

Women's Franchise.

No. 46.

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Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

May Subscriptions are now due. Weekly Numbers, 1d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. Back Numbers can still be obtained, but the Number for January 30th is very scarce, and costs 3d.

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.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

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

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

Notes.

AT a reception given by the Camberwell Liberal and Radical Club to Dr. and Mrs. Macnamara on Friday, May 1st, 1908, at the Surrey Masonic Hall, to congratulate the member for North Camberwell on his promotion as Secretary to the Admiralty, Dr. Macnamara, during the speech he delivered, said among many social reforms he would like to see was Adult Suffrage, but particularly Women's Suffrage as now granted to men. He paid a very high tribute to the work done by women, and said he was greatly indebted to his present position to the able assistance and encouragement from his wife. Dr. Macnamara's remarks were received with much enthusiasm. In reporting this meeting the press up to the present date have carefully avoided reporting these particular remarks.

THE proposed restriction of married women's labour brought forth a strong letter of protest addressed to Mr. John Burns from the Co-operative Women's Society of Penge (see *Women's Franchise*, No. 31, Jan. 30th, 1908), in which, as our readers will remember, the right to earn as being the right to live was logically and forcibly expressed. Now a further penalization of the married woman is proposed! We refer to Mr. Asquith's Budget, which pledges the country to endow individuals of either sex, aged seventy and upwards, with five shillings a week. Should, however, the individual

(man or woman) have saved an income of 26*l.* a year, he or she will be disqualified. With this apparent negation of thrift we have not space to deal. What most intimately concerns us is that in the case of legally married couples living together, to have saved 19*l.* 10*s.* each will prove a disqualification, while in addition to the fact that married couples qualify by being *less thrifty* than unmarried individuals, they are further penalized to the extent of 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, as each will receive only 3*s.* 9*d.* instead of 5*s.* pension.

To those who are supposed to lack sufficient intelligence to qualify as voters, Mr. Asquith seems to advocate to married couples (who have reached the age of seventy and have disqualified themselves by saving an income of more than 39*l.* a year) that they should profit by the exchange of regular for irregular relationships, in order that they may retain the difference in income between 39*l.* and 52*l.*, and in order to qualify for the receipt of the weekly pension of 5*s.*

Are we to regard this as another instance of the magnificent intelligence of unaided masculinity in guarding that "sanctity of the home" which looms so large in their political horizon?

THE members of the Lyceum Club are holding a meeting on June 20th at 3.30 P.M. to express their sympathy with the cause of Women's Suffrage. Lady Frances Balfour will preside. A petition to the House of Commons will lie in the hall, which members can sign. Though the club has so far refused to identify itself with the Suffrage Movement, it is a well-known fact that there is a very strong feeling on the subject among the members, and we hope that all Suffragists who are members of the club will make a point of being present at the meeting, to prove that the women who are doing splendid work in those spheres of activity which the club specially represents, and in which it holds a high and unique position, resent being legally classed with lunatics and criminals, and are one in the opinion that the granting of the parliamentary vote would benefit their sex.

WE hoped that Mrs. Stopes would answer Prof. Masterman's statement that women had never had any share in Parliamentary elections, for his words were quoted far and wide. Therefore it was with pleasure that we saw she had taken up the cudgels in defence of her sex, and in an admirable letter to *The Daily News* she asks him what statute, edict, or record of comparatively early times is his authority for the statement. She shows that in Saxon days women were included among "free holders" and "burgesses," and she contends that it remains to be proved that they did not exercise their clear rights to choose, for the word "man" or "freeman" always included woman. We know that a few did, and there may have been many more, and though "it is difficult to state a clear affirmative in this question, it is much more difficult to prove a universal negative." If all assertions such as those made by Prof. Masterman were challenged, and authorities asked for, people would become more chary of making them, and there would be an appreciable diminution of the lamentable display of ignorance which is shown in the press when treating of matters, and particularly of historical matters, relating to women.

Our inability at present to permanently enlarge our paper to 16 pp. is responsible for the holding over of much matter.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OBJECT.—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men. The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. *Secretary:* MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A. *Treasurer:* MISS BERTHA MASON. *Organiser:* MISS GARDNER.
Hon. Secretaries: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. MISS FRANCES STERLING. *Telephone:* 1960 VICTORIA.
Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

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. *Lady Strachey*
And the Hon. Officers, ex officio.
 MISS MARGARET ASHTON
 THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR
 MISS FLORENCE BALGARNIE
 MRS. ALLAN BRIGHT
 MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT M.P.
 MISS EDITH DIMOCK
 MISS I. O. FORD
 MISS MARTINDALE, M.B., B.S.
 MRS. BROADLEY REID
 HON. BERTRAND RUSSELL
 MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN

Current Topics.

WE are greatly encouraged by the expressions of appreciation which we are continually receiving in connexion with *Women's Franchise*. The following is one out of many: "I was in England in 1906 and returned here last November. I am quite astonished to notice the wonderful strides that have been made. I quite unexpectedly came across a number of *Women's Franchise* at a local bookseller's some weeks ago, and feel so sorry I did not know of it long ago, for it has taught me much. I have got the bookseller here to display it more prominently than he has done hitherto... I am only here temporarily, or I would have offered to help in the way suggested in *Women's Franchise*, but I have tried to do what I can by asking for it, and begging the only shop here that does stock it to give it a prominent place. ... I would like to know if I can become a member of the N.U.W.S.S., and when I return to India I am very anxious to be kept in touch with the movement and have *Women's Franchise* sent out to me."

A most interesting account of one of our meetings is reported at great length in a recent number of the *Madras Mail*. The writer remarks that he is merely chronicling "a few sober facts," and he puts them before his readers in a remarkably lucid manner. He pays a tribute to the eloquence and logic of Lady Frances Balfour, the cleverness and wit of Mrs. Lethbridge, and the high standard of the "female oratory" generally. After devoting nearly a column to the question of granting the Parliamentary franchise to women, as set forth by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, he shows what has been the practical result of granting the municipal vote to women, from his actual experience. "The experiment of entrusting women with the administration of Poor Law Acts and other Local Government work has been more than justified. There are about half a dozen ladies on the Board of Guardians of which I am a member, and their services are invaluable... The Poor Law, indeed, could not be efficiently administered without the practical aid of women." This article ought to do a great deal of good in arousing interest in the subject among English women in India and in inducing them to become members of the National Union.

The value of the work done by the National Union is being recognized in New South Wales in a practical manner. We have just received a donation of 1l. 2s. from Miss Louisa MacDonald, Principal of the Women's College in Sydney.

The Women's Industrial Council is making arrangements for a National Conference on Industrial Training for Women and Girls, to be held early in October. The subjects for discussion are 'Trade Training for Girls,' 'Industrial Training for Unemployed Women Dependent on their own Earnings,' and 'The Training of Working-Class Girls as Children's Nurses.'

The next practice debate will be held at the National Union Office on May 27th at 4.30. All desirous of attending are cordially invited. A fee of 6d. will be charged.

The Prime Minister will receive, on Wednesday, May 20th, Mr. Stanger and a deputation of Members who desire to urge him to afford facilities for passing the Bill for the Enfranchisement of Women during this Session.

The new Conservative and Unionist League for Women's Suffrage was discussed among many of the ladies present at the great meeting of the Primrose League which was held last week in the Albert Hall, and strong expressions of sympathy and interest were expressed in every case. There is no doubt that the subject is beginning to occupy the minds of many leading Conservative women, and it is hoped that they will soon come publicly forward, proclaim the faith that is in them, and put the question of Women's Suffrage before any party considerations whatever. The Liberal women have, in many cases, set them a splendid example.

In connexion with the Kensington Borough Council by-election, we note that, while appealing for women's votes as well as for those of men, Mr. Kenyon does not include a single woman's name among his list of supporters, though he emphasizes the fact that his candidature is backed by the South Kensington Conservative Association, the Ward Committee of the Kensington Ratepayers' Association and the Middle Class Defence Organization. He may, of course, have failed in his endeavours to procure women's names, otherwise it is evident that he thinks women's support of no value, and we therefore cannot expect him to consider women's interests as equal with men's in those matters with which Borough Councils are concerned. The preliminary list of Miss Pickton's supporters, on the other hand, contains the names of as many women as men, and among them not a few well-known advocates of Women's Suffrage.

A ratepayer gave as a reason for not supporting Miss Pickton's candidature that she would have to wear men's clothes when attending committees.

At the recent Council Meeting our President, Mrs. Fawcett, gave an urgent invitation to all good Suffragists to attend the International Congress as visitors, that England may be strongly represented. Anybody may attend by paying an entrance fee of five Dutch florins.

Albert Hall Meeting, June 13th.

PLATFORM:—

President—MRS. FAWCETT, LL.D.; *Lady Frances Balfour*; *Lady Henry Somerset*; *The Rev. Anna Shaw of Philadelphia*; *Mrs. Despard*; *A MEMBER OF THE WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD.*

It is with the utmost gratification that we are able to announce that Lady Henry Somerset has consented to address us. Although, as is well known, she has recently retired from public speaking, she is willing to make this great occasion an exception, and thus show her recognition of the supreme importance of our demand.

Suffrage in the South.

All who have ever heard the Rev. Anna Shaw of Philadelphia speak will be delighted once again to have the opportunity of listening to her wit and eloquence. The Rev. Anna Shaw was coming to Europe to attend the International Suffrage Congress, and has cabled to say that she will come first to England to be present at the demonstration. This will entail much added fatigue, and we shall welcome her with the warmest gratitude.

We are hoping to have a contingent of the Women's Co-operative Guild, 1,000 strong—a worthy representation of organized working women. We shall be able to publish the name of their speaker next week.

To Home-Makers.

"HOME-MAKERS, remembering their homeless sisters, demand a vote."

A banner has been designed, and a leaflet prepared, bearing the above device. Under it we hope that any will walk who feel their special sphere is the home. The group should comprise all classes of home-makers, the lady at the head of the house, the housekeeper, the children's nurse, the cook, the parlour-maid, &c. It is earnestly hoped that all who can will co-operate in distributing the leaflet among those concerned. Supplies can be obtained on application to Miss Ward, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.

It is hoped, where possible, 3d. or 6d. will be enclosed towards the banner, the postage, and the printing, but this is not essential.

Donations to the Procession Fund.

Miss Mabel Holland	£10 0 0
Miss Julia Rogers	4 0 0
Mrs. Sanger	2 0 0
Mrs. Carl Fligel	1 0 0
Mrs. Cowell	1 1 0
Miss Hay	1 1 0
Miss Walrond	0 10 0
Mrs. Binns Smith	0 10 0
Miss Baddeley	0 10 0
Mrs. Garrett	0 10 0
		£21 2 0

Many of the boxes and stalls in the Albert Hall will not be available on June 13th, as they belong to subscribers.

As we urgently need all the seats we can get, we shall be very grateful if any of our members who know seat-holders at the Albert Hall will kindly ask if the owners will be present themselves on June 13th, or, if not, will kindly consent to lend us their seats for the afternoon. Please send all information to Miss P. Strachey, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.

Shrewsbury By-Election.

We began open-air proceedings by a meeting in the market square, of which the readers of *Women's Franchise* may have seen an inaccurate account in the papers. The police did not put us in the proper place at first, and when we had to change our position the men surged backwards and forwards, crushing and pushing, and it was impossible to obtain a hearing. Mrs. Stanbury had a good meeting the following evening at the park gate. I am taking a good hall in Shrewsbury for Mrs. Snowden for 11th and 12th.

ISABELLA ROWLETT.
 There is any amount to do here, but there has been no chance of getting anywhere near the candidates to-day; they do not seem to turn up much in Shrewsbury; but, of course, the constituency is enormous, mostly quite rural, and the candidates appear to be motoring in parts unknown. We have just come in from a bad crush in the square, but an earlier open-air meeting was quiet enough; it is the roughest place I have ever been in.

M. P. S.
 Our work in Shrewsbury has been purely propaganda, as neither candidate was willing to sign a requisition to his party leaders asking them to take up the question of Women's Suffrage, so by the resolution of the Council we were unable to support either.

In the South of England, writes a correspondent, the Women's Suffrage movement is progressing rapidly. The Bournemouth society has held many meetings, small and large, throughout the winter; and both in Southampton and Lymington there has been considerable activity. Between Bournemouth and the New Forest lies a district inhabited by many people of education, means, and influence, a large proportion of whom are women. A considerable amount of interest in the question of Women's Enfranchisement was quickened among the inhabitants of this district by a meeting held at the Rectory, New Milton, on April 23rd; the Rev. J. E. Kelsall, the rector, took the chair. An excellent address was delivered by Miss Straker, whose work on public bodies is well known in Hornsey and Highgate, and Mrs. Heitland of Cambridge made a short speech, in which she drew attention to the solidarity of women's interests, whether political, professional, or industrial. Mr. J. C. Tinne, J.P. and member of the Hants County Council, made a capital speech, lifting the subject to the high plane of justice and equity; and he was followed by Miss Margaret Bernard, of Sway, Miss Anna Bateson, of Bashley Nursery, Miss E. Kelsall, and many others. A resolution supporting the principle of Women's Suffrage was carried without a dissentient. The result of this—the first meeting of the kind in the neighbourhood—is likely to be either the formation of a new local society, or the addition of many members to one of the Suffrage societies in the district.

Political England.

MEN sometimes affect astonishment and a little becoming amusement that women should lay so much store by the vote. The jaunty air assumed by those who have got the vote ignores the teachings of English history, but those who have not yet got it would do well to remember them. As a matter of fact, in no other country is the question of so much importance as in England. Here political liberty alone is prized, and political considerations are the only ones which influence us. In a country like France, it is psychological rather than political liberty which is everywhere appreciated; ideas, as such, have rights of citizenship, and human activities receive attention and exact admiration on their own merits, without regard to sex or status. The Frenchman is not afraid to be left to judge an idea by himself, and he lives in too near a familiarity with ideas to be moved by considerations about the person who uttered them. In England all this is changed: ideas for themselves have no place at all in the national life, the status every one craves is political status, the rights recognized are political rights, the only actual franchise is the political franchise. Our history, in fact, is a political history—the most interesting and homogeneous in Europe—and our conquests political conquests.

The consequence is that the person who has no political status is no one; and every other right or liberty quickly becomes a dead letter among such unenfranchised. The vote is therefore not only the best John Bull has to give to Jane Bull, it is the only gift he has it in his power to give her. It has been said that in England Justice is only blind of one eye, it is always looking out with the other to see whether it's a man or a woman. This sarcasm strikes upon a most illuminating truth. If a certain mental dependence makes the British male unable to deal with pure ideas on their own merits, a certain moral coarseness permits him to submit all his judgments to the test of sex. No woman can have worked in the literary or professional field without coming against this weakness: the ludicrous dependence of mind shown by the average male, who alters his point of view and what he is pleased to class as his mentality, according as he has to address you "Esquire" or "Mrs. or Miss." Let us add to this the fact that the positions won by women in the universities, in the medical faculties, in scientific laboratories, on municipal boards, will remain and continue to remain stillborn—for every liberty is stillborn in a country where (from history and tradition) that political status is lacking which is the preliminary to all real liberty and all equality of recognition.

We have arrived at a moment in our history when no further progress is possible until this obvious act of justice is

done. What has already been conceded, what has already been won by women, the present point of development, of general education, general reasoning powers, and knowledge, all suggest that in England, at any rate, and in England now, the stately new machinery waits motionless for the touch which shall release its activities: and that touch is the Englishwoman's power to let her opinion count when the people's representatives take their mandate.

M. A. R. T.

Branch Societies.

BATH.—Our Annual General Meeting was held on April 30th, Miss Edgeworth in the chair. A letter was read from Mr. Vaughan Nash, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, acknowledging the receipt of the resolution passed on April 14th. Miss Severs read the report, which showed that the executive had met eight times, a sub-committee three times, two drawing-room meetings had been held, and a crowded public meeting at the Guildhall, at which Mrs. Fawcett spoke. Receipts from sale of tickets paid all expenses and left a handsome surplus. Miss Whittaker, hon. treasurer, presented the financial report, which showed a balance in hand. During the year the Society has affiliated with the Bristol and West of England Suffrage Society, and pledged itself to the election policy of the National Union.

BRISTOL.—A meeting of members and friends was held at the Ladies' Club, May 7th. Miss Geraldine Hodgson, who presided, made an appeal for help to complete a special fund for a secretary for the society; unless this was done it would be impossible to efficiently carry out the work, which was constantly increasing. The special object of the meeting was to make arrangements for the great demonstration in London on June 13th. Miss Tanner gave details of the preparations which were being made, and Miss Mabel Duncan gave an account of a visit to London and of the enthusiasm with which the demonstration was being organized. Bristol must not be behindhand in sending up a good number of women. Already several had promised to go, and banners were being prepared. All women interested in the movement were earnestly invited to join.

More promises of help were given by those who were willing to walk in the procession, by others who would contribute to the expenses, and by some who would help in making the banners.

LONDON, Hampstead.—On May 6th, the committee's "At Home" at the Library, Prince Arthur Road, was very well attended. Mrs. Wilson, Miss Löwentz, and Mrs. Stopes were the speakers. Two new members joined the Branch, and several tickets were sold for the procession.

HULL.—A well attended meeting was held on May 6th, under the presidency of Mrs. Fred Richardson. The address was given by Mrs. Alan Bright, of London, an eloquent lady, who put forward the claims of her sex for the Franchise in cogent terms. Miss Coward moved a vote of thanks to the speaker for her address—a proposition seconded by Miss Harrison, which was cordially supported and carried with acclamation.

Women Suffragists, to the number of about one hundred, will take part in the great Demonstration in London, on Saturday, June 13th. The Hull brigade will march under a very beautiful new banner of blue silk, with the three golden crowns of the City.

LEICESTER.—The annual meeting was held at the Co-operative Hall, Leicester, on the 5th inst., Mr. J. Mentor Gimson, the president, being in the chair.

Miss Carryer, the hon. secretary, read the annual report, in which it was stated that the most conspicuous, if not the most important, event in the society's diary for the past year occurred on September 9th, when, at the Leicester Revision Court, eighteen Leicester ladies claimed to be admitted to the list of Parliamentary voters. The applications were refused by the Revising Barrister. The report went on to detail the various activities of the society during the year. Nine new members had joined the society.

Miss Alexander gave the financial statement, which showed the receipts to be 21l. 7s. 3d., there being a balance in the hands of the treasurer of 5l. 3s. 9d.

Speeches were given by Dr. Shipman, M.P., Mrs. Stanbury, and Miss Edith Gittins.

WARRINGTON.—At a meeting here on May 4th the Rev. W. Bracecamp took the chair and Mrs. Alan Bright and others spoke. It was well attended and the interest throughout well maintained.

One of the opposition read a long paper against Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Bright answered his "quotations" as she called them, most successfully.

The excitement was so great towards the end of the meeting that many of the people in the hall rose to their feet and remained standing till the end.

When the matter was put to the vote, those in favour of Women's Suffrage carried it by an overwhelming majority.

S. F. WARRING.

Correspondence.

Wanted—a Song Sheet.

MADAM.—It must surely have been felt as a want by many branches that we have no topical songs for use at our meetings. Songs with simple rousing words written to popular tunes (*really* written to them, and carefully sung through by the writer during composition) form a welcome addition to the programme of any gathering, large or small, stirring up good humour and enthusiasm. The attention of the Union has been called to this need, and in the meantime song-sheets can be obtained at a very cheap rate from the offices of the Women's Freedom League, most of the songs being quite suitable to meetings of our own Union, and others easily alterable. The Cheltenham branch secured these at the beginning of the present season, and now frequently uses them at its monthly socials. May I suggest that other branches should follow our example?

THEODORA MILLS, Hon. Sec.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

	May.	P.M.
13th	Birmingham , Annual Meeting, Grand Hotel	3.30
	Birmingham , Woman's Settlement	8
14th	London, Wimbledon , Public Meeting, Lecture Hall	3
	S. Kensington , Drawing-Room Meeting	4
	Peckham , Drawing-Room Meeting	3
15th	Tufnell Park , Drawing-Room Meeting	
	Pontypridd , Drawing-Room Meeting	3.30
	Brighton , Rev. C. Punt	
	London, Battersea , Drawing-Room Meeting	4
	Plumstead , Meeting of N.U.T.	8
16th	London, Chelsea , Drawing-Room Meeting	4
	Peckham , Drawing-Room Meeting	8
	Peckham , Mass Meeting, Central Hall	7
18th	Chair , Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.	8.30
	Speakers , Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Stanbury, Miss F. Sterling, H. C. Gooch, Esq., M.P., T. Gautrey, Esq.	
	Speakers , Miss Abadam	
	Mr. Raphael	
19th	Ealing , Public Meeting, Public Hall	
21st	Hampstead , "At Home," The Library, Prince Arthur Rd.	4-6
22nd	Edinburgh , Public Meeting	
27th	London, N. Paddington , Drawing-Room Meeting	8.30
28th	Beckenham , Public Meeting	
	Speakers , Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mr. Foster, M.P.	
29th	Westminster , Drawing-Room Meeting	
	Speaker , Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.	
JUNE		
2nd	Ladies' Imperial Club	
	Speaker , Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.	

Saturday, June 13th, Procession and Meeting in Albert Hall.

Tickets, 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d., and Boxes various prices. To be obtained from 25, Victoria Street, S.W.

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

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

OFFICES: 18, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, W.C., and 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

MRS. COATES HANSEN
MISS HODGSON
MISS IRENE MILLER
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Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.S.C.

MISS MANSELL
MRS. EILEEN MITCHELL
MRS. M. CLAYTON
MISS HAMILTON

Notes.

A SAFE SEAT.—A man of the name of Churchill who has been seeking notoriety in various ways for the last few years has been returned to Parliament by a few thousand Dundee masculine roughs. (We are moulding our journalistic style and manners on those of *The Daily Chronicle*, a newspaper for which we have a great admiration.) The curious feature of the affair is, that the gentleman has gained the "safe seat" he was in search of by means of a minority vote. No fewer than 10,039 Dundee male electors (and probably double the number of female non-electors) do not want him; but 7,079 Dundee male electors do want him, therefore he represents Dundee. Dundee is to be represented by a Liberal because of its Conservative, Labour, Suffragist, and Prohibitionist tendencies. This is Democracy. This is what has been so beautifully described by Liberals as government of the People, to or for the People, by, with, or from the People—a phrase, oh, People! that you have never failed to applaud, a phrase which has never failed to extract your votes for Shuffle or Muffle, Rotter or Plotter. A phrase which, when women have taught you to think, you will find to be as empty and as valueless as are the promises freely thrown to you at election times by that same Party of Progress which originated it, and which relies upon your stupidity for its own advancement.

THE BELL.—We do not grudge the young man his "safe seat"—one man is the same as another to aliens—but we cannot profess to share in the horror of our esteemed contemporary *The Daily Chronicle* with respect to the doings of that other notoriety hunter—"the woman of the name of Molony," whose solo on the bell proved such a satisfactory substitute for Liberal oratory on two occasions. Who knows what rash promises might not have been made to the proletariat in those last anxious hours, had it not been for that bell? "The Promising Party" has good reason to be grateful to our ardent member for thus saving it from a deeper slough than that in which it is already wading. Pledges may wait Rotter or Plotter into power, but they are unsafe weapons in the hands of the young and indiscreet, and in the end may prove the ruin of those who have risen upon them. It is probable that the more experienced members of the Cabinet are now heaving a sigh of relief at the thought that the young man of the name of Churchill is safely back in the ministerial fold.

OLD AGE.—The criminals and lunatics of Great Britain are to be robbed of their age-long companions the women, provided these last contrive to live till they are seventy without getting into the workhouse, and the richest country in the world is to dole out five-shilling pensions to some of its aged workers, saving as much as possible on married people. This parsimony would be less noticeable if it was usual; but when we have seen millions of pounds voted away without discussion for armaments and useless wars, when we have seen public money lavished on men who are already luxuriously provided for, it does seem incredibly mean that the poor old couples should be deprived of their half-crowns at the suggestion of the very men who are contentedly drawing their £100 a week from the same State fund. If public money is so scarce, it would seem more just to begin economizing on the married Cabinet Ministers. If ten shillings a week is too much for an old worn-out carpenter and his wife to riot upon, a hundred pounds is

certainly too much for an able-bodied Cabinet Minister and his wife, even after allowing for the great national benefits the country is always expecting to derive from their services. However, the measure is better than no measure, and it was no doubt of use at the recent Dundee election.

Montrose Burghs By-Election.

THE news has just arrived from Dundee of Churchill's triumph and our defeat. It means a great deal to us in Montrose, so I am none too lighthearted at present. But we must not be cast down; we are fighting in a good cause, and better a thousand times to lose in a good cause than triumph in a bad one. The best thing about the Dundee result is that there is a bigger vote against Churchill than for him.

We have only one day left now for the Montrose contest, and with the Dundee workers free, we must put every ounce of energy into the last day. During the week Miss Munro and I have had good meetings at Brechin, Arbroath, Bervie, Montrose, and Forfar. Sympathetic audiences have welcomed us, and, as usual, a lot of splendid propaganda work has been done among the women of the towns.

Miss Jane K. Ford, a Glasgow Liberal and temperance advocate, has done us no harm, but good, by coming here and making speeches against us, mistaking vituperation for argument.

Many amusing incidents occur in the course of our work. We are strange creatures yet to the majority of the inhabitants of those parts. Women stare at us in amazement when we go round chalking pavements, ringing bells, mounting lorries, and addressing crowds at street corners. "Fat a wy o' daein," they say, to give you an example of the "Farfar" tongue. The men look at us first with an amused smile, then begin to listen attentively. Finally, if they are Liberals, they walk away with a "dour" look; if not, or if they are impressed with our eloquence, they shout—"Ca awa, wifie, yer daein fine." Yesterday, in Montrose, I had just mounted the platform at the Cross, when a portly gentleman mounted a table a few yards away. We had a good crowd, he had about six men. He stared at us first, as if he was astonished at the idea of a mere woman competing against him. Then he began his speech. If lung power could have drawn the crowd, he had the best chance, but it was no use. Our audience grew bigger and bigger, his maximum would be about fifteen people. That man has a grudge against me now. Miss Munro has given us invaluable help, working, as she always does, with such enthusiasm. There is a demand for Miss Munro's photograph, and we ought to have a post-card of her.

On Friday night we had a large audience in the Recreation Hall, Montrose, who listened with evident pleasure and appreciation to Mrs. Billington-Greig. On Monday we will have Miss Molony, the Heroine of the Bell, all over the constituency. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Sloan, Glasgow, Mrs. Birrell, Miss Donaldson, and Miss MacCallum, Dunfermline, also Miss Whyte, Glasgow, who have helped to the best of their ability. Nor must I forget our stalwart friend Will Whitton, of Montrose, who also helped so well in Kincardineshire. On Tuesday, polling day here, we are off to Stirling Burghs, to raise our Votes for Women banner among the "Sons of the Rock."

Workers and financial assistance urgently wanted.

AMY SANDERSON.

Dundee By-Election.

A **SPLENDID** fight has been made here, though the Government candidate *did* succeed in securing the largest number of votes. We English people are now becoming used to the Scotch character. Otherwise, the result would be incomprehensible. Anywhere else but in Scotland everything would have indicated a Liberal defeat. Here, however, we find that sympathetic and enthusiastic audiences do not mean votes in our favour. This is a bedrock of Liberalism—surely a misnomer—and years of labour are needed to make a real impression. Still a good few lessons have been driven home; one particularly, that Cabinet ministers must not utter slanderous gossip about women who are fighting in a good cause. Had Miss Molony been a candidate last week she would certainly have headed the poll. She has fought splendidly, and stands easily first with the people. Her encounters with Mr. Churchill were always to her credit. She never lost her dignity, which is more than can be said for the present member for Dundee.

Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Billington-Greig have been present several days during the last week and have addressed many fine meetings. After Wolverhampton Miss Benett and Mrs. Moore came along to help; and on Thursday we had the additional services of Mrs. Sanderson and Miss Munro.

Tuesday, Montrose; then Stirling.
We shall win soon. Just now we're doing the heavy spade-work. A. S.

Stirling Burghs By-Election.

OWING to all our available workers being required in Dundee and Montrose Burghs, the Stirling by-election campaign has been in abeyance. We are now, however, in full working order, the Dunfermline branch giving much assistance. Last week great excitement prevailed over the opening of our committee-rooms in Dunfermline. The town was full of wild rumours as to our desperate deeds. We held a meeting. Although an intensely radical community we have been attentively listened to, and our arguments appreciated. The fight will be short and hard. Additional workers are required both in Stirling and Dunfermline. The polling day is fixed for May 22nd. Between now and then we have arranged nearly a dozen meetings a day, as we hope not only to reduce the majority, but to turn the tide entirely. Mrs. Sanderson, Miss Schofield, Miss Molony, Mrs. Donaldson, Mrs. Beck, Miss Emmie Murray, and others are all doing splendid work.

By-Election Echoes.

FROM THE PRESS.

"ONE elector came out of the polling-booth with an unusually earnest expression—that of a man who had made a resolution and stuck by it. He straight away proceeded to join a group in the crowd.

"Well," asked one of his friends, with a laugh, 'Have you kept the Liberal out? Did you vote for the women?'

"Yes," he said, 'I've teen a lang spell tae see fut's wrang in politics. But, man, I've thocht mair aboot politics this week than ever a did afore. A'v bin up at the weemen's meetings every night.' He subsided into silence, as if that night he had done a deed"—and so he had!

THE BRAVE MEN OF GOURDON.

"Some of the Liberals in Gourdon were brave enough on Wednesday evening to organize a personal attack upon the Suffragettes. In quite a heroic fashion they tore the hat off the head of one lady and pulled her hair. Their courage rose to still higher flights. Being strong in numbers, they followed the ladies to the Public Hall, and with truly asinine fervour shouted themselves hoarse in order that the speakers on the platform might not be heard. These are the miserable wretches who are trusted with the votes denied to intelligent women! They

deem it clever to assault ladies and to interfere with the right of free speech. All they know about politics is that their fathers voted always for the Liberal candidate, and they imagine it is their duty to do the same. Evidently they also think it essential to coerce those who are weaker than themselves, and who cannot give them the hiding they thoroughly deserve. Wednesday evening's proceedings form the best proof that could possibly be furnished of the necessity for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women. Capt. Murray has shuffled the question by promising to vote for Adult Suffrage, which he knows well is not before the country."

Through the Thorny Way at Wolverhampton.

WE have fought as we have never fought before, and we have been very badly beaten at Wolverhampton. I make no attempt to disguise it. To have lost by 80 would have done us some credit; we should have reduced the majority. But to be beaten by 8 when we could have turned 9 Liberal votes. We could easily have induced 9 more men with brains and consciences to put this—the noblest of social reforms—before the claims of party politics. Owing to a miscalculated confidence we lost some precious hours on Monday and on polling-day, in making the necessarily complicated arrangements for bringing up the woman voter to poll and in telegraphing (to Mr. Asquith among others) the news. As the special leaflet which we hurriedly issued states: "A woman has polled in Wolverhampton, No.: 1218. Name: Dawson, Lois. Address: 15, Redhill Street. Polling Station: Red Cross Schools, May 5th, 1908. K. M.

Passive Resisters' Sales.

THE following sales have taken place:—

1. Dr. Patch's, Junction Road, N., on Monday, May 11th, at 6 p.m.
2. Dr. Mabel Hardie's, Kilburn, N.W., on Tuesday, May 12th, at 5.30.
3. Dr. Wilks's, Lower Clapton, N.E., on Tuesday, May 12th, at 6.30.
4. Dr. Lewin's, on Monday, May 4th.

On the occasion of the sale of Dr. Lewin's goods, and by the courtesy of the auctioneer, Mrs. Despard addressed the people in the sale-room and explained that this was a protest against the unjust taxation of unrepresented women. Dr. Lewin, being absent, was represented by Dr. Thornett. The members of the League had intended to hold an open-air meeting of protest outside the sale-room, but the police would not allow it. An adjournment was made to Hyde Park, where an appreciative and attentive audience listened to speeches by Mrs. Despard, Dr. Thornett, and Mrs. How Martyn.

The Duologue.

THE first performance of the duologue "Granny Bo-Peep," written by Mrs. Herringham and Miss Hodgson, came off very successfully at 18, Buckingham Street. Miss Hodgson was unrecognizable as the old country dame, and Mrs. How Martyn quite recognizable as her charming grand-daughter. The audience agreed in pronouncing it a capital piece of acting, and the cottage scenery kindly supplied by Mrs. Herringham added considerably to the dramatic effect. As a Suffrage tract it ought to prove of great use. The language is simple and earnest, and the moral, though clear, not aggressive. Many tired working women for whose benefit it has been written, may be brought to realize the evils consequent upon a voteless condition by means of this little duologue.

A second performance will be given by special request on May 19th, at 8 p.m., 18, Buckingham Street. Tickets, 1s. each, must be obtained beforehand.

Women in the Medical Profession.

A **VERY** able address was given on this subject at the Central Branch meeting on Thursday last by Miss A. Marian Thornett, F.R.C.S.I.

Dr. Thornett dealt with the position of women, in regard to the study and practice of medicine, in ancient and modern times. She described the many difficulties which the pioneers amongst women doctors had to contend with. Previous to 1858 any one who had a diploma of any kind, obtained anywhere, had a right to practice in the United Kingdom, but in that year a Bill was passed regulating the practice of medicine. Foreign qualifications were no longer recognized, and a council was formed to keep a record of all who had a right to practise in this country. Dr. Thornett enumerated the various ways of becoming qualified and the different bodies which hold examinations and grant diplomas for the practice of medicine, surgery, and midwifery.

When women wished to start as qualified practitioners, she said, they found the Act of 1858 would prevent their going abroad to qualify and then coming home to practise. Previously this had been done by Dr. Eliz. Blackwell (the first woman doctor), who went to a little place in the United States called Geneva, and there applied to be received as a student in the university. Dr. Blackwell passed her examinations in great comfort and security, and finally came to practice in England before the Act of 1858 was passed; and so it was that the first Medical Register bore the name of Dr. Eliz. Blackwell. The next woman-doctor was Dr. Garrett Anderson, who found that the Society of Apothecaries was the only one that had nothing in its rules to specifically preclude a woman from sitting as a candidate. So she prepared herself—almost in secret—for their examination, and they found themselves obliged to accept her; but afterwards they also passed a rule that men only could sit for examination. Dr. Garrett Anderson was the only woman who got through before the door was shut.

Continuing, the speaker gave an account of the oppression to which women medical students were afterwards subjected. There was apparently just the same idea then about women wanting to study medicine as there is to-day about women wanting the vote. The difficulty of getting lectures was enormous, and the expense, which was excessive and unnecessary, pressed very hardly upon the women students. Amongst the first five women doctors was Miss Pechey (Mrs. Pechey-Phipson), the well-known Suffragist, whose death was recently announced. Miss Pechey came out so splendidly in one of her examinations that the women were told if, in future, a woman came out at the top, she would not be allowed to take any honours. But when the examination for first-year students was held Miss Pechey (to her own undoing and to the undoing of many other women) came out at the head. The award she should have had was the Hope Scholarship; but it was not given to her—a decision which, on appeal, was confirmed by the Senate. Then began the active opposition which lasted so many years. Women were prevented from attending the lectures, and were treated in a very reprehensible way. The first to throw open their doors to women medical students were the Irishmen. London University followed; but Oxford and Cambridge refused, as they do to this day, to recognize women. The Royal College of Surgeons (England) does not admit women yet; the College of Physicians does not recognize them in any way either; the Royal College of Surgeons (Scotland) will admit them to membership only, not to fellowship; but to-day in Ireland, at least, and in Switzerland, Germany, and America, women in the medical profession, are on precisely the same footing as men.

Dr. Thornett, who is extremely popular in the Central Branch, and whose work as Hon. Treasurer is greatly appreciated by the members, was given a cordial vote of thanks for her interesting lecture. M. L.

Ken's Kabin.

It is pleasant to hear that the waitresses who recently made a gallant stand against injustice and intolerable conditions are now settled in their own shop in Leicester Square. It is also

pleasant to find that two of our members—Mrs. Despard and Miss Matters—have, with other friends, helped them in their dark hours. It is hoped that in a short time the shop will be entirely owned, controlled, and managed by the young women themselves. Meanwhile, members of the Women's Freedom League can help them a little in their struggle for independence by taking meals at Ken's Kabin.

This strike, though comparatively a small matter, may lead to great results, if it draws public attention to the shameful conditions imposed upon an industrious but helpless class of workers.

Scottish Council.

The **Western Branch, Glasgow**, held its first annual business meeting on May 6th. The Secretary and Treasurer gave concise and comprehensive reports, which showed a successful year.

While doing much in the district that occasioned frequent calls upon the Treasurer, the members had voted different sums to such purposes as by-election work to the Glasgow office upon its opening, and still have a considerable balance in hand, with which to begin another year.

The financial statement will be in the hands of the members at the next meeting.

Occasion was taken to thank the retiring Literary Secretary, Miss Kerr—who made a satisfactory report—for good work conscientiously done, and often at much personal inconvenience.

Miss Ryder gained eight new subscribers to the *Women's Franchise*.

Plans and suggestions were made and discussed to widen the interests of the branch and add to its membership.

At the next meeting, May 20th, Mrs. Gemmill, who last year stood for Partick Town Council, will give an address on 'Pioneer Women in the Temperance Movement.'

The attendance was good, and the meeting satisfactory, particularly in that each member showed that the welfare of our League is a personal matter. The following are the officials appointed for the ensuing year:—

President: Mrs. Wilson, 9, Bowling Green Terrace, Whiteinch.

Vice-President: Miss White, Cairnduna, Partickhill.

Joint Secretaries: Jeannie G. Wilson, 308, Dumbarton Road, Partick; Annie C. McKay, 99, Grant Street.

Treasurer: Mrs. Montgomery, 14, Broomhill Drive, Glasgow.
Literary Secretary: Miss Alice Ryder, 189, New City Road, Glasgow. A. C. MCKAY.

Branch Notes.

Central Branch.—Members are asked to note that during the summer months we shall hold open-air meetings on Thursdays, fortnightly, at 8 o'clock, in Hyde Park, near the Marble Arch. Will all members and friends attend these meetings as often as possible, either to speak or to support those who are speaking? P. H.

Manchester Branch.—Since our formation in November last, we have been steadily growing, and the recent election has given such an impetus to the movement here, that we hope the time is not far distant when we shall be able to run our own organizer for the North. In the meantime, *we must have a permanent office*. I commend this to all our members and sympathizers. A guarantee fund is being opened, contributions to which will be thankfully received by our Hon. Treasurer, Miss Fildes, The Studio, Tatton Buildings, Sale, Cheshire.

On Thursday, May 14th, a social will be held in the Portland Café, Portland Street, Oxford Street end, when a paper will be read by Mrs. Redfern; after a discussion there will be refreshments and music. Tickets 6d. Members and sympathizers of both sexes are cordially invited.

ALICE MILNE.

The Caravan Campaign.

THE Woman's Suffrage van will start from Earnshaw Cottage, Oxshott, on Saturday next, May 16th. An open-air meeting at Leatherhead (opposite the Bull Hotel), will be held at 6 p.m., and a public meeting in the Victoria Hall at 8 p.m.; Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington-Greig, and Miss Matters will be among the speakers. Dates at present arranged are Monday 18th inst., van arrives at Guildford; Thursday 21st, Godalming; Saturday 23rd, Haslemere; Thursday 28th, Petersfield; Saturday 30th, Midhurst.

There are cordial offers of help from many points along the route, but we want still more friends, and are especially anxious to hear of cyclists and others to accompany the van.

Correspondence.

PERHAPS as an old rescue worker you will allow me a little space in *Women's Franchise* to bring forward a subject that seems to call for prompt attention.

From the report of the Head Constable in one of our great seaport towns on 'The Police Establishment and the State of Crime,' I should like to quote the following extract, which appeared in one of our most popular weekly papers a short time ago: "The present position of lodgings for single women of the lower ranks of the working class is most unsatisfactory; nobody can be content with a state of affairs under which a very large proportion of the houses where single women can lodge are openly known as 'prostitutes' lodging-houses,' and are so described in a court of justice without exciting comment. Young women looking for work or falling out of work drift into these houses. Something has been done for men, but we have little or nothing to protect the women from dangers far worse than those which await the men."

With reference to this serious presentment of matters, a correspondent to the paper in which the extract appears says: "I wish I had the power to rouse public opinion on this cruel wrong to the young girls of the working classes who have to travel home in search of employment. Rescue societies and kindred bodies are only doing half their proper work if this fruitful cause of moral downfall is left entirely out of their consideration. I wish the women who are making such a brave show on behalf of their political rights would press this point home in their speeches and pamphlets. The present system is a cruel injustice to the most defenceless of our sisters, and the Suffragettes would be doing splendid human service to the cause of womanhood if they would help the effort to reform it."

No Suffragist will, I am sure, when once this particular point has been brought to her notice, need any pressing to make every possible effort for its furtherance.

MARIAN VERRAN.

[A letter from a member of the Women's Freedom League has been inserted in the paper referred to above, stating that it is on account of all such injustices that we are demanding political power, and that we deeply resent being forced by the selfishness of politicians to spend the time in getting the vote which ought to be given to forwarding reforms such as that mentioned above.]

Wanted—a Hymn-Sheet.

MADAM,—I write to call the attention of your Branches, and I hope also of those of the N.U.W.S.S., to the Hymn-Sheet published by you some time ago. Stirring songs sung to popular tunes have a good effect in rousing the enthusiasm of a meeting, and it is a pity they are not more generally used. My own Branch of the older Union has a stock of these hymns, and frequently sings them at its social gatherings. I should recommend local Societies to write to you for copies of your hymns. Many of them are quite suited to ordinary W.S.S. meetings.

THEODORA MILLS.

A Song of the Women's Freedom League.

We hold aloft the flaring torch
Of Freedom and of Equal Laws;
And though hot flame our hands may scorch,
We will not falter in the Cause.

For we bring light where all was black,
And hope where all was dread despair;
And who shall seek to turn us back,
And who to bar our path shall dare?

To us our weaker sisters cling,
And we shall help them, undismayed;
We know the coming years will bring
Their late reward—too long delayed.

Although the battle's nearly done
Our foes no rest or respite give—
The hour before a victory's won
May be the hardest hour to live.

HERBERT JACOBS.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS. From May 14th to May 23rd.

Date	Event	Speaker	Time
Thurs. 14	Social, 18, Buckingham Street Hornsey, Lecture in National Hall, High Street (close to G. N. Ry. Station)	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Billington-Greig Chairman, Mrs. How Martyn	P.M. 3.30 8
	Hyde Park (near Marble Arch)	Mrs. Toyne Miss Hillsworth Miss Neilans	8
	Manchester, Portland Café, Portland Street	Mrs. Redfern	8
Sat. 16	Caravan starts from Oxshott Leatherhead, Open air Leatherhead, Victoria Hall, Public Meeting	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Hicks Miss Matters	4 6 8
Sun. 17	Trafalgar Square	Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Holmes Mrs. Billington-Greig Miss Mary Smith	3.30
Mon. 18	Hackney Town Hall	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Billington-Greig Mr. Joseph McCabe Chairman, Mrs. How Martyn	8
Tues. 19	National Executive Com- mittee, 18, Buckingham St.		A.M. 11
	Duologue, 18, Buckingham St.	Miss Hodgson Mrs. How Martyn	P.M. 8
Wed. 20	John Stuart Mill—Celebra- tions at his Statue in Temple Gardens Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Snowden Mrs. Billington-Greig Lecture by Mrs. Billington- Greig, 'Equal Pay for Equal Work'	3 8.15
Thurs. 21	Social, Caxton Hall, Westminster West Hampstead, Town Hall	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Holmes Miss Crickmay Mr. Edward Coumbe, L.C.C. Mrs. Billington-Greig Mr. Joseph McCabe	3.30 8.15
Fri. 22	Edinburgh, Synod Hall	Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. Miss Cicely Hamilton Earl Russell	8
	Bromley Co-operative Hall, East Street, Social and Duologue	Mrs. Fels Miss McMillan Miss Fitzherbert	8
Sat. 23	Glasgow	Miss Cicely Hamilton Earl Russell	8
	Manchester, Union Street Mission Room, Lower Broughton	Jumble Sale	
Sun. 24	Hyde Park	Miss Mary Smith and others	3.30

By-Elections, Meetings Daily:—
Forfar Stirling
Dunfermline

Special "Suffrage Day," June 13th,
Meet on the Embankment (Northumberland Avenue), 2.30 P.M.,
Albert Hall, 5 P.M. Tickets, 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d.

* * 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.

Scottish Women's Social and Political Union.

Convener of Committee: MRS. JOHN HUNTEL.
Hon. Treasurer: MISS BURNET, 2, St. James Place, Hillhead, Glasgow.
Joint Hon. Secretaries: MISS GRACE PATERSON, MRS. I. D. PEARCE.
Organising Secretary: MISS HELEN FRASER.
COCKBURN BUILDINGS, 141, BATH STREET, GLASGOW.
Telegraphic Address: "SUFFRAGE, GLASGOW."

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

We demand the Vote on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

Editorial.

IN the few months of the existence of the Scottish W.S.P.U., it has met with phenomenal success, its membership increasing by leaps and bounds, showing a great awakening of interest in the Suffrage question in Scotland. Scotland, though slow to move, when once thoroughly aroused, may be relied upon to hold fast to its position (as witness its present touching loyalty to its traditional "Liberalism"), so the success hitherto may be regarded as but a sample of that yet to come, the by-election propaganda work, in fact, making the Suffrage movement known throughout the country, and sympathy and support are being found in all quarters. After the strenuous election labours are over preparations will be made for carrying the campaign into the various holiday resorts, last summer's experience of Clyde watering-places having proved this a most effective means of reaching the people. The new Edinburgh and Mid-Lothian Branch, so happily inaugurated by the successful "At Home," held in the Edinburgh Café on the 4th of this month, is fortunate in possessing some enthusiastic and indefatigable workers, who intend to do great things in the East this summer. Altogether there is much cause for congratulation on the advance made hitherto, and bright hopes for the future of the movement here.

Though it is getting far on in the season for such meetings in Glasgow—from which there is an early exodus country and seawards—it is expected that a large audience will welcome Mrs. Fawcett on her first appearance under the auspices of the Scottish Women's Social and Political Union. The occasion will be an afternoon meeting in the Charing Cross Halls on Saturday, May 23rd, when Dr. John Hunter will preside.

Amongst other speakers it is hoped that Miss May Gawthorpe, of the National W.S.P.U., who has not yet been heard in Glasgow, may be able to be present. Her brilliant and fascinating personality has brought her into much prominence in the Scottish press during the progress of the by-elections here—especially that in Kincardineshire—and many will be glad to have the opportunity of seeing and hearing her now.

It is happily significant of the growing feeling of rapprochement between the older and the younger Suffragists to have two such representative workers on either side meeting on a common platform.

The Saturday afternoon "At Homes" which have been carried on regularly since the Scottish Union opened its offices in Bath Street, have proved a great success, being well attended by members and their friends, who seldom leave without adding their names to the membership list. Besides providing a meeting-place for social intercourse, the conversations and discussions which arise (in the absence of any formal speaker), afford a capital opportunity for settling debatable points, and arming oneself in readiness to tackle all manner of objections raised by the uninformed opponent so often met outside. All are made welcome to these "At Homes," which are held every Saturday from 4 till 6 p.m. A large selection of Suffrage literature is always kept on hand for sale, including, of course, *Women's Franchise* and the *Votes for Women* magazine, the special organ of the National W.S.P.U.

Members will note, however, that there will be no "At Home" on Saturday, May 23rd, owing to the meeting in Charing Cross Halls that afternoon, tickets for which may be obtained at the offices, price 1s., a few reserved seats at 2s.

Dundee By-Election.

DUNDEE polled on Saturday under blue skies and bathed in brilliant sunshine amid unparalleled scenes of excitement—a swing and a gaiety marking everything done that was very unlike the average Scottish election.

Unionist, Liberal, Labour, and the Women's colours were worn by thousands, and "Votes for Women" buttons and Winston Churchill buttons vied with each other for popularity.

The Suffragettes' "Keep the Liberal out" was generally the last word at every polling station, and everywhere one heard how popular they were and what an excellent impression they had made. Huge crowds listened to them everywhere; cheering crowds followed them to their hotels, and some have left impressions that will not readily be forgotten. Dense crowds waited on the result of the poll, which was declared after 12 o'clock—and Churchill was followed to his hotel by thousands and spoke from the balcony. The result to those who know Dundee was a foregone conclusion. The mass of the Liberals believe in our claim, but their Liberalism is a religion to them, and to vote against their party for us they consider too much to ask. One must fight Scottish by-elections for their educative value, which seems to me their greatest value, and "Votes for Women" will only be gained through the pressure of an educated public opinion. That we now have in Dundee, and the work has had splendid results. One does not fight in our cause for material victories—if one does, disappointment will follow.

The Government nominee is in, but the Suffragettes have done an excellent piece of work, and if they are wise enough to profit, have learnt some lessons.

Montrose Burghs By-Election.

THE feature of the Montrose Burghs campaign this week has been the women's meetings, which have been very satisfactory. We have gained new members and voluntary workers and many friends. Our automobile has been much in use—is, indeed, proving invaluable—and we have had further proof of the interest and sympathy extended to us shown in practical ways this week—several people, tradesmen, &c., refusing to take payment for their work, saying it is "for the cause."

Our Birnie meeting was a specially good one, enthusiastic and inspiring, and a large open-air meeting at Brechin was also excellent. Demonstrations were held at Arbroath, Montrose, and Forfar, and Miss Dugdale and I have addressed many dinner-hour meetings.

Miss Haig and Mrs. Duncan have been very busy in the Arbroath centre, and Miss Esson Maule and Miss Burn-Murdoch have been busy addressing meetings in Brechin, their centre; while Miss MacGregor, Miss Underwood, and Miss Maconochie have worked Montrose.

Polling-day is Tuesday, and on Saturday we had Mrs. Martel and Mrs. Pankhurst from Dundee, and will have several other speakers up for the last day.

This week we shall be in Stirling Burghs, but on Tuesday evening Miss Dugdale and I are going to St. Andrews for a meeting there; going down to Stirling on Wednesday.

HELEN FRASER.

THE Scottish Women's Social and Political Union, Edinburgh and Midlothian Branch, are to be at home in their offices at Albert Buildings, Shandwick Place, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, June 3rd, from 3 till 5.30 p.m., and every Wednesday afternoon after that date. Also on the evenings of the first Thursday of every month from 8 to 9.30 p.m. The offices will be open every afternoon.

ESSON MAULE, Hon. Sec.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

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

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Notes and Comments.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL has returned to Westminster *via* Dundee. Since, under the circumstances, his ultimate return was inevitable, no one need be unduly depressed or elated. On the other hand no one, however sturdy his Liberalism, can feel comfortable about his references to the Suffragist workers at Peckham. True he said, when driven to bay by Miss Malony, that his words had not been meant to convey any disrespectful allusion. But in this case why was he not more careful how he expressed his ideas? Unquestionably the suggestion was offensive, and in dealing with such subjects a responsible Cabinet Minister should exercise the most careful restraint upon his language. Moreover, we do not think that Mr. Churchill's "explanation" was in any degree sufficient; it was grudging and partial in the extreme—"willing to wound and yet afraid to strike."

Under the circumstances the pertinacious ringing of Miss Malony's bell, however undesirable as a permanent institution at election times, was not without its excuse. Mr. Churchill might, without any loss of dignity, have made a generous retraction of an unfounded aspersion. There is only one way in which he can prove the sincerity of his advocacy of women's franchise, and that is by immediately impressing upon Mr. Asquith the necessity of giving facilities to Mr. Stanger's Bill. In so doing he would go a long way towards obliterating an episode which redounds to his credit neither for courtesy nor for platform agility.

The financial success of our Hampstead meeting encourages us to repeat the experiment. A meeting under the auspices of the Clapham Branch is fixed for May 27th at St. Anne's Hall, Venn Street. The speakers will be H. C. Brodie, Esq., M.P., Mrs. Winton Evans, and J. E. Raphael, Esq., and the chair will be taken by Mr. E. Duval. Will all those who can help communicate at once either with Mr. Victor D. Duval, the Clapham Secretary, 20, Lindore Road, Battersea Rise, S.W., or with the Hon. Sec., at 38, Museum Street, W.C.?

The success of small local meetings depends largely on the activity of members and friends in the various districts, who know the conditions and can advertise the meetings both more efficiently and with less expense. In the case of the Hampstead meeting, the League is greatly indebted to Mr. William Henderson and Mr. Joseph Clayton, of our own society, and to Mrs. Bull, Mrs. John Russell, Mrs. Hicks and Miss Hicks, Miss Ella Tulloch, and other members of the local branches of the other societies. A number of local tradesmen kindly consented to sell tickets and exhibit bills.

Will any member who knows of a hall in his own district suitable for a meeting kindly inform the Hon. Sec. at Museum Street? Speakers will at once be approached, and the executive will at the earliest moment make all further arrangements. It is a great advantage to have printing and posting done locally; will members, therefore, try to advise the committee in this matter also?

Hampstead Meeting.

A MEETING under the auspices of the League was held in the Town Hall, Hampstead, on Tuesday, May 5th, at 8 o'clock. Mr. H. W. Nevinson took the chair, supported by Mr. H. Y. Stanger, K.C., M.P., Miss Cicely Hamilton, Mr. Joseph Clayton, Mr. Herbert Jacobs, and a number of

prominent Hampstead Suffragists. The audience was not as large as some which have assembled in the Hall on the many previous occasions when Suffrage meetings have been held there, but there was considerable enthusiasm. Mr. J. S. Fletcher, M.P. for Hampstead, was, unfortunately compelled, on the advice of his medical attendant, to give up his intention of addressing the meeting.

In his opening remarks the Chairman briefly expounded the reason for which the meeting had been held and the position of the Men's League, and called upon Mr. Stanger to move the resolution "That in the opinion of this meeting the parliamentary franchise should be granted to women on the same terms as those on which it is or may be granted to men, and calls upon His Majesty's Government to give facilities for the further progress of Mr. Stanger's Bill." Mr. Stanger, who was very warmly received, then gave a brief exposition of his Bill and its prospects. He discussed more particularly the grounds on which the Prime Minister might refuse to give time for the Bill to proceed, and explained why he and the Parliamentary Committee had adopted the course of committing it to a Committee of the whole House. He admitted quite frankly that there were objections to this course, but explained that it had been adopted only after the most careful consideration of the question in all its aspects and in the full belief that in this way the greatest service would be rendered to the cause. He then put into the box a number of witnesses for the opposition, and with delightful irony exposed the fatuity of their reasonings.

The resolution was seconded by Miss Cicely Hamilton, whose recent play 'Diana of Dobsons,' has been among the striking successes of the season. Miss Hamilton put the case very forcibly with the knowledge and sympathetic standpoint of the professional woman of high attainments economically independent and keenly alive to the problems which confront Society. She showed how far-reaching had been the effect of political inferiority on women in many departments of human life. Political and economic dependence had produced an artificiality in most of the work which the most capable of women had done. The demand for the Vote was only one feature in a great movement which sought to establish the individuality and separate entity of women, to the great advantage not only of women but also of the community.

Mr. Joseph Clayton supported the resolution, speaking alternately with felicitous satire and profound feeling. He poured scorn on our parliamentary system, under which the more widely a measure is supported, the more difficult is it to pass it into law. If only one of the two great parties favoured a measure, it could be passed; if all parties favoured it, it was indefinitely postponed. As regards tactics he appealed to history as showing that all great reforms had been passed owing to the very policy which the militant societies are now pursuing in by-elections, and vigorously criticized those who allowed their support of the Liberal party to take precedence of their advocacy of an essentially Liberal measure like the enfranchisement of women. He gave also many instances of the hypocrisy of those whose chivalry is too great to give women political responsibility, but too slight to prevent them permitting women to perform for their advantage the hard monotonous labours of the household; of those coarse sensualists who dread lest women's purity should be defiled in the sordid arena of politics; of those weak puny men who are among the first to urge as an objection to women's enfranchisement that society is built upon force.

The resolution was carried with only one dissident, and Mr. Herbert Jacobs briefly expressed the thanks of the meeting to the Chairman and the speakers.

Several men joined the League; a good deal of literature was sold; and a substantial profit was realized.

To a Lady.

DEVOID of dignity you find
The noisy Suffrage-seeking crew,
Unladylike and unrefined,
To woman's highest self untrue.
Better their leisure to employ
In scolding maids and hunting cooks,
Or, if these household duties cloy,
They have their music and their books.
You for the vote have no desire;
How politics the world divide
You never trouble to inquire,
You leave your husband to decide.
Husband and child claim all your care,
Your politics are in the home;
You've "social duties" everywhere—
And then there's Fido's hair to comb.
Outside the snow its feathers strews;
Here on the hearth the fire burns bright,
The buckles of your little shoes
It burnishes with rosy light.
That dainty gown becomes you well,
Soft lies its lace, light falls its frills;
Who stitched it all? You cannot tell?
Why should you ask? You pay your bills.
And there your duty ends? No thought
Of what it costs in flesh and blood?
How poorer mothers toiled and wrought
To meet the claims of motherhood?
A mother stitched that dainty gown,
The price they paid her—thirteence;
You doubt? You'll find it all set down
In departmental evidence.
She had no menfolk to defend
Her and her babies, pay her bills;
All helpless she her lot to mend
Who has no vote to voice her ills.
To help these fallen ones to rise,
In freedom's ways their steps to guide,
To make articulate their sighs—
Seems this to you "undignified"?
Lady, you frown; yet to my mind
Theirs is a nobler charity,
More worshipful in womankind
Than your too selfish "dignity"!

ERNEST BLAKE.

Woman's Freedom.

CHATS ABOUT PERSONS AND BOOKS.

No. 7.—John Aylmer, 1521-1594.

An Harborowe For Faithful and Treue Subjectes agaynst the late blowne Blaste, concerning the Gouvernment of Women wherin be confuted all such reasons as a straunger of late made in that behalfe with a breife exhortation of obedience.

Anno MDLIX.

Proverbs 32.—Many daughters there be that gather riches together but thou goest aboue them all.
As for favour it is deceitful and bewtie is a vaine thing: but woman that feareth the Lord she is worthe to be prayseed.
Gieue her of the fruit of her handes and let her owne workes prayse her in the gate. At Strasborowe the 16th of Aprill.

John Aylmer, like John Knox, suffered persecution from Queen Mary of England, and the former likewise became a fugitive on the Continent during this bitter period. The publication of Knox's 'Blast' brought much discredit on the exiles, and it is

said that Aylmer's book, published in Strassburg, was written to pave the way for their return to England when the great Elizabeth ascended the throne, as John Strype his biographer thinks, "to take off any jealousy she might conceive of them and the religion they professed."

In the 'Harborowe' Aylmer referred to a "straunger," *i.e.*, a foreigner, as having penned the 'Blast,' but some truth-loving papist soon dispersed the polite fiction.

Aylmer's 'Essay on Women' is a careful and sober work, occasionally brightened with flashes of wit, and bears the stamp of the keen logician and the well-stored reader, not only of Holy Writ, but also of other literature.

Our author's name was variously spelled as Aylmer, Ailemare, Elmer, and Aelmer. He was born about the year 1521, and from a child was the protégé of Grey, the Marquess of Dorset, afterwards Duke of Suffolk. He took his degree of Divinity at Oxford, although his education began at Cambridge. On leaving the University he entered the family of the Duke, and was appointed the tutor of his children, among them of Lady Jane Grey, who became learned in the Latin and Greek tongues. This noble type of youthful womanhood, devoid of every worldliness, as history records, was the favourite of all, and we shall not perhaps unduly tax our readers' patience if we record an incident related by Roger Ascham, the friend of Aylmer, whom he often met at the Court of the young King Edward VI. He says:—"I came to Broadgate in Leicestershire to take my leave of the Noble Lady Jane Grey to whom I was exceedingly much beholden. Her parents, the Duke and the Duchess, with all the household, Gentlemen and Gentlewomen were hunting in the Park. I found her in her chamber reading Phaedon Platonis* in Greek and that with as much delight as some gentlemen would read a merry Tale in Boccase. After salutation and duty done, with some other talk, I asked her, why she would leefe such Pastime in the Park. Smiling, she answered me 'I wisse al their sport in the Park is but a shadow to that plesure which I find in Plato. Alas! good Folk they neuer felt what true plesure meant.' 'And how came you Madame,' quoth I, 'to this deep knowledge of plesure, and what did chiefly allure you unto it, seeing not many women, but very few men have attained thereunto?' 'I will tell you,' quoth she, 'and tell you a Troth, which perchance ye will marvel at. One of the greatest Benefits that ever God gave me is, that he sent me so sharp and severe parents and so gentle a schoolmaster: For when I am in presence either of Father or Mother, whether I speak, keep silence, sit, stand, or go, eat, drink, be merry or sad, be sewing, playing, dancing or doing anything else, I must do it as it were in such weight, measure and number, even so perfectly as God made the world or else I am so cruelly threatened, yea presently sometimes with pinches, nippes and bobs and other ways (which I will not name for the honour I bear them) so without measure mis-ordered, that I think myself in Hell, till time come when I must go to Mr. Aylmer, who teacheth me so gently, so plesently, with such fair allurements to learning, that I think all the time nothing whils I am with him. And when I am called from him, I fall on weeping, because whatsoever I do else but learning is full of Grief, Trouble, Fear and wholly misliking to me...'"

Roger Ascham afterwards wrote of her: "A divine maid diligently reading in Greek the divine Plato; in this respect you are to be reckoned happier than that by both father and mother you derive your stock from Kings and Queens," and further he writes, "O my most fortunate Aylmer to whose lot it falls to have such a scholar and you Madam, more fortunate in such a Master. All joy to you both, you the Learner of such a Master and him the Teacher of such a Scholar."

From Strype we glean that Aylmer's first preferment was the Archdeaconry of Stow in the Diocese of Lincoln (1553). This qualified him for convocation in the first year of Queen Mary's reign. He argued against the doctrine of transubstantiation, was deprived of his living, and fled to Germany. He resided at Strassburg, later at Zurich in Switzerland, where he instructed students in Latin. During his sojourn abroad he visited nearly all the universities of Italy and Germany, making his final stay at Jena.

(To be continued.)

* Plato's dialogue the 'Phaedo' deals with the immortality of the soul.

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