

Women's Franchise.

No. 42.

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Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

April Subscriptions are now due. Weekly Numbers, 1²d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. Back Numbers can still be obtained, but the Number for January 30th is very scarce, and costs 3d.

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

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

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

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

Notes.

AS we feel sure that many of our readers are unaware what a splendid selection of articles on divers subjects affecting the Enfranchisement of Women can be got from our pages, we have determined from time to time to advertise a list of such. On our back page this week will be found enumerated those numbers containing verse—some of which is undoubtedly most suitable for recitation purposes.

A CONTEMPORARY informs us that the peace of the New Reform Club is seriously disturbed, the cause of discord being the question of Women's Suffrage. We read that the members are divided into two camps on the subject. The elections to the Executive Committee are now proceeding, and the candidates are Suffragists and Anti-Suffragists, the policy of one being to subordinate everything to Women's Suffrage, and the other either to oppose it or to let it take its chance.

MISS JESSIE ACKERMANN, the well-known American traveller, has just returned from her sixth tour round the world. Her last expedition was made with the object of studying social questions generally, and the women movement in particular. Fifteen years have passed since she visited Australia, and in the meantime the Australian women have been granted the vote. Miss Ackermann made a point of judging how it worked, and with that view she diligently canvassed the mining districts with the following result. "I found," she says, "the miners' wives took the keenest interest in political questions, and were ready to talk politics, and that intelligently enough, even at the washtub, and they are splendidly organized too, nor will they vote without a reason,

being mightily exacting as to the qualifications of a candidate before giving him their suffrages." She refers to the indifference of the middle-class women with regard to politics, but at the same time points out that it is as marked in the men, and she comments on the fact that the Australian Government talks of introducing a Bill to fine non-voters and to make voting compulsory at elections.

THE cause of Women's Suffrage has made giant strides in Nottingham lately. A crowded meeting of men and women, convened by the local branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, was held there on the 6th inst., and many well-known local people were among the audience. It was announced that over a hundred new members had joined within the last few months. Speeches were given by Mrs. Yoxall, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Miss Corbett, Mr. H. Y. Stanger, and others. Mr. Stanger said it was in Nottingham that, twenty-five years ago, he first publicly advocated the cause of Women's Suffrage, and that he had seen no reason to flinch in the slightest degree from the position he had then taken up. Referring to the prospects of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill, Mr. Stanger said that Mr. Asquith had promised to receive a deputation, and though that arrangement had now fallen through, it was only for the time being. They intended to ask him if he could not see his way to take up the Bill and make it a Government measure, or at any rate to leave the House freedom and time in which to pass its judgment upon the remaining stages of the measure.

ONE of the monthly meetings of the Women's Reform Union, Bristol, was held at the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Totterdown, April 9th, at 8 P.M. Mrs. Martin was in the chair. Miss Townsend, a Member of the Education Committee, gave a most interesting address on 'Women as Citizens,' showing the great need, for the country's welfare, there is of women taking advantage of the power they now possess of being elected on the County Council. The following resolution was proposed by Mrs. Martin and seconded by Miss Tothill, both ladies speaking of the co-operation needed amongst women: "That this meeting of the Women's Reform Union requests the Prime Minister and the Government to pass the Women's Suffrage Bill in the present Parliament, believing that the State requires for its good government the efforts of all its citizens." This was carried, with only one dissident, who voted for Adult Suffrage. The Hon. Sec., Miss Mabel Duncan, appealed for help for the procession on June 13th. She wished a larger contingent to go up from Bristol than any other town—this they were working for.

LAST Wednesday Brighton had the advantage of hearing two excellent speeches on the question of sweating from Miss Tuckwell, the President of The Women's Trades Union League, and Mr. Mallom, the Secretary of The Anti-Sweating League. If one of the many supporters present of the Woman's Enfranchisement Movement had reminded the speakers how the women's vote in our Colonies has hastened such legislation it would have been much more to the point than the other speeches. Although, as announced, Brighton's progressive member, Mr. Villiers, was in the chair, only a moderate audience attended. Unanimity for the resolution to the effect that the Government should grant facilities for passing the Sweated Industries Bill through its final stages was secured.

THE proceedings of the House of Commons on the amendment in the law of distress ought not to be allowed to pass without protest. As the law now stands, a married woman's property is not exempt from distress for rent at the instance of her husband's landlord. In this respect she is on an equality with a stranger. It is now proposed to exempt from liability to distress for rent the goods of any person other than the tenant himself. So far, so good. But an amendment, supported by the Attorney-General himself, provides that the new Act shall not apply to the possessions of the husband or wife of the tenant. There is no doubt that the favourable position of the married woman in this respect has led to many commercial frauds; but it is difficult to see why a perfectly honest claim put forward by a wife with regard to her lawful possessions should not be considered as rightful as a like claim advanced by a stranger. It ought to be possible to devise a plan whereby collusion between husband and wife to defeat a landlord's claim could be frustrated. This measure is of a retrograde character as regards the position of the married woman.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

HUNGARY.—The *Pester Lloyd* devotes several columns to an account of the women's deputation to the Hungarian Diet. 'Suffragettes in the Chamber of Deputies' was the heading of the article, for the Hungarian Houses of Parliament, being apparently better built than our own, did not crumble into dust when the voice of a woman was heard in them. Nor did the deputation have to make its way through a phalanx of police. An appointment was made with the ladies; they were courteously received, and allowed to address the President of the Chamber in public audience before a large number of deputies. About forty ladies formed the deputation. The spokeswoman, Madame Klotilde Szabados, spoke of the connexion between Women's Suffrage and other Parliamentary reforms. She did not propose on this occasion to enumerate the reasons that made this change desirable, since, in view of the often-expressed opinions of the President in its favour, this would be to force an open door. She reminded him of the views to which he had formerly given expression, that the deprivation of their rights was due to the tyranny and egotism of men. As long as women lived a merely domestic life there was some excuse for excluding them from the vote, but now that they took up professions and played a part in public life, their deprivation of rights was an act of injustice. Since the President had himself expressed these views, it was natural that they should approach him in the belief that he would be willing to help remove the barriers that shut them out from political life. "That society which entrusts us with the physical and intellectual training of the future generation and the education of our children, cannot leave us among the ranks of outlaws in the domain of political rights. The State that expects us to bear equally with men the burdens laid on its citizens cannot refuse us the right due to every citizen of a modern state."

The President, in his reply, assured the ladies that his opinions were quite unchanged. The question was now entering on the stage of actuality, as the country was on the eve of electoral reform. It would be necessary, therefore, to consider the question whether Hungarian women, who in respect to intelligence, education, common-sense, and patriotism, were no whit behind the men of the land, should also take their part in directing the affairs of their country. Although the decision did not rest with him, he promised to maintain his friendly attitude. He begged them to trust the Government and the majority, who would surely find the best way to solve this problem.

The deputation was next received by the Minister of the Interior, Count Julius Andrassy. Here they were less favourably received, though the tone of the Count's speech was courteous. Personally he was not in favour of giving the vote at present. He based his reasons on the old time-worn and time-refuted objection to drawing women into the strife of the political arena.

Finally, the deputation sent a request for an interview to the Prime Minister Wekerle. To this the following reply was informally sent: "I am not an opponent of Women's Suffrage,

but Andrassy is. It would not do, therefore, for us to disavow one another; accordingly I prefer not to receive the deputation." One gain to the cause has been the notice taken by the press of the deputations, and the Suffragists are profiting by the public interest to gain propaganda for their cause. All parties represented in the Parliament are being called upon to include the Suffrage in their programme, and special appeals are being sent to all deputies who are known to favour the cause. And so here, as elsewhere, in spite of some discouragement, we may say, "Eppur si muove." A. ZIMMERN.

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

	£	s.	d.
Elmy, Mrs. Wolstenholme	..	..	..
Fleet Women's Suffrage Society	..	..	..
Gibb, Miss E. D.	..	..	..
Quelch, Miss M.	..	..	..
Ridley, Miss M.	..	..	..
	£	11	0

A Lay of Modern Britain.

(Continued from No. 40, p. 463.)

A FORECAST.

(With apologies to Lord Macaulay.)

[Owing to the numbers now engaged in the struggle, many of the Suffragists, being unable to lend aid in forcing a passage by the bridge, which is held by Ignorance, Prejudice, and Custom, seek to gain the other shore by swimming across.]

At that dread sight the Fathers shake,
Their lips are stricken dumb;
But soon they gasp, all breathless,
"The Suffragists! they come!"
And point with trembling fingers
To where a crested wave
Engulfs some weary swimmer,
Where a hand, outstretched to save,
Seizes the sinking comrade,
And bears her bravely on
Till the faint heart gathers courage.
And weariness is gone.

As resolute as gentle,
The swimmers may not stay,
But, careless of the watching eyes,
Keep their straight course alway.

Bold Ananias heeds them not,
Mayhap he doth not deem
Their quiet, patient labours
Are worthy his esteem.

Once more the fearful stewards
Come flying in hot haste,
"Ill news have we to tell ye;
There is no time to waste!"

To summon every constable
That in these parts may be,
For a League of armed men
Hath joined the enemy.

Ye know what deeds of prowess
We stewards can perform,
When a few defenceless women
Our public meetings storm;

But the noblest sons of Chivalry
Are leagued against us here,
And we dare not fight with men,
Such strife might cost us dear!

And all the valiant stewards
Felt their hearts sink to see
The Suffragettes still forcing back
The scowling, daunted Three:

Now the angry populace
Flings missiles at the foe,
And on the hearts that know not fear,
That hold the woman's cause so dear,
Now fall like hail, the jest, the jeer,
The bitter taunt, the wounding sneer
That none but cowards throw.

And now a Suffragette is down,
They roll her in the mire,
Fit treatment for a woman that
To justice doth aspire!

Not thus are treated gentlemen
That trade in woman's shame;
They may attain high honours,
And dignity and fame.

And now the bridge is tottering,
Falls every loosened beam,
And bridge and combatants alike
Plunge headlong in the stream.

Prejudice, though almost spent,
Makes straightway for the shore,
While his comrades feebly follow,
War-worn, and wounded sore.

Suffragettes and Suffragists
As constant still in mind,
Undaunted by the foes before
And the broad flood behind,

Swim towards the ever-nearing goal,
And with them, side by side,
Gallant sons of Chivalry
Breast the furious tide.

Deep, deep love of Righteousness
Bears up the weary soul
When Sorrow's bitter waters
Around it toss and roll.

And now 'mid shouts and clamour,
The Suffrage army lands,
And marches to the spot whereon
The Court of Justice stands.

In that High Court sits Justice,
Blindfold, and fast asleep,
While near, a stalwart sentinel
His faithful watch doth keep:
In vain, in vain he tries to stay
The inrush of the foes,
They scarcely heed his angry words,
And still more angry blows.

The ardent Suffragists approach,
And in the sleeper's ear,
Claim the rights of citizens,
In voices strong and clear.

But arguments avail them not,
Though eagerly they plead;
To Reason and to Logic,
Justice is deaf indeed!

Whereupon the Suffragettes
Tear from the slumbering eyes
The sight-destroying bandage,
And bid the sleeper rise.

Impatiently they shake her,
Till, in the general strife,
From centuries of slumber
She wakes to active life.

And now her dim eyes wander
O'er every eager face,
Now above the waiting throng
She takes her wonted place:
While through long hours the women plead,
She lends a list'ning ear,
And to their every argument
Attentive doth appear.

When at last the speakers paused,
She raised her noble head,
"I did not see how great your need;
I have been blind," she said.

"When man despises woman
He slights her Maker too:
He that to her is faithless,
Is to himself untrue.

Now that mine eyes are opened,
Ye shall not plead in vain,
Needs must Justice when she sees,
Be worthy her great name.

The vote is yours, and yours the thanks
Of her ye roughly used,
Better be rudely awakened
Than have these eyes abused."

When thus spake sacred Justice,
In her own Court most High,
With long, loud bursts of cheering
The women made reply.

The hard, hard fight was over,
The toilsome task was done;
Reverence sweet, and Justice, were
By Britain's daughters won!

MAUD M. CREWE.

Correspondence.

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

SIR,—I should like to call the attention of your readers to a most interesting book by Sir John Gorst, called 'The Children of the Nation.' It is a regular mine of useful information, and should prove very valuable to all Social Reformers. Why I particularly mention it here is for two reasons. First, because the author shows again and again how useful the work of women is in matters relating to children. To quote one passage, "Our own voluntary system has the great advantage of enlisting the services of women, which in everything relating to the bringing-up of little children is naturally vastly superior to that of men. Had the counsels of women been more sought after and attended to, many of the lamentable blunders that men have made in the treatment of children would have been avoided" (p. 63).

Secondly, to show how necessary it is that women should possess the power to do away with such a state of things as that quoted below: "The Board of Education some years ago tried the experiment of appointing half a dozen women inspectors, but they brought to light so many defects and abuses in the schools, which no office manipulation of their reports could conceal, that they have now been withdrawn, and the infant schools are again regularly inspected by men, mostly ignorant of the wants of little children. They should be under the supervision of a woman's department of the Board of Education, so as to secure that woman's knowledge will no longer be thwarted by man's ignorance" (p. 187). It is a book which all women interested in Social Reform, and especially those who study the questions connected with children, would do well to read and ponder carefully.

Believe me to be

Yours truly

(Mrs.) ALICE M. SHILLINGTON.

[The book can be obtained at the Offices of this paper.]

Franchise Teas.

DEAR SIR,—The suggestion given in last week's *Women's Franchise* as to the giving of "Franchise" or "Suffrage" teas is a very excellent one.

I am just about to give my third "Suffrage Tea," and others are being arranged. In this town they will, I am convinced, prove more useful than bigger meetings in converting women to the cause; and the suggestion should certainly be followed by other Suffragists.

May I also suggest that in every town the Suffrage Society, if it exists, should make itself responsible for the placing of *Women's Franchise* in the local libraries. The paper now appears in two libraries in this town, the Sunderland Women's Suffrage Society paying for the copies.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs.) L. CHRISTINE BAILLIE.

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

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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

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

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.

Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON.

Organiser: MISS GARDNER.

Hon. Secretaries: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. MISS FRANCES STERLING.
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. E. 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. PECHY PHIPSON, M.D.
MRS. BROADLEY REID
HON. BERTRAND RUSSELL
MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN

LADY STRACHY
And the Hon. Officers,
ex officio.

Current Topics.

THE banners which will be used in the procession on June 13th promise to be very fine. Women who have done good work for their country will be depicted upon many of them. One banner represents Joan of Arc with the appropriate motto "Sans peur et sans reproche." Boadicea will also figure, as will three early Christian saints: St. Hilda of Whitby, St. Theresa of Spain, and St. Catherine of Siena. Among the modern women who have helped to make history: Queen Victoria, Josephine Butler, Frances Power Cobbe, Elizabeth Fry, Jane Austen, and Mary Wollstonecraft will be specially commemorated. Some of the mottoes are most original and appropriate. The East Anglian banner, for instance, has the words "Non angeli sed Angli." We would remind our readers that any one can give or help to make a banner. The price varies from 15s. to 2l. Offers of help will be gladly received by the Secretary, Artist's Suffrage League, 259, King's Road, Chelsea.

Every day brings us fresh proofs that the value of women's work is being recognized and their services required in the most varied occupations. Miss Courtney Page has just been returned at the head of the poll at Margate as lady guardian for the Isle of Thanet Union, while Miss M. C. Richards of Kilkenny has been appointed manageress of the Magherafell, co. Derry, Gas Works. It is believed that she is the first woman ever appointed to such a post. The Irish Universities Bill provides that there shall be at least one woman on each of the governing bodies.

The Committee on Infant Life Protection has just issued its report. It is in favour of extending inspection of homes where adopted children are taken, and those where only one child is received, but it suggests that local authorities should use discretion that the inspection should not be rigid or formal, and that it should be carried out by women with special qualifications for the work.

A spirited discussion on the subject of Women's Suffrage took place at the Church Hall, Dartford, on the 9th inst. The hall was crowded to the doors, and many of the leading townspeople were present. Mr. W. L. Parry, B.Sc., in an excellent speech, pointed out that though it was sometimes asserted that women were of an inferior standard of intelligence, nothing was said about illiterate men voters. That numbers of women wanted the vote was proved by the presence of so many women that evening. A vote of the meeting was taken. First the votes of the men were asked, and five voted in favour of Women's Suffrage, and many against; then the vote of the women was taken, and many voted in favour, and five against. The vote of the assembly as a whole carried the resolution in favour of Parliamentary franchise being extended to women by 52 votes to 20. We shall be glad to receive the names of any ladies who will undertake to form a branch of the National Union in Dartford.

The Petworth Ladies Debating Society recently held a meeting at which a debate took place on 'Woman's Franchise.' It was opened by Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett. Her excellent address, listened to with great interest, was followed by a discussion.

By 83 votes to 73 the Postal Telegraph Clerks' Association, in conference at Glasgow, decided to give three seats on the

executive to women. During the discussion Miss Bunting, Birmingham, said that if new women members were to be got they must have representation. Miss Hackey, Liverpool, asserted it to be mere presumption that men should represent the women; women refused to accept second-hand representation.

'That the Granting of the Franchise is of the Utmost Importance to the Women of the Middle Classes' was the subject of a debate held last week at the Lyceum Club. The discussion was opened by Mrs. Hylton Dale, who emphasized the necessity of the vote for professional women. Many members of the National Union attended, and took part in the discussion. The resolution was carried with one dissentient.

We regret that we reported the resolution at the recent debate of the Hardwick Society as having been carried. It was lost by thirty-five votes, the majority of members considering that "the grant of the Suffrage to Women had not been indefinitely postponed by the violent methods of some of its supporters."

West Derbyshire.

THE continued uncertainty in the political situation in West Derbyshire has led us to restrict our active work this week. We held meetings on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, but confined ourselves to visiting on Thursday, and on Friday came the summons to N.W. Manchester.

On Monday Mrs. Cooper went again to Lea's Mills, and held an even larger meeting than before. In the evening we went to the Congregational Schoolroom, Farley Hill, which had been kindly lent to us by the minister, the Rev. J. D. Thomas. Mr. Thomas took the chair himself, Miss Abadam and Mrs. Cooper spoke. It was a district to which we had not been before, and the room was crowded with men and women, all sympathetic.

On Tuesday Mrs. Cooper and I went over to Wirksworth, a little town five miles away, as we knew that it was market day. We tied a large notice to a lamp post in the middle of the square, gave away leaflets, and hoped for the best. It was very depressing; even Mrs. Cooper said that she had seldom tried to gather an audience in such cold blood. It was 3 o'clock in the afternoon, every one was occupied in buying and selling, and most of them walked by us and our notice as if we had been thin air. When the time came we mounted on to a chair, rang our bell, and soon had a considerable crowd, who listened with interest, but were too nervous to come very near. We had hoped to hold a meeting in another village that evening, but we lost ourselves in a field, and reached Matlock too late to get an audience there, though we rang two bells with vigour for some time.

Next day Mrs. Cooper set off to Wirksworth alone to go to some tape mills in the dinner hour. She held a most successful meeting, for not only did she have a large audience of men and women, but she found that she was being inspired by the knowledge that she had pitched her stand just outside the cottage where Dinah Morris had lived.

Wirksworth is the scene of 'Adam Bede.' We found Seth's Chapel, and the churchyard where Dinah is buried, but a very old inhabitant, who said that he could remember both Seth and Dinah, told us that her grave had not been marked at her own request, as she had wished to be forgotten.

I joined Mrs. Cooper in the evening, and we held a splendid meeting in the market square in the moonlight. We had a very large audience, consisting almost entirely of working men, several of whom promised to ask Lord Kerry his views at his meeting on Thursday, and we were glad to see from the paper that this had been done. As the last 'bus had gone we were obliged to walk home, and we reckoned that Mrs. Cooper, with her extra meeting, had journeyed nine miles to do her day's work. Members of our Society who dislike walking would perhaps like to subscribe for a National Union motor car, which would be of great service in many ways.

On Saturday I left for Manchester, leaving our little committee-room locked up. Several of the inhabitants pressed parting gifts into our hands, and all wished that there would be a contest, and that we would come again.

E. M. GARDNER.

By-Elections.

WITH four by-elections in England on our hands, we of the National Union are likely to have our hands filled, and we are hoping that some of our members will be willing to spend their Easter holidays at the elections. They have a wide field for their activity. In Manchester our committee-room is 74, Victoria Street, under Miss Gardner. Mr. Johynson Hicks is generally favourably inclined; he has not inserted Women's Suffrage in his address, but will welcome questions at his meetings. Mr. Churchill has not yet answered us. We know that in March, 1907, he was "not opposed to the principle," and that in 1908 he did not vote for Mr. Stanger's Bill. Mr. Irving the Socialist is for Adult Suffrage, but said in January, 1906, he "would not refuse a part thereof."

In Dewsbury we have our strong friend Mr. Runciman, who, we hope, will leave the Cabinet. Mr. W. Boyd Carpenter, who opposes Mr. Runciman, is, we believe, in favour of all persons who pay rates and taxes having a vote at Parliamentary elections.

A strong appeal is being made to the Leeds Women's Suffrage Society who worked so splendidly during the by-election to again come forward and help us with Dewsbury. Miss Rowlette is taking charge there. Helpers, who are badly wanted, should volunteer to Miss I. O. Ford, Adel Grange, Leeds.

In Sheffield Mrs. Bauer is the organizer of the Union, and helpers should apply to our zealous local secretary, Mrs. Earp, 37, Cliff Field Road, Meersbrook, Sheffield. Mr. J. F. Hope will probably be the Conservative candidate, who, in May, 1905, was a declared opponent. Perhaps his views have broadened since then.

As to the by-election in Wolverhampton we must appeal to Birmingham Women's Suffrage Society, who helped us throughout Worcester. Can they risk losing their new secretary, Miss Taylor, to us when we carried off Miss Gardner last time?

We must end with a most urgent appeal for funds to all our friends. A few months ago one by-election filled us with alarm, and now we cheerfully contemplate four. We must have the money in order to show the new Prime Minister we mean business.

M. I. CORBETT.

Message from Australia to N.U.W.S.S.

OUR readers will be glad to read the following letter, which we have received from the Hon. Secretary of the Metropolitan Branch of the Western Australia Labour Party. It is most encouraging to know that our friends in the Colonies are remembering us, and that they appreciate our successes:—

Metropolitan Branch, Political Labour Party,
Perth, Western Australia,

March 14th, 1908.

DEAR MADAM,—I am instructed by the above-named organization to forward to you a copy of a resolution which was carried by acclamation at a general meeting of the same. "Resolved that this Branch do express its cordial sympathy with the movement in England in favour of extending the franchise to women." In conveying this resolution it is with the hope that although too far away to render active assistance to workers in

the movement for the extension of the franchise to women in England they may be once again assured of the moral support of their kindred in Australia who are enjoying all the privileges of an adult franchise. With the amount of energy, ability, and enthusiasm which the women of England are displaying in the movement, it appears to my Branch that failure is impossible and complete success is destined to crown their efforts in the not far distant future.

With the best of good wishes for the future, and with the hope that perhaps some effective use may be made of the before-recited resolution.

I am, sincerely yours,

CLAUDE THOMPSON, Hon. Sec.

Mr. McLaren at Glasgow.

At a meeting held on April 10th, at which Councillor Pratt presided, Mrs. Pember Reeves moved a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage. Mr. McLaren, chairman of the National Union of W.S.S., seconding, denied absolutely that the present Government was hostile to Women's Suffrage. The great majority of the Government were in favour of granting the franchise to women, and voted for the Second Reading of Mr. Stanger's Bill. The only member of the Government who spoke in the debate was in favour of the measure. When such was the case it seemed to him extraordinarily bad tactics to go about the country proclaiming that the Government was against Women's Suffrage. He did not even believe that Mr. Asquith was against it, and he thought it was greatly to be regretted, especially now that he had obtained the highest position in the Government, that he should be held up as an opponent and the greatest enemy of the movement. Such, Mr. McLaren was convinced, was not the case. Speaking for himself he did not think it was wise policy for women suffragists to oppose Liberal candidates as such. He thought he was expressing the policy of the Glasgow branch, as he was expressing the policy of the entire union of Women's Suffrage societies, when he said they did not support the attitude of attacking Government candidates. They were in favour of supporting those candidates who were most in favour of Women's Suffrage, irrespective of party. (Applause.) They believed it was their duty to get into the House of Commons the greatest number of supporters that they could. (Applause.)

New Branch at Bolton.

A DRAWING-ROOM meeting was held by Mrs. William Haslam at White Bank, Bolton, on March 17th, which was addressed by Mrs. Allan Bright of Liverpool. It was unanimously decided that a branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies should be formed in Bolton, the same to be in due course affiliated to the North of England society. A meeting of those who were willing to form a committee was subsequently held, at which Mrs. C. V. Thompson was appointed chairman, Miss Haslam hon. secretary, and Mrs. Knott hon. treasurer. Membership of the association to consist of an annual subscription of one shilling and upwards.

Branch Societies.

GLASGOW.—A well-attended meeting, organized by the Glasgow and West of Scotland Association for Women's Suffrage was recently held at Helensburgh. Col. Brock presided, and the Lady Frances Balfour was the principal speaker. In moving the resolution—that the time was ripe to grant the franchise to women—she said that Scotland had long led the way in educational matters. Their universities granted degrees never granted in England, and it had had for the head of the School Board in its capital a woman who was its chairman. It was a curious thing, however, that although the women of Scotland had been better educated, and had a wider view on many matters than their English sisters, they were distinctly behind the latter in their desire and work for the Parliamentary franchise. The resolution, which was seconded by Mrs. David Buchanan, was carried unanimously.

HUDDERSFIELD.—A meeting of the Executive Council was recently held. It was resolved that Mrs. Studdard, Hon. Secretary, should represent the branch at the London Council Meeting on May 1st, and that she should appoint a second delegate to accompany her. Councillor E. O. Beaumont reported that the whist drive had been a financial and social success. It was resolved that a two guineas donation be sent to *Women's Franchise*, and that Mrs. Studdard and Miss Kilburn be nominated to represent England at the International Congress at Amsterdam.

LONDON.—On March 23rd Mrs. Jessop, 73, Harley Street, had an evening "At Home" at which Mrs. Rackham, Mr. Cecil Chapman, and Mr. J. M. Mitchell spoke. There was a large attendance, and some opposition. We always feel very grateful to people who will oppose, for it stimulates discussion in a most useful way.

On March 24th Miss Emily Davies had an afternoon meeting (taking the chair herself). Lady Knightley, of Fawsley, gave the address, which she announced would be very short to leave time for a good discussion, which she considered of much value. Many questions were asked, some objections raised, and points cleared up. Again I am glad to report that there will be good results, both as regards further meetings and subscriptions.

On March 26th the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves was "At Home"—speaker, Mrs. Percy Boulnois. There was a long discussion, and several of the audience expressed a wish to go to other meetings to hear more on the subject.

On April 2nd Miss Whitley had an afternoon gathering, at which Mrs. Wilson spoke; there was much discussion, and we were fortunate in obtaining new members. D. G. BERTRAM.

CHISWICK.—A drawing-room meeting was held on the 7th inst. by Mrs. Shuter, of Cleveland House. Miss Maule (Chairman of the West Middlesex branch of the London Society) presiding. An eloquent and stirring speech was made by Miss Abadam, calling upon women, for the sake of women, to do their utmost to obtain the Franchise. Party politics was not the aim of woman, but a burning and earnest desire to help on the cause of woman's freedom. The question of the employment of barmaids; the restriction of the labour of married women; the legislation for nurses; the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill were measures that deeply concerned women, and consequently ought to be directly voiced by women. The Woman's Suffrage movement is the most important moral question of the day; having as its aim, its ideal, the uplifting of woman and the ennobling, not only of the home, but also of England, and ultimately of the world. A centre, under the direction of the West Middlesex branch, for Chiswick and Bedford Park was formed—Mrs. Carter of 1, Blenheim Road, Bedford Park (to whom names of would be members should be sent without delay), kindly consenting to act as temporary Chairman.

NEWCASTLE.—The last fortnightly meeting for the season was held in the Drawing-Room Café on Monday, April 6th. Dr. Ethel Bentham gave a thoughtful and much-appreciated address, in which she described some of the evils existing in workhouses, which the appointment of women on Boards of Guardians had helped to remove.

NOTTINGHAM.—Circus Hall was filled to the doors on the evening of the 6th by a crowd of men and women, who came to support the cause of Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Yoxall, wife of the member for West Nottingham, presided, and the speakers included Mrs. Snowden, Mr. A. Richardson, M.P., Miss Cicely Corbett, Mr. H. Y. Stanger, M.P., and the Rev. J. Loyd Thomas. The resolution begging the Government to grant facilities for the furtherance of Mr. Stanger's Bill was carried with one dissident, declared by Mrs. Yoxall to be "a very small boy at the back of the hall." A collection was taken at the doors, which, with promised subscriptions, will realize over 14l. The meeting was fully reported by *The Nottingham Guardian* and *The Nottingham Daily Express*.

MANCHESTER.—A meeting organized by the above Society was held by the Conservative Club on the 9th inst. The Rev. W. H. Smartt was in the chair. He remarked that "it was an abysmal absurdity that the franchise should not be granted to women who studied political economy, while it was granted to men who studied how accurately they could hit "ivory balls,"

and he poured scorn on the men who said that women should stay at home. Miss Ashton said it had become an absolute necessity that men should understand what women were aiming at. The hall, which was the largest in the district, was yet not sufficiently large to hold all who came to hear the speeches.

WARRINGTON.—The Warrington Parliamentary Debating Society devoted a special evening to the question of Women's Suffrage on the 14th inst., and contrary to all precedent, invited the members of the local Women's Suffrage Society to speak for their cause, and five—Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Carruthers, Mrs. Osborne, Mrs. Simpson, and Miss Waring—availed themselves of the opportunity. Almost every opposition speech showed a transparent sympathy with the cause, and it was evident that the speakers were only opposing for the sake of argument. The motion, "That the time is now ripe for the granting of Women's Suffrage on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men," was carried by 93 votes to 14. There were crowds of spectators, mostly women, but we had no chance of gauging their feelings, as only members voted.

WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON.—At the annual meeting of the above, held at Leamington on April 8th, when Miss Eden Lewis was the speaker, the members were urged to join in the procession to be held in London in June, and it was announced that one of the members had generously offered to give a new banner for the occasion. Miss Leppington made an eloquent and moving appeal to women in comfortable circumstances to rouse themselves from the apathy which she considered, perhaps, the chief hindrance to the movement at the present time, and to bestir themselves to that careful study of the whole question which is bound to result in active work.

YORK.—The Hon. Mrs. Wilkinson presided at the annual meeting of the York Society, held on the 8th inst. In her address she pointed out that the time had arrived for strenuous efforts and self-sacrifice. Mrs. De Bunsen, in moving the adoption of the report, said the comfortable position of the leisured classes was one of the worst foes of the Suffrage movement. Mr. R. West Cope seconded the motion, which was adopted. Mr. Edwin Gray moved the election of the officers and committee. He recommended the society to educate the men, most of whom were perfectly fair-minded; but only suffered from the prejudice of ignorance. The meeting was well reported by the local press.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

April and May.

APRIL			P.M.
23rd	Suffrage Play, 'Man and Woman,' Victoria Hall, Becklow Road, Shepherd's Bush	Admission 1s., 6d., 2d.	7.30
27th	Bournemouth, Public Meeting, Prince's Hall, St. Peter's Road	Speaker, Mrs. Henry Fawcett	4
	London, Drawing-Room Meeting, 33, Regent's Park Road	Hostess, Miss L. M. Boileau Speaker, Mrs. Stanbury	4.30
28th	Chelmsford, Public Meeting, Mrs. Wilson's Studio, Great Baddow	Speaker, Miss Abadam	4
29th	Nottingham, Monthly "At Home"		
30th	Penge, Public Meeting, Co-operative Hall	Speaker, Miss Adadam	8
MAY			
6th	Hull, Public Meeting	Chair, Mrs. F. Richardson Speaker, Mrs. Allan Bright	
11th	London, Drawing-Room Meeting, 1, Pretoria Road, Streatham Park		8
13th	Birmingham, Annual Meeting, Grand Hotel		
16th	London, Drawing-Room Meeting, 147, Sloane Street	Hostess, Mrs. Temple Speaker, Miss Abadam	8

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

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

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

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.
MRS. COATES HANSEN
MISS HOPKINSON
MISS IRENE MILLER
MISS FITZHERBERT

Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.
MRS. DRYSDALE
MRS. SANDERSON
MRS. BELL
MRS. HOLMES

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.S.C.
MISS MANSRELL
MRS. EILEEN MITCHELL
MRS. M. CLAYTON
MISS HAMILTON

Notes.

BY-ELECTIONS are upon us. Whether we can do our duty by them is another matter. All depends upon funds. Most people are agreed that the by-election work is the most effective part of our campaign. It is the most effective, because it inflicts the maximum amount of damage upon our opponent, while involving the minimum amount of suffering to ourselves. It is a policy which, for this reason, makes many women uneasy; they do not like hurting other people and getting off scot free themselves; they are in the habit of thinking that if they are not sacrificing themselves, no good can come of their actions; it is not woman's way. On the other hand, let it be recognized that it is a policy that makes men respectful; they understand it, and the more successful it is the more respectful they become; it is man's way. He has been taught when at school to worship the boy that can lick him, and to despise the boy that he can lick; in other words, he has been taught the religion of force. In later life he applies this theory to his politics, and extends it to the moral sphere. He despises a "handful of farmers," and denounces their "insolence" in daring to defy his great and glorious nation; but when the handful of farmers for a time outwits and considerably damages the prestige of his great and glorious nation, his tone changes to one of respect. His sympathies are always on the winning side. The prize-fighter, the nation, the cricket team that *wins*—these are the objects of his veneration. Ethically he is sufficiently developed to be capable of admiring self-abnegation, but only if it has been preceded by self-assertion. Abstention from force is interpreted by him to be weakness, unless he has been previously assured of the existence of force by its display.

This Liberal Government despised "a mere handful of women," because it felt confident of its own power to crush them. It has discovered that not only is it impossible to crush them, but that this handful is growing larger and stronger, and has at last developed the power to damage even the great Government itself. Every one must have noticed the result, in the growing tone of respect and in the decreasing tone of contempt in which the subject of Women's Enfranchisement is mentioned by Cabinet Ministers and the man in the street.

Let political parties once be convinced that an independent body of women can sway elections, turning them this way and that as they please, and the battle is won. Women having proved their strength, having asserted themselves as a political force, parties will tumble over each other in their eagerness to enlist that force on their side. Politicians will discover that the machinations of a powerful, though voteless, body of free lancers have a disintegrating effect on parties; and they will hasten to remedy their blunder in permitting the formation of such a body by granting it the vote, hoping thereby to "confound its politics, frustrate its knavish tricks," split it up and distribute it harmlessly among the men's parties. Maybe this will come too late. Every day adds to our numbers; every addition to our numbers strengthens our sense of comradeship. Comradeship in outlawry, friendship in adversity, are laying the foundation of a strong woman's party in the future. Meanwhile, our immediate duty is clear—to show our strength, to show that we can do harm to the Government if we please. The by-elections offer a splendid opportunity for such a demonstration, but we must have money to enable us to take advantage of it.

Woman and the Vote in America.

By MARY BURNETT.

THERE is always a charm in seeing ourselves as others see us, even when the view is that of a critic, but when it is friendly and appreciative, it is always inspiring and helpful.

In the *International Socialist's Review*, Chicago, U.S.A., for February, the first article is on the subject of the Women's Movement throughout the world. I cannot do better than quote part of the article which is very much to the point; space will not permit of a lengthy quotation.

"Among recent political and social movements the revival, internationally, of the agitation for political equality among women is one of the most significant. There are two features of this movement which impress the student.

In the first place, the women are no longer content with the methods of pink-tea-party propaganda; nice little lady-like salon meetings and scented notes to legislators begging their votes. Instead of these methods there is an aggressive, well-planned campaign, with not a little of the revolutionary spirit in it.

The English "Suffragettes" seem to have set the fires of revolt ablaze. The nickname was hurled at them in a spirit of mingled scorn and ridicule, but they have accepted it and are at present doing their best to make it glorious as so many of the sneering nicknames of history have become. Storming the old soporific House of Commons, and the platforms of their opponents at public meetings; holding meetings in Hyde Park and Trafalgar Square; parading along the Thames Embankment with defiant banners floating in the breeze, or curling limply in the London fog; cheerfully going to prison, and doing other "unwomanly" things, they act in the spirit of revolutionaries. Obviously, there must be good revolutionary material in these armies of women demanding their rights of citizenship. In New York this winter, women, moved by the same spirit as their English sisters, have been holding open-air meetings. Fanatical? Well—perhaps so. It is hardly the most rational thing in the world to hold street meetings in zero weather; any doctor will tell you that. But, then all revolutionary movements are fanatical; the "fanatics" are the men and women who keep the altar fires burning.

In the second place, the women who are demanding their political enfranchisement are no longer confined to the intellectuals and the élite. The working women are interested, the wage-earners in the factories, workshops, stores, offices, and other people's kitchens, are awakening, the wives of the workers are also stirring and demanding their rights.

Mrs. Scott Duniway, a veteran leader in the Suffrage Movement in the State of Oregon, writes to tell me that they are opening their campaign for 1908 with great hope of success. They are watching, she says, the British Women's campaign with keen interest. For themselves, they are going to try a different expedient from any attempted before. They are going to throw the whole responsibility on the men, who have accepted the charge.

The women thus address them:—

"We believe in the inherent right of self-government for every law-abiding citizen; and we seek freedom for ourselves that we may become men's legal coadjutors in the formation of a government of all the people, for all the people, and by all

the people. The mother half of all the people is rated in law with idiots, insane persons, and criminals, for whose legal classification we are looking to you, voters of Oregon, to release us, your wives, mothers, sisters, daughters, and sweethearts, at the June election, 1908. We know it is your duty, and ought to be your pride, to extend this to us of your own volition without waiting for the initiative to come from us.

ABIGAIL SCOTT DUNIWAY, President.

Kincardineshire By-Election Notes.

"VOTES FOR WOMEN" is the cry all over the constituency. It is the vital question, and the candidates cannot introduce any other which arouses even a slight interest. There is no enthusiasm over the Liberal candidate, Capt. Murray, who suffers from extreme youth—he is only twenty-eight! Compare his tender years with those of the Suffragettes! The latter capture the big audiences everywhere, and the poor men competing with our women are very wretched. Miss Malony talked down two of the unfortunates before our office the other day, winning a decided and popular victory.

The "Young Scots" have issued leaflets against us, but these have only injured their cause so far. Here are a few quotations from a red leaflet to hand:—

"I would confer the franchise upon all adults, irrespective of sex."—Capt. Murray.

"The Liberals are the friends of women."

"Electors of Kincardine! You have more pressing problems to hand. *Women's Suffrage is all right, but it can wait.*"

Some poor misguided women, who still pin their faith upon the liberalism of the present Government, called a meeting in Torry on Friday evening. Their audience was not large, and suffered from lack of enthusiasm. Alas! what fools some women are!

We are holding as many as ten meetings daily throughout the constituency. They are all well attended, whether indoors or out. Strange to say, there is practically no opposition. The men enjoy the speeches and promise to support our cause practically. The little ones—such bonnie bairns, too—have taken up our cry, and delight in wearing our buttons. The women have come out splendidly. They are pleased to see us, and greet us very kindly. At Torry the fisher-girls wear the W.F.L. badge, and express admiration for the workers. We have to report a large number of new members and volunteers. The Walker Road School meeting of Wednesday brought us many women, and a large number of voters. Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mrs. Kennedy, and Mrs. Sanderson addressed them, whilst Miss Malony presided. The room was crowded, and our resolution was carried unanimously.

At Stonehaven Market on Thursday, both candidates had the pleasure of hearing Mrs. Billington-Greig, and doubtless envied her eloquence. Other successful meetings have been held at Lammerkirk, Stonehaven Town Hall, Point Law, and Old Torry. Next week we go to Banchory, where a lady has lent us a committee-room free of charge.

Our programme for next week, in addition to the works and street meetings, includes the following:—

13th.—Lammerkirk Market, 1. Lammerkirk Hall, 8 P.M. Auchinblae Fish Market, Torry, 11 A.M.

14th.—Banchory Town Hall, 7.30. Port Lethen. Findon. John's Haven.

15th. Kirkton Hall, Dunis, 8 P.M. Gourdon. Fetter Kirm. 17th. Carlton Café, Aberdeen, 3.30. Church Hill, Torry, 8 P.M.

London Council.

THERE will be a meeting of the branch secretaries (or other delegates) on Saturday, April 25th, at 18, Buckingham Street, at 3.30 P.M. Important business will be discussed, and it is hoped that all the London branches will make a point of being represented.

Resolutions to be included in the agenda should be forwarded to the hon. secretary, Miss M. Lawson, 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, not later than 21st inst.

Branch Notes.

Central Branch.—Members are reminded of the debate on May 8th on the proposed Married Women's Employment Bill. Miss Muriel Matters will move a resolution condemning the Bill. There will be no meeting on Thursday, the 16th inst. P. H.

Lewisham Branch.—A Suffragists' Sale will be held from 3 to 11 P.M. on Saturday, May 9th, at the Parish Hall (South-Eastern trains to Ladywell, Catford trams to Ladywell Road.) The attractions will comprise the Holloway Cell, complete, with a wardress and a prisoner; a gymnastic display; a cooking demonstration; a lecture on home nursing; exhibitions of Suffragists "minding the (perpetual) baby," "darning the (much-worn electioneering) socks," "cooking the (interminable) supper," and "scrubbing the (never-ending) floor"; speeches by gramophone and otherwise; a select collection of anti-Suffragist arguments, &c. Contributions, inquiries, and offers of assistance should be addressed to Mrs. Manson, 124A, Adelaide Road, Brockley, S.E. K. M.

Pollokshields Branch.—As a result of the efforts of Miss Munro in the Pollokshields district, a branch has now been formed in the southern part of Glasgow. The branch was formally constituted on April 7th at a meeting in Pollokshields Burgh Hall. Miss E. Murray presided, and after an address by Mrs. Billington-Greig, the resolution was unanimously carried to form a branch of the Women's Freedom League. Miss Christian Anderson, 23, Prince's Square, Strathbungo, is the Hon. secretary of the new branch, and Mrs. Crosthwaite, 37, Cartha Street, Shawlands, is the hon. treasurer. They will both be pleased to receive names and subscriptions from those who are desirous of becoming members. The new branch shows promise of energy and enthusiasm. A meeting was held on Monday, April 13th, at 23, Princes Square, to discuss the final details of organization, and to arrange for a regular fortnightly meeting-place at which the members can assemble.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

That Baby again.

MISS D. MOLONY waged warfare at a meeting last week in St. George's-in-the-East against the forces of prejudice and reaction. She had to contend with the man who knew nothing about the subject, and who therefore felt himself fully qualified to speak on it; with the Adult Suffragist, the honesty of whose desire to see women enfranchised we so seriously question; the vicar, who trotted out that everlasting "baby," whose "minding" is to occupy the whole of a mother's time, and who is never to grow up, and whose baleful influence is presumably to extend to the homes of all the widows and spinsters who have no babies, in order to prevent them voting. Finally, with the lady of the "old school," who denounced everything and everybody all round, darkly prophesying that "this would end in civil war." The usual resolution was lost (35 to 29), but it may be considered a "moral victory," as the politicians say when they lose a by-election, in that it was carried with only two dissentients when put to the women only.

Important Notice.

ON Thursday, April 30, at the usual At Home, 18, Buckingham Street, there will be a Discussion on 'Methods, Wise and Otherwise.' Five-minute speeches will be invited from members and visitors. Those people who disagree with our methods and those who can suggest a more effective policy are particularly invited to come and give us the benefit of their views.

The Waiting Glove.

[To the Edinburgh students who smashed up two meetings, and then refused to debate with Mrs. Billington-Greig on the tactics they professed to be opposing.]

The way of the student is rough,
But he played the old game once too often,
When against Mrs. Billington-Greig
He ran his thick head at Corstorphine.

He's at school for the sake of his brains,
Which may be concealed in his head,
But his capering shows that he trains
His lungs and his muscles instead.

When the lady says "Come talk it over,
And show if you have any 'nous,'"
His instincts are all to take cover,
For his heart is the heart of a mouse.

But tho' he has manners to learn,
And his chivalry's absent in toto,
He just has the wit to discern,
That "ware Mrs. Grieg" is his motto.

But even his brain may expand,
And his heart to just causes may soften,
If they do he'll yet blush that he planned,
Or joined the Cad's march to Corstophine.

SCOTSWOMAN.

Correction.

In the article entitled 'Under which Sex' in last week's issue, on page 479, line 21, for: *which purpose to resort to the latent power* read: *which postpone the resort to the latent power.*

Caravan Campaign.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for the van to start about the third week in May. It will start from Oxshott and tour through parts of Surrey and Sussex to the south-coast towns. All friends of Woman's Suffrage who will be able to give any help to the van are requested to send their names and addresses to Mrs. Hicks, 7, Ornan Mansions, Hampstead.

By-Election Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Miss Burns-Murdoch	0	10	0
Mrs. K. Vulliamy	5	0	0
Miss Eunice Murray	6	6	0
Miss S. Benett	20	0	0

The above sums have been subscribed for by-election work. There are drawbacks to the ear-marking of subscriptions from the book-keeping point of view, but from no other. One great advantage of the arrangement is that it enables people to give who might not otherwise do so, if parts of our policy are objectionable to them. The ear-marking allows them to finance just that work which seems to them most satisfactory. By-election work is extremely expensive, and it is hoped that further sums will be forthcoming from those who sympathize with our policy. The above contributions have already made it possible to start a campaign in Manchester. Mrs. Despard has gone to assist the Manchester branch in the work of preparing the ground for our share in the coming struggle.

Subscriptions and Donations to W.F.L. February. March.

February.			March.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Cobden Sanderson	5	0	Miss Emma Roberts	1	0
Dr. E. Wilks	25	0	Anonymous	10	0
Per Mrs. Wall, Croydon	0	10	Miss E. Bradshaw	0	5
Miss Weir	0	2	Miss M. C. Walker	0	10
Bromley Branch (Miss Evans) ..	0	6	M. E. Lilley	0	5
Miss Gretchen Saunders	0	5	Miss M. K. Hull	0	1
Miss Violet Tylden	0	2	Mrs. A. G. Morris	0	1
Miss Gertrude Vaughan	0	2	Miss H. Burgess	1	0
Miss R. S. Barry	0	2	Sec. L.P., Kirkintulloch	0	10
Miss Remington	0	2	Miss Johnstone	0	2
Miss Monson	0	2	Miss M. E. Wilson	0	10
Miss Margaret Hutchins	0	5	Mrs. Brindley	1	0
Miss Baenziger	0	10	Mrs. Hicks	1	2
Dr. and Mrs. Earengay	5	0	Dr. Alice Vickery	5	0
Mrs. H. M. Smith	1	0	Miss Brett	0	1
Miss Barr	0	5	Miss Palmer	0	1
Miss Tulloch	1	1	Miss Woodward	0	1
Miss Hook	0	1	Miss Jackson	0	1
Miss Foster	1	1	Miss Franks	0	2
Miss Cowen	0	10	Mrs. John Russell	5	0
Miss M. Williams	0	2	Hammersmith S. for W.S. (per Miss Morris)	0	15
Mrs. Allinson	0	5	Miss G. S. Hodges	0	5
Lord Russell	2	2	Miss Florence Hunter	0	12
Miss Moser	0	5	Mrs. E. Cobb	6	0
Miss Enstace Smith	1	1	Mrs. Margan	0	10
Miss Mary Saunders	0	2	Mrs. Bennett	1	0
Miss Margaret I. Saunders	0	5	Miss Franklin	1	0
Hackney Branch	23	3	Mrs. Nevinson	10	0
Mrs. Holmes	1	1	Miss Hicks	2	0
Dr. Mabel Hardie	0	10	Mrs. G. E. Stubbs	2	0
Mrs. Duval	1	0	Miss Foster	4	0
Miss H. P. Cobb	0	5	Miss H. Pratt	2	0
Miss Lyndon	0	10	Miss L. Higgs	0	3
Miss Richardson	0	5	Miss M. H. Fisher	0	3
Miss Austin	0	1	Miss E. Lakor	0	3
Mr. C. C. Reade	1	0	G. L. Clarion (per Miss Nielans)	0	1
Mrs. St. Oysth Eustace Smith ..	5	0	Mrs. T. L. Shrubbs	2	0
Edward Carpenter	1	0	Tottenham Branch (per Miss Cox)	1	0
Miss L. K. Currie	0	2	Miss Marle	1	0
Miss Benett	5	0	Miss J. S. Brown	0	2
Miss D. Lansbury	0	1	Miss L. Abrahams	0	1
Miss Back	0	2	Mrs. T. S. Taylor	1	0
Mrs. Emily Pocock	0	1	Anonymous (per Mrs. K. Cook)	0	5
Anonymous	0	10	Miss L. Chorley	0	5
Mrs. Hollick Kenyon	0	6	Women's Co-Operative Guild (per Miss Cox)	0	5
Miss Todd	0	3	Anonymous (per Miss Matters)	1	0
Mrs. Todd	0	3	Dr. W. Patch	0	0
Battersea Branch	0	12	Miss H. Levy	0	2
Mrs. Southey	0	10	Mrs. M. A. Lewing	1	0
Northern Heights Branch	1	0	Mrs. Snowden	1	0
Miss Heath	0	4	Miss F. E. Thomas	0	2
Miss Saunders	0	5	Miss F. Hunter	0	2
Mrs. Fell	0	7	Miss Winifred Hoff	0	1
Mrs. Tizard	0	2	Miss E. Jeffries	1	0
			Northern Heights	1	0
			Miss Burns-Murdoch	0	10
			Anonymous	10	0

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

From April 16th to May 29th.

		P.M.
Kincardineshire By-Election.		
Daily Meetings at Stonehaven, Banchory, Torry	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Sanderson Mrs. Kennedy Farquharson Miss Schofield, Miss Munro Miss Molony and others	
Thurs. 16 No Social		
„ 23 Social, 18, Buckingham St. Central Branch, 18, Buckingham Street	Dr. Helen Bourchier Mrs. Holmes	3.30 8
Sat. 25 Meeting of London Branch Sees., 18, Buckingham St.		3.30
Sun. 26 Hyde Park	Miss Mary Smith	3.30
Wed. 29 43, Rosebery Gardens, Crouch End		8
„ 30 Social, 18, Buckingham St. Central Branch, 18, Buckingham Street	Debate Dr. Thornett	3.30 8
MAY		
Sun. 3 Hyde Park	Miss Mary Smith	3.30
Mon. 4 Cardiff	Mrs. Despard	
Thurs. 7 Peterborough, Public Meeting 18, Buckingham St., Debate	Mrs. Despard Miss Matters	3 8
Sat. 9 Lewisham, Sale of Work Bazaar	Holloway Prison Cell on View Mrs. Despard	3
Mon. 11 Cardiff, Public Meeting	Mrs. Despard	8

** All communications intended for the Women's Freedom League columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.F.L., 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

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

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Notes and Comments.

WE said last week that the fate of Mr. Stanger's Bill would, perhaps, be known by to-day. But the resignation of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, and the consequent interruption of the normal course of Parliamentary events, made it necessary to postpone the deputation of Members of Parliament led by Mr. Stanger, which had been arranged for Friday last. Although Mr. Asquith has lost no time in framing his new Cabinet, some interval must elapse before he will be able to receive the deputation.

How far the prospect of successfully demanding facilities for the Bill is affected by the change of leadership in the House it is difficult to estimate. The late Premier's sympathy with our cause was unquestioned, even as it was highly appreciated. But even under his leadership it is extremely doubtful whether time would have been found for the further progress of the Bill. The accession of Mr. Asquith and the loss of time involved in the necessary preliminaries make it even more unlikely that the Government will sacrifice even a single day. The new Premier, though not, we imagine, so obstinately hostile as some of our supporters would have us believe, is by no means enthusiastic, and will, no doubt, make it his first business to unite as far as possible the various sections of his party on the least controversial of the measures on their various programmes.

Admitting all this, what are we Suffragists to do? If the present Government is destined to a brief tenure of office, it is no good confining ourselves to flogging a dead horse. We must do our level best, indeed, to induce the Liberals to put it on their programme for the future, but we must also begin to let the Conservatives understand that the pressure which has been put upon the Liberals will be focussed upon them with equal vigour when the time comes. Otherwise, we shall simply be in the position of doubling the hostile forces against us, without securing a vantage ground.

In other words, it is the duty of all Suffragists to make clear their demands not only to sitting members, but also to prospective candidates. The latter are highly sensitive plants, frequently of the family of creepers. We must guide them in their first growth in order that they may take the right direction and become confirmed therein, before success renders them independent.

Conservative members and candidates have been warned by their leaders to preserve an attitude of discretion. Let us do our best to induce them to speak, and to show them that it will be to their advantage definitely to identify themselves with the cause of Women's Enfranchisement to the extent of compelling their leaders to promise legislation in the very possible event of their being returned to power. Many of our strongest supporters are on the Unionist side, and we must not forget to strengthen their hands. The forces allied against the present Government are so strong and so numerous that it would be folly on our part to disregard the possibility of a general election in the near future. Those who believe in the anti-Government policy will, rightly, continue to oppose the present Government; but we must do all we can to prepare the way for action by a succeeding Government.

If the Liberals go to the electors without having taken action or pledging themselves to the future, and the Conservatives do not put our cause on their programme, we Suffragists shall be in a difficult position in the General Election.

Our chairman, Mr. Herbert Jacobs, Mr. Cecil Chapman, and Mr. H. Baillie-Weaver, have addressed drawing-room meetings during the week past. Mr. Theedam spoke on Saturday afternoon in Hyde Park.

Hampstead Meeting.

THE list of speakers for the meeting in the Town Hall, Hampstead, on Tuesday, May 5th, is now complete. Mr. H. W. Nevinson will take the chair at 8 o'clock. Mr. H. Y. Stanger, K.C., M.P., will discuss his Bill, and the local Member, Mr. J. S. Fletcher, will speak in support of it. Miss Cicely Hamilton, Mr. Joseph Clayton, and, it is hoped, Mrs. Fawcett will also address the meeting.

A CIRCULAR letter, asking for help of various kinds, has been sent to all our London members. It was hoped that our urgent request in these columns last week would have produced many replies, and that therefore the expense of circularization would have been diminished. Up to last Saturday, however, so few offers of help had been received, that a circular letter became necessary. If all our members would take *Women's Franchise* regularly, and take immediate action when help is invited, the bill for circularizing might be reduced to a minimum.

Correspondence.

[The Men's League is essentially a non-party organization, in which all shades of political opinion are represented. For this reason we feel bound to state that the League is not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.]

The Force that Rules.

SIR,—Much has been made of the "force" argument against the enfranchisement of women by politicians who, driven back by the onward march of the demand for this reform, seek shelter behind any and every plausible barricade of prejudice. And such a cry as "Force rules the world" undoubtedly appeals to those reactionists who are hard pressed to find reasonable support for their orthodox views. The idea conjures up in the imagination a being half human, half animal, endowed with relentless physical strength, which it puts forth in order that the world may be ruled beneficently and in accordance with Scriptural precepts. Doubtless many good folk who had given the women's claim a half-hearted allegiance are somewhat bewildered by this onslaught upon them by sagacious politicians. Possibly these same folk have made a careful examination of their muscular development in order to see if perchance they might be accepted as divinely ordained rulers of the nation.

But it is all a question of terms—as to the meaning attaching to the use of the word "force." We are prepared to grant that a force does at the last rule the world—a force that finds its expression not in the exhibition of brute strength guided by no intelligence, but in a pure idealism that seeks ever the highest in human effort. And in the political and legislative spheres it is the party whose aims are transfused with the light of this idealism that shall lose its transient nature, and be for ever in the vanguard of all true progress. But the existence of such a party is impossible, unless and until women no less than men are able to give expression to their desires in things political, social, and ethical, and that not indirectly by subtle influence, but directly through the medium of the ballot-box or whatever means are adopted to enable the nation to give expression to its wishes. This precedent condition observed, we may hope for nobler ideals in the directing of the well-being of the race—nobler in that they will be truer, and truer in that the ideals will represent not merely a fractional part of the social organism, but the soul of humanity in its never-ceasing search for the ultimate good.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,

BASIL PHILIP HOWELL.

The Annual Meeting of Members.

[ACCORDING to our promise of last week we give an extended report of the first annual meeting of the League, for the information of those members who, for various reasons, were unable to be present.]

In his opening remarks the chairman, Mr. Herbert Jacobs, said that the past year had, indeed, been a memorable one in the history of the movement for Women's Suffrage. The demand had become so widespread that it was rapidly putting every other political question in the background. He thought they had taken their part in forwarding the cause. Though the hardest and best work had been done by the women, the formation of a Men's League had become inevitable. They (the Men's League) had assumed a great responsibility—they had arrogated to themselves a great name—and they must see to it that they duly performed the duty which they had undertaken. The amount of work they could do depended upon the funds of the League and the number and ability of its workers. Continuing, the Chairman said that the committee were very anxious to find any members who were able to spare an hour or two regularly to work for the cause. The League would be able to give them plenty of work to do.

The future was full of hope. The old members were standing loyally by the League, and they were growing more enthusiastic, whilst new members were continually joining.

He was of opinion that if the vote was withheld from women much longer their League would become one of the largest and most powerful political organizations the country had ever known. In a short time they would have branches in all the chief towns of England, and then the work would be enormous, and he appealed to the members to do all in their power to lighten the task.

With regard to the agenda of the meeting, the Chairman remarked that the committee had received several notices of motion for the rescission of Rule 4, which provided for the classification of members. At the meeting last year the committee had been divided on the question, but they had since found the rule unworkable, and they now recommended that the classification should be abolished. (Hear, hear.) The rule had kept many members away, who misread it as expressing a policy of declared hostility to the Liberal party.

The committee also recommended that Rule 6 should be amended by inserting words which would enable a general meeting to direct the policy of the committee. A further proposal was to empower the committee to call special general meetings, and to allow members to require the committee to call such special general meetings. In conclusion the chairman moved the adoption of the annual report and statement of accounts, and he invited criticisms and suggestions.

Speaking on the motion "That Rule 4 (regarding classification) be rescinded," Mr R. F. Cholmeley, who was received with applause, said that after the chairman's remarks there was no need for him to elaborate the arguments against the rule. If it stood, the only logical conclusion would be for the League to constitute itself a kind of register of a collection of men in favour of Women's Suffrage. There might be some use for a register of that kind, but it would never make a fighting body. (Hear, hear.) If they were to have a fighting body they must all fight on the same side. (Applause.)

Mr. Maclaren urged the necessity of making the League a large and powerful organization which could bring pressure to bear on candidates and the Government itself. (Hear, hear.) The motion, moved by Mr. Cholmeley, was carried unanimously.

The next business was the consideration of a motion standing in the name of the committee empowering the committee to call special general meetings, and giving the same privilege to any fifty members. A motion with a similar object was to the effect that members unable to attend the annual meeting should, having complied with certain conditions, be able to vote on resolutions (not amendments, of course) by signed letter to the hon.

secretaries. The committee had for a long time felt that members residing at a distance from London might be unable to attend any general meeting, and, therefore, that the control of the League's activities must rest with the London members. The second of the two motions was, therefore, suggested as a means of giving such members a chance of influencing the League's policy. The motion was adopted, after some discussion, and was embodied in a new rule (Rule 13.)

The former motion was drawn up by the committee with a view to making it impossible in the future for the affairs of the League to be managed exclusively by the committee in defiance of the will of any large portion of the Society. It was felt highly desirable that members generally should be empowered by the rules to compel the committee to take counsel with the members on any problem which might commend itself as important to any fifty members. As the rule was originally drawn by the committee it was provided that such fifty members should, in addition, deposit a sum not exceeding 10*l.* against the expenses of a special meeting. This provision was intended as a protection to the League funds, but after some consideration the members decided that the League must bear the expense of any such special meeting.

This provision now stands as Rule 10.

An interesting discussion followed on Mr. Theedam's motion that the League should support such Parliamentary candidates only as were active members of the League. Mr. Walter S. B. Maclaren preferred that support should be given to candidates who were most in favour of the cause. It was ultimately decided that political action must be left to the committee, who would decide each case on its merits, having regard in all cases to the general feeling of the members.

Mr. Theedam also proposed periodical meetings of members, and in seconding this Mr. Mitchell took occasion to point to the small funds at the disposal of the committee. They objected to plunging the League into debt (Hear, hear), and so work had been scamped which should have received attention. The League's income for the year was less than 150*l.*, and he urgently appealed to members to increase their subscriptions, without which it would be impossible to take part in by-elections. If they had periodical meetings they would learn what members wished to do and what they were willing to pay. They were not as rich as they should be, and he asked for increased financial help to prevent their falling into a slough of inactivity. (Applause.) The motion was agreed to.

A letter, which was received with loud applause, was read from Mr. Henry Holiday suggesting that a letter be sent to Mr. Asquith urging him to reconsider his position with regard to Women's Suffrage. Mr. Mitchell embodied this in a resolution with the consent of the meeting. Mr. Duval seconded, and the suggestion was agreed to.

At the conclusion of the business on the agenda the meeting was thrown open for discussion. We regret that space forbids us to give even a summary of the opinions expressed. Suffice it that in spite of differences of view there was a strong feeling that the policy of the League could safely be left in the hands of the committee.*

The chairman, concluding the discussion, wished to thank the meeting for its exhaustive treatment of the question of tactics. He assured them that the committee worked harmoniously together, and whatever decision they came to would be after giving the utmost possible attention to every aspect of the question, and would be given conscientiously. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Duval moved a vote of thanks to the officials of the League for their work during the year, and Mr. Theedam seconded, paying a tribute to the work of the officers. The vote was accorded amidst hearty cheers, and the meeting, which had lasted 2½ hours, then terminated.

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

* The names of the speakers were given in these columns last week.

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