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Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Weekly Numbers, 1½d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; half-yearly, 3s. 3d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. All Subscriptions must be paid in advance. Back Numbers can still be obtained at the Office.

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

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

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

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

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

Notes.

THE "Anti's" are trying to make capital out of the attitude of Queen Victoria to the "Women's Rights" agitation of thirty years ago. Leaflet "No. 4" says: "Do not let us be afraid of being called stupid and reactionary. We are stupid in good company, we stand side by side with Queen Victoria." We can well understand the desire to find good company in stupidity, but we must deny Queen Victoria to them. The women's rights agitation of the seventies is not at all the same thing as the Women Suffrage Movement of 1908. It has been noted that in the 'Life of Dorothea Beale' there is no mention whatever of "women's rights," but that Miss Beale was soundness itself on the Suffrage we gather from Mrs. Rackham's letter in the current number of *The Nation*, from which we quote this striking statement. She wrote to an old pupil: "Remember the real thing to aim at is the Suffrage. Without the vote you may cut off one evil to find it coming up again in a worse form, and often, but for the personal discipline, might as well be knocking your head against a stone wall."

"Once when a petition was put forward against the Suffrage for women, Miss Beale, who declined to sign it, said that one reason urged upon her for doing so, seemed so poor, namely that the vote would impair the influence of women with men.....As time went on, this question of the vote for women seemed more and more important to Miss Beale."

FROM the Women's Local Government Society we have received 'Women's Work in the Administration of the Poor Law,' paper read at Harrogate, by Miss Siddon, vice-chairman of the Huddersfield Board of Guardians. Space prevents our dealing with its contents, but those interested can obtain it from 17, Tothill Street, Westminster, price twopence.

THE Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland will be held in Aberdeen, October 12th to 15th. Addresses on 'The Training and Practice of Citizenship,' will be delivered by Mrs.

Creighton, Mrs. George Cadbury, and the Hon. Lily Montagu. It is not too much to hope that an overwhelming expression of opinion in favour of Women's Suffrage may result.

THE revising barrister at Rotherhithe has been making great efforts to cut the knots which restrict the operation of the Act enabling women to be elected as County Councillors. In view of the fact that marriage does not disqualify a woman for election, he is ready to pre-suppose that it is not intended that she should be disqualified by marriage from voting.

IT is to be hoped that in France, where the next step in the feminist movement is the Municipal Franchise, the framers of any Bill dealing with the subject will not take the English Acts relating thereto as models!

AT the Trade Union Congress at Nottingham, the interests of women workers have been well looked after by Miss Mary McArthur, who secured the unanimous consent of the delegates to a resolution in favour of the establishment of wages boards, to fix a legal minimum wage in sweated industries, and thus procure invaluable assistance in organizing the worst-paid women-workers. She, with the other women delegates, is also to be congratulated on another notable triumph. The Amalgamated Brass Workers proposed an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to promote legislation to prevent the employment of female workers in metal polishing, turning, and screwing, on the ground that it was a dangerous and unhealthy occupation. Miss MacArthur entered a vigorous protest against this new "brazen-faced" proposal of masculine legislation. The matter is further dealt with on p. 131.

OWING to unforeseen local circumstances Mr. Mackenzie Bell's lecture 'A Man's Reasons for Wishing Women's Suffrage,' to be delivered in Cheltenham next month, has been put off from the 3rd to the 10th. The time, 4 P.M., remains as before. We have Mr. Bell's permission to say that he is willing to receive application for delivering this address during the autumn. Those wishing to avail themselves of this offer should address Mr. Mackenzie Bell, at the offices of this paper.

SPECULATION on the subject of the future of Japan is a fascinating subject. The fame achieved by self-sacrifice in war seems likely to be equalled by success in the paths of peace. One who has made a close investigation into the economic and commercial conditions of the empire ventures to prophesy in *The National Review* that "fifty years hence Japan will have a population of seventy millions; she will be in the receipt of a larger revenue than that of Great Britain to-day, her students will rank among the most highly educated in the world, her cities will be among the most attractive in existence; her people will be welcomed as the equals of any Western nation, and the motherhood of the nation will be acknowledged as the secret source of national greatness."

THE Women's Suffrage Campaigners have met with so much success in East Anglia that they are not moving on to Suffolk for another week. From September 12th to 21st their headquarters will be Colchester, so that all local sympathizers are invited to communicate with Mrs. Hicks or Miss Muriel Matters, P.O. Colchester.

LADY MACLAREN has written to *The Academy* a letter which we should not wish to pass unnoticed by our readers. Unfortunately her courteous eloquence is, we fear, wasted on the journal in question, which seems unable to appreciate nobility of thought or expression.

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

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Mrs. B. Bateson	0 5 0	Brought forward	3 13 0
Miss F. L. Eley	0 5 0	Mrs. Overton	1 1 0
Miss M. Frank	1 1 0	Miss Robertson	0 5 0
Miss E. Haverfield	1 1 0	Miss H. M. Smith	1 0 0
Miss Anna Martin	1 1 0		
Carried forward	3 13 0	Total	£5 19 0

Women in Burmah.

WOMEN in Burmah are probably freer and happier than they are anywhere else in the world, though Burmah is bordered on one side by China, where women are held in contempt, and on the other by India, where they are kept in strict seclusion. Burmese women have achieved for themselves and have been permitted by their men to attain, a freedom of life and action that has no parallel among Orientals.

The secret lies, perhaps, in the fact that the Burmese woman is active and industrious while the Burmese man is indolent. Becoming, therefore, both by taste and by habit, the money-earner, the bargainer, and financier of the household, she has asserted and obtained for herself the right to hold what she wins and the respect due to one who can and does direct and control. In Burmah we see the man as the religious soul of the nation, the woman as its brain. Burmese women are traders, and it is more often the wife than the husband who drives the bargain with the English buyer for the paddy harvest. The earnings made by the woman are her own, and cannot be touched by her husband. English officials told me that contracts for army forage and for timber were often made with women traders—and that they well understood the art of "holding up the market."

The equality of women in marriage is particularly shown in the disposition of property. There has been no need in Burmah for a Married Women's Property Act, for all property belonging to a woman before marriage remains hers absolutely when she becomes a wife. The husband cannot sell or alienate the joint property of himself and his wife without her consent or against her will. If the wife is not engaged in business it is acknowledged that she fulfils her part in the partnership by bearing the children and attending to the domestic comfort, and she still retains her control over the joint property.

Divorce is obtained with facility—desertion is a valid reason. If a husband leaves his wife for three years and does not maintain her, or a wife her husband for one year because she has no affection for him, each may separate and marry again. If a husband is a drunkard, gambler, or immoral, and has three times made a written engagement to reform, and yet continues these evil practices, his wife may put him away.

There are several points of view in the Buddhist law which may be commended to Western peoples, namely the *equal status of women in marriage; the equal control and partition of the property; the possibility of obtaining divorce without public scandal.* Marriages are happy in Burmah: illegitimate children are rare. Babies are well taken care of. Burmah is perhaps the only country where it is recognized that a woman honours a man by marrying him, for the laws of Manu (about 1280 B.C.) are still the laws of Burmah, and there it is especially stated that "*Women are to be esteemed and honoured by their fathers, brothers, husbands, and fathers-in-law, if the latter wish to be happy themselves. The gods rejoice when women are honoured; where it is not done, sacrifices avail nothing. When the women are ill-treated the family goes to ruin; when the contrary happens, it flourishes for ever.*"—'Picturesque Burmah,' Mrs. Ernest Hart (Dent & Co.).

England's Woman Minister.

To all interested in the cause of the enfranchisement of English Women it must be a source of sincere regret that the Rev. Gertrud von Petzold, M.A., has decided to accept an

invitation to America. As most of the readers of this journal must be aware, she has been, for the past four years, the pastor of the Free Christian Church, Leicester, the only ordained woman minister in England. For this, man's hitherto undisputed sphere, she has proved that woman is equally fitted. To what people are pleased to call "masculine" strength of intellect she has united the deep, earnest spirituality and tenderness more often associated with womanhood. She has from the first championed the cause of the weak and the oppressed, the victims of our commercial and social systems, and has constantly endeavoured to show the stupendous folly of war and to advocate better understanding between the nations.

The movement, however, which lies closest to Miss von Petzold's heart is, as may well be imagined, that, towards justice for women. In this movement she has for the past two years worked indefatigably, and for it she has suffered by the alienation of some on whose support she might reasonably have counted. It was partly on her initiative that a mass meeting on behalf of Woman's Franchise was arranged last March in Leicester's largest hall, and it was largely her efforts and powers of organization which caused it to be a splendid success. She has written on the subject and preached on it, and has spoken on it publicly and privately, indoors and out. Yet perhaps her best argument in favour of "Votes for Women" has been *herself*. Is it not the absurdest irony that a woman such as she, who has proved a source of inspiration to men as much as to women, whose influence has for two years held together a large Sunday afternoon meeting of working men, who has devoted much time to careful study of social and economic problems, should yet have no voice in the choice of those who are elected to solve these problems, less actual power in the control of our land than has the veriest fool able to keep a roof over his head?

So England, I had almost said, to her disgrace, loses this unique woman and America gains what we can ill spare.

May she there find blessing, success, and a vote!

E. J. DAVY.

The Force Theory and the Suffrage Question.

THE "Force Theory" states that as the woman has no physical force herself her vote is useless: it is actually but another form of moral power. It can only be enforced when aided by part of the male population, or, in other words, by its moral force compelling (or persuading) the physical force, for woman is not strong enough physically to compel man to do what she wishes, unless he wishes it also.

Therefore, it says, if the vote of the woman is no use at all except as a moral force, why fetter her with all the incumbrances and inconveniences of working through a clumsy physical vehicle? It is not only useless, it brings its own train of far-reaching results, and many of these appear to be not at all desirable, but are the inevitable consequence of its use. Obviously, then, if we look beneath the surface, the demand for the vote is only fashionable foolishness, lessening the *real* power of woman as thus represented.

The above theory is most fascinating, and is certainly not derogatory to woman's influence, so let us examine it.

All must agree that as man and woman are each part of humanity they are each aiming at one goal—that glorious goal we but dimly see in the future, when humanity shall be no more fettered and limited by its incompetencies, failures, and inconsistencies, but as one mighty whole shall march swiftly on, growing each day more splendidly vital and feeling in itself the power to accomplish all things.

We also agree that as man differs from woman, so his ways differ from her ways; and as artists grouped round a model see varying positions of the same figure, so man and woman see various aspects of the same goal. But each representation is necessary, that true progress may be made, and true progress is hindered in the same proportion that one artist in life copies the method (however good) of another, instead of steadily

regarding the goal as he himself sees it, and steadfastly pressing on to it.

So far we are in agreement with the "Force Theory." Let us therefore reduce it to practice in the Suffrage question.

In life's difficult journey, then, the practical working of political life (for the aim of true political life is the distant goal of the perfection of humanity) resolves itself thus: man's part is to be physical expression plus moral force, woman's part moral force alone. And this "moral force" of the woman is to guide the "physical expression" in the way she desires; otherwise she would be merely a negative quantity, which force theorists even would not judge desirable.

In other words, the force theorist argues that the position of horse and rider is the true attitude for man and woman in the political life. The rider has to exercise her power by moral force, for her physical force is utterly powerless to control the animal should it get the bit between its teeth and set its will against hers! Dear good man voter! how willingly he offers himself as beast of burden for the good of the whole human race!

He has conscientiously striven to follow out the above line of reasoning on differences, trying to give each one his proper task for the good of the whole. His only fault is that he has followed blindly, for he has not taken differences sufficiently into account. He has *only* divided up the human race into the two divisions of "strong" and "not strong," and according to his own division many men will fall under the "not strong" class, and some women will be admitted into the strong. The vote, he says, must be backed by the physical strength to enforce it, otherwise it is but a "moral power." We do not argue, we acquiesce; but we grieve to find Plato, St. Paul, Herbert Spencer, and a few such men are to be debarred, when the Russian giantess will be admitted. We exemplify this argument on the next page.

But a truce to faulty reasoning! It is perfectly true differences must be taken into account, but they must be considered on their entirety, not on the minor difference of mere physical strength alone. All varieties must be taken into consideration, and then they must be used as the little pieces in a grand mosaic, as the different colours making up the white ray of light, or the different aspects of the artists' model. Each one to give his own view alone, and by his own method alone, otherwise the whole will never be complete. But differences can never be fully considered without samenesses: the rays of light all proceed from the sun, the artists all have as instrument pencil or brush, and man and woman each manifests in physical force and moral force.

The great goal towards which humanity is aiming is so necessary to all, and withal so difficult to reach, that it must be striven for along the exterior path of outward improvement as well as the inner path of moral progress, and in any path each step of the way must have all the forces (differences) at our command brought to bear on it, that one tiny spark of help may not escape our notice.

Therefore, to omit from political life (the path of exterior improvement) so much of the force at the command of the human race must vitally affect its progress. Man and woman, both in the physical expression of votes and in the mental plane of moral power, must each bring into play all their essential differences of view in presenting the aspects of a case, that the question may be seen as a whole and judged accordingly.

For in any question which is for the good of the whole, however honestly and strenuously man may strive to see it in its entirety, he cannot see with the eye of the woman, and she, after all, is equally a part of humanity, and her view is equally one aspect of humanity's view of the question, and without it the judgment is defective.

Humanity having apparently forgotten that her two eyes were given her for simultaneous use, *will* persist in looking at things with one or other eye alone, and then she wonders that the perspective changes with each alternate gaze! No wonder her progress is slow and uneven, and she finds it difficult to advance steadily towards her distant goal.

MABEL LAYNG.

Correspondence.

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

Women's Opportunities and the Vote.

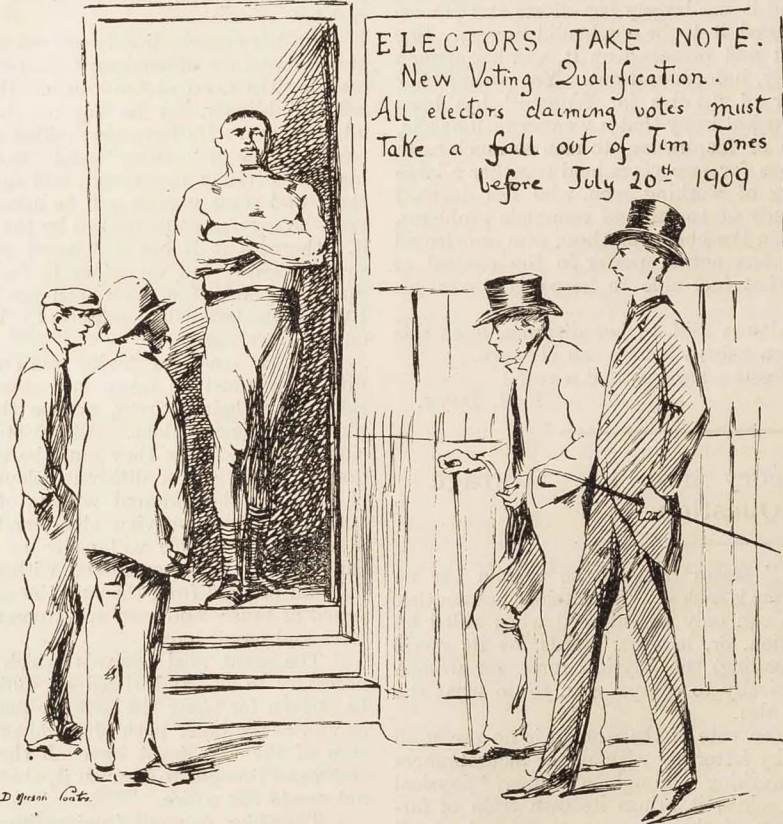
SIR, OR MADAM,—Had Lord Meath declared in his letter to *The Times* that he was an upholder of the principle of Women's Suffrage—as he does in your issue of September 3rd—I am sure he would have carried many more women with him. As a matter of fact both his letters suggest the criticism that what women have suffered from is want of equality in citizenship. When Lord Meath says that women should "train themselves" for the work of "moulding our national life," and tells us that there is a "slipshod standard of achievement in all branches of work" among "the majority of so-called 'domestic' women"—have we not got the cart before the horse?

Women have had to fight for every step of their own progress in personal liberty and education. Most of us remember the arguments urged about their incapacity for university instruction, especially for the study of the "abstract" sciences; and that the men of that day were as anxious to spare women the intolerable strain required for taking the B.A. degree as certain men now are to spare them the "corruption" of politics. When they claimed their woman's right to attend their sex in all midwifery cases and in illness, they were referred to as persons "curiously prying into disgusting subjects" [no one objected, or objects, to women doing everything for males as nurses]. Every conceivable obstacle has been put in the way of a woman "improving" herself—and the point is that a large number of these obstacles still remain, and that this fact explains the shortcomings of women pointed out by your correspondent. From the university to the hairdressing profession there is no such thing as equal opportunity.

When Lord Meath notes that women often "disclaim the financial and moral responsibilities consequent upon their own actions," are not these disqualifications and disabilities the proper explanation of the phenomenon? Is it not a fact that women have not been held pecuniarily responsible by the law, and that their own private fortune has been made over to the husband, from whom they have had to wheedle out their pocket-money? Women are therefore not a little tired of being held up to

scorn and criticism for their "defects." They feel it is an easy thing to withhold opportunities and then point out shortcomings, and they have begun to think that there would be more use and justice in pointing out the shortcomings of the sex which has had all the advantages. For example: if a few women, who are not legally "persons" at all, behave as nonentities in money matters, are there not a far larger number of males who do not accept their financial responsibilities to the women dependent upon them, and a far larger number of women who keep their husbands and their home; and have not the men, century after century, not only kept all the opportunities of wealth in their own hands, but allowed the women to endow them with theirs? You cannot have your cake and eat it. You cannot make laws which merge a wife's personality in her husband's, and cover her crimes as his, and at the same time claim of her the sense of responsibility, self-reliance and self-respect of a legal "person."

THE A.S.S.'s CLUB.
REGISTER REGISTER REGISTER.



The Physical Force Test.

Acting "No look in 'ee, gents, for you nor me!"

As you sow, you reap. The vote is really the key-note of the position. Even if it were true that Suffragists give it a "fictitious importance," it would still be necessary for women to possess it in order to achieve that equality in opportunity and in what is to be expected of them which Lord Meath so warmly advocates. And if it were true that "women are not naturally voters," as Mrs. Ward said—a phrase, I think, which from the scientific point of view and for pure utility it would be hard to beat—then all schemes for their work, education, and responsible influence would have to be shelved, and we ought to go back to the purely domestic woman, the husband supporting wife and children, the father the daughters, the brothers the sisters. Now this logical *reductio* has never been realized outside the harém, and then only among the richer classes. But it has yet to be shown that when the opposite system—our modern Western system—is pursued, women who have been educated like men can be asked to forgo the vote. The assumption is, indeed, a pure absurdity—it is not less so because it has been hugged hitherto, and would be no less absurd if the Anti-Suffragists—*per impossibile*—could make us hug it a little longer. Lord Meath makes such a contribution as Mill or Kingsley would have made when he writes: "Only too many men lightly assume responsibility, private and public, without due preparation." Only too many men are placed—in the home and outside it—in the position of Sir Oracle, which they are, in the true sense, "naturally" unfit to fill; and it is "natural" enough that the mother sex should deplore the waste of human material involved.

M. A. R. TUKER.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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

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

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A. Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON.
Hon. Secretary: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. Organisers: MISS E. M. GARDNER, B.A. MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON, B.A. MRS. COOPER.
Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON." Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA.

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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. MCLAREN.
MISS MARGARET ASHTON THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR MISS FLORENCE BARGAINIE 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 MISS LOWNDES
MISS WARD LADY STRACHEY And the Hon. Officers, *ex officio*.

Newcastle By-Election.

Committee Rooms—29, Blackett Street, Newcastle.

Polling Day—Thursday, September 24th.

MR. GEORGE RENWICK (Unionist) and Mr. Edward Shortt (Liberal) have inserted the following in their election addresses. Mr. Renwick: "I repeat what I stated in my election addresses of 1900 and 1906, i.e., that I am in favour of giving a vote to all women ratepayers."—Mr. Shortt: "I am in favour of extending to women the franchise enjoyed by men." We cannot support either our old friend Mr. Renwick, as he does not advocate a sufficiently wide Franchise, nor Mr. Shortt, for he cannot pledge himself to vote against an extension of the Franchise to men which does not include women.

The people and the press have been intensely curious and eager to know what our policy was to be, and our Town Hall meeting on Friday evening, the advertisements for which stated that there our policy would be declared, was crowded with over 2,000 people, admission being only by ticket. Dr. Ethel Williams was chairman, and the speakers were Mrs. Harrison Bell, Mrs. Cooper, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., and myself. The press reports were, in many cases, very good, and half of the contents bill of *The Northern Echo* was given on Saturday morning to 'Policy of the Suffragists.' We were greatly indebted to the I.L.P. and some local friends for most excellent stewarding of the meeting, the most successful of the by-election.

Our Committee Rooms are excellent—large and roomy, and in the centre of the town. All day crowds stand at our windows. A never-ceasing stream buy our literature and badges. In the four days we have been open we have sold over 6l. worth of literature. Our open-air meetings have been very successful, among them the first orderly evening meeting in the by-election. At the dinner-hour meetings we are eagerly expected, and five branches of the Amalgamated Societies of Engineers have already invited Mrs. Cooper, Miss Robertson, and myself to speak. We have the Haymarket as our "fixed" stand every evening, and have also another meeting in one or other of the different districts. Drawing-room meetings are going to be arranged, and committee-room afternoon meetings are begun. We are receiving great help from the local members of the North-Eastern Society.

Mrs. Eliot-Harrison is invaluable in charge of the Committee Room.

We shall be very glad of workers, for we are holding seven or eight meetings a day, but the number can be increased usefully, as the constituency is so large. I also wish to make a special appeal for funds. By-election work is most valuable—the propaganda alone to be done among 37,000 voters and the women of this town is worth much. We are doing not only propaganda, but valuable political work, because whichever of the two candidates goes to the House of Commons will go, I feel convinced, through our work, with a distinct feeling that he has a mandate on equality of voting rights for women from his electors, so I appeal with confidence to our members to send us the money necessary for this important campaign.

HELEN FRASER.

Caravan Tour.

We finished our stay in Bridlington with two very successful meetings. One was held in the old town while the Corn Exchange was going on, but we heard afterwards that there had been no exchange that afternoon, as all the people were out listening to the Suffragettes.

Hornsea, which looks the most inoffensive little place, turned out to be the home of rowdism. We had two good meetings in the daytime, but at both the evening meetings we had songs, fireworks, tin kettles, chemicals, and everything else that is used on such occasions. We managed, however, to finish speaking, and received much sympathy and support.

On Monday Miss Allen left us, after a week's useful work, and Miss McArthur of Cambridge arrived. On Wednesday Miss Robertson was summoned to Newcastle, so our party was reduced to two; but thanks to the magnificent support that we received from Hull, we were able to carry on our campaign with as much success as before.

At Beverley we held an indoor meeting, as the weather was bad. Miss Murdoch came over to take the chair, and brought with her Mrs. Martindale, who also spoke. Half a day's advertising resulted in a meeting "such as Beverley had never seen before," as we were told by a man who had lived there for thirty years. Hundreds were turned away, and we were told that we had converted many people.

Yesterday we came to Driffield, and held last night the best open-air meeting we have yet had. Mrs. Longman of Hull spoke, as well as Miss McArthur and myself. It was the first Suffrage meeting there had ever been in Driffield, but we carried a resolution without a single dissenting voice. We wish to thank Mrs. Marshal, Mrs. Coysh, and Mrs. Holmes for their kind hospitality this week, and the many members of the Hull society who have been over to help us, for their splendid work.

Our route this week is Malton, Pickering, and Helmsley. Our party consists of Miss McArthur, Mrs. Rackham (who has just arrived), and myself. Letters should be sent as before, to the National Union office. E. M. GARDNER.

County Campaign Fund.

Hants.—New Forest W.S.S., per Miss Kelsale	0 7 0	22 15 6
Surrey.—Mrs. Aldworth (Caravan)	1 1 0	38 12 0
Yorkshire.—Mrs. Heron (Caravan)	1 10 0	
Miss Hartley	1 0 0	13 17 6
In addition to the above, Miss Gardner has received from:—		
Mrs. Evershad	1 0 0	
Miss Ward	0 5 0	
A Friend	2 2 0	
A Friend	2 2 0	8 12 0

Total to Saturday, September 12th £636 2 2

Mrs. Philip Snowden in America.

WOMEN Suffragists in this country will be pleased to hear that Mrs. Philip Snowden is having a remarkably successful lecturing tour in the United States. During July and August she has been visiting the Chataquas, speaking on different phases of the women's question. Everywhere she has evoked wonderful enthusiasm. An Englishman, living in America, who was at Chataqua, N.Y., during Mrs. Snowden's visit to that place, writes: "I want you to know about Mrs. Snowden's sensational success at Chataqua. A success at Chataqua counts. The best preachers and lecturers in the English-speaking world go there. She has been the great hit of the season. Her audiences at the morning lectures have numbered 4,000. I talked with the management, with other preachers and lecturers, and with private persons. They were "crazy" about her, raving about her voice, her courage, her eloquence, her power. Amongst the population of 7,000 gathered in the grounds she was the one object of admiration. Her great triumph here will stand out in my memory as a lasting and impressive and wonderful thing." During the autumn Mrs. Snowden is visiting the women's colleges to lecture on the Suffrage. She returns to England in December.

Women's Suffrage and Orphanage Reform.

I SHOULD like to call attention to an article by Miss Frances Low in *The Nineteenth Century* of this month on the subject of 'Orphanage Reform.' It is well worth notice, as it deals with many evils in the system of conducting orphanages, more especially those having the care of illegitimate children.

My chief reason, however, for referring to it here is because the writer of the article, a pronounced Anti-Suffragist, takes the occasion to taunt the Women Suffragists with the neglect of their duties towards these orphans. "Is it not," asks Miss Low, "a paradox that this state of things (the evils of the orphanage system) should exist at a moment when not a Women's Suffrage meeting takes place without especial mention of the fact being made in language of most vehement indignation, that the would-be voters have no part in the care and control of the thousands of poor women and girls?"

Miss Low, however, does not establish her paradox, for the simple reason that she fails to prove that "would-be voters" have any part or control of these orphanages. On the contrary, her evidence—which is presumably reliable, being founded on investigations carried on during the last few years in sixty orphanages—points to the fact that women have no control. Let me give here a few statements taken from Miss Low's article. First, as regards the committees of these orphanages: "The utter farcical absurdity of a committee consisting of ponderous well-meaning gentlemen of the middle class, who saw nothing, and, so far as the education and rearing of girl children are concerned, were incapable of seeing what is to be seen by the eye of experience and knowledge." Speaking of the constitution of the Foundling Hospital (Guildford Street) Miss Low says: "There is no council of ladies—no systematic inspection of any kind."

Regarding the Cottage Homes we are told: "A significant and painful fact is to be found in the refusal of the authorities to permit a lady to visit the Cottage Homes even in the presence of a doctor." (The italics are mine.)

A lady well known for her work among poor married women, wrote to Miss Low as follows: "I know many homes in which the babies are, and some years ago I asked to be allowed to be given power to inspect and supervise every home containing one of the foster infants, and was curtly refused. Yet there is the greatest necessity."

One more quotation from Miss Low may be given, which more than any others sums up the need for representation of the motherhood of this nation: "With one or two hopeful exceptions, I found everywhere the tie of motherhood looked upon lightly, and even with contempt."

The remedies for the evils suggested by Miss Low are the arousing of public opinion on the subject; the active co-operation and direction of women of judgment, sense, and feeling; and when necessary, the introduction of Acts of Parliament. Admirable suggestions these, but not exactly reasons for ceasing to demand the Franchise. GIPSPYK.

Suffrage Meeting at the Dublin Mansion House.

ON September 4th a very large and representative meeting was held in the Mansion House. Mr. J. P. Nanetti, M.P., presided, and the proceedings were marked by a spirit of enthusiasm and unanimity. After a splendid speech by the chairman, Mrs. Stopes addressed the meeting. She said the claim of women for the Franchise was a claim for justice and freedom to a large part of the human race.

Mrs. C. B. Colby, who had come over from the United States to attend the International Suffrage Congress in Holland, gave an account of the proceedings there, and remarked that twenty-three different nations were represented.

Miss Hayden proposed, and Prof. Coles, F.G.S., seconded a resolution in favour of the Suffrage, to be forwarded to the Prime Minister, which Miss White, LL.D., supported. Miss Rowan, Mrs. Haslam, and Mr. Harrington, M.P., also spoke. Lady Dockrell moved a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor, which Mr. C. H. Oldham, B.L., seconded.

Branch Societies.

CHELTHENHAM.—An evening meeting was held on the 12th at Leckhampton; Mr. Charles Fisher, of the Education Committee and the Trades Council, was the chief speaker. A scarlet and white Women's Suffrage banner was displayed. Miss Mills took the chair. Mr. Fisher spoke on the subject from the point of view of working people, emphasizing the need of housing reform.

HIDDERSFIELD.—At the annual picnic a meeting was held, presided over by Miss Kate Kilburn. Mrs. Studdard gave an interesting account of the Edinburgh Convention. It was resolved to take part in the great demonstration to be held at Manchester on the 24th.

MANCHESTER.—Preparations for the demonstration are going forward well. The speakers for the Free Trade Hall meeting on Friday, October 23rd, are as follows: Miss Margaret Ashton in the chair, Lord Courtney of Penwith, Miss Abadam, Mrs. Bury, Mrs. Despard, Mr. Stanger, M.P., and Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P. In the Alexandra Park next day we expect to have some ten platforms.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

			P.M.
Sept. 17.	Cardiff, Garden Party at Green Meadow	Hostess, Mrs. Lewis Speaker, Mrs. Conybeare	
21 & 22.	Hull Public Meetings. 21st in Hull Royal Institution 22nd in Temperance Hall, Beverley.	Speakers, Mrs. C. Bewick Colby, Miss Roper.	
22.	Glossop, Public Meeting, Town Hall	Chair, Mrs. Dowson Speakers, Mrs. M. Ashton, Miss Irene Parker, Mrs. Swanwick	8
24.	Hull, President and Committee At Home to meet Members at No. 3 Room, Oddfellows' Hall, Charlotte Street		8
	Peckham, Meeting Girls' Improvement Society, Galleywall Road, Bermondsey	Speaker, Miss M. I. Corbett	8.30
28.	Birkenhead, Public Meeting, Association Hall	Chairman, H. A. Ziegler, Esq. Speakers, Mrs. Allan Bright, Miss M. Ashton	8
Oct. 2.	Manchester, Public Meeting, Memorial Hall		7.30
8.	Leicester, Meeting of N.U.W.S.S. Secretaries at Y.M.C.A. (London Road Entrance)		5-6.30
	Soiree, Municipal Art Gallery, New Walk		8-10 A.M.
9.	N.U.W.S.S. Quarterly Council Meetings, Sunday-School Memorial Hall, New Walk		10.30 P.M.
	Exhibition of Banners, Admission 6d., including Tea, Temperance Hall, Granby Street		3-6
	Great Demonstration, Temperance Hall. Admission by Ticket—1s., 6d., 3d. Organized by an Independent Local Committee	Chairman, J. Tudor Walters, Esq., M.P. Speakers, Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., and others	8

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

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

NATIONAL OFFICES: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

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

National Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

Notes.

A Comparison.—A few weeks ago certain hardened criminals, who had for the second time attempted to walk into the House of Commons, were sentenced to three months' imprisonment—a sentence which it is interesting to compare with that recently passed on a criminal of another type. According to *The Child's Guardian* (the organ of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children), a man who was caught in the act of assaulting two small girls, aged respectively six and four, has been awarded the penalty of four months' imprisonment with hard labour. Four months—just one month longer than women charged with obstructing the police in the performance of their duty around the Houses of Parliament. Of course, the hard labour makes a difference, and was probably thrown in because investigation disclosed that the scoundrel aforesaid had been continuing his horrible practices for two years; but on the whole, and taking all the circumstances into consideration, the woman political offender comes off very little better than the male brute.

Dr. Petersen.—We are obliged to Dr. Petersen, of the Cape House of Assembly. In the recent debate on a (rejected) Women's Suffrage Bill in the Cape House of Assembly he let the cat out of the bag. Dr. Petersen opposed the enfranchisement of women. He said the woman's place was home; they all do. But Dr. Petersen did not stop there. He went on to say that if woman had a vote she would find her home duties dull, and would not perform them. So now we know why woman's sphere is home—because home is dull. Man has found this out already; he does not want woman to find it out, because she might insist on his taking his turn of dullness instead of leaving it all the time to her. That is the present arrangement, and a very nice one indeed—for the man. Thank you very much, Dr. Petersen.

Our New Offices.—We have to record our thanks to Miss Seruya for shelves, and to Mrs. Frederic Tudor for door-mat, coal-scuttle, and fire-irons.

We are in need of other gifts, however, and shall be equally grateful to other members who will kindly volunteer to supply our deficiencies in the way of office furniture. Fenders and cupboards are badly needed; and now that the days are beginning to draw in we should find a couple of movable electric lamps especially useful. We hope that members and friends will look in at the new premises. They will be specially open on Saturday, the 19th, from 1 to 4 P.M., and on Monday, the 21st, from 5 to 7 P.M.

A Catastrophe.—One of the tyres of our caravan—the first Suffrage Caravan—has burst, and another is going to! Who will kindly pay for the new ones, so that the cost does not fall on the general funds of the League? It is not a big sum—between 8*l.* and 9*l.*—and when the big propaganda work done in secluded country villages and small towns by our vanners is recollected, it should easily be raised.

Women's Freedom League Caravan.

WE have had a week of uncertain weather and varied experiences. On the Friday of last week we took our van to Sandwich. The pitch found for us by Miss Sidley, who makes a first-rate organizer, was in a tanner's field, away from the tannery and looking out on the ancient raised footway, above a little stream and overhung with fine trees, that runs across the interesting old-world town. Our place of meeting was to be the cattle market. Miss Sidley had chalked the pavements and made our mission known; we had also been well advertised by the passage of our van through the narrow streets. When we came out into the town we found we were expected. We were followed by a host of boys, who shouted our battle cry, "Votes for Women," and, in the market, there was already a good audience gathered together. We feared at first that it would be a rowdy meeting. But I spoke a few words to the boys who had ranged themselves on the lorry, and as soon as the meeting began they kept silence, indeed they became presently attentive listeners.

Some ardent friends of the cause and members of our League, amongst them Mr. and Mrs. Meeson Coates, who, staying in Sandwich, had heard gladly of our arrival, rallied round us, and we had no reason to complain of our meeting.

On Saturday business compelled me to go to London for the week-end. After calls on sympathizers during the day, the cattle-market was again visited at night. Miss Mocatta took the chair, Miss Sidley spoke, and I hear the interest was greater than it had been. In fact, we were gradually winning Sandwich. When I returned on Monday I found the whole of the little town alive with sympathy.

In the great evening meeting we persuaded Mrs. Meeson Coates to take the chair. She told the people what the women's vote had done in New Zealand. Then Miss Sidley and I spoke. There is a great lamp in the middle of the square, which enabled me to see the faces in the crowd, and their responsiveness, earnestness, and sincerity touched me more than I can express. Also it made speaking easy. A man in the crowd called out, "Go on; we're beginning to like you, mother!" I said, "I hope you'll go on liking me," and there was applause.

That the interest was genuine was proved by what followed. Our collection amounted to no less than 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* We sold 8*s.* worth of literature, and obtained many more signatures to our petition for Daisy Lord.

On the following day Mr. Rose, a Sandwich citizen, kindly undertook to pilot me round the town that I might call upon sympathizers. The result of our visits was that we have sent the names of about thirty citizens to the Men's League, and that, as I hope and believe, a branch of the Women's Freedom League will presently be formed in Sandwich.

On Tuesday afternoon we drove to Eastry. The wind had been rising. By the time we reached our pitch, on the road-side just outside the town, it had increased to a gale, and heavy rain was falling at intervals; but, braving the elements, we went out to the little market-place at the appointed time. I should mention that Miss Mocatta, in consequence of other engagements, had been obliged to leave us at Sandwich, and we were joined by Miss Balham, of the Hampstead Branch. She, too, is an admirable colleague and helper. She has not spoken hitherto. At Eastry she took the chair for us, and occupied the position well.

We spent two nights at Eastry. The weather was gusty, and the people were not inspiring; but we felt that some sympathy was aroused. We had a pleasant morning in the hop-fields. The hop-pickers here belong to the neighbourhood; and we hear they always look forward to the hop-picking season. Women of all ages, mothers, grandmothers, young girls, and with them brown and red babies and small children were gathered together in groups; and the women were so gentle and well-mannered, they listened with so much interest that we enjoyed our visit to them. We went aside while they took their meal. Then some of them clustered round and I talked to them; yes, and they seemed to realize the importance of our subject, for there came a light into their faces. One little woman pressed forward. "Excuse me," she said, "but women have always been more persevering than men. I've noticed it." How beautiful this new pride in womanhood is!

At Wingham, our next halt, we had very pleasant experiences. It is certainly one of the loveliest villages I have ever seen. Our pitch was in the fields of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson of Wingham Court Farm; our meeting-place was in the square outside the beautiful old Red Lion Inn, and the people were as intelligent and sympathetic as any we have ever addressed. Attempted interruptions were checked by the audience. Some questions were asked, we took a good collection, and men and women flocked round to sign our petition by the light of a candle brought from one of the houses. We wished we had arranged to spend a longer time at Wingham.

To-day we breakfasted with Mr. and Mrs. Robinson at the beautiful old farmhouse. Their hop-picking is in progress, so while Miss Sidley went on into Canterbury, Miss Balham and I spent the morning among the hoppers.

We are now in Canterbury. Mrs. Nevinson and Miss Joseph have joined us. I am compelled to leave the van for a fortnight as I am going North. Our start here has been anything but pleasant. We arrived in a storm of thunder, lightning, and hail, which will render it impossible for us to hold our meeting.

With the exception of two week-ends I have now spent about six weeks with the caravan, and I persist in my opinion that it is one of our finest methods of propagandum. I hope we shall have two or three vans on the road next season, if we have not in the meantime gained our end.

Let me remind the readers of *Women's Franchise* that a fund has already been opened for the purchase of another van. I hope next year we shall be able to have our vans followed by organizers. The educational value of such a course would be incalculable. Let us remember that it is the country we wish to arouse. Until this is done, there can be but little hope of any definite success. C. DESPARD.

Our Fortnightly Public Meetings.

LONDON members are reminded that the first of our fortnightly public meetings will be held on Oct. 20th or 21st. It had been originally intended to hold it in the Town Hall, Hammersmith; but, as we learn that another Suffrage meeting is being arranged for in the district at about that date, it has been decided to defer our visit to Hammersmith till later on, and hold the opening meeting in Camden Town.

The speakers include Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mr. L. A. Atherley Jones, K.C., M.P. Miss Cicely Hamilton will take the chair.

A shop will be hired from the 7th, as a centre of propaganda work in the district. Speakers (for shop meetings), canvassers, and shop assistants are urgently needed. Members and friends in the neighbourhood are urged to give all available help and information to Miss Sime Seruya, so as to make this meeting a tremendous success.

The Organizing Committee desire to thank the following members for subscriptions towards the cost of the meeting:—F. Murray, 2s. 6d.; S. Murray, 2s.; E. Murray, 2s.; E. H. M. G., 1s.; L. Robinson, 1s.; Mrs. Nicholson Clark, 5s.

Further subscriptions, however, are urgently needed. Other meetings are arranged for the following dates:—

November 4th, Wandsworth; November 18th, Denmark Hill; December 2nd, Hammersmith.

The Result of Wearing the Badge.

DEAR MADAM,—A few weeks ago in *Women's Franchise* there was a letter suggesting that while members of the Women's Freedom League were away on holidays they should wear the badge, so I write to let you know the results which I have had. I have been as far north as Orkney. I hoped to have held a meeting there, but was not able to do so. However, I thought there are more ways than one of interesting people in Votes for Women. Accordingly I put on the little badge, "Jus Suffragii," which was "to show people I believed in Women's Suffrage and promote pleasant conversation." It had no result, for none mentioned it. So next morning I put on our little flag brooch, Votes for Women. The first person I met was one of the two ladies staying in the hotel; the rest of the company were all men fishers. She looked at me with stern disapproval, for the day before I had heard her say to the other lady, "Suffragettes were hysterical women," and the other replied, "Thank goodness! she knew none." However, I must say she bore the shock very well, and at night she told me the gentlemen were all much interested to know that a Suffragette was in their midst, and would I let them come up to the drawing-room to hear about our cause. I said, "Certainly!" so the smoking-room was that night deserted, and for two hours I had an attentive audience. At the end I said at all our meetings we were glad to receive any practical sympathy, and so a little collection was made, 11. 5s. Next day I gave one of the gentlemen 'Towards Woman's Liberty' to read. He was so impressed with it that he gave me 11. to spend in literature, and a list of places where he wished it sent. Another day I was talking to an old gentleman who was a great believer in Tariff Reform. He seemed to think the country galloping to destruction. How is it to be saved? he said, turning to me. "By giving the vote to women, of course," I replied. Then I told him about East Fife and our campaign, and before we parted I had secured 21. to help there. Two gentlemen in Inverness gave me 10s.

One day while reading on a hillside a small child approached me and asked me if I would come and see her grannie, who was in bed. So off I went, the house was full of men and women, young and old, and I wondered why I had been invited there. I soon found out, for the old lady, after I had conversed with her for a little, said, with a sigh of disappointment, "You are just like other people, I don't believe you could knock a policeman down." Then I saw why I had been sent for. The Orcadians had never seen a real living Suffragette before. So I spoke to them a little and took them some literature, and they were most kind and friendly, and although I could see they were disappointed to find me quite normal, still they were polite, and assured me they would like real well if they had some Suffragettes in Orkney. I told them they easily could. Altogether, thanks to my badge, wherever I went I found friends; they weren't always friendly at the beginning, but we always parted on the best of terms. Besides making 41. 15s. and selling some literature, I really made some friends, and I think interested a few in the Women's Freedom League. Hoping that other people have had like satisfactory results.

Believe me, yours sincerely, EUNICE MURRAY.

Branch Notes.

Central Branch.—Mr. Kehrkohn will give an address on Thursday, 17th, at 8 P.M. Subject, 'Anti-Militarism.' Questions and discussion invited. On Thursday, 24th, the Despard Debating Society will meet at 8 P.M. Subject, Part of Dr. Earengy's book, 'Women under the Law.' The book can be had from the office of the League, price 4d. All are invited to these debates and discussions whether members or not. P. H.

Dundee Branch.—The first of our monthly social meetings was held in the Gilfillan Hall on Tuesday, 8th September, Miss Husband in the chair. In spite of extremely wet weather there was a good attendance. A resolution "protesting against the action of the Dundee Town Council in excluding women from the committee and sub-committee formed for the local administration of the Old Age Pensions Act, and urging that the committees be reformed in such a manner as to include an adequate number of women," was discussed and carried unanimously. L. C.

Manchester Branch.—On Friday afternoon a most interesting meeting of the Sale Branch of the Women's Freedom League was held at the Studio, Sale. Mrs. Nidd of Manchester took the chair and those present had the pleasure and profit of listening to an address given by Mrs. Bewick Colby, the American delegate to the International Woman Suffrage Congress at Amsterdam and editor of the *American Woman's Tribune*. Mrs. Bewick Colby in her charming and inimitable style told of the undeniable benefits of Woman's Suffrage to those American States where women already have the vote; such substantial benefits as the diminution of crime in proportion to the increase of the population. But perhaps her most valuable remarks were those with which she utterly refuted Mrs. Humphry Ward's public statements as to the progress of Woman's Suffrage in America. The meeting was a most successful one, and there is no doubt that Sale will contribute a large number of members and friends to the Women's Freedom League portion of the huge procession now being organized in Manchester for October 24th.

The Hackney Branch of the Women's Freedom League are arranging for a jumble sale in about a month's time. Members and friends of the League are earnestly requested to help to make it a great financial success by sending large contributions of things no longer required by themselves. Clothing of all kinds, crockery, furniture, trimmings, strips of carpet, &c., will all be welcome. Branch Secretaries are requested to announce the sale at all their meetings. Bills, with all particulars, will be ready shortly.

A "Potteries" (Staffs) Branch has been formed, the membership of which is now seventeen, with President, Miss Bennett, Vice-President, Mrs. Gough, Secretary, Miss Mary Cartwright. There is ability and enthusiasm among the members, and every prospect of growth. A mass meeting will probably be held in the Victoria Hall, Hanley, in November.

Cardiff.—On the afternoon of Wednesday, September 2nd, we held a very successful afternoon meeting for women. Miss O. Stevenson was in the chair, and made a strong appeal for all present to sign the Daisy Lord petition. A very keen interest was displayed in the subject of "Votes for Women," many of the women attending a meeting of this kind for the first time. On leaving, like Oliver Twist, they "asked for more." I was amazed to see so many policemen in evidence at an indoor afternoon meeting for women. Why should Cardiff so strongly resent our struggle for freedom? We are still forbidden to hold open-air meetings on "Votes for Women," though we may speak on any other subject.

Caldicot.—I have spent the greater part of the last week in this district, where the Anti-Suffrage petition has made its appearance. If we had more organizers for these country places, the petitioners would be few indeed. On Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Corben lent a room, and we had a gathering of women, notwithstanding the stormy weather. As a result we there and then commenced a branch in Caldicot, with a good foundation of reason and enthusiasm.

Gloucester.—I am busy in Gloucester, and would like the names of friends and sympathizers in the district. Help of every kind is needed.

On Saturday evening we held an open-air meeting at the corner of Commercial Road and Southgate Street. Another will be held on Tuesday, and a third on Thursday.

On Thursday afternoon we are having a meeting for women at the Institute, Southgate Street, at 3 P.M.

ALICE SCHOFIELD.

The Daisy Lord Defence Fund.

FORMS for signature are being sent out from our office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, as fast as they can be obtained from the solicitor in charge of the petition. It must not be forgotten that attached to the drawing-up of this petition there are expenses, contributions towards which may be sent care of the Women's Freedom League.

Those who helped in Trafalgar Square on Sunday last will be glad to know that 51. 16s. 5½d. was collected towards the expenses, and the following sums have been sent since: 5s. (from a "Foreigner"), 1s. (per Miss Hay), 2s. (from a man).

What was done in the way of bringing home to the people present the need for the working together in the State of men and women to bring about conditions in which it should be impossible for a girl to be placed in such a position cannot be put down in a similar concise way; but the attitude of the audience and the numerous questions put by individuals in the crowd showed the keen interest in the woman's movement which the meeting evoked.

October Demonstration.

If genuine enthusiasm, hard work, and great hope make for success, then our efforts for October 23rd and 24th should be abundantly crowned. Novel features are not wanting in the plans of the Joint Committee; and in the route mapped out for the procession on the 24th Manchester will have ample opportunity for observing the number and variety of those who demand the rights of true citizenship.

It would greatly facilitate the work of the Manchester Committee if all the Northern Branch Secretaries will kindly communicate with Miss Hines, Cecil Avenue, Ashton-on-Mersey, as soon as possible, stating the number of their members who will be able to walk in the Procession on October 24th.

L. FILDES.

Women's Suffrage Campaign in East Anglia.

THE campaigners in this district have met with great success in Clacton-on-Sea, where they hope to establish a branch of the Women's Freedom League. They are now at Colchester.

London Council.

DELEGATES are reminded that the next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, the 23rd inst., at 8 P.M., at 32, Southampton Street, Strand, W.C.

It is particularly requested that resolutions, to be included on the Agenda, should be sent in on or before the 22nd inst. Suggestions are invited for propaganda work in London during the autumn and winter, and will be carefully considered by the Council at the next meeting.

MARIE LAWSON, Hon. Sec.

Cyclists' Corps.—Will all cyclists meet at Marble Arch at 3.30 P.M. on Saturday, the 19th inst.? Our ride will be to Hendon. HELEN LEVY, Hon. Sec.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

September 16th to 25th.

			P.M.
Wed. 16.	The Fire Station, Hampstead Heath	Miss Bremner	7.15
Thurs. 17.	"At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Cobden Sanderson	3.30
Fri. 18.	1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.	Mr. Kehrkohn	8
	Glasgow Western Branch, Burgh Hall, Partick, Reception to National Executive Committee and Duologue		
	Battersea, Prince's Head	Mrs. Duval	8
		Miss Underwood	
Sat. 19.	Crouch End, 43, Rosebery Gdns. Edinburgh Branch, Reception to National Executive Committee, Goad Hall, St. Andrew Square		7 3
	Queen's Hall, Public Meeting	Mrs. Despard Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc. Mrs. Holmes Miss Irene Miller Chair, Mrs. Billington-Greig	8
Sun. 20.	Wandsworth Common	Mrs. Ackroyd	12
	Battersea Park	Mrs. Duval Miss Underwood	3.30
	Brockwell Park	Mrs. Duval	3.30
	Finsbury Park	Miss Molony	3.30
	Clapham Common		6.30
Wed. 23.	The Fire Station, Hampstead Heath	Miss Bremner	7.15
Thurs. 24.	"At Home," Caxton Hall	Dr. Thornett	3.30
	1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.	Despard Debating Society	8
Fri. 25.	Hackney Baths, Committee Room	Miss Molony	8
	Battersea, Prince's Head	Mrs. Duval	

Caravan Route.—Herne Bay, 19th; Whitstable, 19th-22nd; then Faversham, Sittingbourne, and Maidstone.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

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

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

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

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

Notes and Comments.

STEWARDS are required for a meeting under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League in Camden Town, on October 21st. In accordance with custom, all declared members of the Stewards' Corps, residing in the neighbourhood, have been asked to attend. It is possible, however, that many members of the League have felt unable to join the Stewards' Corps on the ground that they could not attend meetings save those in their several districts. We hope, therefore, that not only this, but also on similar occasions in the future such members will endeavour to be present, though they receive no notice from the Head Office. With this object we propose to give in these columns a weekly list of any meetings to which the Stewards' Corps has been invited. All inquiries to the Hon. Secretary.

Mr. H. G. Chancellor, one of our Hon. Treasurers, will take the chair at a National Union meeting in West Ealing on October 11th.

An interesting picture post card of the Liverpool Branch Demonstration is on sale in Liverpool. It shows Mrs. Martel addressing a crowded audience with St. George's Hall in the background.

The Honorary Secretary has approached the Anti-Suffrage League with a suggestion for a joint debate. If this can be arranged, it may perhaps be combined with the idea (recommended to the Committee at the Annual General Meeting) that opportunity should be periodically afforded to the members of the League for discussion and interchange of ideas. The whole question was discussed at the first Committee of the autumn season, and a definite announcement will probably be made next week.

Will members of the League be good enough to send brief notices of any meetings at which they speak during the ensuing months? Not only is such news of interest to our readers, but the supplying of speakers to meetings not under our own auspices is one of the chief branches of our work, and should not be overlooked.

The Newcastle Election.

A VERY keen fight is probable at Newcastle. We have not yet received replies from the respective candidates to the questions which are sent on these occasions, and, therefore, we are compelled to fall back on their platform utterances. As very frequently happens, both candidates are in favour of Women's Suffrage. Mr. Renwick would give the vote to all women who are ratepayers, while Mr. Shortt apparently favours the equalization of the sexes.

Early last week both the Militant Suffragists and the National Union were in the field, and their reception was of a very mixed character. Subsequently, the behaviour of the crowds improved. We quote at length a striking passage from *The Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, which shows clearly how strongly public opinion is moving in the direction of fairness to the women's advocates.

"And mention of the minority who regard an election as a cheap form of out-door entertainment naturally suggests the women who in recent months have come to play so large a part in British elections, and who promise

to figure very prominently indeed on the political platform into which fate has for the moment converted this constituency. Very disgraceful scenes were witnessed on Monday night, when the women opened their campaign, and we trust we are not wrong in ascribing those turbulent proceedings in the main to unenfranchised seekers after a new sensation. Since that evening the speakers of the gentler sex have on some occasions had a more attentive hearing, and we trust better manners will mark the conduct of the election to its close. And we do not say this because we believe in the cause for which these women are fighting, though we do sincerely, but because they have a right which no self-respecting man, however much he may differ from them, will deny, to make their views known and understood. Nor can it be asserted that the agitation is unseasonable, and that this is a question of academic interest only, for it happens to be a question which in some form or another must be dealt with in the early future, while furthermore there is the consideration that the women have been challenged by no less distinguished a person than the Prime Minister himself to establish the fact that their cause has that measure of popular support which must be a condition precedent to the extension of the franchise to the voteless sex. Meanwhile we must recognize that the main issues upon which this election are to be fought must be decided by men."

This excerpt is taken from the second paragraph of a general summary of the position, and will therefore have been read and considered by a large number of Newcastle politicians. We wonder how many will be struck with the last sentence. "Meanwhile we must recognize that the main issues upon which this election are" (? why not "is") "to be fought must be decided by men." This is a very serious reflection, which will commend itself to all thoughtful men. The fiscal reformers and the present Government are seeking each to bring about a most serious change in certain existing conditions without consulting the women of the country. Yet many women are large holders of brewery stock, and incomparably more are the wives and mothers of men who patronize public houses. And every woman is concerned in the rise and fall of prices. These two important problems will, therefore, be settled before women have had any opportunity of expressing their ideas. To those who do not regard government by the will of the governed as the true ideal of society, such a thought is not very alarming. But to the democrat it should be distressing in the last degree.

Liverpool Branch.

MR. ALLERTON, who organized the big Men's League Demonstration in Liverpool reported in our columns last week, desires to thank those who helped him in the preparations. Among these he wishes especially to thank the following ladies: Miss Broadhurst, Miss E. F. Rathbone, and Mrs. Swanwick, M.A. Mrs. Swanwick's name was inadvertently omitted from the list of speakers last week. Miss Rathbone was kind enough to entertain the speakers at the London and North-Western Hotel. Miss Broadhurst organized the lady stewards, and with the help of a number of friends made not only the badges which the stewards wore, but also prepared three banners.

We have received from Mr. Allerton one of the badges worn on this occasion, and it is not improbable that it, or something like it, will be adopted as the badge of the League generally. The branch is in possession now of four

banners, and it is hoped that all will be carried by members of the branch in the forthcoming Manchester demonstration.

The formation of a recognized Liverpool Branch is now only a question of days. We are glad to hear that at least fifty have promised to join. It is not often that a branch is formed with so fine a record behind it.

Correspondence.

DEAR SIR,—Having attended a very large number of Suffrage meetings in and around London, I beg to call attention to an omission frequently noticeable in the speeches of members of the Men's League, viz., that they do not describe themselves as belonging to the League. In this way they lose very good opportunities of advertising the League and emphasizing the fact that men are banding together to give what help they can to the great women's societies.

On one occasion I asked a speaker why he did not proclaim himself. He replied, "The Men's League is not active." I then pointed out that he himself, by his very silence on the subject, was partly to blame for the alleged lack of activity. It must be clear to anybody—and the women recognize it generously—that very few men are able to spare much time for propaganda work. It follows that one of the great services which the Men's League can do is to make its existence known. It is a great asset to any cause that those who do not expect to benefit directly by its fulfilment should form a society to forward it.

Surely every Men's Leaguer should say something about the League—speak of its strong branches in Manchester, Edinburgh, Bristol, mention its big demonstration in Liverpool ten days ago, and generally insist on the duty of men to help the women's cause. If this is done, sir, I think the work of the League will steadily expand.

Believe me, yours very truly,
A. W. HOLLAND.

Women's Work.

THE following excerpt from *The Daily Telegraph* affords an interesting example of the attitude towards women in the labour market adopted by men who are working under the same or similar conditions. We would call attention not so much to the flippancy and general unfairness of this attitude as to the difficulty which women experience of causing men to regard them as workers pure and simple.

FEMALE WORKERS.

Upon the amendment of the Factory Acts there was a *diverting** discussion. The Congress having resolved that factory inspectors should have had practical experience of the loading, unloading, and coaling of ships, a resolution was moved by Mr. J. Crinion (Card and Blowing Room Operatives), and seconded by Mr. Allen Gee, of the same organisation, to the effect that work in paper, cotton, dyeing, &c., works should be prohibited between noon on Saturdays and six on Monday morning; that it should be a penal offence to place machinery in a position such as to be dangerous to the workers; that stringent regulations should be made in all cases where women are employed in laborious, dusty, and unhealthy trades; and that women should not be permitted to work at metal-polishing, turning, or making screws. An amendment to delete the last-mentioned proposal, which emanated from the Brassworkers' Union, was moved by a delegate representing the scientific instrument makers. Miss Mary MacArthur, in seconding the amendment,

* The italics are ours.

described the original resolution as brazen-faced, and therefore appropriately framed in the first instance by the brass workers. (Laughter.) She was amazed that any organization should be guilty of making such an antediluvian proposal as this. If their intention was to abolish the competition of female labour, why did they limit their proposals to these particular crafts? Why did they not propose to abolish the labour of women in every trade, if not to abolish women themselves? She did not justify the unscrupulous competition of women where it resulted in undercutting men, but they could not prevent that by limiting their proposals to a few trades. The proper thing to do was to organize women, and thus enable them to demand the same rate of wages as men.

Following Miss MacArthur came Mr. Davis, to whose remarks, we gather, is due the epithet "diverting" as applied by *The Telegraph* to the whole discussion. Mr. Davis evidently felt that the occasion demanded a display of "waggishness," and, somewhat weakly, took refuge in the particular coiffure which is characteristic of women.

Mr. W. J. Davis (Brassworkers and Metal Mechanics), opposing the amendment, expressed surprise at a woman advocating that women should work at trades which unfitted them to be mothers and sweethearts. (Laughter.) One young girl working in a brass factory had been scalped, and thus lost her beautiful hair, her stock-in-trade, and no man would now look at her. (Laughter.) Did Miss MacArthur desire women to work at trades which might entail their being scalped? (Laughter.) Miss Varley (Textile Workers) came to the assistance of her sister comrade. She was pleased that men were at last beginning to have some thought about the health of women. But there were other trades as unhealthy as that of brass-polishing, in which they ran the risk of damage, and why were those trades not embraced within the resolution? Mr. J. Turner (Shop Assistants' Union) vehemently supported the amendment in the interests of equality, and added that it was not for Mr. Davis, but for the women themselves to say whether they would become mothers and sweethearts. (Loud cheers and laughter.) The amendment having been agreed to by votes representing 791,000 trade unionists to 685,000, the resolution as amended was carried.

We are bound to say that Mr. Turner's "vehemence" appeals to us more than Mr. Davis's jocosity, which most decent people would describe as impertinence. Women, we are persuaded, do not indulge in dangerous occupations, either for amusement, or to oust men; they work because they must, and where they can, exactly as we do, that being so, they need protection just so far, and in the same degree, as men do, not because they desire to retain their attractiveness for men, but as human beings to whom the loss of health or a limb means starvation or the workhouse.

No doubt if Mr. Davis and his friends were prepared to remove from the women in question the necessity of working under the conditions under discussion, these women would thankfully abstain from such work. "A woman's chiefest glory is her hair," is perhaps an intelligible maxim in a period when women and labour in workshops are total strangers; but its application to modern conditions would be insulting on the lips of anybody who is not merely a trifler.

* * All communications intended for the Men's League columns should be addressed to the Editor, 38, Museum Street, W.C.

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