

Women's Franchise.

No. 47.

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Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

May Subscriptions are now due. Weekly Numbers, 1½d. 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.

NEXT week's number will contain 16 pp., as we wish to insert much interesting matter which has been held over for some time. Unfortunately we owe our ability to occasionally give effect to this much-needed enlargement to the generosity of a few, not, as should be the case, to the helpfulness of many.

SEVERAL prominent women writers have already joined the Writers' Suffrage League, among them Mme. Sarah Grand, Miss Beatrice Harraden, Mrs. Zangwill, Mrs. Aria, Mrs. Frankau (Frank Danby), Miss Elizabeth Robins, Miss Eveline Mitford, &c. The Honorary Secretary is Miss Bessie Hatton, 15, Sandringham Court, Maida Vale, and the subscription is a minimum of 2s. 6d. This League will be strongly represented at the forthcoming procession, for which the banner, in black and white, and copied by the Artists' Suffrage League from the arms of the Scriveners Company, is already completed.

AT the council meetings of the Women's Liberal Federation held on the 19th, 20th, and 21st, prominence is being given to the Suffrage question, and the following resolution, moved by the president on behalf of the executive committee, took precedence of all other subjects on Tuesday:—

"This council, representing the great National Federation of Liberal Women, demands once more, in the name of justice, that women's claim to the Parliamentary vote shall no longer

be denied by the Government....they are gravely dissatisfied at receiving no promise from this Government that their own all-important claim will be dealt with before Parliament is dissolved.....and this council further warns the Government that it is harmful to the interests of Liberalism that a spirit of unrest and discontent and disheartenment should take root in the vast ranks of the Radical women, who demand, in a constitutional way, their share in the citizenship of their country."

THE rowdism of the mob which made it impossible for Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Despard to obtain a hearing last week in Cardiff, which ineffectually attempted to repeat this obstruction at Caldicot, and which broke up a meeting at Pontypridd, makes one despair of the present system of education. South Wales, given an opportunity of listening to two ladies whose very names command respect among all cultured people, ladies who had come by invitation to speak on a most important subject of which they are masterly exponents, greets them with unrestrained hooliganism! Those who had hoped to profit by the opportunity of learning more of the subject, and who were prevented from so doing, must at least have carried away a corrected opinion of that chivalrous protection upon which women are so often recommended to rely. There is always a bright side to these exhibitions, and our unqualified admiration is given to those who by their endeavours to obtain a hearing for these ladies were not ashamed to identify themselves with the cause of justice and fair-play. The very stupidity of the opposition must, we feel sure, have won over a considerable number to whom the question had not previously appealed.

We are informed that the princely sum of 8s. has been offered with no little flourish of trumpets to the organizers of the Cardiff meeting as the contribution of the students there towards the expenses (20l.) which the disturbances occasioned.

We are told that those who figured in these disgraceful scenes were mostly "students." Students of what, may we ask? Certainly not of anything that has so far implanted in them the most elementary ideas of justice and fair play. We would point out that nothing the most militant Suffragist has ever done approaches the behaviour of the men and boys in Cardiff. It is also most unfortunate that, according to the local papers, the organizer of these disgraceful proceedings should have been a member of the Executive Committee of the Cardiff Liberal Association, and "an elderly grey haired man" to boot. It is interesting to note that one of the disturbers, on being brought before the Cardiff magistrate, described himself as a Wesleyan local preacher and Sunday-school teacher. Mrs. Despard scored a point when she told the local hooligans that "what we have heard and seen to-night constitutes one of the best arguments for Women's Suffrage, and what is going on now will give great help to our cause in this city of Cardiff."

THE Liberal Colonial Club held a dinner on the 11th inst. at Prince's Restaurant. Lord Durham presided. Mrs. Pember Reeves, wife of the High Commissioner for New Zealand, afterwards addressed the club on "The Working of Woman Suffrage in New Zealand." She said that in England the great point at election time appeared to be to tell the biggest lie and to trade on ignorance, but that could not be done in New Zealand, for people knew too much there. It would be impossible to find a woman factory hand who was not cognizant of

the Factory Acts, or a female shop assistant who was acquainted with the Shop Acts, but it was the exception to find such women in England. Knowledge and learning could be spread by giving the vote to women. The chairman and Mr. Pirie, M.P., both expressed disapproval of the proposal to grant votes to women. Other speakers followed. A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Reeves on the motion of Mr. Tennant, M.P.

BY the kind invitation of Canon and Mrs. Talbot a large drawing-room meeting was held at 5, Berkeley Square, on May 11th, to hear an address by Miss Whitehead on the life work of Mrs. Josephine Butler.

Miss Talbot, in an excellent opening speech from the chair, spoke of the great changes that had taken place in the position of women, and added that "the demand for a vote is a natural sequence of these changes, and is only one expression of the growing sense of women, that they must, for their own good and their country's good, take their part in the nation's life. She quoted Burke:—

"No cold relation ever made a zealous citizen."

Miss Whitehead, in a most eloquent and earnest speech on the life of Mrs. Josephine Butler, pointed out how necessary it was for women to press forward and gain the Suffrage, that their liberties might never be infringed as they had been in the past.

Miss Priestman and Miss Tanser spoke, the latter quoting from a letter to Mrs. Butler from Mazzini in 1870:—

"Can you doubt how eagerly I watch from afar, and how heartily I bless the efforts of the brave, earnest British women who are striving for the extension of the Suffrage to their sex, and for the repeal of the vice-protecting Acts, which last question is but an incident in the great question of justice for women."

The Hon. Sec., Miss Mabel Duncan, appealed for new members, and for help for the Demonstration on June 13th. She said they were having Musical Franchise Teas all over Bristol weekly, and a week's campaign of open-air work with Mrs. Cooper of Nelson. They were also having working parties three times a week at their office to make their banners, and she urged upon the women of Bristol the necessity of showing the public the strength of the real need for justice for women.

A similar meeting was held in the evening at the Redland Park Hall, when, in addition to Miss Whitehead, Mrs. Medley, Dr. Eliza Dunbar, and Mrs. Parkin spoke. Space, however, can only be granted to report the first meeting.

HAMPSTEAD, which had the honour of returning, in the person of Miss R. E. Lawrence, the first woman Borough Councillor in the Metropolis, has, in consequence of the failure of Miss Pickton's gallant attempt against great odds in Kensington, also returned the second. Noon yesterday (Monday) was the latest time for receiving nominations in the Kilburn Ward, and only one candidate having been nominated, viz., Miss M. E. Balkwill, she is therefore duly elected. She is a well-known social worker in the district, and had the support of men and women of all sorts and conditions.

WE have been asked to acknowledge in *Women's Franchise* the following donations towards the propaganda work of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise League: Miss Gurney, 10*l.* 10*s.*; Miss Edmonds (second donation), 9*l.* 9*s.*; Mrs. Auerback, 2*s.* 6*d.*; Miss Howsin, 1*s.* All information respecting the League and Unionist Suffrage literature can be supplied by application to the office of the Inner Circle, Grosvenor Tea Rooms, North Place, Cheltenham.

MISS MARIE B. THORNTON has sent us one guinea to be used as Mrs. H. B. Taylor suggests in our number for February 27th; Miss H. D. Thomson has renewed the subscription for the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institute for three months; and Miss Mary E. Dalby is paying for the paper to be sent to five Members of Parliament for three months.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

FRANCE.—No small sensation has been caused in Paris by the candidature of a woman at the recent municipal elections. The chief object in putting forward Mademoiselle Jeanne Laloë was to ascertain by a test case whether the nomination of a woman could legally be accepted. Since women were not expressly excluded, it might be assumed that they were eligible, and Madame Maria Vérone, a lady noted for her legal learning, undertook to get this difficult point settled. The law of 1884 determines what persons are eligible for the councils, and among the various categories are included the "members of the electors' family," without mention of men or women. In point of fact, the nomination was accepted, and the lady went to the poll, and received a fair proportion of votes. That she was not elected we might have taken as a foregone conclusion, for it appears that even if women are eligible, they cannot elect.

Members of the *Solidarité*, the most progressive of the French Suffrage societies, took the opportunity of this election to demonstrate in favour of Votes for Women. Marching two and two towards one of the polling-stations, they suddenly unfurled banners with the inscription "La femme doit voter, elle subit les lois et paie les impôts." An attempt was made to get possession of the boxes containing the voting papers, and demonstrations were made outside several of the polling stations. A few arrests were made, but after an hour or two the prisoners were released. The object of the demonstration, which was organized by Dr. Madeleine Pelettier, editress of *La Suffragiste*, was to call attention to the question of the Municipal Vote. A Bill conferring the Municipal Franchise on Women had been promised some time ago, but apparently the deputies who were to introduce it did not think the time ripe, and demanded some proof of public interest in the question. The recent events were intended as an answer to that demand.

SPAIN.—A proposal to confer the municipal vote on women has been introduced into the Spanish Parliament, but rejected by 65 to 35 votes.

GERMANY.—The Berlin branch of the Prussian National Suffrage Society has been very active of late. Five discussion evenings have been held at which the history of the five chief political parties was given by some of the members. The large audiences evinced the keenest interest, and many fresh members joined the Society.

Election work has also been adopted as part of the Society's activity. A series of questions was sent out to all the candidates for the Prussian Diet, with an intimation that those who sent no reply would be regarded as hostile. The wording was as follows:

"Do you approve the demand for universal, equal, direct, and secret suffrage for men and women to all legislative bodies?"

"In case you should be elected to the Prussian Chamber of Deputies, what steps do you intend to take towards the attainment of this end?"

(a) Will you bring in a motion in favour of universal, equal, direct, and secret franchise for men and women?

(b) Will you support and further a motion introduced by other parties or persons in favour of universal, equal, direct, and secret franchise for men and women?"

In the Imperial Parliament a resolution was introduced by the Social Democratic Party, calling upon the Chancellor to bring in a Bill during the coming session, establishing throughout the German Empire, the Federal States, and Alsace Lorraine, universal, equal, direct, and secret suffrage to the Imperial and State Parliaments for Imperial subjects over twenty years of age without distinction of sex according to proportional representation. The resolution was introduced by Herr Bebel, who pointed out that women's suffrage was the logical consequence of the right of association which had now been granted. Besides the Social Democrats only two members voted for the proposal, which was, of course, defeated. The wonder should be, perhaps, that it could be introduced at all. Even this is a sign of progress.

A. ZIMMERN.

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."

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. MCLAREN. Mrs. Broadley Reid. Hon. Bertrand Russell. Mrs. Philip Snowden. Miss Margaret Ashton. The Lady Frances Balfour. Miss Florence Balfour. Miss Allan Bright. Mr. A. Cameron Corbett M.P. Miss Edith Dimock. Miss I. O. Ford. Miss Martindale, M.B., B.S. Lady Strachey. And the Hon. Officers, ex officio.

Current Topics.

THOUGH Miss Pickton has been defeated by a small majority, she made a gallant fight, which has done much good in bringing forward the need for women's services in Local Government work. The figures were: Mr. H. V. Kenyon, 617; Miss Pickton, 522. Majority, 195. We hope Miss Pickton will stand again.

It is a well-known fact that for a long time there has been a growing feeling among members of the Women's Liberal Federation that more decisive action should be taken with regard to Women's Suffrage. They have, therefore, formed a Forward Suffrage Policy Committee, which is entirely composed of members of the Federation. Three conferences have been held in London, with satisfactory results, and already over 200 members have pledged themselves to support the "Suffrage before Party" policy. The members are most anxious not to be considered as a separate organization, and though many Liberal women hold advanced views as to what should be the Suffrage policy of the Federation, no official action has as yet been decided upon. Miss Cicely Corbett, 75, Victoria Street, S.W., is the secretary.

The next practice debate will be held at the National Union Offices, on May 27th, at 4.30 P.M. The subject for discussion is "That the granting of the vote will influence the education of girls." All desirous of attending are cordially invited.

Next week we are hoping to publish an article giving reliable information regarding the Procession and the Albert Hall meeting. We should be glad if our secretaries would use it as the basis of a letter, or article, and send it to the current number of their local papers.

The Reigate and Redhill Society, which has hitherto been affiliated to the London Society, is now so strong that it feels it can best help the cause by entering directly into the National Union. This society has done excellent work during the year, and its meetings have been uniformly successful.

Procession.

MRS. HODGETT, who is President of the Women's Co-operative Guild has promised to speak in their name at the Albert Hall meeting on June 13th.

Professional women, University women, women teachers, women writers, women artists, women musicians, business women, nurses, co-operative women, women of political societies of all parties, and many other groups will march in the Procession under their distinctive banners, specially designed by the Artists' Suffrage League.

Arts and science women graduates of the University of London are earnestly requested to join the University section of the Procession on June 13th, and to come in academic dress. All information can be obtained from Mrs. J. M. Bull, B.A., 21, Lambolle Road, Hampstead, N.W.

Some medical women have decided to walk in the Procession under a distinctive banner.

The National Union of Women Workers have circularized their members, urging them to walk in the procession.

The 5,000 Guineas Fund.

WE give below a further list of donor, to the 5,000 guinea by-election fund, and very much regret that acknowledgment of these sums has not appeared regularly each week. I trust our friends will forgive us when they know that the cause of this omission is the serious illness of our treasurer, Miss Bertha Mason. She liked to make these lists herself, and personally thank the donors; and is deeply grieved to be obliged to give up this personal supervision of the treasury for the next few months. We hope the zeal of our friends will not relax on this account; but that when Miss Mason returns to her post with renewed health and strength, she will find a generous response to her appeal and a plentiful supply of money to carry on a vigorous crusade. And please bear in mind that "He giveth twice who gives in a trice."

EDITH DIMOCK, Acting Treasurer pro tem.

Mrs. Shillington	£1 1 0
Miss Violet Shillington, D.Sc. .. .	1 1 0
Miss Shillington, M.A. .. .	1 1 0
Mrs. Sanger .. .	1 0 0
Miss Methven .. .	1 1 0
Prof. Weiss .. .	0 10 6
Mrs. Weiss .. .	1 1 0
Miss Philippa Strachey .. .	1 1 0
Mrs. Frankland .. .	1 0 0
Mrs. Fisher, M.A. .. .	0 10 0
Miss B. A. Clough .. .	5 0 0
Mrs. Marshall .. .	2 2 0
Miss Larner .. .	0 10 0
A. Hugh Thompson, Esq. .. .	0 2 0
Miss H. Gill .. .	0 2 6
Mrs. Dexter .. .	1 0 0
Mrs. Roy-Batty .. .	2 2 0
Miss Marjorie Strachey .. .	1 1 0
Miss A. Elrington .. .	0 2 6
Warwick and Leamington W.S.S., per Mrs. Dykes, Hon. Treas. .. .	1 0 0
Miss A. Bateson .. .	2 2 0
T. Hart-Davies, Esq., M.P. .. .	1 1 0
Mrs. Wood .. .	1 1 0
Miss Tuke .. .	2 0 0
Miss Helen Brechin .. .	1 1 0
Miss Margaret Ashton .. .	25 0 0
Miss Margaret Queleh .. .	0 10 0
Miss K. D. Courtney .. .	1 1 0
Miss Mabel D. Martin .. .	0 5 0
Dr. Mary Murdoch .. .	1 1 0
Lady Gibb .. .	25 0 0
Miss Annie Leigh Browne .. .	5 0 0
Miss I. O. Ford .. .	10 0 0
Miss Elizabeth Helen Ford .. .	10 0 0
Miss A. H. Begbie .. .	1 1 0
Per Mrs. Kayser, "A Birthday Present" .. .	1 0 0
Dr. Mary Cruikshank .. .	2 2 0
Miss Jean Stone .. .	0 9 0
Mrs. McWhirter .. .	0 5 0

North Salop By-Election.

ON arrival at Shrewsbury I was marked down as a "Suffragette," owing to the large amount of odd-looking luggage I possessed. Through the good offices of a local lady (to whom Miss Gardner had written), I was able at once to obtain an excellent committee-room. We opened the campaign by holding an open-air meeting in the Market Square. Mrs. Stanbury had a pretty fair hearing, but at the end of her speech the police made us move our stand, as the traffic had become impeded. This move was injurious, as the crowd, once set in motion, and now very large, became unmanageable. I attempted to speak from another position, but soon perceived that not only was it impossible to make one's self heard, but that a rush was imminent. Lest worse befall I got down from the chair, and managed to withdraw under the shelter of the Market building. Here a big strong woman thrust me behind her in a corner, and kept off the crush to some degree till it became a little less severe. She then guided me, by a circuitous route, to the house of the Rev. Mr. Street. A powerful constable protected our retreat, and, followed by a hooting, howling, hustling mob, at last we reached our haven. Mrs. Stanbury and our local helpers fortunately were on the edge of the crowd, and took refuge in the police station, till the tumult subsided. Next night, Mrs. Stanbury and I being reinforced by the Misses Hammond and Miss Strachey, we made another attempt in the same place. The square was packed with a very threatening crowd when I mounted the platform. It was with extreme difficulty the people were induced to listen; but I succeeded in getting a hearing, and so did Mrs. Stanbury, though with many rude interruptions. At the time we were speaking it was touch and go with our hearers, whether we could keep them in order, or whether they would rush the platform. At the close we tried to keep together on our way home, but were forced apart, with the result that Miss Hammond and I had to be protected, not only by police, but by a body-guard of decent men, who linked arms, and walked behind to break the force of the pushing crowd. It was almost a repetition of the previous night's performances; but this broke the back of Shrewsbury opposition. Since then all the respectable inhabitants have been most apologetic, and have told us that this behaviour was solely due to irresponsible youths. Since then we have spoken frequently in the square, on the terrace overlooking the public park (known as the Quarry) and on market day on a waggon outside the Cattle Market. Miss Hammond and I addressed an out-door meeting at Wem, and Miss Hammond and Miss Strachey held one at Newport. We have had small meetings for women in our committee-room. We took the biggest hall in the town for the meeting addressed by Mrs. Snowden last Monday. The building seats 800, and it was packed. Hundreds had to be turned away. A more orderly, attentive, and interested audience it would not be easy to find, and Mrs. Snowden made a wonderful impression. She spoke again at Oakengates next night, where we had the Town Hall crowded in every corner. Unfortunately youths and small boys had possession of the gallery, and insisted on making themselves heard almost continually. The bulk of the audience seemed intensely interested, and evidently wished to hear what we had to say. A complete change of feeling is evident in the town, and people are asking constantly, "Where will you speak next," and when told, they come. More than one photograph has been taken of our group, and reporters often come for information to the committee-room, and appear at all our gatherings. The Co-operative Women's Guild sent to ask us to come to explain Women's Suffrage to them, which Miss Hammond did very ably. We had usually three meetings each day. A local clergyman, who came to sign the petition, remarked, "Persecution has always resulted in good to the Church, and it has been just the same with regard to your cause in the persecution you endured last week." With Miss Hammond's very efficient help, I intend to organise a Women's Suffrage Society for Shrewsbury, and hope to be able to report its formation in the next issue of *Women's Franchise*. In recording thanks to the various members of our group—Mrs. Stanbury, Mrs. Snowden, Miss Hammond, and

Miss Strachey, I must include the Rev. Mr. Street and his family, whose home was a haven of rest to us all, and whose presence and help were always available.

ISABELLA ROWLETTE.

Suffrage Dance.

ON May 8th, a Dance, organized by the North of England Society for Women's Suffrage, was given in Didsbury. Its object was to gain funds for the Society, and incidentally to draw attention to its aims. A profit of over 32l. was made. The refreshments were all given by different supporters of the cause. Miss Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Swanwick, Miss Sheavyn, Mrs. Eckhard and Mrs. F. Zimmern acted as hostesses, and the Committee served as stewards during the evening. Miss C. Hedley Charlton, of the Artists' League, kindly made an appropriate design for the programme. Coloured Suffrage posters decorated the walls; Men's League papers were placed in a conspicuous position in the gentlemen's cloak-room, and a good deal of "Suffrage" was talked by the dancers. It is thought that if similar dances were arranged in different districts, it would not only give rise to discussion of our movement, but also add considerably to the funds of the National Union or of some local branch.

F. M. ZIMMERN.

Branch Societies.

CHELTHENHAM.—Since the last quarterly council meeting five committee meetings have been held. A resolution was carried at the first of these urging the National Union to call Mr. Balfour's attention to the extreme importance of making a definite statement of Conservative policy *re* Women's Suffrage at the Primrose League Conference in April, as Mr. Sears, M.P., paired against Mr. Stanger's Bill. Lord Duncannon, Conservative candidate, was approached with a view to his receiving a deputation, but preferred to put his reply on paper. The five questions framed by the National Union for candidates were submitted to him, and the first was the only one answered affirmatively. As a result of this and other unsatisfactory statements he was heckled by the hon. secretary at one of his meetings. His answer was flippant, and on the whole his attitude is considered far worse than that of the sitting Liberal member. The newly formed Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise League is, however, supporting him. Two monthly social meetings have been held. One was on February 29th, when Councillor W. G. Earengy, LL.D., read a paper on 'Women's Franchise in its Social Aspect.' At all these meetings our president, Mrs. Frances Swiney, gave a summary of the progress of the movement in this and other lands. At the March social Mrs. Jackson read a paper on 'Women's Suffrage and the Temperance Question.' The attendance suffered on this occasion from the weather, but the audience showed great interest, and, as before, the collection was in excess of expenses. We have now secured a much more convenient and pleasant room for these small meetings, viz., the Grosvenor Tea-Rooms, North Place. Tea is always served at a charge of 4d., and if we cannot get special music a Suffrage song is sung from the hymn-sheet of the Women's Freedom League. Literature is also sold by our superintendent, Miss Lilian How, who is an agent for *Women's Franchise*. A very large and successful public meeting was held on March 6th in conjunction with the local Women's Freedom League. Every effort had been made to draw an audience, and the result was that the room, which comfortably seats 500, was packed, standing room and all, and an overflow meeting was also crowded. A collection was taken, and when all expenses were deducted, a balance of 3l. 10s. 10d. was divided between the two societies. Two Suffrage concerts have been given to working people in a schoolroom in the poorest part of the town. They were got up largely with the assistance of Miss Woodall, one of our members who is official nurse to the Council schools.

DARLINGTON.—We held our annual meeting on May 12th at the Temperance Institute, Miss Graham presiding. An encouraging report was read by the Hon. Sec., Miss M. L. Swanson, showing an increase of membership. The retiring president, Miss E. Graham, congratulated the members on the progress attained. She then moved that Mr. Pike Pease, M.P., be elected president for the year, and Miss Lucas seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. Miss M. L. Swanson was re-elected hon. secretary, and Mrs. Baynes hon. treasurer. A strong committee were also elected, and subsequently Mrs. Harrison Bell, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, gave an address on 'The Next Step.'

HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS.—We held a well-attended meeting at the small ball-room, Royal Concert Hall, on Saturday, the 9th inst., with the local President, Mrs. Tubbs, in the chair. Mrs. Harlow Pibbs and Miss Lettice MacMunn made stirring appeals for support and encouragement, and Mrs. Strickland followed with an earnest and able address. "Don't let the women of Hastings and St. Leonards become known as 'The Arm Chair Suffragists,' who do nothing but criticize the methods and ridicule the policy of the women at the front." This was the keynote of all the speeches. A resolution pledging the branch to take an active part in the Demonstration on June 13th was unanimously carried. The meeting concluded with a few stimulating words from the President, a vote of thanks to Mr. William Slade, who had kindly lent the spacious hall for the occasion, and to Mrs. Darent Harrison, who had provided tea and offered to present the branch with a banner. Mrs. Harlow Pibbs, Helensdene, St. Leonards-on-Sea, has consented to act as hon. secretary *pro tem*.

LEEDS.—*Roundhay.*—A drawing-room meeting was held at The Grove on Friday, April 10th. The hostess, Mrs. Harvey, presided, and Miss Maude Illingworth (of Bradford) gave a very interesting address on the subject of Women's Suffrage. Literature was distributed, and at the close of the meeting several new members were added to the Leeds Women's Suffrage Society.

Adel Grange.—A large gathering of members and friends took place at an "At Home" held by the Misses Ford on Saturday, April 25th. Miss Cicely Hamilton gave an excellent address on the meaning and importance of the Women's Movement, and drew attention to the contemplated Suffragist procession on June 13th. Miss I. O. Ford reported on the Leeds by-election, at which she and other members of the Leeds Society had rendered assistance. Miss Ford read the result of the collecting cards (for the National Union electioneering fund), which had so far been received, and pointed out that a large proportion of the cards were still in the hands of the collectors. Towards the end of the meeting a fund was started for the purpose of defraying the travelling expenses to London of those members and friends who might otherwise be unable to take part in the procession. A substantial sum was subscribed in the course of a few minutes. From inquiries made at their Leeds offices, Messrs. Cook are prepared to arrange for the attachment of special excursion carriages to the *early morning* and *evening* trains to and from London on June 13th, to be run at cheap fares, provided a sufficient number of passengers from Leeds, Bradford, and neighbouring towns undertake to travel. In the case of 100 or more women the fare (return) would probably be reduced to 11s.

LLANDUDNO.—A successful meeting was held at the Cambridge Restaurant on the 11th inst., when Miss Walton Evans brought the subject of the procession most vigorously before the members. Though no railway facilities could be promised, some six members volunteered to take part, and more will do so if cheap fares are available. A beautiful banner design, given by Mr. Harold Rathbone, was displayed by the artist; a work committee was formed to carry it out, and a collection made towards materials.

LONDON.—*Battersea.*—A drawing-room meeting, given by Mrs. Pope, who took the chair, was held on May 15th, when Miss Ward and Miss Corbett spoke. Questions followed, and Miss Beaumont, our local secretary, raised some interesting points.

Camberwell.—A drawing-room meeting was given by Mrs. Earengy Aylett on May 13th, when Miss Corbett spoke. A keen discussion followed.

Hampstead.—Miss Jessie MacGregor invited many friends to her studio on Tuesday, the 12th inst., to hear Lady Frances

Balfour. The audience seemed much interested; some new members were enrolled, and a number of tickets were sold for the Albert Hall meeting. Mrs. Carmichael Stopes was in the chair.

Willesden.—The first Annual Meeting was held at the Congregational Small Hall on May 12th. The chair was taken by Mrs. James Gibb, and there was a good and enthusiastic audience, who greatly appreciated the address given by Miss Frances Sterling. The executive has just issued its first annual report, in which we are glad to be able to state that during the short period of the branch's existence much knowledge of the grounds on which women base their claims to the vote has been diffused, and that the movement has received widespread and general sympathy in the district.

NORTH OF ENGLAND.—*Knutsford.*—On May 6th the annual meeting was held in the Town Hall at 8 o'clock with the Rev. Hudson Shaw in the chair. The report was read, showing how the membership of the Society had risen during its first year of life from 7 to 83. Miss Ashton then moved that the report should be adopted, and Miss Margaret Robertson seconded the motion, which was carried.

REIGATE AND REDHILL.—At our Annual Meeting, held in Reigate on May 5th, about forty members and friends were present. The report for the year showed an increase of thirty in membership—a good record, but not enough to satisfy many ardent spirits among the members. Financially the Society owed much to the London Society, of which it had hitherto been a branch, and it acknowledged gratefully its indebtedness in many other ways. Nevertheless, the committee felt that the time had now come for the Society to act alone as a direct branch of the National Union, and a resolution to that effect being put from the chair, it was carried unanimously. Miss Watson, Organizing Secretary for the London Society, then gave an inspiring and amusing address, and the meeting broke up.

SHEFFIELD.—At a meeting held on May 14th Mrs. Lenwood presiding, a paper on the subject of Women's Suffrage was read by Mrs. Sinclair. A discussion followed, in which Mrs. F. Mawson, B.A., and several other ladies took part. Arrangements were made for the secretary, Mrs. Earp, and other members to attend the Demonstration in London on June 13th.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

	May and June.	P.M.
21st	London, Hampstead, "At Home," The Library, Prince Arthur Road Edinburgh, Public Meeting	Chair, Mrs. Singer Speakers, Mr. John Russell and others Speaker, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.
22nd	Edinburgh, Public Meeting	8—10
26th	LLANDUDNO, Social Evening, Llwyn Orm London, Highgate, Suffrage Tea, 27, West Hill <i>S. Croydon, Drawing-Room Meeting</i>	Hostess, Mrs. Dimmock Chair, Mrs. Garnett Speaker, Miss Zimmermann
28th	<i>Beckenham, Public Meeting, Howard's Assembly Rooms</i>	Chair, Miss Abadam Speakers, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mrs. Dice, Mr. Stanger, M.P., Mr. Cholmeley
29th	<i>Brixton, Drawing-Room Meeting, Rutland Lodge, Effra Road</i> <i>Chiswick, Drawing-Room Meeting</i> <i>Croydon, Meeting for School Teachers</i> <i>N. Paddington, Drawing-Room Debate</i> <i>Westminster, Drawing-Room Meeting</i>	Opener, Miss Abadam Speaker, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.
JUNE 1st	<i>Fulham, Invitation Meeting, West Kensington Lecture Hall</i>	Speakers, Mrs. Percy Boulnois John E. Raphael, Esq.
2nd	<i>Ladies' Imperial Club</i>	Speaker, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.
	Saturday, June 13th, Procession and Meeting in Albert Hall.	
	Tickets, 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d., and Boxes various prices. To be obtained from Miss Strachey, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.	

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

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

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

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

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

Notes.

JEROME'S JOKES.—Jerome K. Jerome has at last achieved being funny without effort on his own part. Our dear *Daily Chronicle* gives up three-quarters of a column of its valuable space to an account of a drawing-room meeting which was enlivened by Jeromic scintillations on the subject of woman's duty and woman's shortcomings. The funniest part is where Mr. Jerome ranges himself by the side of his Creator—only a little higher up. He agrees patronizingly that it is not good for man to be alone—even on the Parliamentary register; but he cannot support his Creator with regard to the last point till women give up ringing muffin-bells.

His argument is, apparently, that because one wicked young woman rang a bell and prevented one heaven-sent young man uttering two speeches, therefore the whole of the female sex is unreasonable, childish, violent, hysterical, wanting in worldly wisdom, and a sense of humour. Because Miss Molony rang a bell at Mr. Churchill, Mrs. Fawcett, who probably highly disapproves of the bell-ringing, is not fit to vote for a member of Parliament. Because a disillusioned minority, who are sick of male promises, adopt a militant attitude towards politicians, therefore the great mass of gentle, patient, trusting, polite, men-admirers, including 94,000 Liberal women, whose main object is to serve the masculine party, are to be kept outside the political pale. Surely this is funnier than 'Three Men in a Boat'; and surely if the doings and sayings of mere mortals are noted and observed by the Immortals, the Heavens must have shaken with laughter at the sight of this infinitesimal speck of matter grandly approving of the object of the Maker of the Universe in creating the female sex, though not itself prepared to go the whole length of the Divine scheme just yet, on account of Miss Molony.

Mr. Jerome tells us regretfully that he formerly talked to his hostess about bimetalism, and she would conclude the conversation by asking if her hat was on straight; but that nowadays she wants a vote. We can enter into the feelings of the hostess who invited Mr. Jerome to her party to be funny, and finds herself bored with bimetalism. She would, of course, think about her hat. But it is difficult to see why such an "ardent Suffragist" should be so obviously disgusted to find that women are beginning to talk more about votes and less about hats, unless indeed, he finds that feminine knowledge blurs the bright little image of himself that man loves to see ever sparkling and dancing in women's dear eyes. Certainly when women know about bimetalism, it will be much more difficult for men to talk to them about it.

Mr. Jerome says: "Here I am: you have got to reckon with me!" We confess that we had forgotten Mr. Jerome. We shall have to revise our policy. He says, further, that if all this hysteria, &c., is going on, he "shall vote against any candidate—Liberal or Conservative—who puts 'Votes for Women' in his election address." We need not pause to wonder how he will contrive to vote against both in an election in which both candidates include the subject in their addresses. He will do it—he has said it. But we must be prepared to face a serious political crisis. The Liberal and Conservative parties are threatened with the withholding of Mr. Jerome K. Jerome's vote. As to the woman's cause, it has been taken out of the hands of the Creator by the above-mentioned gentleman, who has undertaken to revise the cosmic scheme himself. It is an anxious moment. It is a time for smiling at all Jerome's jokes, whether we see them or not.

Impressions of the By-Elections.

As I was only a fleeting visitor at the late by-elections, I will not attempt to do more than give a few impressions of my own about these strange and stimulating scenes.

As a general impression, none who have followed the women's forces through these struggles can fail to see the change that has come over the attitude of the public with regard to the claim of women to citizen rights during the last few months. My remembrances at Peckham, Manchester, Wolverhampton, and Dundee, are of vast and attentive audiences, occasional interruptions, some opposition, here and there, from very young men, a little hooliganism; but on the whole respect and interest. At Peckham it has been slanderously said that women were in alliance with beer. Nothing could be more untrue. Beer was very little in evidence at Peckham, and, as I write, I seem to see the pale faces of working-women and girls, who came daily to our rooms, touched with the light of a new hope. Then their voices answering my cry, "Awake, women of Peckham," with, "We are, we are awake." A new vigorous Branch of our League has been formed at Peckham, which will do fine work by and by.

In Manchester, where there have been workers for some time, the results are still more remarkable.

Wonderful were my experiences in this great Lancashire town, and deep and vivid are the impressions which the conflict there have made upon my mind. On the Sunday before the fight opened I happened to be speaking in Ashton. I knew how anxious the members of our League in Manchester were, and I arranged to spend Monday with them and look for an office. Miss Hines, the Hon. Secretary of the Branch, and Miss Fildes spent that Monday with me, Miss Alice Milne joining us as soon as she was free. What a day we had! and how kind the fates were to us! A large shop in the busiest part of the town with a great hall behind it capable of containing more than a thousand people, fell, almost miraculously, in our way. It seemed a bigger thing than we wanted; but we made the plunge, and nothing could have been more fortunate for us. To begin with, we were all fired with enthusiasm. I was obliged to leave my Manchester friends to do all the preliminary work; and I remember one of them saying as she surveyed the huge empty hall, "We are on our mettle; we'll show them what women can do."

Then came helpers from London—Mrs. Manson, Miss Matters, Miss Mary Smith, and Miss Benett from the Potteries. I did not myself arrive until the campaign was in full swing. I spent then about three days in Manchester, and what days they were! Four and sometimes five times in the day our great hall was filled. We spoke in turn, always to attentive audiences. Once in the day these audiences were of women only, and one of my most vivid impressions is the delight in some of their faces. One could imagine that they saw a new world—one in which they could find that self-expression denied now to women—opening out before them. Having watched them, I was not surprised to hear, as I did later, that more than fifty members had been added to the Branch. One excellent feature was that certain men and women came daily, and, after the formal meetings were over, many little debates were held, the result of which was that men as well as women made up their minds to serve our cause.

I come now to Dundee. We have not succeeded there in our effort to defeat the Government; but some splendid work has been done, and the conflict has left behind it pleasant and

stimulating memories. In spite of rain, our propaganda was principally in the open air. We drove about in a landau which the generosity of Miss Angus and others put at our disposal; and wherever we stopped the people (men and women) flocked to hear us. Miss Molony is certainly the heroine of the Dundee election. Her wit, pluck, and vivacity were keenly appreciated by her audiences, who did not seem to be able to have enough of her. Specially do I remember one evening. It was in the great square of the city. Many orators were holding forth, but none of them, save ourselves, held their audiences. When—dusk having fallen—I took the place of my young colleague and stood up on the driver's seat to address this vast audience, when I looked down on this sea of upturned faces, a thrill of emotion passed through me. Their sympathy and attention filled me with a hope that has not been justified by immediate results. But I know we have done well in Dundee, and our work will have its fruit.

Meanwhile I retain a pleasant memory of the enthusiasm of our Dundee women comrades, of their generous hospitality, and of the courtesy and friendliness of the crowds of people to whom we spoke.

C. DESPARD.

Stirling Burghs By-Election.

We have now all entered on this last Scottish by-election with undaunted vigour and enthusiasm. We have got a shop for our committee-rooms in Stirling in the main street, which attracts much interest on the part of the townspeople. We held a very large meeting on Tuesday, many hundreds having to be turned away. At first some of the youths manifested their presence, but gradually they fell under the sway of the eloquence of the speakers. Mrs. Sanderson and Miss Molony addressed the gathering, Miss Munro presiding. Miss Schofield and Miss Emmie Murray rendered splendid service in other directions. Miss Schofield is in charge at Stirling, where, with the help of Mrs. Sanderson, a most vigorous agitation is being pursued.

In Dunfermline we have also got central committee-rooms which are kept open all day by our local branch. They are giving us very efficient help indeed. Every day new members are enrolled as a result of our educative propaganda. The women everywhere we go are our best supporters. We invaded Culross—a sleepy, lovely old-fashioned town by the shore of the Firth of Forth—a whole brakeful of us. We passed through the villages with the local branch's great red and white banner, together with smaller bannerettes and various boards giving good advice to the electors. The women waved and shouted "Good luck," "Go on till you win." "Stick to it." "Hurrah for Votes for Women." Many of the men also responded, though some of the conservatively radical scowled and frowned. One pretty and symbolic picture was presented to us by a husband and wife with their baby in their arms standing at their cottage door unitedly waving us good luck. One youth who interrupted and tried to disturb one of our meetings received summary treatment from his shopmates, who first gave him a "drubbing" and then sent him to apologize. Miss Molony, Mrs. Donaldson, and Miss Munro are holding four and five meetings a day to large crowds which are always orderly and attentive.

The result will be known on Friday, but whether we succeed or no, we have got the sympathy and good wish of all. At one of our meetings one man announced, as he could not vote other than Liberal, he would send a petition on our behalf to the candidate and Government.

Again I wish to record the splendid service given by our local friends, young and old, for some are very young indeed, yet are willing to stand the gibes and sneers of the ignorant.

A. M.

HERE in Stirling to-day history is being made just as in those far-away days when the men of Scotland fought so hard for freedom. I wonder what share the women had in those struggles. A very big share, I am sure; but the men have the glory of it, because they shed blood.

Our first meeting at the Arcade Hall, last Tuesday, made a very good impression, and dispelled the idea prevailing previously, that we were hooligans. A number of youths brought a supply of bells, but soon subsided into silence after the speakers commenced.

Yesterday (Friday) we met Mr. Ponsonby, the Government candidate, at the Forth Coopage. He listened to Mrs. Sanderson for a time. Then we made way for him. Afterwards he approached us and said, "Why on earth do you oppose me, when I am whole-heartedly in favour of your cause?" Mrs. Sanderson replied that his return would make only another addition to the large majority already in our favour; but if he would obtain a Government pledge his position would be different. The poor man looked aghast, and said: "You might as well ask me to fly!" It is so easy to be *in favour*, so hard to give real practical assistance.

Besides the usual work and open-air meetings, there is a meeting for women on Monday afternoon at the Y.M.C.A. Hall, and a public meeting at the Albert Hall on Wednesday, at 8 p.m. Before leaving Stirling we hope to form another branch of the W.F.L.

ALICE SCHOFIELD.

Shropshire.

WISE after the event, the Government's supporters describe the Shropshire By-Election as a foregone conclusion, a Tory stronghold and the outcome of "Beer, beer." Nothing could be more libellous than to accuse the Shropshire population of drunkenness, though its chief industry, next to agriculture, is brewing. This is the explanation of some curious electioneering. The "Trade" were reminded of the advantages of "Cheaper sugar under the new Budget." The temperance people were flattered by the allusions to the "Trade" as the "glucose and arsenic brigade." The Moderate Drinkers were urged to "Vote for Neilson, no tied houses, better beer, and a better market for barley and hops."

This did not save Miss Benett and myself, both staunch total abstainers, from the customary insults and insinuations.

The same ingenuity was displayed in dealing with Women's Suffrage. "Our best friends" were the Asquith Cabinet. "Why, there's a Liberal Bill for giving you votes now before the House!" This was the trump card of the professional Liberals, and the precise reason for our appearance in the contest. "Mr. Neilson has worked for years for Women's Suffrage," we were informed. We were surprised so ardent a supporter should also support the Government's anti-Suffrage and anti-Liberal policy; and still more surprised that he should have refused to sign the requisition to his party leaders to obtain facilities for Mr. Stanger's Bill.

As at other elections, Liberal women were much in evidence, and did effective work, supplementing the three members of the Government, and the forty odd Liberal private members who were working to make Old Age Pensions as popular a contrivance for winning votes in Shropshire as in Dundee and Montrose.

Miss Benett and I had a most successful campaign at Market Drayton and at Little Drayton. We spent poll-day at Newport.

K. MANSON.

Scottish Summer Centres.

MISS ANNA MUNRO desires volunteers, speakers and workers, for the months of July and August for the two Scottish summer centres—Dunoon on the Clyde and St. Andrews on east coast.

THE Women's Freedom League has a stall at "The Fancy Fair and Exhibition of Ladies' Handicraft," to be held in Eustace Miles Restaurant next week—Monday, May 25th to Saturday, May 30th, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Books, paintings, needlework, &c., on sale.

The Van Send-off.

ON Saturday last a large number of members and friends of the Women's Freedom League were assembled at Oxshott, by kind invitation of Mrs. Despard, to witness the departure of the first Women's Suffrage Van on its journey through the towns and villages of Surrey. Before starting, every one was allowed to explore the inside of the Van, which is most conveniently fitted up for the comfort of the pioneers, Mrs. Hicks and Miss Muriel Matters. We then had some short speeches full of hope and courage, by Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mrs. Hicks (Van. Org. Sec.), and Mrs. Despard. A good collection was then taken.

Some amusement was caused by the persistent refusal of the Van to go through the gateway of Mrs. Despard's garden. This was attributed to the fact of one of the horses being nicknamed "Asquith." So, naturally, he would feel a reluctance to advance the cause of Women's Suffrage. However the gate was lifted off its hinges, the Van got through, amid enthusiastic cheers, and made its first official appearance on the King's highway. May we soon lift off its hinges the gate which bars the progress of women. Accompanied by friends, on foot and wheel, the Van proceeded to Leatherhead, where we strenuously endeavoured to hold an open-air meeting. But the *Liberal* élite of the district were ready for us with bells, whistles, trumpets, drums, rattles, and other babies' toys, and succeeded in creating such a pandemonium that we wished our heads had been made of leather, also. Mrs. Billington-Greig found it possible, however, to speak from the Van, and Mrs. Despard obtained a very good hearing at a little distance from it. A successful meeting was held afterwards in the Victoria Hall. The audience was chiefly composed of women, the afore-mentioned élite of Leatherhead not being admitted. Mrs. How Martyn occupied the chair, and the speeches from Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington-Greig and Miss Matters were enthusiastically received. Afterwards we were escorted to the railway station by what seemed to be the entire male population of the town—with their musical (?) toys. P. H.

The Caravan Campaign.

Route.—The Woman's Suffrage Van is in Guildford for several days this week, daily holding meetings both in the open air and indoors. On Friday, 22nd inst., the Van will be at Godalming, and a meeting at the Masonic Hall at 8 P.M. will be held, Sir William Chance in the chair.

On Saturday, 23rd inst., a visit to Haslemere begins, meeting at Grayshott Village Hall, on Tuesday, 26th inst., at 8 P.M., and in the School Hall, Haslemere, on Wednesday, 27th inst., at the same time.

Petersfield will be reached on Thursday 28th, Midhurst on Saturday, May 30th, Petworth on Monday, June 1st, Chichester on Tuesday, June 2nd.

Contributions.—It is hoped that the Women's Suffrage Van will be able to pay its own expenses in this campaign, and already many kind friends are helping towards this end. The necessary furniture has been largely given by Mrs. Despard. Additional gifts: Camp bedstead and pillow, Mrs. Foster; small table, pillow, and sofa cushion, Mrs. Hicks; lunch basket, Miss Cowen; kettle and stand, Mrs. Clayton; guides and maps, Mrs. Clayton and Miss Ridler; pictures (sold), 7l. 7s.; Miss Cox, 1l. May we beg for further pecuniary assistance?

"Calling the Tune" at Great Marlow.

THE youths of Great Marlow evidently have a rooted objection to the axiom that says that "those who pay the piper should call the tune," judging from their conduct at the meeting that took place in the Town Hall there on Wednesday, May 13th. They desire to call the tune, though their callow appearance

and general look of inefficiency augur ill for the piper if he depend upon their ability to pay him, either in brains or coin of the realm.

A varied tune it is too! Cat-calls, whistles, and cheers greeted the appearance of Mrs. Sargent Florence, Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mrs. Holmes, and Miss Mary Pearson, and the hullabaloo was kept up without intermission for an hour and a half. Mrs. Holmes—who was in the chair—pointed out that the meeting had been called to protest against the levying of taxes upon a large and unrepresented portion of the community, and also to uphold and applaud the courageous action taken by three women of Great Marlow—Mrs. Sargent Florence, Mrs. Stanley Edwardes, and Miss Hayes—who had refused to comply with this unjust state of affairs by declining to pay their taxes. This announcement was greeted by a triumphant chanting of the National Anthem, which, being apparently the one musical air known in common, was given with great gusto at ten-minute intervals for the rest of the evening. Mrs. Billington-Greig delivered an eloquent and well-reasoned address in the midst of an incessant din; a physical and intellectual feat that brought a burst of genuine applause, which quite drowned the ironical hoots from the back. It was delightful, too, to see how the women in the audience were roused by the treatment meted out to the members of their sex who had had the courage to face the disagreeable consequences of their conduct. In the middle of the meeting half a dozen well-known local women came on to the platform as a public expression of their sympathy, and the vicar—who had made several vain vocal protests against the conduct of the foot-bawling stalwarts, performed valiant service by summarily ejecting some of the worst offenders.

Finally, an adjournment to the dressing-rooms at the back took place, where members of the audience were enabled to put questions, which were answered by Mrs. Billington-Greig, the door being kept by Mr. Sargent.

There will be a protest meeting in Great Marlow when the constitutionally stolen goods are sold, at which we fully expect to see a great crowd of sympathizers, for an extensive experience of rowdy and unthinking opposition has proved to us that there is nothing to equal it for manufacturing converts. M. H.

French Suffragists.

IT was very refreshing last week at the Paris Municipal Elections to see placards, headed "Le suffrage des femmes," posted in the Rue de Rivoli and at many of the polling stations, calling upon the citizens to support only those candidates pledged to Women's Suffrage. A woman, Mlle. Laloe, a school teacher, also stood as candidate for the nineteenth arrondissement. The Press said little about the matter, but I read in the *Journal de Rouen* that lawyers and other experts had been unable to find any legal bar to her candidature, though the article ended up, "Mlle. Laloe ne pourra et ne sera jamais Conseiller de Paris." Unfortunately, the prophesy was correct, though the lady polled 983 votes against 2,300 of the male opponent. In a country where women shine above all others in a business capacity, where in agriculture, in commerce, in medicine, in art, in literature they have won such high places, where women drive horse and motor cabs with much coolness and skill through the pandemonium of the streets, it seems incredible that they are our sisters in misfortune—denied the rights of citizenship. Frenchmen are very scornful of Anglo-Saxon brutality, which flings women in prison with common malefactors merely for asking for their just rights. Their *petites femmes* met with a very different treatment when they asked that their wrongs should be redressed.

MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON.

A Jumble Sale will be held at the Despard Club on May 29th and 30th.

As funds are urgently needed for propaganda work, &c., all members and friends interested in the W.F.L. and anxious for a speedy realization of the cause for which it exists, are earnestly requested to send parcels of clothing of every description—especially men's—to Miss Mansell, 2, Currie Street, Nine Elms, S.W.

Resistance Against Unjust Taxation.

FOUR members have been public spirited enough to go to the expense and inconvenience of having some of their goods sold by public auction rather than pay direct taxes while women are unrepresented in the State. In two of the cases the auctioneer kindly allowed a representative of the League to say a few words to the people assembled in the auction room. In all cases successful open-air meetings of protest were held afterwards. On Monday, after the sale of Dr. Patch's goods, rain began to fall, but the audience showed no inclination to disperse, and in pouring rain Mrs. Toyne, Mrs. Purdie, and Miss Neilans explained the reasons and the justification for making the protest.

Dr. Hardie's sale at Hampstead took place at the same time as Dr. Wilkes's in Hackney. At both meetings the audience were manifestly on the side of the women, and readily appreciated the reasons which have driven numbers of women, tired of waiting for justice, to this logical method of obtaining it.

To find a parallel to the present movement, one must go back to the time of Charles I. The refusal of John Hampden and others to pay the ship money which had not been levied by Parliament led to the rebellion, and after civil war the establishment of the principle that with direct taxation must go representation.

The refusal of women to pay taxes levied without their consent will lead to Votes for Women, a revolution as great though not accompanied by civil war.

Branch Notes.

Manchester Branch.—Manchester lived up to its reputation on Thursday—it rained. In spite of this, however, we had a good muster of members and sympathizers at our "At Home," held for the purpose of welcoming our new members.

Mrs. Redfern read a paper on "The Enfranchisement of Women" which was greatly appreciated, and the value of the discussion was enhanced by a short address from Mr. Brooks, of the Men's League.

For the musical part of our programme we are indebted to Mrs. McClement, the Misses Agnew, Stabler, and Woodwise, to whom our best thanks are tendered.

Important.—Pending arrangements for a permanent office, our Branch meetings are held in the Women's Trades and Labour Council Office, 9, Albert Square (top floor), corner of Brazenose Street and Albert Square. Next Branch meeting Thursday, May 21st, at 7.30.

Jumble Sale.—This will be held in the Union Street Mission Room, Union Street, Lower Broughton, Saturday, May 23rd, at 3 P.M. Gifts of money and clothes are urgently needed, and parcels may be sent to Mr. Hines, 74, Piccadilly, M.C.

Arrangements for Mrs. Despard's visit will be given in the next issue of *Women's Franchise*. ALICE MILNE.

Central Branch.—Members and friends are specially asked to support the open-air meetings which are held fortnightly in Hyde Park near the Marble Arch. The next meeting will be on May 28th, at 8 P.M. P. H.

Southall Branch.—A well-attended meeting for women only took place at the Trinity Parish Hall, Southall, last week. The chair was taken by Dr. Helen Bourchier, who, in an earnest speech, reminded the women of England of their responsibility with regard to their Indian sisters. Miss Cicely Hamilton moved and Miss Fitzherbert seconded the usual resolution demanding the vote, which was carried with two dissentients. A second resolution put from the chair, and seconded by Mrs. Lott, "That this meeting requests Dr. Rutherford to use his influence in the House of Commons to ensure the passing of the Women's Franchise Bill at an early date," was carried unanimously, and forwarded to Dr. Rutherford, M.P. Mrs. Keningale Cook reported a very satisfactory collection, and many members of the audience stayed behind to enroll themselves as members of the Branch.

An Aberdeen Branch has been formed, and we heartily welcome it into our League.

A Garden Wanted.

A PERFORMANCE of a 'Midsummer Night's Dream' with Mendelssohn's music will be given in aid of our funds if a garden can be obtained suitable in which to give it. Will some member or sympathizer be good enough to lend her garden for the first or second Saturday in July. One in the neighbourhood of Hampstead, Bayswater, or Kensington, as being easily reached from nearly all parts of London, would be preferred. Please write to the Hon. Sec. as soon as possible.

Finnish Freewomen.

WE have now completed arrangements for the visit of Madame Aino Malmberg. She will be accompanied to England by a woman M.P.

The first large meeting she will address will be at the Queen's Hall on June 24th, when Mrs. Despard will take the chair. Our hard struggle for freedom in our own country makes us especially interested in those countries where women have already succeeded in obtaining political rights. In Finland they have gone still further, and have obtained the right to sit in Parliament, and these ladies should be welcomed with profound interest and enthusiasm in this country.

Tickets and handbills will be ready in a few days, and we shall be glad if friends will apply early for them and make every effort to make the meeting widely known.

[The Scottish Council Notes and Correspondence have to be held over owing to lack of space.]

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

From May 21st to May 28th.		P.M.
Thurs. 21	Social, Caxton Hall, Westminster Central Branch, 18, Buckingham Street	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Holmes Mrs. Toyne 8
	Tottenham Branch, 133, Mount Pleasant Road	7.30
	West Hampstead Town Hall, Broadhurst Gardens	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mr. Joseph McCabe Miss Lucy Crickmay Mr. Edward Combe, L.C.C. 8.15
Fri. 22	Godalming, Caravan Edinburgh, Synod Hall	Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. Miss Cicely Hamilton Earl Russell 8
	Godalming, Masonic Hall	Sir William Chance Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Hicks Miss Matters 8
	Bromley Co-operative Hall, East Street, Social and Duologue	Mrs. Fels Miss McMillan Miss Fitzherbert Miss Hodgson Mrs. How Martyn Jumble Sale 8
Sat. 23	Manchester, Union Street Mission Room, Lower Broughton Glasgow	Miss Cicely Hamilton Earl Russell 8
Sun. 24	Haslemere, Caravan Hyde Park (near Marble Arch)	Mrs. Nevinson, Miss Levy Miss Neilans, Miss Mary Smith 8.30
Tues. 26	Grayshott, Village Hall	Mrs. Despard, Miss Matters 8
Wed. 27	Haslemere, School Hall	8
Thurs. 28	Suffrage Social, Caxton Hall, Westminster	3.30
	Middlesbrough Co-operative Hall, Duologue	Mrs. How Martyn Miss Hodgson 8
	Islington, 10, Highbury Hill	Miss Otter 8
	Hornsey, National Hall, High Street	8
	Hyde Park (near Marble Arch) Central Branch	8

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

* * * All communications intended for the Women's Freedom League columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.F.L., 18, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C., and must reach her not later than first post Saturday morning.

Scottish Women's Social and Political Union.

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VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

Editorial.

If an immediate political result were the only end in view, by-election work in Scotland would be somewhat disheartening; but to those who understand the Scottish character and temperament there is nothing discouraging in the fact that sympathy and appreciation are here not readily translated into active support at the polling booth—when that entails "voting against the Liberal." The Scotchman is naturally conservative, clinging tenaciously to the good things of the past, and even to the things that merely appeared to be good in the past. Witness his touching affection for those relics of a barbaric age of religion, his beloved "Shorter Catechism" and "Confession of Faith," which, though long since outgrown by leaders of thought, he cannot bring himself to altogether disown and discard! His "Liberalism" is almost a fetish, and he is slow to discover that the party which is carrying the name has done little so far to deserve it, and much, where the interests of women are concerned, to disgrace it. These facts are being made known to him now, and in time we shall see the result.

But even traditional Liberalism might be overcome and sympathy awakened to action if there were a clear understanding of the issues at stake. It is not enough to see and admit that the claims of women are just, as all reasonable men are now doing. It must be seen, as well, what it means and has meant to women to have these just claims ignored in the past. It is not easy to make this clearly apparent to men, just because all classes of men are and have been enfranchised so long that they have no parallel experience of their own now to teach them the lesson. So, while they willingly agree when the case is put before them that the woman who fulfils the same obligations as the man is equally entitled to the same right to vote, they cannot quite see the urgent necessity for enforcing the point. Could they but be made to consider the effect which would result to any one class of themselves by similar treatment, how an unfair discrimination, placing any one class of men outside the pale of citizenship by reason of its class alone, must not only result in the inferiorizing of that class, but in the neglect of its interest, our case would be won, and sympathy turned into action.

There may be differences of opinion as to particular benefits to be gained by the exercise of the franchise; there can be only one as to the value of the position its possession assures. Men may be careless about using their votes; they would yet resent and resist any attempt to withhold from them the right to that use. What they have to learn now is that women, too, need that position, and need it at once; that until it has been fully accorded the status of womanhood cannot be raised, the first step required towards removing many abuses. Equality of voting rights for men, irrespective of class, has raised the status of the workers in the land. Equality of voting rights for men and women, irrespective of sex, will do the same great service for women. When that lesson is taught to Scotchmen clearly and fully, they will fight on the side of the women.

Members and friends in Glasgow are reminded of the Charing Cross Hall meeting on Saturday afternoon of this week (at 3.30 P.M.), when Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Mary Gawthorpe, and Dr. Margaret Todd (Graham Travers) will be the speakers, Dr. John Hunter presiding. Those who have neglected to provide themselves with tickets may obtain these at the door, prices 2s. and 1s.

Montrose By-Election.

OUR closing meetings in Montrose Burghs were varied in character, some orderly and enthusiastic, others noisy and difficult to deal with—the Dundee excitement having an unsettling effect.

The decrease in the Liberal poll was very considerable, and, despite success, should make them see the electors are not satisfied with them. We have promised to go back later and hold meetings in all the Burghs, and we know that we have gained many supporters through our campaign. One significant feature on the polling-day in Montrose was the active hostility displayed towards us by the official Liberals. One regrets that in politics the personal element and grievance should be allowed to come in at all. Every reasonable Liberal knows ours is a political policy, and while we wage war on the Government as the Government, there is no reason why it should descend to this level of personal retaliation. We want our politics lifted to a higher plane at present, and to recognize clearly that political opponents need not be, and should not be, regarded as personal enemies. Let us fight without bitterness on either side, and the victory will be the sweeter.

On Tuesday evening Miss Una Dugdale and I went to St. Andrews for a meeting in the Public Hall there, Miss MacGregor acting as chairman. We had some students who wanted amusement and had "the inevitable bell"; but we had splendid attention and an excellent meeting.

Stirling Burghs By-Election.

THE largest political meeting, and certainly one of the most successful, ever held in Stirling was held by us on Thursday evening in the Albert Hall. Half an hour before the time to begin the hall was crowded, and outside we had an overflow of about a thousand. Miss Morag Burn-Murdoch took the chair. Miss Una Dugdale, Miss Mary Gawthorpe, and I were speakers, and after the first interruption had an enthusiastic and attentive hearing.

The evening before at South Queensferry we had a delightful meeting, and a vote of thanks was moved by Provost McArthur, and I am told we have "converted everybody."

Our dinner-hour and railway meetings have been very good, Miss Esson Maule and Miss Maconochie speaking at them also, and here we sell hundreds of badges as usual. We have so many requests for badges when we are walking about in Stirling that we carry a small supply always with us, and soon we expect to see every one branded a "Suffragette."

At Dunfermline on Friday we had a splendid meeting in St. Margaret's Hall, and it was delightful to see so many women. Mrs. Martel spoke with me, and gave an excellent speech.

On Saturday Miss Gawthorpe and I had an interlude in electioneering. We went north to speak at Aberdeen University, and had a lively time with the men students, who, however, gave us very good attention on the whole, and some excellent heckling at the end, and I think in repartee we quite held our own. We left them feeling that we had won over not only the women students, but most of the men.

HELEN FRASER.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

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

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Notes and Comments.

By the time these notes are in our readers' hands, the Prime Minister will have given his answer to the deputation, led by Mr. Stanger, demanding facilities for the further progress of his Bill. That such facilities will not be granted is the general impression, an impression in which we are reluctantly compelled to share. At the present moment the number of people, men and women, in favour of the Bill, is unquestionably larger than it has ever been before. None the less we cannot blink the fact that much work has to be done before we can claim that the enfranchisement of women is a reform about which people are so deeply stirred as they are, for instance, about the fiscal problem.

Under these circumstances, the Prime Minister who would grant Mr. Stanger's demand must be a man possessed of both courage and imagination. That Mr. Asquith has courage is not to be doubted; as to imagination, we do not know. If he has this quality, a quality without which no statesman can be really great, at all events it is fair to say that he does not permit it to run away from him. An observer might say of him, in diagnosis, that he suffers from hypertrophy of the rational faculty. That the enfranchisement of women follows inevitably on the elementary principles of the British constitution he knows as thoroughly as Mrs. Fawcett even; nay, that Mr. Churchill was committing a logical fallacy in associating the militant ladies with the Trade in Peckham, he feels as acutely, perhaps more acutely, even than Miss Molony.

Why, then, does he not accept Mrs. Fawcett's contention, publicly admonish Mr. Churchill, and acquiesce in the demand of 271 against 92 members of his own House? It is because he is saturated with the principle—all very well in its way—that legislators should only follow the expressed will of the majority. A Pericles or a Caesar would realize that there are occasions when the troubled conscience of an egotistic majority would thankfully accept the saving grace of submission to an autocrat. The bulk of Englishmen, we are persuaded, are uneasily conscious that they are acting in a childishly tyrannical spirit to their womenfolk, but they are too proud to give way in public. If Mr. Asquith could only drop his mandate doctrine—valuable though it is in ordinary matters—and forget that some of us have tried to *put him in motion*, he would not only find upon his brow a laurel wreath to which few lawyers have aspired, but would receive the tacit gratitude of many a professed anti-suffragist.

We have to apologize to our members and friends for giving them short measure this week. In response to an urgent request from the *coin d'avantage* of half a mile's distance by telephone, we decided to lend half our space, hoping that our readers will be left in the attitude described by Mr. Weller as "wishing there was more."

The Clapham Meeting.

In addition to more speakers who have already been announced to take part in the Clapham Branch meeting, at St. Anne's Hall, Venn Street, Clapham, on May 27th—viz., H. C. Brodie, Esq., M.P., Mrs. Winton Evans, J. E. Raphael, Esq., and J. Malcolm Mitchell, Esq.—we are to have the pleasure of hearing Mr. Low, K.C., the prospective Liberal candidate for the division, and the Rev. Mr. Lewis. Mr. Low publicly announced the meeting to the assembled League of Young Liberals last week.

All inquiries and requests for tickets (1s. and 6d.) should be made to the local secretary, Mr. Victor D. Duval, 20, Lindore Road, Battersea Rise, S.W. Workers are needed to help to

make the meeting known, and to act as stewards on the night. It is the first public appearance of the Clapham Branch, and we urge all to give their best help to make it a great success.

Edinburgh Branch.

MAY 22nd is the day of the big meeting in Edinburgh, held under the joint auspices of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, the Women's Freedom League, and our own branch. The Earl Russell will speak for us, while Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Cicely Hamilton will respectively represent the other societies.

Woman's Freedom.

CHATS ABOUT PERSONS AND BOOKS.

No. 7.—John Aylmer, 1521-1594—(continued).

On the death of Mary, Aylmer returned to his native country, where Elizabeth had succeeded to the crown. In 1562 he obtained the living of the Archdeaconry of Lincoln, worth about 179l., as against 24l., which was the value of his former living. His book against Knox impeded his advancement, however, for he had enemies at Court, although generally he was held in high esteem, being a Queen's Justice and an Ecclesiastical Commissioner. He was an ardent student. In 1573 he was only M.A., but became a Bachelor and a Doctor of Divinity at Oxford. His learning, activity, and wisdom were rewarded three years later when he was appointed Bishop of London. In this charge he acquitted himself with boldness and success. During the Plague of 1578 he was indeed the father of his people, "instructing his clergy to visit their flock and printing directions for the ceasing of the plague." According to the intolerance of his time he hunted for papists, persecuted Puritans, or Precisians, as they were commonly called, and put both with equal zest into the "Gate House," "Clink," or "Newgate." He introduced reforms in the Bishopric, but does not show to advantage in regard to money matters in his quarrel with his predecessor Sandys, who had shown him great kindness. He was also charged by the Lord Treasurer "of excessive cutting of timber," and received orders from the Queen "that he should take down no more of his woods."

Aylmer had a large family, seven sons and three daughters. He died in 1594 at the age of seventy-three.

We may conclude our account of his life with the philosophical musings of Strype which apply to all men, and therefore to the author of the 'Harborowe': "And as for the errors in good men's lives, it suffices to say that we are not angels in this state of mortality, and men will be men, as Archbishop Parker used to say." To this view we subscribe and now introduce to our readers the work of the good Bishop Aylmer.

... Among these ugly monsters and brodes of the deuils brotherhood, hath of late kept out, I ca'not tel whether by wil or ignorance certain *polypragmata* which haue called into question among us such things as good subiectes before neuer doubted of, whether it were lawful for women, inheritours of Kingdoms, to gouern and guid the same, or no. Although this error may appeare, not to touch so neare the soule and saluacion of men, as some of the fornamed doe yet considering, that the quiet of common weales the nurse of religion and bulwark of good and faithful men: and that the apostle pronounceth against the rebellious utter damnacio: We can not think it to be a trifle to disturbe the common ordres of policies, to sondre the mindes of subiectes, by new inuented controuersies, and briefly to make men to muse, of that they neuer before mistrusted.

(To be continued.)

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