

Women's Franchise.

No. 50.

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THE Ladies' Imperial Club gave a political house dinner on the 2nd inst., which was followed by a discussion on Women's Suffrage, opened by Mrs. Fawcett. Lady Seton-Karr presided, and a large number of members and guests were present. We are glad to see the advance made with regard to this subject. When the club was opened, inquiries were made as to its attitude on this vital question, but the answers received were so unsatisfactory that many intending members refused to join in consequence.

BY an amendment of the Statutes of the Imperial Service Order, women in the Civil Service may now be made Companions of the Order, and also receive the Imperial Service Medal for Meritorious Service in the United Kingdom, or Colonies, or Protectorates, on the same conditions as men. The Order is conferred for not less than twenty-five years' service, but the period is shortened to sixteen years in the case of a Colony or Protectorate recognized as unhealthy. The Imperial Service Medal may be granted to Civil Servants on retirement after the terms of service for which the Companionship is granted.

ANOTHER Franchise "At Home" was held at the Misses Duncan, 16, West Mall, Clifton, Monday, June 1st. Over eighty were present. The chair was taken by Miss Geraldine Hodgson. Canon Talbot, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. W. C. H. Cross, Miss Theodora Johnson, Dr. Nichollson, and Mrs. Spencer gave excellent addresses. Tickets for the procession were sold, and several pounds collected for the fund. Men joined the Men's League, and several new members the Societies. June 2nd, the last of the Musical Franchise Teas was held at Mrs. Wickham's, Redland. Mrs. Gronow Davis was in the chair, and Mrs. Martin and the Rev. R. Fripp spoke. Miss Tanner and Miss Mabel Duncan explained the procession arrangements.

Six Musical Franchise Teas have been held in Bristol to collect money for the procession and to spread the Suffrage for Women propaganda. Excellent work has been done, and over 20l. has been collected for expenses. Bristol has also had a week's out-of-door campaign with Mrs. Cooper from Nelson. Two meetings a day have been held; these have been so successful that Miss Tanner and Miss Mabel Duncan, the Hon. Secs. of the two Societies, intend to keep them up during the summer.

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.

'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.

WE shall be glad if those who have promised to give money to help to maintain the publication of *Women's Franchise* will at once forward their contributions to the office of this paper. At the end of this month we complete our first year, and with our second year we hope to inaugurate a term of augmented usefulness. Various suggestions for the improvement of the paper have been made, but our present financial support will not enable us to continue to issue twelve pages for a penny, far less adopt further means of propaganda.

MR. H. Y. STANGER, K.C., M.P., was the principal guest at a dinner of the New Reform Club, which was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel on the 3rd inst. Mrs. C. A. V. Conybeare, who was in the chair, in proposing the health of Mr. Stanger, said that they had asked that gentleman to be their guest that night to celebrate the victory which the cause of Women's Suffrage had achieved through his instrumentality in the House of Commons. They were grateful to all those in the House who had pleaded their cause. First, there was Sir John Bamford Slack; second, Mr. Dickinson; and, third, Mr. Stanger, who had so chivalrously come forward to help them. They felt grateful to Mr. Stanger for seeking an interview with the Prime Minister. Mr. Stanger, who on rising to reply was enthusiastically received, remarked that their opponents were wringing their hands and deploring the abject surrender that the Premier had made to the supporters of Women's Suffrage.

SUFFRAGISTS will learn with great surprise on the authority of *The Lancet* that there is a close connexion between "Female Voting and Mental Disease." A Finnish medical man, who claims to have studied the subject from a scientific point of view, asserts that in the municipality of Nurmes, in Finland, the number of lunatics steadily increased between 1900 and 1906. As this cannot be accounted for on religious or political grounds, and as women in Finland have "for some time" had the vote, the learned doctor therefore concludes that it must have been brought about by their political enfranchisement. Unfortunately for this argument, the first time Finnish women recorded their votes was in 1907. Our esteemed contemporary appears to think that the fact of women voting in 1907 is the cause of the increase of lunacy in the locality between 1900 and 1906.

'THE SPECTATOR' is seriously agitated over "Mr. Asquith's Surrender," and in an impassioned—we had nearly written hysterical—article of two and a half columns in length, it considers how it can best oppose the extension of the political suffrage to women, how it "can best organize opposition to a measure destined to effect so vast and so evil a revolution." In case of any misunderstanding, it explains its position in the following illuminating and logical sentences: "Let us say once more that we resist the extension of the suffrage on the ground that women are women and not men, and that therefore it is not right that they should give decisions on matters which may demand a resort to the *ultima ratio*—the use of those arms of defence and offence which women are precluded from using.....When a woman asks us "Why am I not to have a vote?" we reply: "Because you are not a man. That is the only reason, but it is sufficient." The answer may be sufficient to the editor of *The Spectator*, but it is not so to many of the greatest intellects of the land.

Correspondence.

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

'Women's Franchise.'

SIR,—I read with pleasure the suggestion in last week's *Women's Franchise* re advertisements for your paper, as I and many others are only waiting for firms to advertise in it in order to deal with them as far as possible. Yours faithfully,
(Mrs.) L. RICE.

The Derby and Oaks.

DEAR SIR,—I hope you will note in this week's *Women's Franchise* the singular significance of the winner of the Derby, especially as she was the only one of her sex competing in the great race. A WELL WISHER.

Songs.

DEAR SIR,—There have been expressed desires for songs for Suffrage meetings. Now, if our friends would only look through Scotch songs, they would find abundance already set to inspiring music. One in particular would require no change, except the name of the particular statesman addressed—I suppose "John Burns's interference" would suit. It is called 'John Grumlie,' and begins—

John Grumlie swore by the light of the moon, and the green leaves on the tree,
That he could do more work in a day than his wife could do in three,

Singing fal lal lal la, &c.

She therefore allows him to try. He has to wake, wash, dress, feed the children, to clean the house and wash the clothes, meanwhile to have an eye to the fowls, that they did not escape and "lay awa," another eye to the calves that they should not enter the corn, and his whole attention to the children that they should not harm themselves, while he cooked the family dinner. She, as a minor part of the transaction, went forth to hold the plough.

The *dénouement* arrives when she comes home for dinner, after having performed "the man's share of the work."
C. C. STOPES.

[Owing to lack of space, we are obliged to hold over some Correspondence, Reviews of Books, and other Articles.]

Scottish Women's Social and Political Union.

Organizing Secretary: MISS HELEN FRASER.

COCKBURN BUILDINGS, 141, BATH STREET, GLASGOW.

Telegraphic Address: "SUFFRAGE, GLASGOW." Nat. Telephone: 416 DOUGLAS.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

Editorial.

MR. JOHN BURNS has been giving the Suffragists further demonstration of the disadvantages of a voteless condition. Apparently he is of opinion that he owes his present rank and position to the superiority of his own personal merits, forgetting that these would have availed him little, or not at all, without the successful fight of his fellow-workers in the past to secure the legal recognition of the principle of class equality.

What has been done for class must be done for sex, and those men who are enjoying the benefits gained for their class by the strenuous labours of men in days gone by should be the last to throw contempt upon women now fighting for the same right for themselves and their sisters. Women Suffragists are frequently invited to place their faith in their Labour supporters. Experience, however, is teaching them that they have little more to expect in that quarter than the usual unsatisfying assurance of being "in favour," which is never likely to get them any "ferrader"!

Mr. John Burns seems incapable of seeing that this is a question of the right of women to the recognition of their equal citizenship with men, and that, therefore, they are perfectly justified in refusing to allow their claims to be set aside for the consideration of any particular proposed reform. If it is not pure ignorance, therefore, it is simply deliberate dishonesty to attribute the attitude of Women Suffragists towards the present Licensing Bill to a support of the brewers' interests, and no intelligent man or woman who gives thought to the matter will give credit to such an insinuation.

Mr. Balfour has been doing his share in exposing the disingenuousness of Mr. Asquith's "concession." Where, indeed, is the mandate from the country for "votes for all women," or, for that matter, even for "votes for all men"? If one may judge by the impression received in the Scottish constituencies there is no great demand at present for either; but, to judge also by that impression, there will be very little difficulty in securing from the country a mandate for "votes for women on the same terms as men."

Those who ask "what good will the vote be to women who are not qualified, if only qualified women can vote?" have failed to grasp the meaning of the value of votes, which lies first of all in the position which their possession gives to the class which has them. Every individual in that class benefits from that position, whether personally owning a vote or not, for every individual immediately becomes, if not an owner, a potential owner of the same. The man who at present is voteless can afford to be comparatively indifferent to the fact, for there is no class of men outside the pale of citizenship—he is inside by reason of the fact.

When the sex disqualification is removed every woman will benefit, and that at once. Every woman becomes then a potential voter, the artificial barrier to her citizenship is removed, and the statue of womanhood raised accordingly.

Men are seldom asked if they personally are voters; the fact that they belong to a class that is, is sufficient to obtain respect and consideration for their demands, and the same will apply to women when they are placed on equal terms with men,

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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

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

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.

Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON.

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

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

Telephone: 1960 VICTORIA.

OFFICES: 25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.
The Union will send Organising Agents, Speakers, or Literature to any place requiring them, its desire being to form a Women's Suffrage Society in every County and Borough. All persons interested in the movement, or desiring information about it, are requested to communicate with the Secretaries. Increased Funds are needed for the growing work of the Union, and Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. MCLAREN.

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

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

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

LADY STRACHEY
And the Hon. Officers,
ex officio.

Current Topics.

A MOST successful dinner was given by the New Reform Club on June 3rd to Mr. York Stanger, K.C., M.P., as a small token of gratitude for the exceedingly able way in which he introduced his Woman's Suffrage Bill for its second reading.

Mrs. Coneybeare presided, and made a most charming clever speech, in which she said, however much men might admire and appreciate Mr. Stanger's speech, they could never do so as fully as did the women behind the grill and up and down the country.

Mr. Stanger gave us a most interesting and hopeful account of his interview with Mr. Asquith. He was seconded in this by Mr. Dickenson, M.P. The other speakers were Miss Leigh Browne, to whose work we owe a debt of gratitude, and Mr. Hemmerde, K.C., M.P.

In a letter answering questions on the effect of Woman's Suffrage in New South Wales, the Agent General has written "the one definite and effective result, which is pretty generally recognized, is an added strength in the voice of the electorates for social reform of various kinds."

The Shop in Westbourne Grove.

THE Women's Suffrage shop has already attracted much attention. On Friday we were greatly cheered by a surprise visit from Mrs. Stanbury, who, besides giving us much valuable advice and help, very kindly offered to address impromptu meetings on Saturday, June 6th, and Tuesday, 9th.

Our first purchaser arrived before we had been in possession half an hour; and, if time and space permitted, we could give a lively account of our proceedings. But for the present our motto is "Work, not words."

The following afternoon meetings have been arranged: Wednesday, June 10th, 3.15 P.M., Lady Grove, Miss Clementina Black; Thursday, June 11th, Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Abadam; Friday, June 12th, Mrs. C. A. V. Conybeare and Miss Ransome.

Finance.—We have received the following donations: Miss J. Wedgwood, 10l.; Mrs. Percy Harris, 1l. 10s.; Per the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, 3l. For which we are additionally grateful, since our expenses have been augmented by a heavy insurance for our plate glass.
F. G. WRIGHT, Sec.

Pudsey By-Election.

IN Yorkshire, I am told, if any one is particularly behind the times or slow-going, he or she is requested to "Go to Pudsey." It is good advice, for nowhere will they be treated more kindly. As to being behind the times, I have been trying to arrange a debate, and have called on several local gentlemen, trying to find some one to take the opposition; but everywhere the answer is the same—"I agree with you entirely, and I don't know of anybody in Pudsey who doesn't."

I arrived in Pudsey on Wednesday; on Thursday Miss Rowlette joined me, and we opened the Committee Room at 22, Church Lane. It is a very good shop, in a central position, large enough to hold small meetings.

The long spell of fine weather has enabled us to carry on our campaign successfully and cheaply. We have had no indoor meetings at all. Our reception everywhere has been wonderful. At Gildersome on Tuesday hundreds came to hear us, and the Urban District Council, which was holding a business meeting, adjourned immediately they heard that we were on the green, so that they might listen. On Wednesday Miss I. O. Ford came over, and we had a good meeting here until the arrival of Mr. Hunnab drew away half the crowd. Very little advertisement is needed for our meetings, so the work is easy. The local bellman and the children are always enough to gather a large crowd as soon as we arrive, though we make a point of doing a little chalking everywhere, because it is expected of Suffragettes (as we are called indiscriminately), and we do not like to disappoint them. As a proof of our success I cannot do better than quote *The Pudsey News*: "The Suffragettes have been with us for nearly an age, and they can thus far say, 'I came, I saw, I conquered.'"

Our Wednesday meeting is described as follows: "Thousands were present at 7.30...listening to the quieter section of the Suffragettes. Mrs. Cooper, of Nelson, was the speaker. She was wearing a rosette of neutral colours...She was good-looking. Men will listen to a good-looking young woman for a time when she only speaks moderately; but Mrs. Cooper spoke well. There was nothing masculine about her—none of the grotesque features which are often in the popular mind associated with the Suffragettes...Not a word of dissent was heard."

And our meeting at Farsley: "It was obvious that very few of the audience (composed chiefly of men) were disposed to say the ladies nay." At one of our meetings we heard one man say to some others, "Now, then, you chaps, make yourself into constables to keep the youngsters quiet." It is all very pleasant, and we shall be sorry to leave Pudsey.

At present we are doing propaganda work.

E. M. GARDNER, B.A.

Mr. Oddy's Answer.

WILL you sign a requisition to your party leaders asking them to take up the question at the earliest possible moment?—Yes.

If elected, will you ballot for a place for a Bill on the above terms on the opening day of the session?—Yes.

In the discussion promised by Mr. Asquith on electoral reform, will you support an amendment in favour of Women's Suffrage and vote against any extension of the Franchise to men which does not include the grant of the Parliamentary vote to women?—Yes.

Will you mention it without being asked?—Yes.

Will you join the Parliamentary Committee for Woman's Suffrage?—Yes.

Why won't you put it in your Election address?—Address was already printed.

Mr. Benson's Answer.

DEAR MADAM,—I beg to reply to your letter re Women's Suffrage, and wish to say that it is my intention to advocate it both in my address and in speeches on the platform during the Pudsey election.

With kind regards and best wishes for your success.

Yours truly, J. N. BENSON.

Mr. Ogden.

So far Mr. Ogden has not answered in writing, but he has put a mention of it in his election address, has told Miss Gardner he would sign a requisition, and that he would vote against any further extension of the Franchise to men unless it included women, and that he would mention Women's Suffrage in his speeches. He said he could not give a definite promise to ballot for a Bill, as he did not feel capable of introducing one, but later he said certainly he would if he did not have to be responsible himself for the Bill.

Under the circumstances we are doing propaganda.

MARGERY I. CORBETT.

The 5,000 Guineas Fund.

The following additional contributions have been received:

	£	s.	d.
Miss Dalby (by making marmalade)	2	1	0
Mrs. Stansfield	2	0	0
Miss Kilgour	5	0	0
Sir C. McLaren, Bart., M.P.	5	0	0
	14	1	0

American Suffragists and Mrs. Humphry Ward.

OVER the well-known initials of "A. S. B.," *The Women's Journal* has published a most interesting article on Mrs. Humphry Ward's attitude with regard to Women's Suffrage. We learn that in America opponents of our cause are making as much capital as possible out of the fact that Mrs. Ward does not believe in women voting for Members of Parliament, and as little as possible of the fact that she thinks they ought to vote for everything else. American Anti-Suffragists conveniently forget that she is strongly in favour of the law which enables women to be mayors, aldermen, and county and town councillors.

It is instructive to read that "Every argument that Mrs. Ward urges against the Parliamentary Suffrage for women in England is urged by our 'Antis' against Municipal Suffrage for Women in America. She says national life rests on force; they say Municipal Government rests on force. She says women are not qualified to decide national questions; they are equally sure that women are not qualified to decide municipal questions. She thinks that women should not have National Suffrage because they cannot be generals and admirals; they think women ought not to have the Municipal Vote unless they can be policemen. Mrs. Ward's letter against Parliamentary Suffrage was last year circulated all through Illinois, where the women were trying to secure the Municipal Vote, as an argument against Municipal Suffrage. Yet she thinks it would be as unjustifiable to exclude women from the Municipal Vote as to exclude them from a knowledge of the alphabet.

"Mrs. Ward's opinion on Municipal Suffrage is worth more than her opinion on Parliamentary Suffrage, because she has had no chance to observe the latter in practice, while she has seen the former in actual operation in England, and knows by experience that it has not demoralized either women or politicians."

Further Donations to the Procession Fund.

Mrs. Rackham	£0	10	0
Mrs. Wyon	0	5	0
Mrs. C. Hollins	2	2	0
Miss H. Rea	0	2	6
Miss Beatrice Harraden	1	0	0
Mrs. Crackanthorpe	1	0	0
Mrs. Pilcher	1	0	0
Miss Lucy Deane	0	10	0
Miss Eastland	0	2	6
Miss E. M. Greg	1	1	0
Mrs. Sharman	5	0	0
Mrs. Taylor	10	0	0
Miss Massé	0	2	0
Miss M. E. Dunn	1	1	0

Miss E. M. Osborne	£1	1	0
Miss H. M. Brown	1	1	0
L. Thompson, Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. Elder	0	10	0
Miss M. Gordon	0	10	0
Miss Burgess	0	2	0
Mrs. Purdie	1	0	0
Miss O. Prescott	2	0	0
Mrs. Hugh Thompson	1	0	0
Miss Maud Biggs	0	5	0
Miss M. E. Bache	0	10	0
Mrs. Hancock	2	2	0
Miss Cussions	0	5	0
Miss M. C. Tabor	0	5	0
Mrs. H. Barrow	0	5	0
Miss Thomson	0	1	0
Miss A. Chapman (collected by)	0	15	0
Mrs. Greenlen	0	10	0
Miss M. Young	0	5	0
Miss Sells	0	5	0
Lady Wright	0	10	0
— Heitland, Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. Stopes	0	5	0
Miss M. W. Haycraft	1	0	0
Miss M. A. Eve	1	0	0
Miss J. Wedgwood	10	0	0
Capt. E. S. Dugdale	0	5	0
Mrs. Oakley	1	0	0
Dr. Catherine Corbett	0	2	6
Mrs. A. Cock	0	10	0
Miss Hicks	1	0	0
Mrs. A. Maude	0	10	0
Miss Bullpitt	0	5	0

£54 15 6

Further contributions received will be acknowledged next week.

New Branch at Cardiff.

At a meeting held on June 4th at the Occidental Café, it was decided to form a Women's Suffrage Society which should be affiliated to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and should be called the Cardiff and District Women's Suffrage Society.

Mrs. Henry Lewis, of Greenmeadow, was elected President and a provisional Committee was appointed to make suggestions for the constitution of the Society and draw up the rules which shall be submitted to the next General Meeting.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Miss Nantel for the good work she has done towards the formation of the Society.

Two delegates were appointed to represent Cardiff on June 13th.

The Society starts with a membership of 58.

Miss Mabel Howell was appointed to act as Hon. Sec. and Treasurer until the next meeting of the Society.

Suffrage at Caldicot.

WITH the intention of arousing interest in this neighbourhood on behalf of Women's Suffrage, two meetings were held here on May 12th, one by invitation of Mrs. C. M. Corben at Ivy Lodge, when about fifty ladies and gentlemen (chiefly ladies!) from the district assembled to meet Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., and Mrs. Despard; and later in the evening a public meeting in the Men's Reading Room. This was unfortunately marred by a set of men who seemed to have come with the express intention of preventing the speakers being heard. We are deeply grateful to those members of the audience who by their demand for fair play prevented the disorderly element from carrying out their full intentions; both speakers being able to drive home some very forcible truths.

Thanks to the kindness of these two ladies coming here; much interest and sympathy for the cause has been aroused, and we hope shortly a Women's Suffrage Society will be formed as well as a branch of the Men's League.

Branch Societies.

BATH.—A meeting of members was held on May 20th at Claverton Lodge, by kind invitation of Mrs. Ashworth Hallett. Several ladies present undertook to represent the Bath Society at the great demonstration on June 13th, and in the meantime arrangements were discussed for arousing still further public attention and interest in the procession and mass meeting to follow.

BRISTOL.—The Suffrage out-of-door campaign is being sustained with great vigour and success. Amongst others an excellent meeting was held at St. George's Park. A crowd, swelling bigger and bigger, of interested men and women listened to Mrs. Cooper and others. Whenever a large flag with the words "Give votes to women on the same terms as to men" is unfurled an eager crowd assembles. Another successful meeting was held at Bedminster Park. Men got off their bicycles, joined the crowd, and all listened attentively. One man said they would listen till 10 that night if the ladies would go on speaking. Intelligent questions were asked, and answered by Mrs. Cooper, who spoke in her usual convincing manner. In the evening, in spite of the weather, a good crowd was waiting on Durdham Downs, and as soon as Mrs. Cooper arrived the meeting began. As it was raining, Mrs. Cooper asked if she should stop. They begged her to go on. After the meeting was over several stayed behind asking questions. Women are certainly answering Mr. Asquith's challenge, and I am glad to say the meetings have been orderly and well conducted.

EDINBURGH Society will be well represented at the International Conference at Amsterdam. Lady Steel, Miss A. H. Begbie, Miss Kemp, Miss Chrystal MacMillan, M.A., B.Sc., and Miss Methven have arranged to go. Miss Naber sent the following kind message to the Committee on receiving the above names:—"We are very happy the ladies of Scotland are coming to us: they will be heartily welcome. Mrs. Priscilla Bright McLaren's memory is very green here yet, and we are looking forward to the pleasure of meeting her co-labourers." Miss S. E. S. Mair, President of the Society, Miss Lees, and others, will also take part in the Procession on the 13th, along with those members of the Society already mentioned.

HUDDERSFIELD.—The fourth annual meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, May 27th, in the Honley Parish Room. Miss Siddon, the President, moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and congratulated the members on the successful work accomplished by the Society during the year. Miss I. O. Ford moved a resolution expressing dissatisfaction with Mr. Asquith's pronouncement, which was warmly supported by Councillor Beaumont. After the meeting, Miss Siddon held a reception at her house, and a delightful evening was spent in the grounds.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY.—A mass meeting of the members was held on Wednesday afternoon, May 27th, at which a resolution was carried unanimously expressing the opinion that for the question of Woman Suffrage to be relegated to the position of an amendment to any Bill is altogether unworthy of a democratic Parliament. A copy of the resolution is to be sent to the Prime Minister.

LLANDUDNO.—A very successful social evening was held at Llwyn Onn, on May 26th, by the kindness of Mrs. Eakin. Dr. Gooddy presided, and urged the importance of the Procession in view of Mr. Asquith's recent pronouncement. The principal speaker was Dr. Peter Macdonald, of York, who gave, in a most interesting manner, his reasons for supporting Women's Suffrage, from the standpoint of a man, a democrat, and a doctor. Miss Wright, hon. secretary, spoke on 'Why I am going to the Procession,' and Miss Mildred Spencer gave her reasons for being a Suffragist in a thoughtful and forcible way.

The two sides of the banner were on view, nearly completed, and the designs are most effective. Four new members were enrolled.

LONDON, Bedford Park.—A very successful and enjoyable drawing-room meeting was held on the evening of the 29th ult., by kind permission of Mrs. Walter Hartley, at 33, Priory Road. Miss Cicely Dean Corbett gave a most clear and eloquent exposition of the reasons for women's enfranchisement, and a

hearty vote of thanks was accorded her at the end of the meeting. The chair was ably filled by Mrs. Carter, Secretary to the Bedford Park Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage. Miss Maule, Secretary of the West Middlesex Branch, was also present, and seconded the speaker.

After the address there was an interesting debate.

It is gratifying to add that many converts resulted from the meeting.

NOTTINGHAM.—The third monthly "At Home" was held on Thursday, May 28th, at Calvert's Café. Dr. Sarah Gray presided and over 80 members were present. Several ladies announced their intention of joining the Procession in London on June 13th in their academic robes.

READING.—The members of this Society are making preparations to take part in the Demonstration on June 13th. Some fifty or more ladies will join the Procession under their own banner, on which will be displayed the five female heads which appear in the City arms. The banner is being worked by a number of ladies under the instruction of Mrs. Stanley Hodgkin.

MANCHESTER.—The quarterly meeting of this Society took place on Friday, May 22nd. Miss Margaret Ashton, from the chair, dealt with Mr. Asquith's pronouncement and the present situation, expressing the deep disappointment of Women Suffragists, and urging on them the redoubled necessity for effort. Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, in her secretarial report, laid stress on the great increase of membership during the last few months. Miss Margaret Robertson spoke of the Procession, and Dr. Martin gave an address.

On Tuesday, May 26th, Mrs. Swanwick and Miss Margaret Robertson spoke to some of the women students of Manchester University, urging on them the importance of taking part in the Demonstration on June 13th.

On Monday, June 1st, a very successful public meeting was held at Macclesfield, with the object of starting a branch of the Society there. Mrs. Walter Greg took the chair, and Miss Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Swanwick, and Miss Margaret Robertson, who had been mobbed and pelted in Macclesfield three weeks before, all spoke. The town retrieved its reputation by according the speakers an enthusiastic reception and attentive hearing, and a great number of ladies promised to join the Society.

On Tuesday, June 2nd, Miss Crompton, Mrs. Swanwick, and Miss Margaret Robertson addressed about eighty working women at the University Settlement at Ancoats. The meeting was a very keen one, and there were several short and effective speeches from members of the audience.

The usual Friday evening At Homes at the Office have been held, the Procession being the chief subject of discussion.

Moreover, since Saturday, May 23rd, the Society has had a shop in John Dalton Street open all day to advertise the Procession. There are posters and pamphlets in the window, and the public are invited to come in to make inquiries and buy tickets. During the last week members of the Society have distributed many thousands of handbills of the Procession in the streets of Manchester, chiefly amongst ladies shopping.

The special train is also being advertised daily in the Manchester papers.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

June.		P.M.
11th	London, N. Kensington, Open-Air Meeting, corner of Archer Street and Westbourne Grove	8.15
	Speakers, Mr. W. L. George, Councillor C. S. O'Dell, Miss Cicely Corbett, Miss A. Wright	
16th	St. Pancras, Drawing-Room Meeting, 82, Sinclair Road	
	Hostess, Mrs. Heslrigge Speaker, Miss M. Robertson	
17th	Drawing-Room Meeting, 40, Camden Square	4-4.30
	Hostess, Mrs. Sykes Speaker, Miss M. Robertson	

Exhibition of Banners at Caxton Hall, Westminster,

Thursday, June 11th, 1 to 6 p.m.; Friday, June 12th, 12 to 10 p.m.
Admission 6d.; Tea 6d.

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

Tickets to be obtained from Miss Strachey, 25, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

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

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

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

Prisoners' Release.

Two of our prisoners were released from Holloway on Wednesday morning (June 3rd). Dr. Elizabeth Knight and Miss Lizzie Gibb have served a fortnight in the second division, for demanding an interview with Mr. Asquith when they went as a deputation to his house. On their release they were met by a number of the members of the League, ex-prisoners and others, at the gates of Holloway. Mrs. Knight had driven down to fetch her daughter, Dr. Elizabeth Knight, and she was allowed to drive through the gateway and up to the very door of the Castle. It is the first time that the Suffragettes have been allowed to wait for their friends any nearer than outside the gate. The released prisoners were escorted to Slater's Restaurant in the Strand, where about eighteen sat down to breakfast. The prisoners' "badge of honour" was presented to Miss Gibb at the social afternoon at Caxton Hall on the following day. Dr. Knight was unfortunately unable to be present.

RELEASE OF MISS IRENE MILLER.

The last of our prisoners, Miss Irene Miller, will be released next Wednesday, the 10th. Those members who would like to meet and congratulate her at the gates of the prison should be there at a quarter past eight in the morning. The breakfast will be at Slater's Restaurant, 393, Strand, at a quarter past nine. The London Council is giving a supper to all the released prisoners at Ken's Kabin on the evening of Thursday, the 11th, when Mrs. Despard will preside, supported by Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Mrs. How Martyn, Dr. Thornett, Dr. Levin, and others.

Miss Irene Miller has the distinction of being the first Suffragette who was arrested in London. Her arrest was not followed up the first time, but on the second occasion that she was arrested (in October, 1906), she was condemned to two months' imprisonment. After serving thirty-two days she and the rest of the prisoners were released. No reason was given for this remission of sentence, but it is a significant fact that the Huddersfield by-election was on at the time.

The Next Step.

FOR all who take an earnest view of the battle for righteousness which the women of this country are waging, the most important question at present is—What is the next step? How are we to impress upon those who rule over us, not only the truth of our earnestness, but also the reality of our power? Our militant tactics have annoyed the Government and aroused in the country such interest as was never given to the subject before.

We are now about to demonstrate in force. Our women's pageant next Saturday will make, I believe, as impressive and beautiful a spectacle as has ever been seen in England. Another demonstration is to be held on the 21st of this month. These, no doubt, will have their effect on the important person of whom we speak generally as "the man in the street." So far, so good! He, as well as Cabinet Ministers, has to be reckoned with. But, when all is said and done, demonstrations pass speedily and are forgotten. Moreover they can be explained away. "Easy enough—given plenty of money and a certain amount of cooked-up enthusiasm"—our opponents might say, "to make a big show. Women like holiday-journeys and excitement and crowds."

Now it is the party politician who would argue in this way; and he is the person whom we wish to impress. How are we to do it?

This is what I was turning over in my mind during my late lecturing tour, which started in Llanelly, Wales, and ended in East Fife, Scotland; and I think it was then that I got something like a clear hold of the answer to my question.

I should mention that the Women's Freedom League has started a campaign in the heart of the enemy's country, and we do not find our quarters unpleasant. Mrs. Billington-Greig and I addressed large audiences of quiet, thoughtful men and women in Ladybank, where we have taken an office, and in Leven. An organizer who will, I hope, presently be joined by other workers and speakers for the cause is in possession; and in East Fife we mean to remain until we have so far convinced the logical Scotchmen up there of the justice of our claim that they will be ready to bring pressure to bear upon their member, Mr. Asquith. Already we have indications of probable success.

I have asked, What is our next step? Surely to do, so far as possible, throughout the country what the Women's Freedom League is doing in East Fife.

Think of it! For a member or a candidate to know that whenever he goes into his constituency he will find Women Suffragists and their men supporters in the field! Imagine repetitions on a small scale of Peckham, Manchester, Wolverhampton, and Dundee, everywhere! I really think even Mr. Asquith, assailed on all sides by members of his own Government and party, would presently find his position untenable!

I am perfectly well aware that such a series of campaigns as I propose, not only in the great centres, but in small towns and villages, would mean money and sustained enthusiasm, and much individual sacrifice, but I am persuaded that there are still many women only waiting for opportunities to serve; and I know that this—the casting a net-work of active women's societies over the country—would do more to convince the political party in power of the necessity for immediate action than anything else.

Not long ago I saw a military tactician sitting between two great maps of regions of the world supposed then to be suffering from that political unrest which is often the precursor of war. Every town, village, brook, forest, and even hedge was traced on these maps, and the tactician was deeply engaged in moving his two imaginary armies from point to point.

Britain is our map. The recognition of our citizen rights is the point we have to reach. The enemy, as we have proved lately, is not only strong but subtle. He can make use of every sort of cover: he can hide behind many an evasion. What we have to do is to study him at home—to convince him of our numbers, our strength, our determination, and to bring over to our side those upon whom he relies for his own success.

This is our next step. It will take much doing, but it has to be done. Let us all, then, within our own societies and outside them, work with a will. The demonstration of next Saturday will give us a visual image of our power—an indication of the ground we have travelled since the procession two years ago. Wise organization of our forces and skilful tactics must carry us on to victory. C. DESPARD.

A Visit to York.

ARRANGEMENTS were made by Mrs. Thompson, of York, for Mrs. How Martyn to pay a visit to that city on June 3rd. The purpose was to address an afternoon meeting of those interested in the forward Suffrage movement, and to consider the desirability of forming a branch of the League in the city. The meeting was successful and encouraging. A proposal to begin real work at once by holding an open-air meeting that same evening was received with enthusiasm. Exhibition Square was

fixed upon as being a suitable spot. Pavements were chalked and a bell rung to attract an audience. Mrs. Thompson took the chair, and in an excellent speech explained the reasons why women were obliged to take these measures to make their wants known. She also expressed her desire that the city of York should be roused to take part in the struggle for women's freedom now going on. The usual resolution was moved by Miss Watson and seconded by Mrs. How Martyn, who said she was pleased to have the honour of speaking at what she was told was the first open-air meeting held in York for "Votes for Women." She spoke for nearly an hour to a quiet, appreciative, and steadily increasing audience. The resolution was carried with three dissentients, one dissentient giving as his reason that it was unnecessary to give women votes, as it would not benefit women. The questions having been answered, a collection (which more than covered the expenses) was taken, and willing helpers having sold all the literature, the police kindly supplied the finishing touch to a good day's work. Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Thompson, and Miss Watson were all required to give their names and addresses, and were solemnly told by an inspector that they were to be charged with defacing the pavements of the city! They all appeared to think that such a prosecution on the part of the authorities would give a great impetus to the work locally, and be the means of making the Women's Freedom League well known in York.

A number of women gave in their names to form a branch, and Miss Dorothy Lenn, 14, Grove View, York, kindly consented to act as secretary *pro tem.*, and would be glad to receive the names and addresses of friends who are willing to help.

The Anti-Suffragists.

WE are pleased to welcome the formation of a new society for advancing the cause of Women's Suffrage. While nominally being hostile to the cause, it will do good by showing the weakness of our opponents' arguments. The cause of truth is ultimately forwarded by its opponents showing their ignorance and prejudice.

In the present case there is ignorance—if not something worse—evident in the first published manifesto of the society. For instance, it is said that many women object to have the Suffrage thrust upon them; we can hardly be expected to believe that the promoters can imagine that the Suffrage could be thrust upon any one, every person being able to abstain from voting if she so wishes.

Again it is said the sphere of women is different from man's, which is surely a sufficient reason for women's enfranchisement, since man has no right to legislate outside his sphere—that is, in woman's.

These two pseudo-arguments are backed by a series of more or less ingenious quibbles, obviously worded to delude the ignorant. It is asserted that this reform must inevitably lead to Adult Suffrage, which previously had been implied to be desirable by a repudiation of the property vote, thus trying to rally the opponents of Adult Suffrage to their side. It is practically asserted that because all women would not be fit for an arduous Parliamentary life therefore no woman should vote. Finally, it is stated that woman's legislation could not be physically maintained. If the vote is to be decided on physical force tests, many women will be enfranchised and many men disfranchised. As a matter of fact, the physical force is applied by proxy, the paid soldier and policeman being the agents. Man's legislation to-day is being largely enforced by physical force paid for by woman's money, so that disfranchised women are actually helping to enforce the laws in the same way as men voters are. It is hardly to be supposed that intelligent people will be deceived by the dog-in-the-manger attitude of Mrs. Humphry Ward and her backing of titled ladies and reactionary Members of Parliament.

Women's Suffrage Caravan Campaign.

THE indoor meeting at Petersfield on Friday night, May 29th, was very well attended, and the speakers were supported on

the platform by local women enthusiasts. Although the respectability of Petersfield had been guaranteed, a noisy element found its way into the hall, and gave expression of its feeling in the shape of two eggs, which fortunately missed their destined course. Otherwise the audience was most sympathetic, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the speakers, proposed by Miss Lowndes. The chair was taken by Mrs. Badley, of Bedales School. Col. and Mrs. Hanna were also warm supporters. The van went to Midhurst on Saturday morn, and despite the predictions that the campaigners would meet with nothing but apathy in that town, a very large meeting was held in the Assembly Room on Saturday night. A keen spirit prevailed, and the speakers were delighted with their reception. Women's Suffrage was the topic which kept the men talking at their social club till late Saturday night, and even on the Sunday one heard "Votes for Women" in the mouth of all the townsfolk. So much enthusiasm had been aroused that the speakers decided to hold a meeting on the Sunday night after the church services were over. And a very enthusiastic meeting was held in the open air, which drew hundreds of the residents who had failed to attend the previous one. Midhurst was considered one of the brightest and most likely spots for seed to take root, and it would be well worth while to send an organizer to that district to follow the van. Petworth was reached on Monday morning, and a good meeting was held in the open air at 8 in the evening. Great interest was shown, many questions asked, and the audience responded liberally to the collection. A local sympathizer sent horses and a man to take the van over to Chichester free of charge. This was much appreciated. The first meeting in Chichester was held in the Market Square on Tuesday night. A large audience assembled, but there were many hostile roughs, and like previous first-night experiences, we found it necessary to close the meeting. Some rats and mice were in evidence; but before the meeting commenced I went to the youths, asked to see the tiny creatures, and persuaded the owners to let me hold and stroke their pets! This had the desired effect. The boys, seeing that we had no fear, did not let their pets loose. The close of the meeting was very stormy, and the police helped us to our caravan. On Wednesday night we held another open-air meeting at the same hour as the previous night, and in the same place. The audience on this occasion showed no hostility, but listened in absolute silence. Questions were asked, and altogether the spirit of Chichester had changed. Every hall had we tried in vain to secure; but the lessees all refused, save the Corn Exchange. This hall we took, but our respectability, having been noised abroad, had a deadening effect upon the people. Our doubtful reputation at first made us the victims of hostility, then our stolid respectability made us victims to the spirit of apathy. This is speaking broadly. Many converts were made, and enthusiasm roused amongst individuals, and we left Chichester feeling that we had conquered some but not all. But the spirit with the few is very strong, and we feel sure that they will feed the flame during our absence. We arrived in Bognor this morning, and are busy preparing for our first meeting to-night. MURIEL MATTERS.

Thursday Social.

Miss FitzHerbert was in the chair at the last Thursday Social. Mrs. Despard made an eloquent and inspiring speech, which was received with much enthusiasm by the audience. The speakers next Thursday will be Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Mrs. Billington-Greig, and Miss Irene Miller.

London Organizer.

THE London Council is prepared to consider further applications for the post of Organizer. Nominations should, if possible, be accompanied by the candidate's own application in writing, stating qualifications, experience, &c., and should be forwarded on or before June 16th to the Hon. Sec. to the London Council, Miss Marie Lawson, Women's Freedom League, 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C., from whom further particulars as to salary, &c., can be obtained.

Branch Notes.

The Western Branch, Glasgow, heard a most interesting paper on the 3rd, read by Miss Farquharson, on the "Evolution of Woman." Though so late in the term, the meeting was large and attentive, and heartily applauded our young member, Miss Anna Munro, being on vacation for a fortnight, could not be present to tell us of her experiences at the by-elections.

The members who are to be present at the Procession on the 13th intend to give their impressions of it at the next meeting, to be held 17th June. A. C. M.

The new Cheshire Branch held a public meeting in the Lecture Hall of the Sale Free Library on May 27th. In the unavoidable absence of Miss Alice Milne, Mr. P. T. Johnstone occupied the chair. Though the night was oppressively hot, there was a good attendance. The speakers were Mrs. Despard, Nurse Eddie, and Mr. Sam Brookes, Hon. Sec. for the Men's League in Manchester. After an interesting and much appreciated speech from Nurse Eddie, on 'The Necessity of the Vote for Working Women,' Mrs. Despard, who received an ovation, addressed a deeply interested meeting. Having in mind the recent cowardly attacks in Cardiff, Pont-y-Prydd, Macclesfield, &c., a number of gentlemen acted voluntarily as stewards. Likely disturbers were summarily turned back from the door, and a harmonious meeting resulted. A trifling incident, that occasioned a ripple of laughter against the disturber, has been made much of by the press. An ardent Liberal, intoxicated by more than mere party spirit, interrupted once during the meeting, and at question time put some rather ignorant queries in an excited manner. The state of the case became palpable when the woman endeavoured to take us into her confidence concerning her matrimonial difficulties, and all were relieved when she retired.

The meeting will give a fine impetus to the new branch, and has greatly encouraged the workers.

The Manchester Branch had a brief but delightful visit from Mrs. Despard. Owing to the large number of public meetings held during the recent by-election, it was decided to turn the opportunity to account by holding a "Social" for members and friends. On May 28th, the Portland Street Café was well filled with an enthusiastic gathering, amongst whom were many friends from the Men's League. The occasion was a peculiarly happy and momentous one to the Branch, as, in addition to the presence of its beloved leader, an important announcement was made by the chairman, Mrs. Nidd. This was to the effect that the committee has secured a permanent office at 47, Moseley Street. Mrs. Despard addressed the members during the evening in a helpful and inspiring speech. Many ways of service were indicated, special attention being called to the necessity for and training of speakers. A discussion and music occupied the remainder of an eventful evening.

LUCY FILDES.

Central.—The Despard Debating Society spent an animated evening on Thursday last. The subject was 'Is the Anti-Government Policy the quickest one to get Votes for Women?'

Miss Fitzherbert spoke in favour of the policy, and Miss Pitts, of the Women's Liberal Federation, opposed. A lively discussion among the members followed, and the resolution in favour of the anti-Government policy was carried unanimously. On June 18th, at 8 P.M., Miss Clementina Black will give an address on 'Sweating.' All members please come, and bring a friend, so that we may have a successful meeting. (Men are invited to attend.) The next open-air meeting will be on June 25th, at 8 P.M., in Hyde Park. P. H.

Glasgow Meeting.

On the 23rd of May a meeting was held in the Berkeley Hall, Glasgow, which may be safely taken to indicate the advance the movement to obtain votes for women has made within a short time.

The speakers were Miss Cicely Hamilton, Miss Molony, Miss Munro, and Earl Russell, Mrs. Billington-Greig being in the chair. The hall was packed with an audience well balanced as

to the sexes, and—best of all—the behaviour could not have better. Each speaker gave the matter from a different point of view, and each as convincing as the others.

The resolution was carried, upon a show of hands, with nine dissentients.

It was decided to send the proceeds of this meeting—over 13*l.*—to headquarters in London, towards the by-election fund. A. C. M.

Campaign in East Fife.

On Monday, June 1st, Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Billington-Greig opened the campaign here by holding two successful meetings at Ladybank, and on Tuesday two successful meetings were held in Leven. The meetings were not only a success in numbers, but in tone also, no active opposition being shown, and several interesting questions were asked at the various meetings. As the last campaign that was conducted here by Mrs. Billington-Greig and others, was the means of causing Mr. Asquith to receive a deputation of women for the first time, at which he told them "they must work out their own salvation," it is hoped that by the women again pleading their cause before the electors of East Fife, that sufficient influence may be brought to bear on Mr. Asquith to induce him to reconsider his decision of May 20th, and give facilities for the passing of this most righteous measure.

We have now got into permanent quarters; the office we have secured is in a very prominent position, the sign-board being almost the first thing that attracts attention as passengers leave the station.

A series of meetings has been arranged for next week; we hope to be able to hold one every evening. A report of the meetings will be sent each week.

J. DONALDSON, Ladybank.

Our Social Organizer.—Dr. Helen Bouchier will be in attendance at 18, Buckingham Street, to receive callers between the hours of 11 and 1 in the morning on Monday, Thursday, and Saturday; and 2.30 and 5 in the afternoon, except on Thursday and Saturday. Interviews at others hours can be arranged to suit callers who do not find the fixed hours convenient.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.
From June 11th to June 18th.

			P. M.
Thurs. 11.	Suffrage Social, Caxton Hall	Mrs. Fenwick Miller Miss Irene Miller	3.30
	Ken's Kabin, Leicester Square	Mrs. Despard	8
	Complimentary Supper to Ex-prisoners		
Sat. 13.	The Great Procession from Victoria Embankment to Albert Hall		2.30
Sun. 14.	Wandsworth Common, S.W.	Mrs. Despard Miss Fitzherbert	4.30 11.30
	Hyde Park, near Marble Arch	Mr. Duval Miss Levy	3
	Finsbury Park, N.	Miss Alice Milne Mrs. How Martyn Dr. Thornett Mrs. Brindley	3
Mon. 15.	Brockwell Park, S.E.	Mr. Duval and others	3
	Islington, 10, Highbury Hill	Mrs. Purdie	8
Tues. 16.	Tottenham, High Cross	Mrs. How Martyn	3.10
	Institute, Sale of Work, Duologue, Speeches	Miss Hodgson Miss Matters	
Thurs. 18.	Lewisham, Hillyfields, S.E.	Mrs. Nevinsion Miss Cox	6.30
	Suffrage Social, Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mr. and Mrs. Haslam of Dublin	3.30
	18, Buckingham Street, Strand	Miss Clementina Black	8

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

** 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.

SUFFRAGE SATURDAY, JUNE 13th.
PROCESSION.

THE Procession will start from the Embankment at 3 o'clock next Saturday afternoon, and those who join it are requested to be in their places by 2.30.

Country members and delegates arriving by special trains will be met by a station steward wearing a red and white scarf. Pedestrians will assemble on the west side of Northumberland Avenue; brakes will be close to Charing Cross District Railway Station, on the east side of Northumberland Avenue; carriages will be behind the brakes, and motors will follow.

Medical and university women, who will join the Procession in academic dress, can robe at 18 and 19, Buckingham Street, Strand (close to Charing Cross District Railway). Hats and coats will be taken in boxes to the Albert Hall, where they will be found after the meeting in a room specially reserved for them.

There will be eight different blocks, arranged as in following list (Blocks 1, 4, and 5 on the Embankment, Blocks 2 and 3 in Horse Guards Avenue, Block 6 in Bridge Street, Block 7 in Parliament Street, Block 8 in Whitehall):—

- BLOCK 1. (6 abreast) Provincial N.U.W.S. Societies, alphabetically arranged, headed by the President, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.
- BLOCK 2. (4 abreast) Colonials and Internationals. Professions: Medical Women, University Women, and Education.
- BLOCK 3. (4 abreast) Professions continued: Business Women.
- BLOCK 4. (6 abreast) Professions continued: Writers, Artists, Actors, Musicians, Nurses, Physical Training, Gardeners, Farmers, Home-makers, &c.
- BLOCK 5. (6 abreast) Societies: Women's Co-operative Guild, Southwark Working Women, Employment Defence League, National Union of Women Workers, Ethical Societies, &c.
- BLOCK 6. (6 abreast) Political Societies: Liberals, Fabians, Conservatives, and Unionists.
- BLOCK 7. (6 abreast) Women's Freedom League.
- BLOCK 8. (6 abreast) London Society for Women's Suffrage, arranged alphabetically in Constituencies.

The procession will pass through Northumberland Avenue, Cockspur Street, Lower Regent Street, Piccadilly, and Knightsbridge. As the length of the route has been adversely criticized, it may be of interest to those who are not familiar with it to know that Mrs. Fawcett walked the whole distance on a hot afternoon in forty minutes. Those who are not strong enough to walk so far can easily leave the ranks at any point, and proceed to the Albert Hall by taxicab, 'bus, or tube. If by the latter, the station to book to is South Kensington (10 minutes from the Hall). The general procession will approach the Hall from Exhibition Road, and processionists should all have their tickets ready at this point, so that the police stationed outside the Hall may direct them to their respective entrances without loss of time. Banner-bearers enter by the Great South Door, and place their banners where directed. As there will be so many, the view of those sitting at the back would necessarily be obstructed, and the bearers will therefore find it much more comfortable in many cases to proceed to the part of the hall to which their tickets admit them.

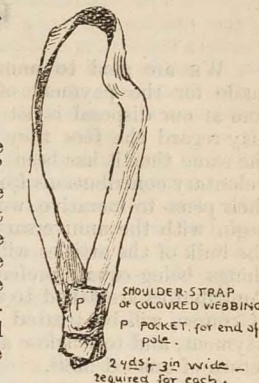
Doors open at 4 P.M., and the meeting is timed to commence at 5 o'clock. The speakers will include Mrs. Fawcett, Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Anna Shaw, Mrs. Despard, and Mrs. Hodgett (of the Women's Co-operative Guild.)

A few tickets are still available, and arrangements have been made for providing 700 seats in the Promenade (6*d.*) at time of writing. The majority of these are still unsold.

After the meeting is over, country members will, by the kindness of friends, be provided with tea. They should leave the Hall not later than 6.50, when railway inspectors in uniform will personally conduct them to South Kensington Station. Special trains will take them to their respective stations.

Shoulder-Straps
for
Banner-Bearers.

THE design shown on this page is the one adopted by the Artists' Suffrage League, as it enables the wearer to carry the pole without difficulty. The pocket (P) should be firmly stitched on to the ends of the coloured webbing, and made large enough for end of pole. All banner-bearers who have not already provided themselves with one of these are advised to make one.



It is most important that everybody holding tickets for the Albert Hall meeting and wishing to use them for men, should at once get them countersigned at the Offices of the Central Suffrage Society, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.

Correspondence.

Saturday's Procession.

SIR,—May I suggest through your pages to the younger Suffragists that they should, if they conveniently can, wear white dresses with red flowers or ribbons, on the 13th? The appearance of the march would be much improved and emphasis would be given to the colours of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

I am, yours faithfully, CLEMENTINA BLACK.

DEAR SIR,—May I ask you kindly to correct a statement which appeared in a recent issue. The banner under which the past and present students of Newnham and Girton Colleges will walk in the procession of June 13th will bear a device adapted from the arms of the city of Cambridge, and the legend "Cambridge Alumnae." The statement that our legend is "Voteless Women of no Degree" conveys a wrong impression, and has absolutely no foundation. We are taking part in the Procession as women who claim for our sex the political franchise, and the fact that we in particular are excluded from the degrees of the University of Cambridge is in this connexion irrelevant.

That question is to be decided by a particular body, and we feel that nothing would be gained by insisting, on this occasion, upon a point which lies strictly apart from the general question. Trusting that you will kindly insert this correction,

I am, yours faithfully, DOROTHY TARRANT.

SIR,—Many people are convinced that it is the same little group of women that appears in various parts of the country agitating for the parliamentary vote. Is it too late to suggest that in addition to the great Procession in London on June 13th, there should be short meetings held in all possible centres all over the country, at the same time as the Procession, by those unable to take part in London?

There is no time now to organize anything, but if every woman who sees this will tell her friends, and each repair to the headquarters of their branch society at 2.30 on June 13th, a meeting will be formed—it need not be a long one—at which a suitable resolution could be formed and passed and a report sent to the principal papers and the local papers.

If this is done, even to a partial extent, it will help to convince the very large number of educated people who still have not the ghost of an idea of the size and strength of the movement.

Yours faithfully, AMY HARTLAND.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

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

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Editorial.

WE are glad to announce that arrangements have been made for the payment of contributors to our columns. The sum at our disposal is not princely, and it is possible that some may regard the fees they receive as absurdly inadequate. At the same time it has been felt that it is unreasonable to expect voluntary contributions from those who are compelled to devote their pens to lucrative work. Payment for contributions will begin with the anniversary number of this journal. Of course, the bulk of the articles will continue to be voluntary, and, other things being equal, preference will be given to such articles. Contributors are asked to state in their covering letters (which, of course, will be treated as confidential) whether they desire payment, and to enclose a stamped addressed envelope for the return of unused MSS.

Contributors are warned that articles conceived in a party spirit or directed against the policies of individual Suffrage societies are not desired in these columns, and that general discussions on the principles underlying our cause are already numerous. Articles should not exceed 1,000 words, and should have a definite topical interest.

A Competition.

To inaugurate the new scheme, we offer a prize of 5s. for the best epigram on the new Anti-Suffrage League. Epigrams must take the form of a four-line verse (rhyming), and must reach the Editor, Men's League for Women's Suffrage, 38, Museum Street, not later than the first post on Saturday, June 20th. The winning epigram will be published in the issue of Thursday, June 25th. The Editor's decision will be final, and the right to publish the epigrams of unsuccessful competitors is reserved. Pseudonyms may be used; but the name and address of the competitor must accompany each verse.

Notes and Comments.

THE Rubicon is passed! Our opponents have banded themselves together, taken unto themselves a style and title, and picked up in public the gauntlet which was thrown to them half a century ago. They realize at last that there is a battle to be fought—nay, that there is just a chance of women voting at the next General Election. For all these years we have been marching practically unopposed, trying to find an elusive, impersonal enemy, which declined to state the ground of its hostility, declined to meet us in the field, declined to admit that we were there. At last they are mobilizing, and we may say, as Oliver Cromwell said at Dunbar, "The Lord has delivered them into our hands."

In what sense and how? Because in taking the field they have been compelled to state their names, their credentials, and their creed. This creed—which must be assumed to be the considered product of half a century's excogitation—may be taken as expressing in the best possible way the real objections to our claim. We confess we are disappointed with it; we had an impression—an impression uncorroborated by experience, be it admitted, but one which was firmly rooted in a native respect for our nameless opponents—that when the official statement did come it would be something new and hard to refute. There was among our opponents a sort of complacent pity for us, like that of Shakespeare's sage, "as who should say, I am Sir Oracle, and when I ope my lips let no dog bark." At last Sir Oracle has spoken. He does not "shock those ears that did him reverence"; nay, the atmosphere of his (and Lady Oracle's)

remarks smacks rather of a postprandial speech at the Carlton or the cultured Philipics of the House of Lords. The voices are those of Society, Culture, and Pedigree, with a brief recitative by Science.

We are disillusioned, however, like the guests at a dinner party who watched with awed respect the grave demeanour of a solemn, silent man, whom no one knew. At last the great man, moving towards the door, saw a waiter enter with a tray of apple-dumplings. Then for the first time he gave tongue, "Them 's the jockeys for me."

For what does this grave pronouncement amount to? Our old friend the physical argument is there, and with him the force argument, the home argument, the numbers argument, and so forth. In a word, the veterans of a thousand retreats are marshalled together—a great tribute to the old adage, "He who fights and runs away will live to fight another day." This time, however, the bridges are burnt behind them; *The Daily Mail* has turned on the searchlight, and retreat is impossible.

We have not been able to discover that the sponsors of the new league have any special party connexion. Dr. John Massie, who has so often enunciated on behalf of the Free Churches the principle that taxation without representation is tyranny, is on the list; the Hon. Ivor Guest, Mr. Bertram, and Mr. Lehmann are with him, and there are a number of members of the aristocracy. The most distinguished name is that of Mrs. Humphry Ward. We do not think that all the sponsors are Liberals; on the other hand, representatives of the working classes are conspicuous by their absence. Some of our opponents have told us that the women who want votes are all women in a good position, and that their object is to strengthen the voting strength of Capital. The *personnel* of the new league is not such as to corroborate such a theory.

In a word, we think that the attainment of our object will be accelerated in proportion to the vigour displayed by the new society. They must be encouraged to speak much and often. At their public meetings easy questions must be put to them at first; a little respectful applause will no doubt draw them out; and then, like a certain historic herd which shall be nameless, they will hurl themselves to destruction. It would be especially fortunate if they decided, and were permitted, to make *Women's Franchise* their official organ jointly with the societies which at present support it.

We have great pleasure in calling attention to the very satisfactory result of the meeting held in Manchester on Wednesday, the 3rd inst., to inaugurate a local branch. The proposals for affiliation will be before the central executive at the next meeting for formal adoption.

Manchester Branch.

AN informal meeting was held in the Portland Street Café on Wednesday, June 3rd, about fifty people being present. Prof. Alexander, of Manchester University, took the chair. After reading letters of apology from Canon Hicks, Profs. Thiselton Mark, Weiss, and Chapman, Dr. Hope Moulton, and others, who wrote expressing themselves in sympathy with the meeting, he explained the objects of the Men's League and the desirability of forming a branch in Manchester and the district. They would not, he said, get much help from individuals who withdrew their support from the cause when the house of a Minister was attacked or a bell happened to be rung. They

wanted a combination of people who could look beyond the incidents of the moment, and fix their eyes upon the essentials, about which there was no real difference of opinion. He formally moved that a Manchester branch be established. Prof. Tout, in seconding, said he felt strongly that on logical grounds the women's claim for the vote could not be denied; anything more ridiculous or disgusting than the ordinary anti-suffrage speech passed his comprehension. The resolution was carried unanimously. Dr. Ida Smedley, of the North of England Society, spoke of the need of a Men's League, in order to show the opponents of the Suffrage Movement that men were on the side of the Suffragists, and to influence the Government by their votes. Canon Hicks was elected President of the branch; Profs. Alexander, Tout, Weiss, Chapman, Herford, and Thiselton Mark, and the Rev. W. Hudson Shaw, Vice-Presidents; Messrs. J. B. Seymour, H. V. Herford, M. G. Hering, H. C. Scott, P. Black, A. H. Jones, H. Barrett, E. Barlow, K. Wilson Coe, and F. Duguid, as the Committee; and Messrs. S. Brooks and E. W. Hendy, Hon. Secretaries. After some discussion it was left to the Committee to frame rules, to be considered by a future general meeting of the Branch. Mrs. Annot E. Robinson, of the Women's Social and Political Union, also addressed the meeting in a vigorous speech, in which she urged the members of the League to take definite action, and not to be ashamed of letting the fact of their membership be known. E. W. HENDY.

Woman's Freedom.

CHATS ABOUT PERSONS AND BOOKS.

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

"The seconde Argument is this that the scripture forbiddeth that a woman should rule, and therefore it is not tollerable, the proufes be out of tholde testament. First, that after the falle of Adam through the womans inticement it was enioyned hir, and hir posterite as a penau'ce, to be at the beck and co' maundet of the ma'. 2. That Esaei pronou'ceth as a curse that the rulers for the peoples unruliness shall be children and women. That St. Paul forbiddeth the' to speake in the congregacio."

The scripture meddeth with no ciuill pollicie further then to teach obedie'ce. And therefore what so euer is brought out of the scripture co'cerning any kynd of regime't is without the booke." Aylmer holds that by "boys and women" are meant "effeminate persons—not boys in age but in maners: not women in sex, but in feblenes of wit, and not suche as some women be, wiser, better learned, discreater, constanter, then a number of men: but such as women be of the worst sort, fo'd, folish, wanton, fibber-gibbes, tatlers, triflers, wauering, witles, without counsell, feable, careles, rashe, proude, deintie, nise, talebearers, eues-droppers, rumour raisers, euell tonged, worse minded and in euerye wise doltefied with the dregges of the Deuils dounge hill as these minions be: such shall be your rulers. No Deborahs, no Iudiths, no Hesters, no Elizabethes. For sure wher such be—there is no token of Gods wrath which the Prophet threateneth here: but of Gods faouere, whereof we may be assured. Therfor this argument rises of wronge understandinge, as the Vicar of Trumpenton understode Eli, Eli, lamahzabactani, when he red the Passion upon Palme Sunday, when he came to that place he stopped and callinge the Churchwardens saide Neighbours this geare muste be amended, heare is Eli twice in the booke, I assure if my L. of Elie come thys waye and see it, hee will haue the booke. Therefore by mine aduise we shall scrape it out and put in oure owne townes name, Trumpington, Trumpington lamahzabactani, they consented and he did so, because he understode no Greek.

"The III reason is out of St. Paul women be forbidden to speake in the congregacion... Well what then ment he? This he ment. That though he ordeined that euery ma' in the assemble ecclesiastical about the word of God a'd prairie, shuld haue leaue orderly a'd in his course, to speake a'd utter, for thinterpretutio' of the scripture all that was

reueled him by the spirit of God, yet wome' (because they be not mete neither by nature to preche and interprete scriptures) he woulde not haue to medle with it there. And as Primasius and Theophi: saith the chefest cause that moued Paul to take thys order, was the common faulte that then was in the sexe. For being somewhat instructed by the hearing of th' apostles in the mister of saluacion, in the crosse of Christ they began to thinke somethinge of themselues, and turned that was taught to edifye with to a iangling and tatlinge in the church when thei met, so that the congregacion was thereby disturbed. For the auoydinge whereof, Paule ment to bridle them as without doubt, he wold haue done the me' also, if they had prophecied unorderly, or made it a matter of disorder as it hathe bene of late in some congregacions where it has been reuiued. And not only he debarred the women from prophye but also from any publike function in the ecclesiastical iurisdiction. For in such as shall occupy the pulpit is required these things that they be mete to teach, to reprove, and conuince. In teaching is required grautie, learning and eloquence. In reprocuinge courage and sounde iudgemente, and in conuincing artes, memorye and much science. And because the bringinge uppe of womenne, is commonlye suche, as they canne not haue these thynges (for they bee not broughte uppe in learnynge in Scholes, nor trayned in disputacions or if they were yet because nature hathe made them softer and milder then menne. Yet bee they not such as are mete for that function). Therefore be they unmete for this calling. For those that be preachers, must be no milksoppes, no whyte lyuered gentlemen, that for the frowning and cloudy countenance of euery man in authoritie will leaue his tackle and crie Peccaucie. They must be of such nature as the Poet saith of Crito in voltu grauitas, in verbis fides. They may not be afrayed to rebuke the proudest, no not Kynges and Quenes so farr furth as the two tables reacheth... They may not stoupe to euery man's becke.


"For as Plato saith Illi ciuitati paratu' est ixtiu' ubi magistratus legibus imperat, et no' leges magistratu. That cytie is at the pits brinke, wherin the magistrate ruleth the lawes, and not the lawes the magistrate. What could any kyng in Israell do in that co'mon wealth, besides the pollycie appointed by Moyses? They be but ministers, obeyed for the lawes sake, and not for their owne. Nowe what unhablenes is in a woman for the ministring of lawes? She knoweth not the lawes, no more doth your kyng? She sitteth not in iudgement, howe oft doth your kyng? Onles you call determining matters in his priue chamber, iudging. She is not mete to go to the warres, she hath that bee mete, and some women haue gaune and sped wel. She is not of so sound iudgment, peraduenture beter, and of more lerning then your kyng, as it happeneth at this tyme, that you can neuer shewe in al Englande synce the conquest, so learned a kyng, as we haue now a Quene. Men will not stande in awe so much of a woman as of a man: that is their faulte and not hers. No more will they of a childe, and yet be they traytours that do disobey him.

"Wherefor it is to be noted, that there be iii maner of Magistrates. One chosen by lotte, as was the house of Saul, Another by Suffrages and election, as in Venice, Polonia, the fre Cities of Germany, and th' empire. And the thirde prouided of God by lineall succession, as in Fraunce, England and other Kingdo's. If any were to be chosen by lotte, or suffrage: I would not in dede that any woman should stand in the election, but men only: for I say with Aristotle, that the male is by all lykelihood meter to rule, then the woma' in many respectes. And undoubtedly in the whole number of men, might be founde some one that shoulde in all respectes, passe the beste among women in wisdome, grauite, learning, understanding, sobriete, temperauncie, hablenes to take paines, warlykenes, iustice, fortitude, &c. But when it standeth in no mans election, but in his hande that shapeth male or female, in the wombe of the mother, at his pleasure: Then hath mans uoyce no authoritie, by cause he hath gyuen ouer his right in chusing, by co'mon consent unto God. That he according to his inscrutable wysdome, may chuse and dispose, as he pleaseth."

(To be continued.)

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