methods, and indulging in alternate criticisms of the literary style and the tactics of certain suffragists. The author of these dithyrambic diatribes is angry because no particular notice was taken of his (or her) malignity. To oblige D. T., Miss F. A. Underwood (W.F.L.) recently wrote an answer, in the course of which she said: "When D. Triformis states that she deems violence is evidence of mental stupidity, we can only remember, in view of Mr. Asquith's Albert Hall speech, that the English language covers a multitude of meanings. Revolt against injustice can hardly be carried on without violence, and since not a few of the liberties that Englishmen enjoy have been wrested from unwilling authorities by violence, this charge of stupidity does not prove much."

#### "Woman This and Woman That."

Mrs. Marion Cunningham is offering prizes to the children in Hayes, Middlesex, for the best recitation of Laurence Housman's "Woman This and Woman That." This is surely excellent propaganda.

#### Our Advertisers.

We want all our advertisers to be patronised. In the spring time all of us need new garments to freshen our wardrobes, and these we can purchase from firms advertising in *THE VOTE*. Our leaders make a point of doing this, and it is a matter in which we might all follow suit.

#### Spring Cleaning.

Next Monday, April 18th, we are going to spring-clean the office at 1, Robert Street, Adelphi. Anybody with a talent for good hard manual work can come along. Miss Neilans will be in charge of the cleaning corps.

#### Our Notepaper.

Charming notepaper, with the W.F.L. shield printed in the League colours in green, gold, and white, is on sale at the literature department. It only costs a shilling a box (with envelopes), and should be used by all our members for their private correspondence.

#### The Happy Home.

At Cardiff Mrs. Despard, in the course of her address, said: "In the truly happy home the husband and the wife were equal; each shared the other's burdens and responsibilities. Was not the State only a family writ large? Then why was woman allowed her privileges and responsibilities in the one and not in the other?"

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

"To do honour to one of the greatest movements the pages of history have ever recorded" was one speaker's description of the inaugural dinner of the International Women's Franchise Club, which took place at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, on Friday night. The international character of the club was kept well in evidence, and also the fact that the club is a mixed club in a double sense—inasmuch as it includes in its membership both men and women, and also suffragists, both constitutional and militant. The principal guests of the evening were Members of Parliament who had mentioned women's suffrage favourably in their election addresses, and also a number of distinguished men and women from countries in which the suffrage had been granted or where it was being demanded. The M.P.s present included Mr. Philip Snowden, Sir Thomas Barclay, Mr. John Ward, Mr. John Hodge, Mr. W. P. Byles, Mr. A. Sherwell, Mr. A. H. Scott, Mr. J. M. Robertson, Mr. Munro, and Mr. Max Muspratt. Sir John Cockburn,

Mr. Robertson remarked that he was writing for the Cause as a journalist in 1883. With him it was a matter of course, he could not see anything revolutionary in a measure which would give women the franchise. If he dared, however, he would ask them to be patient reminding them that no great cause came to fruition quickly.

Mr. Cecil Chapman, J.P., who gave the toast of "The Cause," observed that he had been instrumental in starting the club. Women's Franchise was likely to be for the benefit of the whole world, and was the last step in evolution from man government to human government. The wealth of a nation lay in the character of its citizens, and that was great or small according to the way they treated their women. The standard for men and women was too low; as an administrator of the law he could deny that "women were the spoilt darlings of the law." Bad laws made bad customs and led to men regarding women as cheap drudges. They were not progressing since classic times. Artemis and Athene were women, but nowadays no one regarded wisdom as being typified by women. In so far as the women's cause had progressed it had done so by the prowess of the women themselves.



SUFFRAGETTES AT HOME. [Barratt's Photo Press.]  
(6) Mrs. Hicks and Miss Hicks Spring-cleaning.

who, when Premier in South Australia, introduced the first Women's Suffrage Bill into his colony, was in the chair, and in his opening address emphasised the representative nature of the distinguished gathering, which included the Consul for Norway, representatives of U.S.A., of France, of India, and members, both men and women, of every English suffrage society, who had the courage of their opinions in upholding the true spirit of representative Government. It behoved this great country as the mother of Parliaments to advance this great movement for justice. Men had found that the franchise was a necessary weapon in industrial life, yet they were going to throw the women into the industrial arena without this weapon. This was the act of a coward. He hoped that the agitation would never cease until the measure was passed. In Australia and New Zealand after sixteen years working there was not an individual anywhere who had anything to say against it.

Sir Thomas Barclay, in the course of a humorous speech, declared that he was a veteran suffragist and had written on Women's Rights as far back as 1882.

Mr. Philip Snowden, who spoke to the toast, thought that the vote was nearer than any one suspected. Of the tactics which had been employed in the struggle he said that he never condemned and he never criticised; it was not his business. It was for the women to decide what were the best tactics to serve their cause. He bade them be encouraged by the success of their past work and the knowledge that they had the greatest cause any enthusiast could desire.

Other speakers were Herr Brekstad, Mr. G. H. Radford, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mr. Goldfinch Bate, Mr. Arthur Sherwell, and Mrs. Andrew Neeson.

#### The Average Man.

Mrs. Keating-Hill, at the W.F.L. meeting in Cardiff, said "there was a man in Cardiff who, when his wife was on holiday, slept in his bed for fourteen nights without making it. Ask the average man in the street whether he would rather mend his socks or get drunk, and he would reply he would rather get drunk."



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## BRANCH NOTES.

**South Shields.**—54, Roman Road.

A most successful Branch meeting was held on Wednesday evening, April 6th, in the Victoria Hall, Fowler Street, Mrs. Binks kindly presiding. This was the first Branch meeting, and it augurs well for the prospects of this Branch to have had between sixty and seventy present on this occasion. Miss Clark, from Sunderland, gave a most animated and earnest address dealing with the fetters, social, industrial, and political, which have bound women in the past, but which we are surely breaking. Mrs. Storey, Sunderland's energetic President, gave recitations which were very warmly applauded, and Miss Kirby's pianoforte solos and Mr. Valon's song were very much appreciated. A public meeting has been arranged for April 27th, in the Congregational Hall, Ocean Road, at which Mrs. Amy Sanderson and Mrs. Schofield Coates have promised to speak.—G. OSBORNE, Assist. Organiser.

**Eastbourne.**—39, Milton Road.

A meeting was held on Tuesday, April 5th, at the Grove Hall, when Mrs. Sanderson gave a most interesting address. She dealt chiefly with the political situation and the broader, deeper question underlying our movement, of which the vote is simply a symbol. We were fortunate in having the Rev. E. G. Hawkins in the chair. He wished the movement, which has his entire sympathy, every success, and as for the militant methods to which so many people object, he pointed out that militant agitation was necessary to carry out any great reform. One great regret was that we had not a larger audience to hear Mrs. Sanderson. It seems extremely difficult now to induce people to attend meetings. The audience, though small, was most appreciative, and we feel we made some converts. We received names of sympathisers who may eventually become members. Alas! our sale of literature was poor, but considering the small audience the collection was good. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Downs, Mrs. Reece, Mrs. Ryde, Miss Warren, and Miss M. Dilks, who acted as stewards.—ALICE DILKS.

**Central Branch.**—1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

Rev. Mr. Hinscliff was unable to attend on the 6th, as arranged, so Mr. Westbrook, who was to have addressed us later, kindly spoke on "Sociology" to a good meeting. Two new members were made. Several good meetings have been held in Regent's Park at 12 o'clock, and they will continue each Sunday. Also Mrs. De Vismes is endeavouring to arrange meetings for Kennington Park at 3 o'clock. Any speakers or helpers who will send their names to her will be welcome. When this appears three speakers' classes will have been held and at the last of these (13th inst.) future arrangements for them will be settled. It is suggested one evening each week be devoted to them. Don't forget Wednesday, 20th, Mrs. Richmond. Mrs. Cope will speak on May 4th; subject: "Ireland and Irish Women."—M. E. T.

**Clapham.**

Clapham Branch was fortunate last Tuesday evening in securing the services of both the hon. Treasurer of the W.F.L. and Miss Alison Neilans. Miss Benett presided at a meeting held in the Public Library, Battersea, and urged the need of local organisation if the Freedom League was to be a power in the district. She further pointed out the necessity of making THE VOTE more widely known, and asked those who could do so to patronise the advertisers in this paper. Miss Neilans made out a strong case for women's enfranchisement. Questions were asked and answered. A long report of the proceedings appeared in the *Battersea Borough News* and a shorter one in the *South-Western Star*. Members of this Branch are invited to a meeting at Mrs. Crumie's house, 78, Wakehurst Road, Wandsworth Common, Wednesday, April 20th, at 8 p.m., and all members of and sympathisers with the League will be very cordially welcomed at the Social and Entertainment to be given on Saturday evening, April 23rd. The programme is a most interesting one, and to save the Branch from financial loss on this entertainment considerably more than a hundred tickets must be sold. This should not be difficult in so large a district as South-West London. Tickets can be had from any of the Clapham members, or from F. A. Underwood, 31, Rush Hill Road, Lavender Hill, S.W.

**Willesden and Maida Vale.**—15, Creighton Road, Kilburn.

Miss Seruya and Miss Craig attended our Branch meeting on Thursday, when plans for open-air work were discussed. It was decided to hold our first meeting near the "Prince of Wales," Harrow Road, on Friday next at 7.30 p.m., and to continue to hold weekly meetings on the same pitch throughout the summer. We are hoping Miss Neilans will open the campaign for us, the speakers for the two following weeks being Miss D. Spencer and Mrs. Sproson. Will all members and friends kindly attend to assist in selling THE VOTE and other literature? Please do not forget our Jumble Sale, which will take place on or about May 2nd. On receipt of a post card the secretary will

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arrange for goods to be collected from friends living in the neighbourhood. Will all others kindly send parcels, as soon as possible, to Mrs. Gossling, 147, Buchanan Gardens, Willesden, N.W.—L. BENNETT, Hon. Sec.

**Ipswich.**—160, Norwich Road.

Last Thursday our meeting was devoted to the study of the lives of two women who have both left records behind them of force and genius. Mrs. Pratt, who presided, urged members to volunteer to sell copies of THE VOTE. Mrs. Hutley dealt with the life and works of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, emphasising her womanly conception of the sufferings of children as depicted in "The Cry of the Children." Miss Andrews took as her subject the life of Emily Brontë. It was remarked that both women had left to the world monuments of their genius in spite of the many limitations imposed upon them by their surroundings.—CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

**Manchester (Central Branch).**—9, Albert Square.

The outdoor meeting arranged by the Manchester Branch at Stockport on Thursday was a great success. A crowd had gathered, and was waiting when the speakers arrived, and listened most attentively for an hour, in spite of a cold wind. Mr. Ward made a strong appeal to the men's sense of justice, and pointed out how the freedom of women would aid and complete that of men, and Miss Neal spoke of the many points of domestic legislation discussed at Westminster in which women are interested and in which their help is needed. There is no doubt a good impression was made on the crowd, and we hope to hold other successful meetings there. At our next Branch meeting a list of suitable "pitches" will be presented, and we hope to arrange a series of outdoor meetings in the district, and to close them with an indoor meeting at which we expect to inaugurate a Branch of the League.—M. L. NEAL, President.

**Manchester and District.**

The fine, bright, though chilly evenings have been good this week for propaganda work, and the Swinton and Manchester Branches have been using their opportunities to the full. Open-air meetings arranged by the Swinton Branch have been held at Eccles Cross, Monton Green and Walkden Monument, and a particularly successful meeting was organised by the Manchester Branch on Thursday in Stockport. Further details of these meetings will be found under the branch reports. At Urnston on Friday Miss Muriel Nelson and Miss Neal addressed a meeting in St. Clement's Schools, which resulted in eight new names for the Urnston Branch. In addition to the Eccles Mass Meeting on Wednesday next we have now arranged a meeting in the Co-operative Hall, Urnston, for Thursday, when Mrs. Amy Sanderson will be the chief speaker. On Friday, April 6th, by the kind invitation of the Rev. and Mrs. Dixon, I addressed the St. Jude's Church Laymen's Society in Halifax on "Woman's Place in Public Life." The meeting was a most enjoyable one. Several copies of THE VOTE were sold, and we trust work done which will be for the strengthening of the Cause in Halifax.—M. E. MANNING.

**Swansea.**—Chez Nous, Sketty, S.O., Glam.

Weekly meetings of the Branch have been resumed during April in the Dynevor Schools at 8 p.m. Last Wednesday Miss Nelson gave an account of the Mid-Glamorgan election. Miss Holmes has kindly promised a paper for this week, and on Wednesday, 20th inst., a Parliamentary debate has been arranged. The motion before the House will be "That the Parliamentary franchise be extended to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men." Members of every political party will take part in the discussion. The forthcoming "Pageant of Famous Women" is fast becoming the talk of Swansea, and preparations for its performance are being pushed forward, both in Swansea and in Maesteg. Seats (reserved, 2s. 6d.) can now be booked at Mr. A. R. Way's, 4, Wind Street, Swansea, and tickets (unreserved, 1s. and 6d.) can be had from branch members. We shall also welcome our President, Mrs. Despard, on this occasion, both as our speaker and as Florence Nightingale in the Pageant.

**Waterloo.**—48, Kimberley Drive, Great Crosby.

Miss Matters and Miss Tillard are en route for Australia, and for a few months the W.F.L. will miss two of its most earnest workers, but the temporary loss should prove permanent gain, for on her return Miss Matters will, if possible, be more fully equipped with information as to woman's work and progress in Australia. We shall hear something of the good effects of woman's enfranchisement in that country, and ere long we shall see how woman's vote is used to protect her less fortunate sisters. For in Queensland just now a struggle is pending to effect the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts. Of this no doubt Miss Matters will tell us on her return. If there is a struggle, if there is work to be done, and Miss Matters is there, we may be sure that she will be taking her part. Despite the early hour of sailing, the Waterloo Branch was well represented. Several members were waiting on the Liverpool landing stage at 9 a.m. ready to give the travellers a hearty send-off. They presented some flowers as a slight token of their appreciation of Miss Matters' work in their midst.—S. H. FENTON.

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## MADAME CURIE.

There is no more arresting figure among scientists—men and women alike—than Mme. Curie, the discoverer of radium and polonium, and in this month's *Woman at Home* she finds a suitable appreciation in a brief impression. Like many famous people, Mme. Curie detests publicity, and the interviewer does his work by stealth.

Here is a description of the woman. "Little of stature and little of face, coming on the platform before the crowded amphitheatre of the University of Paris, where the audience included Lord Kelvin, Sir Oliver Lodge, Sir William Ramsay, the late King Carlos of Portugal, and Queen Amelie. On hearing the roar of applause which greeted her appearance she smiled quite an easy smile, as the whole audience rose up as a man to do her honour. And then, in a still small voice, she began to tell of polonium, the first element discovered by her, which had revolutionised all previous ideas held in physical science. The fire of genius now animated her. Once her tremors dissipated she held her audience as under a spell.

"Following this historic occasion, Lord Kelvin drew the attention of the British world of science to the Professor and Mme. Curie by inviting them to lecture at the Royal Institution in London, when the Davy Gold Medal was awarded to the Professor. Later, Sweden bestowed the Nobel Prize on both. France had lagged so long behind with the Légion d'Honneur, that when at length it was proffered him, Curie declined it with some aloofness, giving as a reason that 'it had no connection with his work.' On the same day, it is told, the Curies went to a village restaurant outside Paris to dine, and their little girl, climbing on her father's knee, stuck a red flower in his button-hole. 'I decorate you,' she said, 'with the Légion d'Honneur.' 'In this case,' the Professor said, 'I have no objection.'

"By birth a Pole, Mme. Curie, now some forty-three years old, is daughter of a Professor of Science at the Warsaw University. She began life as a political agitator; when still in her teens she left Warsaw and came almost penniless to Paris, animated with a desire to pursue her own scientific studies there. All her money she kept for books, and made a boast that she lived on fivepence a day! That fivepence, I may add, was chiefly laid out at the milk-shop.

"Soon came her meeting in Paris with Professor Curie, who was at once attracted to her and made her an offer of marriage after a very few weeks. But Mlle. Skłodowska—for that was her name—announced, just a little priggishly, that she was Polish politician first, and scientist afterwards, and actually returned to Warsaw and politics to divert her mind from thought of the Professor. To make a long story short, however, she very soon came back, and marrying him, lived for eleven years a happy life, heart and mind in sympathy with the man of her choice.

At the outset the couple took a tiny abode in the Rue de la Glacière, so as to be conveniently near l'Ecole du Physique, and studied in complete harmony; they were

never apart even for a day. Not that they lived in the Rue de la Glacière for all that time. After the birth of their baby girl, they took a cottage covered with ivy, the veritable cottage of a picture-book, in the Boulevard Kellermann, near the Parc Montsouris, and here Madame lives to this day, pursuing her investigations, whilst her father-in-law the venerable Doctor Curie, well over eighty, lives with her, and a Polish cousin attends to the wants of little Irene and the second child, Eve, who was born a year and some months later."

Surely, in the domestic bliss of the Curies, the greatest scientists of their times, is a good answer to those who think that a woman cannot know perfect happiness, or fulfil her real mission in life, unless she concentrate on the kitchen. The greatest of their time—in any age—have always been the men and women who have steered clear of grooves—social, intellectual, and moral.

## CONCERNING TEETH.

Those members of the League whose teeth require attention are advised to consult Messrs. Pittar Bros., of Walter House, Strand, W.C.

Mr. Pittar, being a New Zealander, is in strong sympathy with our movement, and will contribute 10 per cent. of any amount paid to him by any member of the League to our funds.

Messrs. Pittar's have the largest dental chambers in London. They have appliances, and employ methods not to be obtained elsewhere in the United Kingdom. Our readers will benefit themselves, and also the funds of the League, by consulting Messrs. Pittar.

## Women Lawyers.

Miss Emma Fall, daughter of Mayor Fall and Mrs. Anna C. Fall, of Maldon, Mass., tried her first case last Tuesday in the Middlesex Superior Court at East Cambridge, and won a verdict of \$300 for her client against the Boston Elevated Company. The case, which was for damages for injuries received, was conducted by Miss Fall with the exception of the cross-examination of witnesses, which was done by her mother. It is an unusual sight, that of daughter and mother, both lawyers, conducting a case in court.—*Woman's Journal* (Boston).



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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

## LONDON.



## DARE TO BE FREE.

- Thurs., April 14th **Caxton Hall**, 3 p.m. Mrs. Chapin, Countess Russell, Mr. F. Rutter.
- Thurs., April 14th **Highbury Corner**, 7.30.
- Thurs., April 14th **Ruskin Hall**, Ackerman Road, Brixton, 8 p.m. Miss F. A. Underwood.
- Thurs., April 14th **1, Robert Street**, 6.45. London Branches Council.
- Fri., April 15th **Spears Memorial Hall**, Highgate, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Miss Hicks, M.A.
- Fri., April 15th **Willesden Branch**. Prince of Wales, Harrow Road, 7.30 p.m. Miss Neilans.
- Sat., April 16th **Southall**, Mrs. Chapin.
- Sun., April 17th **Regent's Park**, 12 noon. Chairman, Miss D. Spencer. Speakers, Miss Anna Munro, Dr. Macpherson.
- Sun., April 17th **Clapham Common**, Meeting, 5.45 p.m. Speaker, Miss Benett.
- Tues., April 19th **1, Robert Street**, 5 p.m. Press Associates' Meeting. Mrs. H. W. Nevinson.
- Wed., April 20th **Meeting of Clapham Members** at 78, Wakehurst Road, Wandsworth Common, 8 p.m.
- Wed., April 20th **Croydon Branch**, Morland Road, Addiscombe, 8 p.m. Miss Miller.
- Wed., April 20th **Central Branch**, 1, Robert Street. Mrs. Ennis Richmond, "Co-Education," 8.15.
- Wed., April 20th **Barnsbury Hall**, Upper Street, N., 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Manson, H. G. Chancellor, Esq., M.P.
- Thurs., April 21st **Caxton Hall**, Sir John Cockburn. Mrs. Nevinson.
- Thurs., April 21st **Willesden Branch**, 14, Great Western Road, Dr. Marion Thorne, 7.30 p.m.
- Fri., April 22nd **Willesden Branch**. Prince of Wales, Harrow Road, 7.30. Miss D. Spencer.
- Fri., April 22nd **Mrs. Tanner's Drawing Room Meeting**, 32, Wynne Road, Brixton, 7.30.
- Sat., April 23rd "Social" and Entertainment in Lower Town Hall, Lavender Hill, Battersea.
- Thurs., April 28th **Queen's Hall**, 3 to 6. Reception to Actresses' Franchise League. Play, produced by Actresses' Franchise League. Speaker, Mrs. Sproson.
- Fri., April 29th **Willesden Branch**. Prince of Wales, Harrow Road, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Sproson.
- Sun., May 1st **Hilly Fields**, Brockley, S.E., 3 p.m. Miss Henderson, Mrs. Manson.
- Mon., May 2nd **Bromley I.L.P.**, Co-operative Hall, East Street, 8.30. Mrs. Manson, Mr. Gugenheim.
- Wed., May 4th **Croydon Branch Open Air Meeting**, Norwood Clock, Mrs. Manson.
- Wed., May 4th **Central Branch**, 1, Robert Street. Mrs. Cope, "Ireland and Irish Women," 8.15.
- Thurs., May 5th **Queen's Hall**, 7.30. Reception to Men's League for Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. How Martyn, Mr. H. Jacobs, Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell.
- Fri., May 6th **Mrs. Duval's Drawing Room Meeting**, 37, Park Road, Wandsworth Common, 7.30. Mrs. Sanderson.
- Thurs., May 26th **Queen's Hall**, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard, when in London, is at the office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, and will be pleased to see members of the League who wish to consult her.

## THE PROVINCES.

- Thurs., April 14th **Huddersfield**, At Home, G.F.S. Room, 3 p.m. Miss Munro, Mrs. Gordon.
- Thurs., April 14th **Urmston (Manchester)** 8 p.m. Mrs. Amy Sanderson.
- Wed., April 27th **South Shields**, Mrs. Amy Sanderson.

## SCOTLAND.

- Sat., April 16th **Central Branch Jumble Sale**, 457, Rutherglen Road, S.S.

## GLASGOW MEETINGS.

- Thurs., April 14th **Springburn Branch**, 8 p.m. Miss Marguerite A. Sidley.
- Sat., April 16th **Peel Street, Partick**, 3.30 Miss Marguerite Sidley.
- Mon., April 18th **Rutherglen**, 7.30. Miss Marguerite Sidley.
- Tues., April 19th **Clydebank**, 7.30. Miss Marguerite Sidley.
- Wed., April 20th **Maryhill**, 7.30. Miss Marguerite Sidley.
- Thurs., April 21st **Shettleston**, 7.30. Miss Marguerite Sidley.
- Sat., April 23rd **Bonnybridge (near Stirling)**, 3.30 and 6.30. Miss Marguerite Sidley.
- Sat., April 23rd **At Home**, Suffrage Centre, Sauchiehall Street, 7 p.m. Speaker, Miss Eunice Murray.

## WALES.

- Wed., April 20th **County School**, Dynevor Place, Swansea. Parliamentary Debate on Woman's Suffrage.
- Thurs., May 5th **Swansea, Albert Hall**: **Woman's Pageant**. Miss Cicely Hamilton and Miss Edith Craig. Speaker, Mrs. Despard.
- Fri., May 6th **Town Hall**, Maesteg, Swansea, 7 p.m. Miss Cicely Hamilton and Miss Edith Craig.

## PRIZES FOR STREET SELLERS.

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

## RECEIPTS COMPETITION.

The result of the competition for receipts for goods bought from advertisers will be announced next week. There have been a large number of entries, and they are taking some time to sort. This competition will be resumed next month.

## OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

## N. W. S. P. U.

The first week in May has been set aside for a Self-Denial Week, in order to add a record sum to the total fund, which now stands at over £62,000. On May 28 a great procession of women of all classes and professions is to walk through London, and gather at the Albert Hall, as one more practical proof of the strong demand among women of the country for the vote. The closing days of this month are also important as being the date of the great Scottish Exhibition, preparations for which are going ahead very fast, and which promises to be a tremendous success.

## Actresses' Franchise League.

The monthly invitation "At Home" of the Actresses' Franchise League was held on Friday, April 1, in the King's Hall, Criterion Restaurant, and was very largely attended.

Miss Fanny Brough was a mirth-provoking chairwoman, and opened the proceedings with a witty and amusing speech. Mr. Lawrence Housman spoke emphatically on the economic side of the woman's question, attributing the whole problem of race degeneration to the baneful effect of moral pressure with regard to marriage. Miss Compton's telling speech was punctuated with a series of relevant anecdotes that kept the audience vastly amused, while Mr. Hugh Law, Miss Abadam, and Mrs. Russell emphasised from their various standpoints, and each with equal conviction, the justice and humanity of their common cause.—T. BENSUSAN.

## Women's Tax Resistance League.

The above society has just issued a leaflet for circulation amongst tax-paying women, the contents of which, we think, will probably interest our readers, called "No Vote No Tax." The society is also forming "groups" of tax-resisters in the different towns, and urgently needs helpers to carry out the scheme. Will all those who are willing to help, either by collecting names or distributing leaflets to tax-paying women in their own district, kindly write to the secretary? Very valuable help may be rendered in this way by those who are in sympathy if even they are not themselves eligible for membership. Next week we hope to publish an article on this important branch of the Suffrage movement.

## The Church League.

Branches of the League have been formed recently at Anerley, S.E. (Hon. Sec., Miss Ethel Pennings, 149, Croydon Road), and Willesden (Hon. Sec., Mrs. Kelley, 2, Connaught Road, Harlesden). A Kensington Branch will be inaugurated on April 21, at 18, Sheffield Terrace, W. (by kind permission of Miss Frances Sterling), and a Croydon one on April 27. The big meeting at Croydon will be at 8 p.m., April 22. Speakers—the Rev. J. Drew Roberts (chair), Mrs. Mansell Moullin, and Rev. C. Hinscliff. Arrangements to date for the May Mission (8th—14th) are:—Tuesday, 10th, Miss Maude Royden, at St. Mark's Vicarage, Regent's Park, 4 p.m. (by kind permission of Mrs. Maurice Bell); Miss Abadam and Miss Frances Sterling, at Essex Hall, 8.30 p.m. Wednesday, 11th, Caxton Hall "At Home," 3 to 6 p.m., Miss Royden; Anerley Town Hall, 8.30. Miss Royden and Rev. Hugh Chapman. Thursday, 12th, Harrow, 3 p.m., Rev. Hugh Chapman, Rev. C. Hinscliff, and Captain Cahill (chair); Essex Hall, 8.30 p.m., Miss Royden, Rev. J. Cartmel-Robinson, and Mr. Cecil Chapman (chair). Friday, 13th, Uxbridge, Miss Canning, Rev. A. A. Knight (chair), Rev. C. Hinscliff, Mr. G. K. Knight, M.Sc. Services will be held throughout the week.