

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, 55, Berners Street, London, W.1.

VOL V., No. 2.

February 15th, 1919.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts which *you* shall give,
Daughter of the newer Eve?

—Francis Thompson.

STUNTS VERSUS PROGRAMMES.

BY FFLORENS ROCH.

The word we hear on all sides in these days is "Reconstruction." It is repeated on every occasion, but it gets no further than a mere word surrounded by a mist of vagueness and inconsistencies. No one seems to have any clear idea of how this much-talked-of Reconstruction is to be carried out. The Parliamentary Candidates at the last election put forward very little that was concrete. It was an election run on inconsistent "stunts."

We were told that the party system was obsolete. But surely it is obvious to any ordinary intelligence that national self-government can only be carried on by means of parties pledged to certain measures.

At the last election many constituencies were practically deprived of their constitutional right of choosing their government by the fact that the only choice before them was a Conservative and a Liberal, sometimes an "Independent," all standing in support of the present government whether blessed by the official "coupon" or not. In these cases electors were not even allowed the option of voting for a change of government.

"Let's do away with the party system," has been the cry of late, "we are out for reforms and reconstruction, let us bury the old party feuds." All very fine, but there may be a difference of opinion as to the reforms desired. Some deem Protection a much-needed reform, others look on Home Rule for Ireland as a necessary part of National reconstruction, both contentious measures, but unless parties are formed, pledged to a definite policy, one way or another, and strong enough to take up the reins of government if returned to power, the electors have no means of insisting on any particular programme being carried out. Under our Constitution, the only way electors can enforce their disapproval with a government is by turning it out, and putting another in

its place. But if there is no definite party to put in its place, constitutional government by the people is a dead letter. In war time a Coalition Government may be necessary, but in peace time such a government is in the happy position of Tennyson's "Brook,"

"Men may come and men may go,
But I go on for ever."

A very satisfactory state of things for believers in autocratic rule!

The non-party stunt was not, by any means, the only one brought out at the last election. I had the opportunity during the course of the campaign of hearing a so-called "Independent" candidate's views on various questions, and putting them together when it was all over, I was astounded at the inconsistencies expressed by one who, up to a certain point, felt obliged to support the Coalition Government. I will just take a few examples.

The Candidate was in favour of Free Trade, *but* certain industries must be protected.

The Candidate was in favour of Home Rule for Ireland, *but* there must be no coercion of Ulster.

The Candidate was in favour of the abolition of conscription, *but* some form of military service must be compulsory in all young men for the protection of our realms.

The Candidate was in favour of the League of Nations, *but* an army of occupation must be kept in Germany until full indemnity had been paid, thus keeping up war conditions which would surely make the working of a League of free Nations impossible.

The Candidate declared that German goods and German products must be kept out of this country, *but* later on suggested that the cost of the war should largely be paid in coal from the German mines, quite overlooking the effect that would have on our mining industry.

The Candidate was in agreement with Mr. Wilson's 14 points, but spoke warmly in support of the policy of "making the Germans pay." Not only the damage done must be paid for, but the whole war bill, apparently overlooking the fact that in these very 14 points Mr. Wilson had laid down that Germany should pay for damage done through war operations on land, sea and from the air, and that this was defined (which definition was accepted by the Allies in making the armistice terms) as being the cost of reparation not indemnity.

But why go on with the list of inconsistent stunts so characteristic of a state of things when candidates, following the lead of the Government, had to keep in with both sides, thus taking no definite stand for anything. Better housing, fairer conditions of labour, a more satisfactory system of education were all touched upon, but involved with these questions is that of taxation of land values, methods of acquiring land and the relations of imperial and local finance, upon which candidates were remarkably silent.

Women have been called upon to exercise their newly-acquired citizenship at a time when constitutional government, as far as Parliament is concerned, is non-existent.

There is only one thing to be done by women as well as men, and that is to direct public opinion through channels *outside* Parliament. Societies, Associations, Leagues, Trade Unions must no longer wait for a definite programme from an indefinite Parliament. They must form their own demands and be strong enough to force them upon the Government, until the Government realises the mistake of inconsistencies and becomes once more representative. Labour movements show us that the labour groups outside Parliament have realised the necessity of forcibly insisting on their views. But it must not be left to labour alone to make definite demands. It is incumbent upon every citizen to think out the problems with which the country is faced (not to take their opinions ready made from the daily papers or even from the "Tablet") and to voice their conclusions in definite terms through their various organisations, thus eventually, let us hope, doing away with the reign of stunts instead of programmes.

[If any members, holding different views to those expressed in this article, would like to answer Mrs. Roch, we shall be glad to

give them an opportunity of doing so.—
Ed.]

COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY INTO SEXUAL MORALITY.

On Monday, January 13th, the first evidence was taken before the Committee of Enquiry into Sexual Morality, promoted by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene. This Committee is an unofficial body appointed by a number of representative societies, to enquire into the laws and their administration, and other methods for dealing with sexual promiscuity, and to make recommendations thereon.

The names of those composing the Committee are as follows:—Mr. Wm. Hanbury Aggs, Mr. R. Wilberforce Allen, Mrs. Ayrton Gould, Mrs. Percy Bigland, Dr. J. P. Boothroyd, Rt. Rev. Monsignor Provost Brown, Mrs. Campbell, Commissioner A. Cox, Miss Dixon, Rev. R. J. Drummond, D.D., Mr. J. Rowntree Gillett, Mr. Maurice Gregory, Mrs. T. B. How, Dr. Ingleby, Mr. G. W. Johnson, C.M.G., Dr. Elizabeth Knight, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Miss Agnes Mott, Miss Mary Phillips, Rev. W. C. Roberts, Miss A. Maude Royden, Rev. G. Stanley Russell, M.A., Lady Handley Spicer, Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, Sir Charles Tarring, Dr. Jane Walker, Mrs. Hubert Walter and Dr. Helen Wilson. The Enquiry Committee will consider existing laws, possible amendment of the law, and the question of prophylactic measures against venereal disease.

Special attention will be directed to the following subjects amongst others: Order in streets and public places, solicitation, loitering and vagrancy, and laws dealing with prostitution and disorderly houses. Questions relating to the age of consent, the protection of young persons, and treatment of youthful offenders, need much thought and investigation and efforts will be made to obtain evidence from people experienced in varying aspects of these problems. Another section of the Enquiry which is much to the front at present is the medical aspect; evidence will be taken on such questions as penalising communication of venereal disease; compelling doctors by statute to give information, under certain circumstances, to others concerning their patients. The very controversial matter

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We hope to see a good gathering of members at our Annual Meeting to discuss our future work. We shall welcome criticism and suggestions. The speakers will be, Miss Christopher St. John, Mrs. Crawford, Miss Fennell, Miss Agnes Mott, Miss Rochford and others. The Meeting will be held at the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, on Saturday, February 15th.

All suffragists heard with regret of the resignation of Mrs. Fawcett from the Presidency of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. One has to be reminded by Mrs. Fawcett herself that she has passed three score years and ten, for her vigour, would put many of the younger generation to shame. After fifty years of devoted work to the Suffrage Movement, Mrs. Fawcett has indeed earned a rest, yet we confess that we are selfish enough to rejoice that she intends to continue to write and to speak for the Women's Cause.

We are glad to record that the articles of Association of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors have been amended so as to admit women to membership on the same terms as men.

It is a good omen for the future of Germany, that women have not been excluded from the new found freedom of the German people. In the recent elections women voted on the same terms as men, and for the first time in history the adult population of Germany enjoyed universal suffrage. The voting age for both sexes is twenty. We learn from the International Suffrage News that the Catholic Women's League of Germany issued an appeal to Catholic women whatever their feelings on the question of women in politics to realise that duty demanded that they should make full use of the rights granted to them. The League has applied to the Centre Party to establish a system of co-operation between the Catholic Women's Organisations and the Party. The *Times* reports that several women have been elected to the new Constituent Assembly.

We much regret that the Premier has not as yet seen fit to appoint any women delegates to

the Peace Conference. Resolutions from societies of women including the C.W.S.S. were sent to him pressing for their appointment. The decisions of the Peace Conference will materially affect the lives of women all the world over, and that men alone should decide the future of the human race is not a good omen for the new world of which we have heard so much. They have not been so successful in the past as to inspire us with confidence for the future.

We are indebted to the Women's Municipal Party for the following list of candidates for the L.C.C. elections: Miss Rosamund Smith, Shoreditch; Duchess of Marlborough, N. Southwark; Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Chelsea; Miss Bathurst, Chelsea; Mrs. Lamartine Yates, N. Lambeth; Mrs. Hudson Lyall, E. Fulham; Miss Susan Lawrence, Poplar; Dr. Sophia Jevons, Miss Ida Samuel, Miss Muriel Wilson, may also stand.

We hope our members will work for the women candidates wherever possible. It is most important that some women should be on the London County Council.

The Index of the "Catholic Citizen" for the year 1918 is now ready, and may be had gratis on application at the office, 55, Berners Street, W.1.

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of "prophylactics" will also be brought forward.

It is hoped that the Government will appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into public immorality, the best methods of dealing with it, the treatment of young offenders, and the protection of minors. The present Enquiry is in no sense a substitute for such a Commission, but meantime before such a Commission has been appointed, drastic proposals are being brought forward, and it is necessary to gather together more information than is at present available.

The Enquiry Committee invites those who desire to give evidence to communicate with the Enquiry Secretary, 19, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W.1. (Association for Moral and Social Hygiene).

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Office: 55, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W., I.

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

DR. ELSIE INGLIS.

While Miss Curwen's account of the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals is fresh in the minds of our readers, it may not come amiss to say a few words about their gallant founder, whose biography has recently been published. (Dr. Elsie Inglis. By Lady Frances Balfour. Hodder and Stoughton 6s.) Lady Frances Balfour has told the story of the life and work of Dr. Inglis in a simple and unaffected manner well suited to the frank simplicity of her heroine. It has been said that the adventurous spirit of Elsie Inglis might not have been attracted to the career of medicine, had it not been one which was still perilous for women, and which gave prospects of many a battle. And yet we catch glimpses of the future doctor in the little girl nursing sick children on a long sea voyage, and in the little girl prescribing for her forty measles stricken dolls.

Dr. Inglis was a staunch believer in woman suffrage, and was ready like many another suffragist to sacrifice professional prospects and personal comfort for the cause of women; and it was to the suffrage societies that she turned instinctively for help to carry through her work of mercy, when her services had been rejected by the War Office. The story of the fatuous war office official, who met her offer of help with the remark: "My good lady, go home and sit still" is not likely to be soon forgotten. To Dr. Inglis it seemed a

wicked thing that women doctors and surgeons should not be allowed to help in the alleviation of the sufferings of the wounded. She was not one to be turned from her purpose by contempt, and she was not one to sit still when suffering humanity had need of her. We will have units of our own she declared, and in a sense the fatuity of the War Office was responsible for the foundation of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. Her indomitable courage and boundless energy, coupled with the devotion of her units and helpers, carried the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals into many lands, where they have earned undying fame. Dr. Inglis spent herself in this work of mercy, and there can be no doubt that in the alleviation of the sufferings of others she hastened her death.

To this valiant Christian the summons of death came as naturally as the summons to work. When she realised that the end was near she said to her niece—"it will be grand starting a new job over there, although there are two or three jobs here I would like to finish." The account of her death is full of beauty. "As the minutes passed she seemed to be entering into some great experience, for she kept repeating, this is wonderful, but this wonderful." At her request her sister read a passage from the New Testament: "Let not your hearts be troubled. In my Father's house are many mansions." And as they

watched her the soul of Elsie Inglis passed peacefully to its Creator. We are told that the room seemed filled with a glorious presence, and those who loved her had only a sense of great triumph and perfect peace. One who stood by exclaimed: "This is not death, it makes one wish to follow after." Truly a beautiful end to a beautiful life.

It has been remarked that she, who had received decorations from France, Serbia, and

Russia, received no decoration in her own country—but what need had she of artificial honour? She lives in the grateful memory of those she served so well. In the words spoken at her funeral: "She remains for us a bright memory of high devotion and stainless honour, an inspiration to all who knew her." Such a one has surely no need of decorations.

L. de Alberti.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Annual Report, 1918.

It is fitting that a year so memorable as the year 1918 should have seen, in England at least, the triumph of the cause of women, a triumph long deferred. The year which opened with the passing of the Representation of the People Bill, by which six million women were enfranchised, closed with the passing of a Bill making women eligible to sit in Parliament.

The Annual Meeting of the C.W.S.S. was held on February 16th, at the Catholic Association Rooms, when the future of the Society was discussed by a large and representative gathering of members. The chair was taken by the Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch, Chairman of the Society. Miss Whately read the Annual Report, the adoption of which was moved by Miss Christine O'Connor, and seconded by Lady Laughton. The adoption of the Financial Statement was moved by Mrs. Finlayson Gauld, and seconded by Mrs. Anderson. Miss Christopher St. John then moved the resolution, which ran as follows:—"That this meeting of the C.W.S.S. approves of the continuation of the Society, with the intention of working for the further extension of the franchise to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, given to men, to establish the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens." The resolution was seconded by Miss A. H. Bennett. Councillor Ellen Chapman supported the resolution, in the name of the Brighton Branch. Miss Isabel Willis spoke for Hastings, Lady Laughton for Wimbledon, Miss Barry for Liverpool and Miss Anderson

for Birmingham. After Mrs. V. M. Crawford, Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A., Miss Fedden, Miss Whately and others had spoken in favour of the continuation of the Society, the resolution was put to the meeting, and carried, with one abstention.

On the following day, Sunday, 17th, the High Mass at Westminster Cathedral was offered at the request of the C.W.S.S., in thanksgiving for the Suffrage victory, and to beg God's blessing on the new electors. There was a large attendance of members, and many of our friends from other societies, amongst whom we were glad to welcome Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Garrett. At the end of the Mass, the Suffragists, led by Miss Jeffery and the Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch, walked in procession and placed a wreath tied in our colours upon the shrine of Blessed Joan of Arc, Patron of the C.W.S.S.

We took part in the great Suffrage Celebration at the Queen's Hall on March 13th, presided over by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. Our share of the celebration fund amounted to £22 13s.

On Saturday, March 23rd, by kind permission of Mrs. Cameron Head, a Drawing-room Meeting was held at 40, Lowndes Square, when Miss Abadam gave an interesting address on "Woman as the New Force," the chair being taken by the Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch.

After the passing of the Representation of the People Bill we sent speakers to various London Parishes, to explain the Franchise Bill, namely, to Eltham, Haverstock Hill, Highgate, Brondesbury Park, Eden Grove, St.

John's Wood, Rotherhithe, Bow and Stamford Hill. These lectures were undertaken by Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Finlayson Gauld and Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A.

The Moral Question. A notable feature of the year's work among the societies of women is the determined opposition which has been shown to every attempt on the part of the authorities to establish State Regulation of Vice. Thanks to the Association of Moral and Social Hygiene, the scandals connected with our armies in France were brought to public notice early in the year, and, following an agitation by many societies, including the C.W.S.S., the authorities were compelled to put the *maisons tolérées* of France out of bounds for British troops. Soon after this success, however, the infamous Regulation 40D, an attempt to protect vicious men at the expense of women, was passed by Order in Council. Again the solidarity of the societies of women was demonstrated in this matter. Innumerable resolutions of protest were passed and numerous public meetings held to denounce the iniquitous order, in many of which the C.W.S.S. took part. It was finally decided by the C.W.S.S. to organize a Catholic meeting of protest, which was held on October 12th, at the Caxton Hall, the Revd. Father McNabb, O.P., being the chief speaker, who put the case against Regulation 40D from the point of view of a Catholic Theologian. Dr. Alice Vowe Johnson and Miss Alison Neilans, of the Association of Moral and Social Hygiene, also spoke. The chair was taken by the Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch. The resolution of protest was passed unanimously. Father McNabb's speech was printed verbatim in the "Catholic Citizen" for November. On November 6th a joint meeting, supported by over 50 societies, including the C.W.S.S., was held at the Queen's Hall, to demand the immediate withdrawal of Regulation 40D. It has now been withdrawn.

On Armistice Day a wreath, tied with our colours, was placed on the shrine of Blessed Joan of Arc, at Westminster Cathedral, in thanksgiving for the cessation of hostilities. Throughout the year Holy Masses has been offered at St. Patrick's, Soho, at 10-30, on the first Sunday of every month, for the intentions of the Society, that is to say, for Peace and for all who have died in the war.

General Election. In view of the General Election the C.W.S.S. drew up a list of questions, which were published in the "Catholic Citizen," for members and Branches to present to parliamentary candidates. These questions were submitted to numerous candidates, and, for the most part, favourable replies were received. We urged our members, wherever possible, to work for any woman candidate who replied favourably and whose views did not otherwise clash with theirs. Many members did useful work for various women candidates.

We have been represented at many meetings and conferences during the course of the year, notably at the Labour Conference of Women, the meetings convened by the National Federation of Women Teachers, to demand equal pay for equal work, conferences to consider a Ministry of Health, and conferences on Venereal Disease.

The Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch and Miss Barry are our representatives on the Consultative Committee, Miss Jeffery represents us on the Committee of the Women Citizens' Association for Marylebone, Miss Whately on the W.C.A. for Kensington; Miss Blackledge serves on the Police Court Rota, and has attended the courts every week, Miss Agnes Mott represents us on the Committee of Enquiry into Sexual Morality, convened by the Association for Social and Moral Hygiene, Miss A. E. Elliott on the Ministry of Health Watching Council, and Miss L. de Alberti was our representative on the Committee which assisted the British Dominion Women's Suffrage Union to draw up the plan of the Imperial Conference of Women organized by that Union last August.

Miss A. L. P. Dorman, now Co-Editor of the "Woman's Outlook," the Suffrage paper of South Africa, is a member of the C.W.S.S.

Hon. Press Secretary. This important office has been filled by Miss Isabel Willis. A letter having been sent by Miss Mason, a C.W.S.S. member, to all the Catholic papers, protesting against the slight against women in the "Catholic Encyclopedia," in its article on "Woman," the Hon. Press Secretary continued the correspondence, which was carried on chiefly in "The Universe" for a considerable time, under the heading "Woman's Inferiority."

"The Tablet," "Catholic Times," "Universe" and "Catholic Herald" all accepted papers giving particulars as to the qualifications required for women electors. The "Catholic Times" also published a paper on the subject of the 40D Regulation, written with the object of showing how Catholics were specially bound to protest against all such kinds of legislation as tend to keep up the unequal moral standard between men and women.

The Society owes a debt of gratitude to the Editors of the Catholic papers for their courtesy in publishing not only these articles and letters, but also the numerous short notices of various matters of interest to the Society which have been sent them from time to time during the past year.

Christmas Sale. The profits of our stall at the Christmas Sale organized by the United Suffragists amounted to £20 2s. 6d.

The "Catholic Citizen." After the passing of the Representation of the People Bill our paper, the "Catholic Suffragist," was re-named the "Catholic Citizen." In spite of the heavy increase in the price of printing paper and postage, it was decided not to raise the price of the "Catholic Citizen," but to organize a Jumble Sale, to cover any deficit. We have again to thank members and associates for the generous literary help they have given us during the year. The paper continues to be a valuable asset to the Society.

We offer our best thanks to all who have come forward to help us during the year, especially the gallant paper-sellers, who are rendering valuable service to the Society. Miss Gadsby has sold a thousand copies in the streets; other constant sellers are the Misses Atkinson, Bain, Barry, D. J. Collier, Jeffery, Whately, Mrs. Coldwell and P. N. Jackson, Esq. Mrs. Coldwell and Miss Bain have also helped in the Office.

We have also to thank Miss O'Sullivan for the gift of a telephone; our number is Museum 4181.

We are happy to say that we have now a Hon. Organizer of the Liverpool Branch, Miss A. J. Musson. It was to a member of this

energetic Branch, Miss D. H. Hughes, that we owe the pamphlet, "Why I should Vote," published by us in the Summer, and which has sold very well.

We offer our congratulations to our members, Miss Anderson and Miss Anton Laing, recently married.

Obituary. We regret to record the death of our members, Miss Harrall, Mrs. H. D. Clarke, Miss E. L. Francis and Miss Abney-Walker. R.I.P.

BRIGHTON, WORTHING AND WEST SUSSEX BRANCH.

At the adjourned General Meeting of the Brighton West Sussex Branch of the C.W.S.S. the following resolution was proposed by Miss Merrifield, seconded by Miss Bennett and carried unanimously.

"That this meeting of the Brighton and West Sussex Branch of the C.W.S.S. approves of the continuataion of the Society, bearing in mind that its object, viz., the extension of the Franchise to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men, has not yet been attained. It resolves to work to establish political, social and economic equality between men and women and to further the work and usefulness of women as Catholic citizens."

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously,

"That the name of the Branch be changed to Brighton, Worthing and West Sussex Branch."

In the early part of the year a resolution against the *maisons tolérés* of France was passed. In August the Branch met to elect a member as representative of the C.W.C.S. on the Women's Local Government Society. Miss O'Brian being elected. After the meeting Councillor Ellen Chapman read a lecture by Dr. Mary Scharlieb on "Marriage—Parenthood," and afterwards entertained the members to tea. Miss A. J. Major has kindly acted as Hon. Secretary during the year.

HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARD'S BRANCH.

The Women Citizens' Association having formed a branch here last June, the C.W.S.S.

Hon. Sec. was invited to be a member of the Council, in company with two other Catholic women. Later on, three district committees having been formed, the C.W.S.S. Hon. Sec. was elected to the one for St. Leonard's, and she read a paper at the first of their monthly discussion meetings, the subject chosen being "Why Women should be in Parliament."

In July our Annual General Meeting was held, at which Miss A. H. Bennett, of Brighton, kindly gave an address, which was very interesting and helpful. After the Hon. Sec.'s yearly report had been read, a discussion on the subject of the 40D Regulation took place and a resolution was passed unanimously protesting against it and demanding its immediate withdrawal. Copies of the resolution were sent to H.E. Cardinal Bourne, the Prime Minister, the Secretary for War and local M.P.'s.

Members attended a lecture given by Miss A. H. Bennett, on "Catholic Medical Women," in aid of Dr. Helen Boyle's Hospital for Nervous Diseases amongst Women and Children, at Hove.

The Hon. Sec. has continued to represent the C.W.S.S. on the Babies' Welfare work, and has had the gratification of receiving the Belgian "Médaille de la reine Elisabeth," in acknowledgment of her work for Belgian refugees.

Letters were sent to both candidates at the time of the Election, asking their views on the points suggested in the November "Catholic Citizen." Both gave courteous replies, quite satisfactory as to all the points.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

The Liverpool Branch sustained a great loss at the beginning of the year through the resignation of the Hon. Sec., Miss O'Callaghan. Mrs. Murphy kindly undertook the office of Hon. Sec. and we take this opportunity of thanking her for her services to the Branch. Mrs. Macdonald was re-elected Chairman of Committee, and Miss McKinley again Hon. Treasurer.

A successful Whist Drive was held on February 1st, at 18, Colquitt Street.

In April Miss D. M. Hughes, B.A., read a paper on "What is the use of a Vote?" which was afterwards published by the C.W.S.S. in

pamphlet form, under the title "Why I should Vote."

A debate on "Equal Pay for Equal Work" was held on May 15th, Miss I. Collier and Miss D. M. Hughes speaking in support of the principle, and Miss I. Curwen and Miss E. Hughes against.

In October Miss I. Curwen gave a lantern lecture on "The Work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, N.U.W.S.S." In November a paper was read by Miss L. M. Blackledge, on "How my Vote can affect my House." At the December meeting Mrs. V. M. Crawford gave an address on the "Church and the Worker," giving some account of the Catholic Labour Movement abroad, based on the Encyclicals of Leo XIII.

The Branch is now affiliated to the Council of Women Citizens, and a representative attends their meetings.

Resolutions were passed by the Branch against Maisons Tolérées, and D.O.R.A. 40D, forwarded to H.E. Cardinal Bourne, the Prime Minister, the War Office and local M.P.'s., and a resolution in support of the eligibility of women for Parliament, which was forwarded to local M.P.'s. and the Premier.

Delegates attended a lecture by Mr. Polak, at Picton Hall, the subject being "Internal Conditions and Betterment of India."

A representative was sent by the Branch to the Catholic Social Guild Conference, Stoke-on-Trent, to sell the "Catholic Citizen," and sold out.

During the Election political information was given by the Branch at 91, Bedford Street, and through the Information Bureau, N.U.W.S.S., at 6, Lord Street. Letters of inquiry re their attitude towards women's questions were sent to all the prospective candidates of Liverpool and District and a representative of the C.W.S.S. went, in co-operation with the N.U.W.S.S., on a deputation to two candidates.

A Mass was offered at St. Nicholas Pro-Cathedral on the day of the Election, at the request of the Branch, to beg divine guidance for the Women Electors.

We are very grateful to Mrs. Macdonald for kindly lending her room for committee meeting, and also for taking charge of all the

arrangements for paper selling. The following members have sold papers during the year:—Miss Bullen, Miss I. N. Collier, Miss Cox, Miss Hughes, Miss Jarvis, Mrs. L. Hughes, Mrs. Kelly, Miss McKinley, Mrs. Macdonald, Mrs. Murphy, Miss A. Musson, Miss Holmes and Miss Pye. To all these our best thanks are due for this most useful work for the Society.

The Liverpool Branch has now an Honorary Organiser, Miss A. J. Musson, to whom we are deeply indebted for her zeal and energy in extending the work of the Branch.

STIRLING BRANCH.

Hon. Sec. Mrs. Bentley Murray.

The Hon. Sec. represents Catholics on the Committee of the Stirlingshire Branch of the National Union of Women Workers, also on the Committee of the Child Welfare Centre in Stirling and was on the Committee of the Communal Kitchen until it was closed.

Mrs. H. S. Robson has been Commandant and Administrator of Southwood Red Cross Hospital since it was opened in October 1914, and has been granted the Royal Red Cross for her services.

During the absence, on military service, of the Headmaster of St. Mary's Catholic School, Miss Brass has undertaken his duties in addition to her own.

At the General Election the C.W.S.S. questions were forwarded by the Branch to the candidates of the constituencies and satisfactory answers were received. Boy Scouts made a house to house distribution of the C.W.S.S. pamphlet "Why I should Vote" to stir up the electors. His Lordship, Bishop Graham, kindly promised to offer Mass privately to beg God's blessing not only on women voters, but on all voters.

WIMBLEDON BRANCH.

Hon. Sec., Lady Laughton, 11, Stanton Road, S.W.19. The C.W.S.S. at Wimbledon took an active part in the educational propaganda among and for women voters at the recent election. The candidates were approached and written assurances obtained from them on the various points that touch the interests of women according to the questions

drawn up by the C.W.S.S. The C.W.S.S. has two members on the Executive Committee of the newly formed Wimbledon Citizen Association, Lady Laughton (Vice-President) and Miss Fennell. The latter took several local meetings held to instruct women as to the power and use of the vote and was the woman speaker at a Mass Meeting on December 6th, when the rival candidates came by invitation to address the women electors.

LONDON AND BRANCH NEWS.

Office: 55, Berners Street, W.1. London. Tel. Museum 4181. Hours: 3-30—5-30. Saturdays, 10-30—1-30. Other times by appointment. Annual Meeting, Saturday, February 15th, 3 p.m., Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn.

LIVERPOOL.

At the Annual Meeting of the Liverpool and District Branch at 6, Lord Street, Liverpool, on January 15th, 1919, the following resolution was passed and sent to Miss Hickey: "That this meeting of the C.W.S.S. wishes to send its congratulations to Miss M. Hickey on her becoming a Town Councillor of Birkenhead." Miss Hickey is a Catholic. We congratulate Mrs. Egerton Stewart-Brown on her election as a member to the Liverpool City Council for Sefton Park East. The Liverpool Council of Women Citizens to which the C.W.S.S. Liverpool Branch is affiliated supported Mrs. Stewart-Brown, and members of the C.W.S.S. helped during the election.

Hon. Org. Sec., Miss A. J. Musson,
Fair View West, Rainhill, Lancs.

New Register.

We remind our readers that the new Register is now being compiled. It will be published on February 22nd. The last day for sending in a claim is March 8th. Everyone should ascertain that their name is on the Register. The six months' qualifying period ended January 15th.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Office—55, Berners St., Oxford St., London, W.
Patron: Blessed Joan of Arc. Colours: Blue, White & Gold
Organ—"The Catholic Citizen," 1d. monthly.

OBJECT.

To band together Catholics of both sexes, in order to secure the political, social and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens.

METHODS.

1. Strictly non-party
2. Active propaganda by political and educational means.

MEMBERSHIP.

All Catholic women are eligible as Members, who approve the object and methods, and will pay a minimum annual subscription of 1s. Men are invited to join as Associates, on the same conditions, with the exception that they may not elect or be elected to the Executive.

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Entrance Fee One Guinea

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WILL HOLD

PUBLIC MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

At 3 o'clock

IN THE

MINERVA CAFE,

144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

February 19—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD. "Wanted, a Revival of the Militant Spirit."

" 26—Miss MARGARET HODGE. "The Child in English Literature."

March 5—Miss MARGERY FRY. "Penal Law Reform."

" 12—Speaker to be announced.

Saturday, February 23—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL will hold a meeting to forward the candidature of Women on the L.C.C. in the Minerva Cafe at 3 p.m. Speakers—Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Mrs. Lamartine Yates, Miss Marian Berry. Chair—Mrs. Mustard. Admission Free. Discussion.

Tea can be obtained in the Café at close of meeting at 6d. each.

ADMISSION FREE.

THE WOMEN'S BUREAU

of the

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