

The National Union's Deputation
to the Prime Minister.

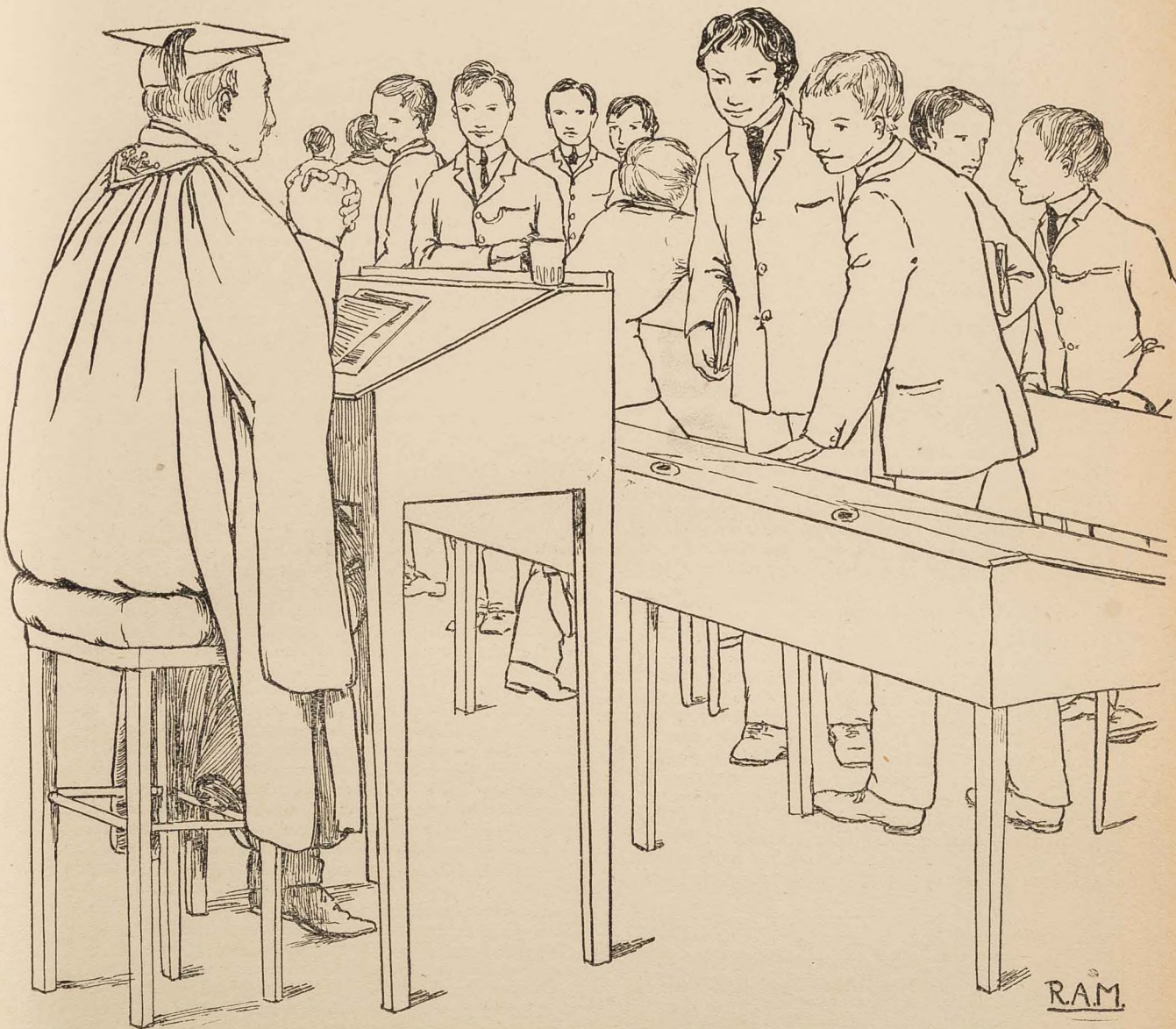
The Common Cause.

The Organ of the Women's Movement for Reform.

VOL. II. No. 63. Registered as
a Newspaper.

JUNE 23, 1910.

ONE PENNY.



The Gentle Art of Petitioning.

FORM MASTER (to his Fifth Form): Now boys, be off quick to your cricket, but don't forget as you go out to sign the petition against giving your mothers votes.

Anti-Suffrage Manifesto, June 18th, 1910:—"Any person over 16 years of age desirous of signing the petition against votes for women can do so either at"..... (follow three offices).—Signed M. E. JERSEY, HENRIETTE HAVERSHAM, V. MONTROSE CRÖMER, JOHN MASSIE.

The News of the Week.

Podsnappery in Politics.

Mr. Podsnap "never could make out why everybody was not quite satisfied, and he felt conscious that he set a brilliant social example in being particularly well satisfied with most things, and, above all other things, with himself. Thus happily acquainted with his own merit and importance, Mr. Podsnap settled that whatever he put behind him he put out of existence. There was a dignified conclusiveness—not to add, a grand convenience—in this way of getting rid of disagreeables, which had done much towards establishing Mr. Podsnap in his lofty place in Mr. Podsnap's satisfaction. "I don't want to know about it; I don't choose to discuss it; I don't admit it!" Mr. Podsnap had even acquired a peculiar flourish of his right arm in often clearing the world of its most difficult problems, by sweeping them behind him (and consequently sheer away) with those words and a flushed face.

As a so eminently respectable man, Mr. Podsnap was sensible of its being required of him to take Providence under his protection. Consequently he always knew exactly what Providence meant. Inferior and less respectable men might fall short of that mark, but Mr. Podsnap was always up to it. And it was very remarkable (and must have been very comfortable) that what Providence meant, was invariably what Mr. Podsnap meant."

How pleased Dickens would have been to meet Mr. F. E. Smith and other modern embodiments of the classical conception of Podsnap. Mr. Smith did not choose to see the women at the last General Election, and therefore those inconvenient creatures do not exist.

The Thin End of the Wedge.

There will be joy in the Anti-Suffrage camps that Mr. Shackleton should have actually unblushingly used this phrase in describing the Occupiers' Bill. We do not begrudge them their joy, but we think it somewhat exaggerated, for it is obvious to even the meanest intelligence that the Adultist can only so regard the Bill. Everyone is not an Adultist, and those who are opposed to Adult Suffrage can, and will, resist the driving in of the wedge. Our good friends the enemy never seem to grasp the elementary facts of representative government, that what the electors do not wish to be done need not be done, if the electors are sufficiently alive to oppose it.

How the Vote will be Won.

Many of us must often have echoed the cry, "Save me from my friends!" and there must be many Anti-Suffragists of the better sort who must heartily wish they could withdraw the manifesto of June 13th, signed, among others, by Lord Cromer, and cynically urging that one of the forms the "uncompromising opposition" to the Occupiers' Bill should take should be the collecting of the signatures of "persons over 16 years of age!" A woman of forty is not fit to vote, but her son or her daughter in the fifth form is to be invited to sign a petition maintaining the woman's disability.

We can scarcely imagine any method more calculated to advance our cause, and once more we would thank our friends the enemy.

Resignation of Mrs. Sidgwick.

Since 1892, when she succeeded Miss Clough, Mrs. Henry Sidgwick has been the revered Principal of Newnham College. Dr. Sidgwick was one of the founders of women's university education, and Mrs. Sidgwick has been connected with the best interests of Newnham for more years than her Principalship. She will continue to be treasurer of the College and a member of the Council. Miss Katharine Stephen, a Vice-Principal of the College, has been appointed to succeed Mrs. Sidgwick as head.

The Liberal Press and the Bill.

The Manchester Guardian has had three most helpful leaders in the last week, and asserts bluntly that the

House should be allowed to say its say on the Bill; "to do as it has done, to affirm in Parliament after Parliament, that women ought to be enfranchised, and then to shirk the responsibility of passing a law to relieve them of their disability is a course as cowardly as it is exasperating." The Nation thinks the House has "almost nothing to do," and might give time to the Bill. The Daily News writes a leader, nine-tenths of which is very conclusive and very encouraging, and then—well, then it does not conclude!

The "Times" and the "Spectator."

After an admirable report of the Procession on the 18th, the Times has a snuffy leader, saying that it proves nothing. Apparently only Anti-Suffrage petitions signed by "persons over 16" are of any moral value. The Spectator is comically truculent, and throws the sword of Brennus into the scale. "I'm not arguing with you," says the dear old gentleman, "I'm telling you!" And we agree.

A Misunderstanding.

We find that some zealous friends of Mrs. Fawcett have been offended at us for publishing a letter in our correspondence columns last week, making the too-hasty induction from her speech at the White City that she was prepared to advocate rioting. It never occurred to us that Mrs. Fawcett was not quite strong enough in her own rightness and in the hearts of her followers of the National Union to be able to stand any criticism of the sort, for it only showed that the writer had not understood the foundation of our leader's character. It is an understood thing that the correspondence columns do not indicate the views or the policy of a paper, but give to people generally an opportunity of expressing their views. We now know Miss Phillips' views, and we are at a loss to see how they can possibly injure Mrs. Fawcett. The want of robustness which would suppress criticism or even the expression of misunderstanding is totally alien to Mrs. Fawcett's generous and humorous mind, and we would not so belittle her as to think that loyalty asked it of us. We know that it is a common practice with a certain class of paper, but we did not think we should be expected to follow it.

Mrs. Fawcett's Challenge.

So much interest and enthusiasm was roused by Mrs. Fawcett's brave challenge that we quote the concluding words of her speech: "This movement will not be put down by persecution and by punishment. As was said of the Dissenters of old, the more they were trodden in they more they increased. And the more the Women Suffragists are persecuted, either by prison, or by other forms of suffering, or by the more insidious method of backbiting and slandering, the more determined they are to go on until they have succeeded in their work. It is hardship and persecution that rouse heroism in the heart of man—yes, and of woman too. We are determined to carry on this great fight, and if we have the opportunity of winning what we are asking for by conciliation, by the statesmanlike conference of men of all parties, who will offer us a Bill that we can support, that will be good, that will be well. We will throw ourselves into it with all our heart and soul. But if the opportunity is denied us, then we will seek rougher and harsher methods. Because things happen to us that are unpleasant, we will not be deterred from the path that we have mapped out, and we will not cease until we get that for which we have been fighting, and which has been denied us for so many years."

All along no one has been more generous than Mrs. Fawcett in paying tribute to the courage of those who have gone to prison for the cause, even though she held it her duty to protest against the dangerous violence which led there. If we have understood her aright, we have always thought she reprobated the acts while approving the motive; that she did homage to the selfless courage of these women, but wished they had used it otherwise.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.
ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday.
THE PAPER WILL BE POSTED to any address in England or abroad for the following prepaid payments:—

3 MONTHS	1 9
6 MONTHS	3 3
12 MONTHS	6 6

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to The Editor, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, accompanied by a stamped envelope addressed if it is desired that they should be returned. The Editor accepts no responsibility, however, for matter which is offered unsolicited.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices, and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents, however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long before-hand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last possible day, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally, they should write to the Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, giving the name and address of the newsagent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

Contents.

	Page.
Cartoon	161
News of the Week	162
A Judgment! A Judgment!	163
National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies—	
The Deputation to the Prime Minister	164
Treasurer's Notes	165
Parliamentary Secretary's Report	165
Work in Support of the Bill	166
Federation Notes	167
Memorials in Support of the Bill	168
W.S.P.U. Demonstration in Albert Hall	169
Foreign News	170
Correspondence	171
Reports of Societies	173
Forthcoming Meetings	175

A Judgment! A Judgment!

Nobody could have been present in the House of Commons on the 14th June when Mr. Shackleton brought in the Bill for the enfranchisement of women occupiers, without feeling that for good and all the tone of the House has utterly changed, and that the great majority of the members are not only (as they have been for many years) theoretically in favour of the enfranchisement of women, but are really anxious that a practicable measure should be allowed to pass all its stages and become law. It was a very full House, and there was tension in the air. The shout of "Aye!" had a good fighting ring about it, while the quavering scattered "Noes!" sounded the note of defeat. Even Mr. Smith's truculence abated at the notion of the rout a division would have brought to the Anti-Suffrage ranks, and we are given a foretaste of the sort of opposition we may expect from them. Those of us who are familiar with the methods of the Anti-Suffrage League are under no delusion as to the tactics they will employ. It was not without intention that Mr. Smith threatened that he and his like would use "the forms of the House" to obstruct the passage of our Bill. Free debate, the open use of argument, the inviting and answering of question and the arbitrament of the vote are the methods of Suffragists; closed doors, the appeal to "dim feeling," timidity and inertia, the shirking of questions, and the refusal to take a vote have distinguished most of the activities of the Anti-Suffragists. They will—we have not the least doubt of it—pursue the spirit of these methods in the obstruction they threaten in the House. The question is whether the Government will tolerate such obstruction; whether the large majority in our favour, in the Ministry, and in the House, will permit the cause of the women to be refused a hearing and a judgment.

For many years past, the one difficulty in the way of a settlement was apathy—apathy in the country, reflected by apathy in the House; for your Member of Parliament is not going to trouble himself to right any wrongs until they become well-nigh intolerable; he has other things to do. For the last few years the apathy of the country has given way—first women, then men, were fired by the sense of justice, and at long—very long—last this noble fire is spreading to the House. Our friends

in the House would really like to be asked to cast their votes; who shall deny them, and why should they be gagged? The Anti-Suffragists in the House do not wish that the question should come to the crucial vote. Why? Because they know they will be defeated. They will tell you that it is because the matter has not been "before the country." Let us examine this objection.

The question of votes for women entered the political arena in 1866, with the first petition presented by John Stuart Mile, and the claim of 92 per cent. of the women householders canvassed in Manchester to the Parliamentary vote. The question has been kept alive since, by innumerable petitions, meetings and resolutions, and by the periodical presenting to Parliament of Bills of different natures, five of which have passed their second reading. It is true that for many years the question received little serious attention from politicians, but it is noteworthy that all the serious treatment it did receive was from the Suffragists, and all the frivolity, jocosity, and vulgarity was from the Anti-Suffragists in the House. When hope was high in women that Woodall's Amendment to the Reform Bill would be allowed to pass in 1884, over 1,300 meetings were held in support of it. Those who were alive to politics then know that the question was alive then, and if it slept for a time after, as far as active work went, it was not because it died, but because preparation was going on in a hundred other ways.

For the past six years there has been an absolutely unprecedented revival of interest and determination. The old method of miscellaneous petitioning was discredited, and more direct political action has been taken, with extraordinary results. Those who say the question was not "before the country" at the last general election and for at least four years preceding it, are simply saying that which is not true. It is true no party put the question on its programme; it is not, and never has been, a party question, and the reason is not far to seek: women are of all parties, and no party can see a clear party gain in enfranchising them. But we have no hesitation in saying that there have been more meetings held, more resolutions passed, more money and devoted service given to this one cause in the past five years than to any other.

We have at least 400 Members in the House who are pledged to vote for Women's Suffrage and, be it remembered, these pledges were not made privately or secretly; they were made by men who were prepared to stand to their pledges before their constituents, and who would not have been returned had their constituents really held that the measure was a bad one.

In addition to organizing the questioning of candidates, the National Union organized the great demonstration of the Voters' Petition in order to get at the opinion of the average elector and in order to show the average elector our opinion. The man who says it was not "before the country" because he did not talk about it, or because there was a conspiracy of silence on the part of the Press, is simply on a par with the man who says, "I do represent your views," although you assure him he doesn't. We do not all share the innocence of Mrs. Humphry Ward, who, when she reads nothing of our great constitutional campaign in the columns of the "Times," concludes that there is a "lull" in Suffragist activities; we are better informed, and we know that not only the opponents of our movement, but even the best friends it has in the Press refused at the last general election to write a single leader helping the women in their task of putting the question "before the country." Alone we did it; but we did it thoroughly, and in no part of the country do the electors now say they have never heard of votes for women; in no constituency were the candidates unchallenged. The only "lull" that there is at present is in party controversy, and the superstitious might well see in the turn of Fate a chance once given to the Liberals never to be recaptured. There is time to give, if the Government will give it. Mr. Asquith said in the Albert Hall just before the General Election that this was "clearly a question upon which the new House of Commons ought to be given the opportunity of expressing its views." The opportunity is now. It will not return. Unless the Government acts as umpire,

the "forms of the House" will allow the Podsnaps to burk the question. Women ask for a fair field and no favour. They ask for a judgment. Are the Anti-Suffragists afraid?

"He either fears his fate too much,
Or his deserts are small;
Who dares not put it to the touch,
To win or lose it all."

The Bill.

The text of the Bill promoted by the Conciliation Committee is as follows:—

Be it enacted:—

1. Every woman possessed of a household qualification, or of a ten pound occupation qualification, within the meaning of The Representation of the People Act (1884) shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, and, when registered, to vote for the county or borough in which the qualifying premises are situate.

2. For the purposes of this Act, a woman shall not be disqualified by marriage for being registered as a voter, provided that a husband and wife shall not both be qualified in respect of the same property.

3. This Act may be cited as "The Representation of the People Act, 1910."

This Bill does not give the vote to women on the same terms as men, for it does not give the vote to owners of property (unless they also occupy the property) nor to lodgers nor to servants nor to graduates, and it specially provides that husband and wife shall not qualify as joint occupiers.

In Parliament.

Representation of the People Bill.

The backers of the Bill for the Enfranchisement of Women Occupiers, which was read on Tuesday, 14th June, for the first time without a division, are:—

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

OBJECT: To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

METHODS: (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in the country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

Hon. Secretaries: Miss EDITH DIMOCK. **President:** Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. **Hon. Treasurer:** Miss BERTHA MASON (Pro Tem.)

Miss BERTHA MASON (Parliamentary).

Telegrams: "Voiceless, London." **Secretary:** Miss T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A. **Telephone:** 1960 Victoria.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Deputation to Mr. Asquith.

On the 21st inst. Mr. Asquith received a deputation from Suffragists, the two great bodies represented being the National Union and the Women's Liberal Federation. Miss Mason, as Parliamentary secretary, introduced the National Union. It is impossible to do justice in summary to the admirable speeches, packed as they were with figures and arguments. We hope to have a full report next week. Mrs. Fawcett devoted herself largely to supplying Mr. Asquith with the additional evidence of support in the country. She reminded him of the pledge given in his Albert Hall speech, and urged him to promise that, if the Bill passed a second reading, he would give facilities for it to pass the remainder of its stages in the House of Commons; none of us would be satisfied with a barren second reading. Councillor Eleanor Rathbone spoke of the experience various petitions had brought. Mrs. Cooper spoke for textile workers. Mrs. McLaren said that all we asked for was time, and to say there was not time was to say what the Commons of the country would not admit. We ask you to remove the veto on discussion. Mrs. Haslam spoke for Ireland. After members of the Women's Liberal Federation had spoken, Mr. Asquith replied that he recognised Women's Suffrage was exciting ever-increasing interest, and indeed passion, and stood in a position distinct from other political questions, being non-party. It could not be made a Government measure. This was a hardship. Left to a private member, it had no chance of passing. The new House of Commons ought to have an opportunity of expressing its views. He had listened respectfully and largely sympathetically to the representations of these ladies, whom he thanked for their moderation. He would submit the matter to his colleagues, among whom he was in a minority, and with regard to so momentous a Cabinet decision, it was only right and respectful that the result should be announced in the House of Commons. He hoped

Liberals: Mr. Burt, Sir Charles McLaren, Sir Albert Spicer, and Sir George White. Unionists: Mr. Arbuthnot, Mr. Harwood-Banner, Mr. Leverton Harris, and Mr. Henniker Heaton. Sir T. Grattan Esmonde and Mr. Hugh Law are the Nationalist, and Mr. Shackleton and Mr. Snowden the Labour backers.

We gave a brief summary last week of the very brief speeches. Mr. Shackleton made no secret of the fact that, as an Adult Suffragist, he regarded the Bill as the "thin end of the wedge," but he asked the Government to give time for the discussion of the measure, because it had the agreement of all sections of Suffragists in the House. The second reading is fixed for the 23rd June.

The Time of the House.

In connection with the request for time, it is interesting to note that on Thursday, 16th, Mr. Whyte, Mr. Rodin Buxton, and Mr. Morton all asked the reason for the unusually early rising of the House, and suggested that if there was time on hand it should be taken for the passing of non-contentious measures. The Master of Elibank said the appointed business had come to an end much earlier than was anticipated.

Boarded-out Children.

In Committee of Supply on the 17th, Mr. Butcher called attention to the fact that there was no inspection by the Local Government Board of children boarded out within the Union. There should be inspectors for all, and they should be women, men having turned out complete failures. There was a new boarding-out order, but it imposed no obligation upon Boards of Guardians to appoint a women's committee to supervise boarded-out children or a committee with women members. He pleaded for the appointment of more women inspectors.

Mr. Burns, in reply, said that since June the number of women inspectors had been increased from three to seven, and they were the best possible women for the posts, with a knowledge of hospital, infirmary, and institutional life that previous inspectors did not have.

to do this without undue delay. The deputation withdrew feeling that Mr. Asquith had gone as far as they expected, but made hopeful by his encouraging manner. Miss Mason expressed the thanks of the deputation for this.

Executive Committee.

The Committee at its last meeting appointed the twenty members for the deputation to the Prime Minister on the 21st inst., making it as representative as possible of England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, and of women engaged in various spheres of work. It was, of course, impossible, owing to its small size, to include all who ought to go on the deputation.

The constitution and area of the North-Western Federation were considered and approved. This Federation will include the whole of Cumberland and Westmorland and the northern part of Lancashire (*i.e.*, the borough of Barrow and the county divisions of North Lonsdale and Lancaster). The invitation from the Keswick Society to hold the first Provincial Council in its area, at Keswick, on October 8th was accepted with great pleasure.

Although both candidates for Hartlepool are in favour of some extension of the franchise to women, neither had mentioned it in his election address. It had therefore been decided to do propaganda work there with the view of forming a N.U. Society. Three organisers had been sent—Mrs. Mayer, Miss Norma Smith, and Miss Harden.

EDITH DIMOCK.

Treasurer's Notes.

Once again have the students of Somerville College come to our help with a substantial contribution to the fund of the Union. A "special effort" has brought in £7 12s. The example set by Somerville College is worthy of imitation, for this "special effort" is not spasmodic, but annual, and for this reason our thanks are especially cordial.

One other contribution received this week deserves special notice. The recently formed Melksham W.S. Society sends 10s. to the "Million Shilling" Fund, the result of a dramatic and musical entertainment. Somerset is "waking up," new Societies are being formed, and good work is being done in this county.

To arouse interest in our cause the Bath Society and friends have arranged to give in the villages around Bath during the summer months dramatic and musical entertainments. Half of the proceeds therefrom will be handed over to the National Union funds. The contribution from Melksham is, we hope, only the first of many more. Our thanks are due, and are heartily given, to the Bath and district friends for their enterprise, which we trust may meet with the success it deserves.

We net the sum of £1 5s. raised by a "White Elephant Tea" (Miss Gardner, of Birmingham, will gladly explain details of this novel form of tea party to any friends who may wish to arrange one); a gift of £2 2s. raised by self-denial by Miss Courtauld, and another £25 to the £100 fund from Miss Mabel Howell, M.B., of Cardiff. For these, and all the contributions of the week we are grateful.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

June 11th to June 18th, 1910.		£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	.....	1,518	3	1
Subscriptions:—				
Miss K. Costelloe	.....	0	10	0
Miss M. Lyttelton	.....	0	10	0
Miss L. Heston	.....	0	5	0
Miss Ursula Thompson	.....	10	0	0
Miss I. M. Blake	.....	1	1	0
Miss J. E. Muntz	.....	2	2	0
Mrs. Gannon	.....	0	1	0
Mrs. P. Springman	.....	1	1	0
Mrs. Elliott	.....	0	1	0
J. T. M.	.....	0	1	0
Miss E. M. Gardner (raised by White Elephant Tea)	.....	1	0	0
Donations:—				
Somerville College W.S.S. (Special Effort)	.....	7	12	0
Mrs. Beilby	.....	1	1	0
Miss E. E. Marshall	.....	10	0	0
Miss C. Courtauld (Self-denial)	.....	2	2	9
Miss Mabel E. Howell	.....	25	0	0
North Western Federation, per Miss Nancy Hart (sale of tea and coffee at Conference)	.....	0	10	0
Affiliation Fees:—				
Kilmacoolm W.S.S.	.....	0	5	0
Three Towns and District W.S.S. (balance)	.....	0	19	3
Marple Bridge W.S.S.	.....	0	9	0
Election Fund:—				
Mrs. Davidson (for Women's Suffrage Candidates)	.....	1	1	0
Miss M. Crofton	.....	0	2	6
		£1,583	17	7

MILLION SHILLING FUND.

	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1,014	0
Miss Emily Leith	5	0
Melksham W.S.S. (proceeds of entertainment)	10	0
Mrs. G. Keen (per Mrs. Auerbach)	1	0
Mrs. Gibb (per Mrs. Auerbach)	1	0
Miss Young (per Mrs. Auerbach)	2	0
Mrs. and the Misses Joseph	3	0
Miss McPherson (collection)	10	6
Mrs. Auerbach (collection)	3	0
J. T. M.	1	0
Miss E. M. Gardner (raised by White Elephant Tea)	5	0
	1,055	6

BERTHA MASON, Treasurer.

Parliamentary Secretary's Report.

Arrangements for the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies' deputation, which the Prime Minister has consented to receive at 10, Downing Street, on Tuesday, June 21, at noon, are now complete. The deputation, which will be introduced by Miss Bertha Mason,

Parliamentary Secretary of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, will consist of:—

Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Mrs. Alfred Illingworth, Vice-President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Mr. W. S. B. McLaren, M.P., member of the Executive Committee of the National Union.

Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., member of the Executive Committee of the National Union.

Miss Mair, representing the Scottish Societies of the National Union.

Miss Mabel Howell, M.B., representing the Welsh Societies of the National Union.

Mrs. Haslam, representing the Irish members of the National Union.

Miss N. Adler, London County Councillor.

Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Liverpool City Councillor.

Mrs. Rackham, Cambridge Poor-law Guardian, member of the Executive Committee of the National Union.

Miss Emily Davies, LL.D., co-founder of Girton College, Cambridge.

Mrs. Sophie Bryant, D.Sc., headmistress of the North London Collegiate School.

Miss Jane Walker, M.D.

Miss Clementina Black, representing Industrial workers.

Miss I. O. Ford, member of the Executive Committee of the National Union.

Mrs. Cooper, representing Women Textile Workers.

Mrs. Osler, social worker.

Mrs. Philip Snowden.

Mrs. Henry Sidgwick, Cambridge.

The speakers on behalf of the Union will be Mrs. Fawcett; Councillor Eleanor Rathbone, Liverpool; Mrs. Cooper, representing the women textile workers; and Mr. W. S. B. McLaren, M.P., who will press for facilities—*i.e.*, Government time for the Parliamentary Franchise (Women's) Bill, now before Parliament. Unless these facilities are granted the Bill can get no further, and the fate of the Bill and the Women's Suffrage movement for the time being, therefore, depends on the action of the Government. Considering the weight of public opinion behind the Bill, it is impossible to imagine that the Government will throw obstacles in the way of its passage through the House of Commons, and throw away a great opportunity. We demand and expect that the Bill shall be carried through all further stages without further delay.

BERTHA MASON,
Hon. Parliamentary Secretary.

Demonstration of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and London Society in support of the Conciliation Bill, Queen's Hall, Tuesday, June, 28, 8 p.m.

Tickets for this meeting may still be obtained, and should be applied for as soon as possible from Miss P. Strachey, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. Reserved seats, 5s. and 2s. 6d.; unreserved, 1s. Ten 2s. 6d. tickets may be had for £1, or ten 1s. tickets for 7s. 6d. if applied for at one time. Special reductions are made on 2s. 6d. tickets also for parties of six or more country members of the National Union. Societies in the Union are already availing themselves of these facilities, and it is earnestly hoped as many local secretaries as can conveniently do so will form parties. The speakers, as already announced, will be Lady Frances Balfour (in the chair), Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Frances Sterling, Miss Margery Corbett, Mr. Walter McLaren, M.P., and Lord Lytton (chairman of the Conciliation Committee), supported by Mr. Brailsford and other members of the Committee. Coming as it does, shortly after the National Union Deputation to the Prime Minister, and close upon the announcement of the fate of the Conciliation Bill, the meeting assumes a unique importance, and its overwhelming success in point of numbers, as well as in all other ways, becomes a matter of serious significance.

National Union Council Meeting.

The Council of the National Union meets at Bristol on Friday, July 1st. The Council will meet both morning and afternoon, and will be for delegates only.

On Thursday, June 30th, at 8 o'clock, a reception to meet delegates will be held. There will be short speeches, music, and recitations. Tickets for non-members are 1s., and are to be obtained at 49, Whiteladies Road, Bristol.

On Friday, July 1st, at 8 o'clock, there is to be a public meeting. Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., is to be in the chair, and Mrs. Philip Snowden will be the chief speaker.

Work in Support of the Bill.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Letters were sent to each of the M.P.s in Northumberland and Durham, urging them to speed forward the Conciliation Bill. All the replies were satisfactory, except from one member, who would "regret the use of public time for the discussion of the Women's Suffrage Bill until the veto controversy shall have been settled." The Liberal women in his constituency have been notified, and it is hoped that they may be able to persuade him that some of the "public" time might be devoted to the consideration of the women's question.

On Monday midday Miss Mein and Miss Gladys Fenwick spoke at three works gates meetings in Gateshead, and in each instance the resolution was carried unanimously. The girls and women employed at the Sunbeam Lamp Works afford a happy illustration of our contention that unbiased minds have only to hear about Women's Suffrage to believe in it. On Monday night Miss Mein held another meeting at Gateshead, and at the dinner hour on Tuesday she addressed several hundred of the workmen employed at Messrs. Swan and Hunter's Shipyard, Wallsend.

On Tuesday evening Mrs. Conway presided at an open-air meeting at Jarrow, when Miss Mein addressed a large gathering, and again carried her resolution unanimously. Wednesday evening saw Miss Lena Johnson and Miss Mein at Consett, where no Women's Suffrage meeting had hitherto been held. About three or four hundred men and women exhibited a lively and intelligent interest in the question, and only two hands were raised against the resolution.

Dr. Ethel Williams spoke at a drawing-room meeting kindly given by Mrs. Pumphrey at Hindley Hall, Stocksfield, on Thursday, when the resolution was passed by a large majority. The workmen of the N.E. Railway were unanimous in favour of the Bill at a dinner-hour meeting held on Thursday, and in the evening Willington Quay witnessed the first Suffrage meeting ever held there. Miss Weddell presided, and was followed by Miss Mein.

On Friday evening Mrs. Harrison Bell, at great personal inconvenience, held an excellent meeting at Headlam Street, Heaton; Miss Louth was in the chair. Miss Mein spoke in the afternoon at a meeting, presided over by Miss Hardcastle, which was kindly given by Miss Newbigin in her garden. At night the largest meeting of the week was held at North Shields. Its success was entirely due to the splendid way in which it had been advertised by Mrs. Johnson, who chalked the pavements extensively and distributed handbills. The meeting lasted nearly two hours, the audience asking Miss Mein many questions. A sympathiser stated that whereas the average weekly wage for the women of Australia was 8s. before their enfranchisement, it was now about 18s. Inasmuch as the resolution in favour of facilities being granted for the passage of the Bill into law was passed unanimously at every meeting, save the drawing-room meeting at Stocksfield and the open-air meeting at Consett, where there were two dissentients, we may surely claim that the Bill is popular in the North. Nothing has been heard either in the street or in the press of the local Anti-Suffragists. On the other hand, the leading newspapers have printed many articles in favour of the Bill.

Bristol.

Of our week's campaign of ten meetings in support of the Bill the most important was the public meeting at the Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, when Mrs. Randall Vickers presided, and Lady Frances Balfour was the speaker. It was a crowded meeting, with a large sprinkling of Anti-Suffragists, but only eight voted against the resolution appealing to the Government for facilities for the Bill. The efforts of the Weston friends have been rewarded by great success, and Miss Norma Smith will help next week to organise a branch there. The platform was prettily decorated with flowers in our colours. Pretty badges were also made by the Weston friends. The other meetings were four in the open-air, four by private invitation, and one for members at the shop, and at every one the resolution has been carried, and sent to the

local M.P.s, the Prime Minister, and Mr. Shackleton. At the open-air meetings members of the Men's League, Mr. Brydges Barratt, Mr. Arthur Daniell, and Mr. F. W. Rogers, most kindly each gave up a summer evening to help us. A great change has taken place in the temper of these meetings. We have had no disturbance, scarcely any opposition, and very few questions. We feel now that we have the respect at least, and often the sympathy, of the general public.

On Saturday we ended our campaign by going further afield, to Bishopsworth, a Somersetshire village. We have already several members there, and we received from them the greatest kindness and hospitality. Mrs. Pobjoy sent her trap to meet us, and our pilgrimage was made a pleasant country outing instead of a toilsome journey. We had advertised two meetings, but we found it impossible to get an audience in the afternoon, when everyone was busy gardening. In the evening, on the Common, a crowd collected, and we had a good meeting. No active opposition, but a few scoffers, chiefly women, who had never heard more than distant echoes of the subject before. A party of boy-scouts joined us, and stood in front, gravely listening. Mrs. H. T. Willis, Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, Miss Tanner, and Mrs. Ford spoke, and Mrs. Kate Willis had walked out from Bristol to help in circulating papers.

Surrey, Sussex and Hants. Federation (Portsmouth Branch).

We had our demonstration to support Mr. Shackleton's Bill on the 17th inst. Mrs. Swanwick and Mr. Joseph Clayton came to speak in its favour. The Men's League co-operated with the National Union in getting up the meeting, and members from other Suffrage Societies were present—the Church League, the Women's Social and Political Union, and the Women's Freedom League. The resolution in support of the Bill was passed with one dissentient. The hon. secretary, Miss Norah O'Shea, spoke of letters of sympathy from clergymen in the Established and Free Churches, from Sir Thomas Bramsdon (the late M.P. for Portsmouth), Colonel Holbrooke (late chairman of the Conservative Association), and many others. She announced that resolutions in favour of the Bill had been passed by four meetings of the British Women's Temperance Association, the Women's Co-operative Guild, the Independent Labour Party, the Christian Liberal Association, the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, two meetings of representative educational women, and that a memorial had been signed by the midwives. No one could be ignorant concerning this Bill after hearing Mrs. Swanwick's earnest and eloquent speech. Everyone who heard Mr. Clayton will wish him success as Parliamentary candidate for S. Salford. Mrs. Hawksley took the chair and appealed for funds. Mr. Lipsom appealed to all sympathisers to join one or other of the societies working to enfranchise women.

The Portsmouth Society has asked the following bodies to pass a resolution in support of the Conciliation Committee's Bill: The Women's Labour League, the Women's Liberal-Unionist Association, and the Conservative Association. Members are sending letters to Mr. Asquith, and getting circular letters signed by their friends.

The Leith Hill Committee have written and telegraphed to their members of Parliament urging them to support the Bill by every means in their power.

Demonstration in Manchester.

The North of England Society was exceedingly anxious to make some public demonstration before the 23rd June, and recognizing that in this weather it would have to be in the open air, the White City (Old Trafford) was selected, and handbills were issued inviting those "who were unable to walk in the great procession in London" to support the Manchester demonstration on Saturday, June 18. There was only a week in which to get it up, and the difficulties were enormous, since nearly all Members of Parliament were already engaged, and there was a great Labour demonstration being held at Belle Vue.

By dint of the arduous exertions of Miss Courtney, Miss Robertson, Miss Bright, and Miss Darlington an excellent audience was secured, which listened with much interest for two hours, and unanimously passed a resolution calling upon the Government to give facilities for the passing of the Bill. Miss Ashton took the chair, and the speakers were Mr. Harry Nuttall, M.P. (Lib., Lancs., Stretford), Mr. A. Samuel (Con. candidate, Lancs., Stretford), Miss Margaret Robertson, Mr. A. Gordon Harvey, M.P. (Lib., Rochdale), Councillor H. Howell (Con.), Mr. A. M. Langdon, K.C. (Men's League), and Mrs. F. T. Swanwick.

The resolution was sent to the Prime Minister and to local Members.

A number of telegrams and letters regretting inability to be present and expressing sympathy with the objects of the meeting were received. The senders included Sir Edward Grey, M.P., Sir George Kemp, M.P., Sir W. H. Crossley, M.P., Mr. W. Maclaren, M.P., Mr. C. P. Scott, Mr. Alderman Royle, Mr. G. Arbuthnot, M.P., Mr. J. S. Harwood-Banner, M.P., Sir J. Randles, M.P., Sir W. H. Vaudrey, Messrs. Duncan, M.P., P. Snowden, M.P., Stephen Walsh, M.P., J. Hodge, M.P., H. Twist, M.P., G. Barnes, M.P., M'Arthur, M.P., D. Shackleton, M.P., and J. R. Clynes, M.P.

WOMEN TEXTILE WORKERS SUPPORT THE BILL.

The Bolton Women Textile and Other Workers' Representation Committee, at a meeting held on the 7th inst., Mrs. Staton in the chair, passed unanimously the following resolution:—

"This Committee welcomes the Women's Franchise Bill, and trusts that the Government will grant facilities so that it may soon become law. This Bill offers less than we desire and less than we have asked for, but it is a step in the right direction in admitting the principle that sex should not be a barrier to citizenship."

Copies of the resolution were sent to the Members of Parliament for Bolton and Westhoughton. The secretary, Miss Reddish, has received the following replies:—Mr. George Harwood wrote: "I went yesterday to the House of Commons to support the Bill, but there was no division." Mr. Gill wrote: "You may rely on me voting for the new Bill." Mr. Wilson said he would be prevented from being present when the Bill would be introduced.

WEST HARTLEPOOL BY-ELECTION.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has met with a very hearty and emphatic welcome here. All our sympathisers of the Liberal party among the voters expressed themselves as greatly relieved at being able to support our cause without being asked to vote against their candidate, who has expressed himself strongly in favour of our reform, and has promised to vote for the Representation of the People Bill, 1910, if his name tops the poll. Many of my listeners promised faithfully that they would put direct questions to the candidate they intend to support as to his attitude towards woman's franchise.

Although, owing to my work in the Midlands, I was not able to get here until Wednesday night at 8-30, we have held a considerable number of splendid open-air meetings, at which Miss Norma Smith and I were the speakers. And the enthusiasm of our audience has been quite encouraging. This was the first time a very great many of our listeners had heard that there was a non-militant society doing active work of this sort. It will give some idea of the interest we have aroused when you learn that in two days' sale we were able without any trouble to dispose of two hundred copies of "The Common Cause."

Many of the men in the crowd, when I told them that it was forty years since the first Woman's Enfranchisement Bill had been read a second time in the House of Commons, exclaimed, "Never mind, you'll get it this time."

Our committee room in Lynn Street, which Miss Norma Smith had engaged before I came, and which has chiefly been under the care of Miss Harden, while Miss Norma Smith and I have been "preaching" outside, has aroused great interest, and Miss Harden has done a great trade in penny badges.

Everyone expects great excitement at the declaration of the poll on Monday, as party feeling has been running very high this time, and all declare they never saw such a demonstration of enthusiasm at an election here before, and much of it is owing to the keen interest taken in Mr. Shackleton's Bill.

MERIVALE MAYOR.

Federation Notes.

Midland Federation.

The first Midland Federation meeting was held on June 16th in Birmingham. Representatives from Birmingham, Burton-on-Trent, Coventry, Derby, Leicester, Nottingham, Olton, Oxford, Rugby, Stratford-on-Avon, Shrewsbury, West Bromwich, Warwick and Leamington, were there; Mansfield, Worcester, and Wolverhampton were unable to send representatives. The rules were drawn up on the basis of those of the National Union. Committee meetings were to be attended by representatives from the societies in proportion to membership—one for under 200 members, two for 201-500 members, and three for over 500 members. A motion that if possible an organizer should be kept, whose fares should be paid out of the Federation funds, but that the societies should pay her expenses when she was working for them, was carried. New districts should be paid for out of the common fund. Federation meetings were to be held in different towns by invitation, and were to be attended by delegates in proportion to membership on the same basis that we have now for National Union Council meetings, but no society was to have more than six representatives. The greatest discussion arose over the question of finance. It was felt that, as the whole point of the Federation was to help the societies, it would be ridiculous to make the affiliation fee so high that any society should be kept out, but at the same time it was recognised that the Federation must have some money if it was to do really useful work. A careful reckoning was made on the basis of the subscriptions of all the societies, and it was finally decided that no society would be paying beyond its means if the affiliation fee was fixed at the rate of 1s. in the pound, with a minimum of 5s. and a maximum of £5. This would raise about £15, which would be supplemented by special efforts if any important work was to be done outside the area of any special society.

The area covered by the Midland Federation includes 58 constituencies, so there will be need of large funds and good organization if the work is to be well done.

Mrs. A. C. Osler was elected chairman of committee, Mrs. Aubrey Dowson hon. secretary, and Mrs. Harley hon. treasurer.

Scottish Federation Work in Orkney.

On Tuesday evening I arrived in Kirkwall, and since then have held two meetings—one in Kirkwall and one in Tankerness. Thanks to a telegram from Dr. Inglis (for newspapers are long in reaching Orkney) I was able to announce that our Bill had been read without a division, and that Mr. Asquith is receiving a deputation from the National Union about facilities. Neither meeting was large, but they were keen and interested, and at both our resolution was passed with acclamation. Mrs. Baikie now hopes to form a Tankerness Circle as a branch of the Orkadian Society.

I have not time this week to give my impressions of Orkney—they are still rather new and uncrystallised. Next week I shall be able to give some account of the joys or sorrows of island meetings. But I append a diary for the forthcoming ten days, which will give some idea of work in the Orkneys:—Friday, 17th.—Schoolhouse meeting, Helm Parish.

Saturday, 18th.—7 a.m., leave mainland for evening meeting on Westray Island.

Monday, 20th.—7 a.m., leave Westray for Stronsay. Evening meeting at pierhead, where I expect vast numbers of fishermen.

Tuesday, 21st.—9 a.m., leave Stronsay for Sanday Island. Attempt to bribe boatman to take me to North Ronaldshay.

Wednesday, 22nd.—Evening meeting, Sanday.

Thursday, 23rd.—10-30, leave Sanday for Kirkwall. 4 p.m., leave Kirkwall for Shapinsay. 7-30, evening meeting, Shapinsay.

Friday, 24th.—Return to Kirkwall.

Saturday, 25th.—Kirkwall to Ronsay Island.

Monday, 27th.—Ronsay to Kirkwall, and then on to an evening meeting in Deerness Parish.

Tuesday, 28th.—Stromness, evening meeting.

Wednesday, 29th.—Kirkwall, drawing-room meeting.

On Wednesday evening, June 29th, I go on board the S. Sumira, bound for Shetland. The captain has promised, if the weather is not too rough, to land me at Fair Island, an isolated rock between Orkney and Shetland. I hear the Duchess of Bedford has built a tiny hut there, and is studying bird life. I hope she will take the chair for me. It will be a unique opportunity.

W. H. LAMOND.



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21/9

SENT ON APPROVAL.

London Society.

The second quarterly Conference of the London Society took place at 58, Victoria Street on Tuesday, June 14. The chair was taken at 4 p.m. by Miss Palliser, who at once proposed an adjournment to Parliament Square to await there news of the Conciliation Bill. This was agreed to by acclamation, and the members made their way to the House in small groups. The majority waited outside while several of the committee and others went into obtain information. On their reappearance with news all returned to the office, where Miss Bertha Mason, who had been in the Ladies' Gallery, gave an interesting address on the proceedings in the House and upon the Bill generally. A discussion then followed in regard to various technical points, in which Miss Emily Davies, Miss Lowndes, and others took part. The Conference concluded with a special appeal to those present to do all in their power to make the joint demonstration of the National Union and the London Society at the Queen's Hall on June 28 an overwhelming success. Though the Conference occurred before the close of self-denial week, it had been hoped to give some particulars up to date, together with several touching instances of sacrifices made for it by some of the poorer London members, but this had to be deferred owing to lack of time. All who are able to help and have not as yet sent in their contributions are asked to be so kind as to do so as soon as possible, as it is exceedingly important that all activities should be kept up at high pressure during this critical period.

In Support of the Bill.

THE SCHOLARS' MEMORIAL.

The following leading scholars and educationalists are among those who have signed a memorial urging the Prime Minister to give facilities to the Women's Suffrage Bill introduced by Mr. Shackleton, M.P., on Tuesday last.

Oxford University.—Sidney Ball, Rev. F. W. Bussell, Principal of Brasenose, Rev. J. Estlin Carpenter, D.D., A. C. Clark (Queen's), Rev. James Drummond, Prof. Geldart, Dennis Hird (Warden, Central Labour Coll.), Prof. D. S. Margoliouth, Prof. J. L. Myers, E. W. B. Nicholson (Bodley's Librarian), Sir John Rhys, C. Grant Robertson (All Souls'), F. C. S. Schiller (C.C.C.), Rev. W. Temple (Queen's), A. E. Zimmern (New Coll.).

Cambridge.—J. F. Bethune-Baker, Prof. J. B. Bury, Norman R. Campbell, F. N. Cornford, W. E. Johnson, Prof. J. S. Mackenzie, J. Ellis M'Taggart, the Master of Christ's College (John Peile, D.Litt.), H. D. Rackham, Prof. J. S. Reid, E. Seymour Thompson, Dr. A. W. Verrall, Prof. James Ward, D.Sc.

London.—The Principal (H. A. Miers, F.R.S.), Prof. A. Caldecott, D.Litt.

Manchester.—Prof. S. Alexander, Prof. Ronald M. Burrows, Prof. S. J. Chapman, Prof. R. S. Conway, Prof. C. H. Herford, Prof. J. Hope Moulton, Prof. M. E. Sadler.

Birmingham.—Prof. Alfred Hughes, Prof. J. H. Muirhead.

General.—The Headmaster of Eton, J. H. Badley (Bedales), R. F. Cholmeley (Dame Alice Owen's School, Islington), W. Steadman Aldis, F.R.A.S., Francis H. Stead (Browning Settlement), Rev. Principal Symes (Nottingham), Dr. A. B. Rendle, F.R.S., Dr. Bather, F.R.S.

THE DIVINES' MEMORIAL.

Among nearly 400 divines of all denominations who have made the same request to the Prime Minister, the following names may be selected:—

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Durham,
The Rev. Canon Hicks, Bishop-elect of Lincoln,
The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Hull,
The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Woolwich,
The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Birmingham,

The Venerable Archdeacon Arbuthnot, The Venerable Archdeacon Madden, The Venerable Archdeacon Noakes, The Dean of Durham, The Dean of Worcester, The Rural Dean of Ipswich, The Rural Dean of Birkenhead, Canon Bannister (Hereford), Canon Bond (Chichester), Canon Body (Durham), Canon Deane (Chichester), Canon Everett (Windsor), Canon Lister (Newcastle), Canon Talbot (Bristol), Canon Wilson (Worcester), The Master of the Temple (Dr. Woods), Rev. the Hon. James Adderley (Saltley), Rev. Stopford Brooke, Right Rev. Hamilton Baines, Rev. Hugh Chapman (Royal Chapel of the Savoy), Rev. Dr. Cobb, Rev. E. E. Coleman, Rev. Lewis Donaldson, Rev. W. Lewis Edwards, Rev. J. H. Ellison, Rev. Ernest Ganner (Hon. Canon, Birmingham), Rev. M. A. Griffiths, Rev. G. Holmes Gore, Rev. W. Cotter Hodgins, Rev. G. F. Head, Rev. J. H. Honeyburne (Hon. Canon of Liverpool), Rev. Dr. Andrew Laidlaw, Rev. E. G. L. Mowbray, Rev. Thomas Martin, D.D. (Barony, Glasgow), Rev. J. P. Maud, Rev. Pearson McAdam Muir, D.D. (Moderator of General Assembly), Rev. Arnold Pinchard, Rev. J. H. Shakespeare, Rev. A. Stuart (Canon of R. Cath. Cathedral, Edinburgh), Rev. J. Denton Thompson, Rev. Principal Guy Warman (St. Aidan's College), Rev. Philip Wicksteed, Rev. T. Rhondda Williams (Brighton), Rev. David Young (Anderson United Free Church).

Among the more remarkable figures of this memorial are the following:—From Liverpool 36 names, Manchester 60, Birmingham 20, Bristol 23, Glasgow 26, Ipswich 31, New-

castle 11, Newport (Mon.) 40, Nottingham 10, Stockport 11, Southport 18, Altrincham (district) 14.

THE WRITERS' MEMORIAL.

This memorial points out that in the present House over four hundred members are known to support the principle, and it is believed that a Bill founded on a basis which Suffragists of all schools can accept will be carried by a majority drawn from all parties. The occupation franchise proposed by the present Bill neither allows opportunity for the undue multiplication of property votes nor is open to the objections raised against a wider measure. The moderation and simplicity of the present proposal are points essential to a non-party solution.

The memorial is signed by the following:—Mr. H. Granville Barker, Mr. Arthur C. Benson, Mr. Arnold Bennett, Miss Braddon, Professor J. B. Bury, Dr. Edward Carpenter, Mrs. W. K. Clifford (supports this Bill only), Mr. Joseph Conrad, Dr. F. J. Furnivall, Mr. John Galsworthy, Mr. R. B. Cunningham-Graham, Mme. Sarah Grand, "Maxwell Gray," Miss Cicely Hamilton, Mr. F. M. Hueffer, Miss Violet Hunt, Dr. Douglas Hyde, Sir Oliver Lodge, Mrs. Mary E. Mann, Mr. Charles Marriott, Mr. John Masfield, Mr. H. W. Massingham, Mrs. Meynell, Professor Gilbert Murray, Mr. Alfred Ollivant, Mr. Eden Philpotts, Sir Arthur Pinero, Mrs. Baillie-Reynolds, Mr. W. Pett Ridge, Mr. George Russell, Mr. C. P. Scott, Mr. G. Bernard Shaw, Miss May Sinclair, Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, Mr. Alfred Sutro, Miss E. M. Symonds ("George Paston"), Professor T. F. Tout (Professor of Medieval and Modern History, Manchester University), Mr. Herbert Trench, Mr. Stanley F. Weyman, Mr. Richard Whiteing, Mrs. Edith Ayrton Zangwill, Mr. Israel Zangwill, Miss Elizabeth Robins.

THE DOCTORS' MEMORIAL.

This one has been signed by three hundred medical practitioners, and includes the following names:—Sir Victor Horsley, Mr. Howard Marsh, Mr. Mansell-Moulin, Dr. Sansom, Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, Dr. Hugh Fenton, Dr. F. Gordon Brown, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, Mrs. Scharlieb, Miss Aldrich Blake, M.D., M.S., Miss Cock, M.D.

THE MUSICIANS' MEMORIAL.

This has been signed, among many others, by Mr. Henry Wood, Mr. Percy Grainger, Mr. Donald Tovey, Miss Esther Palliser, Miss Evangeline Florence, Miss Gleeson White, Mr. Walford Davis, Miss Bertha Moore, Mr. Sidney Nicholas (organist of Manchester Cathedral), Mr. Granville Bantock, Miss Gertrude Peppercorn, and Miss Agnes Zimmerman. The memorial is also supported by Madame Kirkby Lunn, Miss Mary Palgrave-Turner, and Miss Liza Lehmann.

THE ACTORS' MEMORIAL.

This qualifies the sex disability as "not only an injustice, but in these days of political, social, industrial, and artistic activity amongst women, an anomaly and an unworthy relic of less enlightened times," and it is signed by Sir John Hare, Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Forbes Robertson, Miss Gertrude Elliott (Mrs. Forbes Robertson), Sir Charles Wyndham, Miss Mary Moore, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, Miss Adeline Bourne, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Eva Moore, Mr. Gerald Du Maurier, Miss Fanny Brough, Miss Katherine Compton (Mrs. R. C. Carton), Mr. Basil Gill, Miss Muriel Beaumont, Miss Fay Davis, Miss Hilda Trevelyan, Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. Herbert Waring, Mr. Ben Webster, Mr. Edmund Gwenn, Mr. Cyril Keightley, Mrs. Saba Raleigh, Miss Charlotte Granville, Miss Decima Moore, Miss Edith Craig, Miss May Whitty, and others.

APPEAL TO IRISH MEMBERS.

The following appeal has been sent to every Irish member of Parliament:—

"We, the undersigned members of the deputation sent to Dublin in the Queen's Jubilee year, 1887, with a 'message of sympathy' from 40,000 Englishwomen to their afflicted Irish sisters, are moved to send with this reminder an earnest appeal for your support for the Women's Suffrage Bill now before the House.

"At a reception given to us on July 11, 1887, the 'message' lay unrolled on the floor of Queen Anne's room, read by all. Deeply moved, some came to us saying they never thought that Englishwomen 'cared so much for us.' Others, amongst them members of Parliament, asked how they could ever show their gratitude. Now comes your opportunity. In the name of those 40,000 Englishwomen we urge you to support at every division this Bill by your presence and by your vote.

"ISABELLA PETRIE-MILLS.

"EVA McLAREN.

"ELIZABETH DUNCAN SCHWANN.

"JANE CODDEN-UNWIN."

Among the members of Parliament present in 1887 on the occasion mentioned were Mr. John Redmond, Mr. John Dillon, and Mr. T. M. Healy.

Social Workers.

The following memorial has been addressed to the Prime Minister by social workers:—

"We, the undersigned, being social workers, desire to record our belief that the Parliamentary franchise ought with-

out delay to be extended to women. This admission to the franchise we consider to be the right of all those who contribute to the upkeep of the State, and its denial constitutes, in our opinion, a serious hardship. Owing to our activity as social workers we are daily brought into contact with women who from stress of circumstances are compelled to support themselves, and we cannot but realise how sorely they are in need of the protection afforded by the Parliamentary vote. It is our belief that the interests of the industrial community as a whole are intimately bound up with this movement for the enfranchisement of women. We therefore earnestly beg that you as head of the Government will grant such facilities as will permit of the Women Suffrage Bill being carried into law. This measure, which extends the Parliamentary franchise to women householders and occupiers, has our entire support, and we most earnestly trust that the Government will take such steps as are necessary to place it upon the Statute Book in the present year."

The memorial is signed by the following:—Margaret Ash-ton, Helen Bosanquet, Clementina Black, George Cadbury, Arthur W. Chapman, Rebecca H. Chetham, Florence E. Booth, Mary D. Dalglish, Philippa Garrett Fawcett, Mary Katherine Grimes, John Kirk, Elizabeth Kirk, John Stuart, John Lee, Mary C. E. James, Gertrude Jane King, Louisa M. Knightley, George Lansbury, Emily Lutyens, Edith Lyttelton, M. H. Mason, Margaret M'Millan, Frances George Mackereth, M. Cecile Matheson, Mary Howitt, G. Mabel Drabble, Mary Pearson, Cecil Preston, Lily H. Montagu, L. Wyatt Papworth, F. M. Mole, M. Maynard, M. S. Reeves, Alys Russell, Bertrand Russell, C. W. Saleeby (M.D., F.R.S.E.), Ethel Snowden, Philip Snowden, Isabel Somerset, Jane M. Strachey, George Packwood Carter, Arthur Holland, Emily James, Agnes Anstruther, Margaret MacDonald, and Stewart Headlam.

Demonstration by the Women's Social and Political Union.

The Meeting in Albert Hall.

It was difficult to believe, on entering the Albert Hall on Saturday evening last, that the decorations for the Suffrage meeting had not been begun till after the conclusion of Mme. Melba's concert at 5 p.m. That is, of course, only a detail compared to the organization of the afternoon's programme, but it is just the management of these lesser details which show the amazing care and competency of the W.S.P.U. to ensure success. When the doors of the hall opened at 8 p.m. it was already a difficult matter to find an easy entrance; at every door masses of women were trying to get in and out at the same time, for many had entered the hall at the wrong point, and were obliged, therefore, to struggle out again and fight their way to the right place. The Albert Hall lends itself to any scheme of light decoration, and the purple, green, and white draperies running round the galleries, caught at close intervals with crossed flags of the same colours, gave to the natural gloom of the place a charming air of sudden youthfulness and gaiety. Mrs. Layton, F.R.C.O., was at the organ, and the waiting time to those in the hall seemed very short, though, as a matter of fact, the meeting announced for 8.30 p.m. did not get under way till well after 9 p.m. There was much to watch as the units of the wonderful procession gradually reached the hall and found their places. Most of the women wore white or light summer frocks, and the general effect was one of some vast garden party, an illusion enhanced by the bouquets and standards of roses and many bunches of flowers. Amidst all this airy pleasantness the gowns and hoods worn by a very large number of the women came as an excellent reminder of the solid basis to all that laughing, chattering crowd. The doctors from Brussels with their gay cerise gown and blue hoods, the bright blue of the London College of Music, the lilac and white of Durham, dark lilac of London, green from Aberdeen, and the gorgeous full crimson gown and flat velvet caps worn by a select few,—these and many blendings of colour, of whose meaning I was not quite certain, set sparks of colour about the hall, and up in one of the circles a gorgeous academic lady looked like some brilliant tropical bird at rest on the wing. The minutes went by as the Pilgrims' Chorus from Tamhäuser swelled out from the organ, followed later by a spirited playing of "The Wearing of the Green"—though the killing will be for those who do not wear the "green" (white and lilac) in the future!

By 9 p.m. the large building was practically filled, and the tension of waiting found relief in a chorus of cheers as Mrs. Pankhurst entered and took her place in the chair. With her were Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, and Miss Kenny, and to them went the lovely big bouquets which had been waiting in front of the chairman's table. On Mrs. Pankhurst's left sat Lord Lytton.

Hopefulness and victory were the keywords of the speeches. One felt it in the air; the meeting was one of confidence and expectation.

Mrs. Pankhurst sounded the note at once as, after the enthusiastic singing of the woman's Marseillaise, she rose to address us. The audience rose to their feet to greet her with tremendous cheering, and, indeed, the sight of the slight woman who is the founder of the Society facing that large

mass of women who believe in her and in the common cause was a thing to give one many thrills. She had one big word for us—"Victory."

To-day was, she felt, the climax to fifty years of strenuous work, and she offered, not her thanks (there is no thought of herself in her speeches), but her congratulations to all who had taken part in that procession, and who were present in the hall. Her summing up of the situation was expressed in one short sentence: "The Bill will go through." This, she hoped, was the last demand of the unfranchised to the Government to conclude the woman's agitation by doing its duty to them. The resolution was then put, and Lord Lytton was asked to second it: "That this meeting calls upon the Government to grant 'facilities' for the Women Suffrage Bill now before Parliament, so that it may pass into law this session; and pledges itself, regardless of personal cost or sacrifice, to push forward the campaign for the emancipation of women until victory be won."

To the question Mrs. Pankhurst asked the meeting, "What are we to do to make the Government grant facilities for the passing of the Bill, how make it impossible for it to refuse?" the answer will be given after the second reading of the Bill. Two homely proverbs the chairman suggested to her audience, the motto of the W.S.P.U., "Deeds, not words," and the more commercial one, "Money speaks"; and it was at this point that a deeper note of warning sounded for a moment in the words: "We will tell the Government in a peaceful way that the war-chest is full—that we are ready for every event and every contingency."

People have sometimes amused themselves and the Suffragists by asking what the latter will do if the Bill passes. It is supposed that the work will be over, that the Suffrage papers may close their offices, and that Othello's occupation will be gone. These funny people should have heard from Mrs. Pankhurst of all the work which will remain. The movement will by no means be ended with the Conciliation Bill; it will work on for complete victory—for the enfranchisement of all women, and not only of the possible million whom this Bill can affect. There will be no rest for the van of the Suffrage movement until legal, economic, and social equality is established for both sexes alike. Should the Bill pass, there will be much money to be spent in educating and in organizing the voters. All sorts of reforms are waiting for women to push them through, and the work of the many societies will be rather increased than decreased.

Lord Lytton, who was received with the time-honoured "For he's a jolly good fellow," expressed himself most hopeful of the passing of the Bill, and he agreed with Mrs. Pankhurst that that meeting must be "the last of its kind." He gave a slight sketch of the history of the Bill now before the House, and declared that all the success which had attended the Conciliation Committee's work so far was due to Mr. Brailsford's unflagging energies; he had done the work of "six men, not of one man," declared Lord Lytton. Whilst acknowledging that the Bill was not the ideal one, he thought a Bill drawn up on the existing lines had more chance of being carried immediately than any other. He defended the statement that this Bill was on democratic lines, and pointed out that a limited franchise bill signifies on a small scale the larger enfranchisement; he said "I insist upon it, this is a democratic Bill." He seemed to be quite confident that it must now be helped into law, and he closed a very eloquent speech with the fine canticle which is so poetic in its simplicity and brevity, "Watchman, what of the night? The night is far spent, the day is at hand." The resolution was carried with immense applause, but before the meeting ended came one of those waves of enthusiastic response to the appeal for funds, which we now recognize as a distinct feature in a W.S.P.U. mass meeting. The big white figures were strung up before the audience, starting at £68,560, and then we watched the figures change and change as one person after another sent up some generous promise of help. Mrs. H. Ayrton led off with £1,000, and Mr. Pethick Lawrence, jumping to his feet, said: "Mrs. Pankhurst, I think this no time for small things," and immediately added another £1,000. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence then took charge of affairs, and fast as she could read the incoming promises of money, so fast were more and more piles of cards placed in her hand for announcement. The figures changed and changed, and crept on to £70,500, finally reaching £73,700, a contribution of over £5,000 at this one meeting. The enthusiasm was very catching, and though by this time the hour was late and a great many of the processionists had to leave to catch their trains home, it was still quite a large audience that in the end passed out into the June night and the cool darkness at an hour that was fast approaching the limits of the day.

AGNES EVANS.

The Procession and the Crowd in Trafalgar Square.

An hour before the procession was to start, people began to take up their stand in Trafalgar Square, and when just after half-past six the first band was heard approaching, the crowd was so dense that it was with difficulty that the police kept a narrow lane for the Suffragists, and certainly not one person in the Square really saw the procession; even the more favoured spectators in the windows and balconies could only see the banners and the tips of the prisoners' silver arrows

and now and then a branch of lilac. The procession took exactly an hour and a half to pass, and the crowd waited quietly and good-naturedly, for the most part in silence. The prisoners were received in silence, and many men raised their hats again and again, especially to the mottoes on some of the banners. "Taxation without representation is tyranny" was greeted thus. There was little or no advice tendered to the Suffragists to "Go home and do the washing" (or "Mind the baby," or "darn your stockings"), and though, of course, no London crowd ever loses an opportunity of joking and chaffing, yet the old vulgar remarks, "I am't seen a good-looking one yet!" or "You'd be all right if you'd only give up the drink!" were not heard. Many foreigners were in the crowd, and many strangers from the country, genuinely interested, knowing something about the principal societies, too. Purple, white, and green they knew, and yellow, white, and green, too. Also the Irish, who had the ovation of the evening, and many a Celtic welcome was shouted to them. But what was the meaning of white and yellow? Or pink and green? The crowd was very curious about them all, and very good-natured and deeply interested.

The Banners and Emblems.

Everybody agrees in praising the prettiness and effectiveness of the banners and flowers, the emblems and devices which were carried. Many banners were carried that had done service before, others were new and topical. Among those reported were the devices, "Better do it than wish it done," "Fortune favours the brave," "Play up and play the game," "Behold! Spring comes, though we must pass who made the promise of its birth," "Thoughts have gone forth whose powers can sleep no more," "Conquer we shall, but we must first contend, 'Tis not the fight that crowns us but the end," "The Bill, the whole Bill, and the Bill now." There was an excellent description of the procession in "The Times" of June 20.

Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

We are greatly encouraged by the way in which our work is spreading in every direction, and our new organizing secretary has been invited to many places to interest Conservative women and to start branches. New branches have recently been formed: Streatham, Brixton and Clapham, hon. sec., Miss Honey, 5, Brixton Hill; Crystal Palace, hon. sec., Miss Marshall, Mohamrah, Beulah Hill; Croydon, hon. sec., Miss Amy Miller, 61, Chatsworth Road; Woking, the Lady Betty Balfour, Fisher's Hill; Oxford, hon. sec., Mrs. Philip Graham, 21, Norham Road; Warwick and Leamington, hon. sec. pro tem., Miss Wightwick, 16, Clarendon Square, Leamington.

We trust everyone who has friends of our political party in these districts will ask them to communicate with our hon. secretaries who are working vigorously at organizing their districts. Our Edinburgh branch has opened an office at Windsor Buildings, 100, Princes Street, which we hope will prove a most useful centre for propaganda work in Scotland. Our London meetings are crowded, and new members are joining daily.

The Suffrage Study Class for speakers and writers is proving a great success. We ask our opponents to be present, and this has been the means of winning over important converts. These classes will be resumed in the autumn.

Our annual reception will take place on Friday, July 1st, 3-30 to 5-30 p.m., at the Wharnclyffe Rooms, on which occasion Lady Willoughby de Eresby will be the hostess, and Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., will be one of the speakers.

The Countess of Selborne has kindly consented to be the president of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association in succession to the Lady Knightley of Fawsley, who has been obliged to resign owing to the great increase of her work in connection with women's emigration. Lady Knightley retains her interest in and connection with the Association by becoming a vice-president.

Women's Tax Resistance League.

A very successful drawing-room meeting was held on Monday evening, June 13, at Montague Square, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Skipwith. Mrs. Carl Meyer, who presided, made an excellent speech, and concluded by relating how she had been able to deal diplomatically with the Income Tax Commissioners, notwithstanding the fact that she was, from Mr. Bernard Shaw's point of view, amongst "the merely married." Miss Abadam was the principal speaker, and made an eloquent and earnest appeal to women taxpayers to refuse any longer to have their money spent for them by "the irresponsible voter" in ways of which they so often entirely disapprove, as, for instance, the South African war. Speeches were also made by Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mrs. Ayres Purdie, and Mrs. Kineton Parkes, and an excellent discussion followed. Several well-known women related their personal experiences with regard to individual efforts to deal with the injustice of unrepresented taxation; especially amusing and instructive

was that given by Miss Decima Moore of her visit to Somerset House. Miss Adeline Bourne spoke of her sympathy with the objects of the League, and recited, in her finest manner, Mr. Laurence Housman's Prologue, of which every Suffragist is justly proud. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Skipwith, proposed by Mrs. Cecil Chapman, and seconded by Dr. Kate Haslam.

All tax-paying women who desire further information about the work of this Society are invited to communicate with the secretary, Mrs. Kineton Parkes, 52, Craven House, Kingsway.

West of Scotland Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

At a meeting of the executive, held on June 13, it was decided to forward the following resolution to members of the Cabinet and to local members of Parliament:—

"The West of Scotland Men's League for Women's Suffrage begs to express its cordial approval of the Representation of the People Bill, 1910, and hopes the Government will grant facilities for its immediate insertion on the Statute Book. At the same time, it desires to put on record its conviction that no settlement of the question of Women's Suffrage can be adequate which does not give to women the Parliamentary franchise on the same terms as it is or may be given to men."

Foreign News.

GERMANY.

By a recent Prussian law (August, 1908) the position of women students in the Universities has been officially recognized, and they have received equal rights with the men, except in one particular, which at the time aroused great indignation and protest from the women. It is in the power of the Minister of Education at any time to refuse a woman admittance to certain lectures, in an absolutely arbitrary manner. This prohibition still holds good in spite of the fact that Frau von Hausemann has offered £1,000 for bursaries for women students on condition that they should be admitted on the same terms as men. In Baden, Bavaria, and Württemberg no such clause exists, but the Prussian authorities prefer to deprive women students of often much-needed financial help in order to satisfy a few reactionary professors in cases which might never occur. The money is still at their disposal, but in the meantime other possible donors are discouraged.

FRANCE.

In order to procure the support of the twenty Deputies necessary to ensure the discussion of the Dussaussoy-Buisson Bill, giving municipal votes to women, the feminist group has sent a circular to those Deputies known to favour the Bill. Instead of the bare twenty necessary, 109 signatures have been obtained, a most encouraging circumstance.

Review.

THOUGHTS ON SOME QUESTIONS RELATING TO WOMEN, 1860-1908. By Emily Davies. (Bowes and Bowes. Pp. 228; 3s. 6d. net.)

At this period of the fight for women's enfranchisement it is good for all of us, Suffragists and Anti-Suffragists alike, to remember how long the fight has been going on, and to consider the work of all sorts which the pioneers have done to make our way plain. No one has done more than Miss Emily Davies, whose faith in the power of education has borne good fruit in the younger generations of women, who are now first in the fight for the further liberation of their sex. It is good, then, for us to be able to welcome this collection of some of her admirable essays on many subjects connected with women, and to see the seed being sown whose harvest we now are gathering in.

Education, the opening up of employments suitable to women (especially the profession of medicine), the granting of degrees and diplomas, and the Parliamentary vote,—these are among the reforms which Miss Davies has consistently, with tongue and with pen for the whole of her strenuous and long life, advocated, and we are full of hope that since, in large measure, three of these have been advanced in her day she may yet see in the crowning enfranchisement of women, political enfranchisement, the further reward of her labours.

There is something peculiarly attractive about Miss Davies' austere and yet genial style, played over, as it is, with reticent humour. On no subject is she more apt than on the one which drew from Charlotte Brontë such a cry of agony, "the fretting and pining of the woman whose powers and energies are given no scope." "Men," says Miss Davies, "the most liberal and the most generous, do not know, and never will know, what women are suffering who, to the eye of the world, are very happy." Young ladies are not all so thoughtless as they seem. The injunction to "make themselves happy" in luxurious idleness is as much a mockery to them as to Rasselas and Noyakah in the Happy Valley. She meets the contention that there is always philanthropy with the dry comment: "It would be considered unreasonable to expect

that all men should take Holy Orders, or enrol themselves as town missionaries, and it is equally unreasonable to expect that all women should engage in similar work. Indeed, as a general rule young unmarried women are not the best fitted for the office of counselling their neighbours." Really, when one remembers the advice that Ruskin was giving to young girls it is refreshing to think there was Miss Davies as an antidote.

All the good old arguments brought against giving women the vote were trotted out in the 'sixties against educating them; the irrevocable difference of the sexes; the inferiority of women's intellect; the weakness of their bodies; marriage their only trade; and finally—that they didn't want it! Against all these Miss Davies did doughtily but courteous and witty battle, and her book may be heartily recommended for the further guidance and enlightenment of mothers. We could quote with pleasure at far greater length had we space, but we will conclude with an admirable passage bearing closely on the "present discontents":—

"It is often taken for granted that, though for women who have only themselves to think of, it may be a good thing to have some intellectual resources, for *mothers* there is nothing like good sound ignorance. A stolid indifference to the higher interests of life, complete absorption in petty cares, is supposed to produce a placid, equable, animal state of existence, favourable to the transmission of a healthy constitution to the next generation. We have persuaded ourselves that Englishmen of the present day are such a nervously excitable race, that the only chance for their descendants is to keep the mothers in a state of coma. The fathers, we think, are incurable. Their feverish energy cannot be controlled. We give them up. But there is hope for the future if only mothers can be kept out of the vortex.

"But are we, indeed, so morbidly spiritual and intellectual as this notion assumes? Is it because their minds are overwrought, because they have thrown themselves with too great ardour into literary and scientific pursuits, that men and women display so much eagerness in making and spending money? Is it not, rather, that met heaping up and women squander, as a diversion from an insupportable dulness, incapable of higher pleasures?"

Correspondence.

Correspondents are requested to send their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for any statement made in the correspondence column.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only.

GARDENING AS A HEALTH-CURE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—As a member of the gardening profession, may I be allowed to enter a protest in connection with Dr. Jane Walker's paper on the Industrial Treatment of Tuberculosis, read at the Women's Congress last week?

Dr. Walker is reported as advocating gardening, and more particularly French gardening, to be carried on in connection with market-work by the patients in sanatoria for the treatment of consumption.

One who is not a doctor must not, of course, trespass on medical ground; but I believe I am right in supposing that any great expenditure of physical strength should be carefully guarded against in treating a disease in which the patient is constantly losing tissue.

Now gardening is very hard work indeed; and of all branches French gardening probably puts the greatest strain on physical energy and endurance. Dr. Jane Walker mentions as drawbacks to the success of her idea—(1) costliness of the scheme; (2) difficulty of obtaining a market. I would suggest that if the labour (which Dr. Jane Walker, with unconscious humour, further proposes shall be "graduated") is to be supplied by semi-invalids, financial complications may fairly be anticipated.

Further, I submit that the increased practice of sending to be trained as professional gardeners, not tuberculous sufferers alone, but girls and women who are handicapped with every type of delicacy, in the belief that an outdoor occupation will be their best chance in life, is becoming a menace to the interests of all concerned. The presence of such women at our Horticultural Colleges upsets the balance of work, throws an unfair responsibility on the staff, endangers the health of the patients (I cannot class them otherwise), and brings discredit on our calling. People will very naturally refuse to apply for women-gardeners when it is found that a large proportion are totally unfit to undertake the routine of manual work which forms the chief part of a gardener's life.

This abuse can only be rectified by insisting upon an absolute distinction between the invalid amateur gardener and the intending professional possessed of normal health. By all means let the former play at gardening in her own home, or practise it in a special school or sanatorium, where a man can be found for the enviable post of assistant (1), to wheel barrows, trench heavy ground, cut hedges, weed crops in hot weather, and so on, and where the patient can stop work as soon as fatigue or any other adverse condition pre-

vails. But need I point out that such a state of things is only possible where it is not proposed to run a garden for profit?

One other point should be mentioned in this connection—namely, that gardening seems usually to be regarded as a cure for all ills; and, as a consequence, victims of melancholia, the neurasthenic and hysterical, the inebriate—in a word, the mentally and morally unsound,—are foisted upon us. Whether gardening may be good for these unfortunate people I am, of course, unqualified to judge; though I certainly have known the element of monotonous drudgery in gardening to prove a stumbling-block to hysterical and melancholy people, through their inability to stick to one kind of work. But the injustice, as in the case of physical incapacity, lies in discounting the status both of the normal worker and of the work itself, as if gardening were only a proper occupation for the feeble-minded, instead of one which makes the greatest demands upon the intelligence and resource of its followers.

In urging these considerations I do not wish to criticise any individual college or sanatorium, but merely to protest against an unsound principle. In so doing I believe that I shall have the support not only of professional gardeners of both sexes, but also of women who have proved this method of treating their health to be a failure. In the interests of both classes may I not appeal to the medical profession for a more thorough inquiry into facts and conditions before they advocate the profession of gardening as a health-cure?—Yours,

HELEN COLT.

4, Priory Court, West Hampstead, N.W.

HOW WOMEN ARE TREATED IN INDIA.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Will you kindly publish the following upon the article which appeared in your issue of June 2 entitled "How Women are Treated in India," because it gives an entirely one-sided, and at times unfair, picture of Indian women.

The writer of the article, Miss Olive Chandler, begins with the exaggerated statement, "chivalry in India is unknown," and follows this up with a lurid account of the condition of women in India. It will be only fair to present the other side of the picture. Every point made by Miss Chandler may be true of certain cases, but it is unjust to try and present it as true of the whole. It is as though one would say of Christian treatment of women: "Men beat their wives, force them to earn the family bread, and at the same time expect them to bear innumerable children. Christian men also demand that their wives shall earn the money they drink away in public houses. Christian women are drudges, ground down in poverty and misery. They cruelly neglect their babies, so that infant mortality is terrible. Girls are betrayed, and then are allowed to roam the streets, shameless, stricken women, a desperate menace to moral healthiness." All these things, and more, are true of any Christian country, but, happily, they are *not* true of the whole.

But to return to the article. "Abject submission" is not demanded of Hindu women. It is the man who, as a rule, gives submission in the home life. There the Hindu woman rules supreme, and often directs the whole of the communal policy from behind the "purdah." "Heathen" religions do not exist in India, save, perhaps, where some primitive idol-worshipping tribe is indicated. It is no disgrace for a Hindu woman to walk behind her husband any more than it is a disgrace for the Western gentleman to walk behind his wife. The Hindu woman does reverence her husband, generally speaking, and her way of showing it is a courteous refusal to use his name. She does eat with him, except at certain times, and has fresh food. Manu did perhaps make a law that the Hindu woman should make no decisions for herself; as a matter of fact, she *does* make them for herself, and for her husband and family, too. Women do not stand in the presence of men in society—that would be rude; they are not ignored, and give their opinion freely when they are old enough to have any. At home they are the domestic queens—clever, capable, and tactful.

The Hindus crown their women with the poetry of grace and beauty. Except in poor and degraded families girls are never sold to the priests. Many girls are married in childhood—*i.e.*, irrevocably betrothed. A marriage is scarcely ever arranged unless the horoscopes of both boy and girl agree, and promise a fair amount of harmony and happiness. Todas are not Hindus. The child-wife comes to the husband's home, and is generally his happy playmate for years. She is happy, gently cared for, the chum of the other girls of the household, and grows up a part of the family. The husband may be forced sometimes to take his cue from the elderly women, who may be spiteful and bad-tempered. The Hindu women seem rarely to suffer keenly one way or another, but live simple, sociable lives, carefully avoiding giving offence to any member of the complex family circle. The girl's home is not closed to her after marriage; she is expected to make long visits to her parents. How many stories one could tell of beautiful, cheerful homes and gracious women ordering them wisely and well! Much has been written of the tortured widows, and yet how rare to come across a genuine case outside the range of hearsay! All Hindu widows do not cut off their hair, and their attire is snowy white muslin. Great numbers of Hindus,

men and women, fast twice a month as a religious duty. One meal a day is not a punishment. Many elderly widows go on severely with their task of ruling the house. Sometimes they become pilgrims or retire into semi-asceticism voluntarily. Mahatta women move about freely, unveiled; the women of the working classes are quite free. Girls are only secluded at marriage. Crime is as rare in the seclusion of the rich Indian home as in the rich Christian home. Only Kashmiri women of high caste are quite idle; most women are busy housekeepers. They read with great delight their own marvellous Epics, some reading aloud while the others sew or spin. They are fully awake to their own social organisation, and pay duty visits and entertain, just as Western women do. Hindu women live fairly healthy lives, though they do not take violent exercise. Where are the Hindu women penned in dark, ugly rooms? No Hindu honours the temple women and the dancing girls unless they deserve it! What a pity to give such impressions of India as Miss Chandler has done! One cannot help feeling astounded that these miserable pictures of Indian life should be allowed to go unchallenged. Perhaps it has been Miss Chandler's fate to see only the unhappy side she describes, and she has had no touch with the other—the beautiful, happy side. The respect of Indian men is not begrudged by such distorted pictures of their life. Between the saint and the sinner lies a vast range of human character, and India shares the vastness of that range equally with any other country, but it is just possible that, like the rest, her balance is heavier on the side of the good and the true.—Yours,

JOSEPHINE RANSOM.

Theosophical Training Centre, Harrogate

HOW INDIAN WOMEN ARE TREATED.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I feel sure that most people who have first-hand acquaintance with India, other than the mere tourists, will uphold every word Miss Chandler said in her article on "The Women of India." Her critics to some extent support their arguments as to the more hopeful situation of women by quoting the Code of Manu. Now the Code of Manu may be as old as the thirteenth century B.C. Could the position of English women to-day be gauged accurately by the prehistoric Germanic ancestors thirty centuries ago? The literature of India, unlike that of other countries, shows a downward tendency in its respect for women. The Mahabharata described the wife as "half the man, his truest friend," and "his best aid in seeking heavenly bliss." The Code of Manu, a few centuries later, is in some ways respectful to women, but there is a distinct falling away from the chivalry of earlier writings. It says, for instance: "No sacrifice is allowed to women apart from their husbands, no religious rite, no fasting; as far only as a wife honours her lord, so far is she exalted in heaven."

At the present day there are 330 million deities in the Hindu Pantheon, and the original religious teaching of the race has naturally become obscured. It is more to the point to-day to know what modern natives have to say about the position of women. I quote the words of an old widow woman: "I never prayed to them" (i.e., Hindu gods), she said, "that was for the men; for I was told a woman had no more to do with religion than a dog." What a dog, or a "pariah," means in India, you have to go to India to know. The Koran teaches that women have souls, but it is on record that the Khedive Tewfik said to Sir Edward Malet, "Our religion prevents us from having any fear of death, but it is different with our women. To them life is everything—their existence ends here."

One writer remarks upon the favourable position of women under Indian law. As a matter of fact, according to a very ancient law, a wife was allowed to inherit all her husband's property. The result of this seems to have been the invention of a religious custom known as "suttee." This method of evading a law unfavourable to male relatives is distinctly

ingenious, and shows the utter uselessness of legislation which is not upheld by religion.

It is said that Indian women are well treated by their sons! Surely the son that can allow his widowed mother one meal a day, and not always that, and can permit her to be deprived of most of things that make life dear, can hardly be held up as a pattern of filial devotion. And it must be remembered that this is not the exception, but the rule.

As for polygamy not being usual in India, the reason is obvious. Girl babies are neglected and die, and are often deliberately done away with, so that there are hardly enough women to allow of every man being married at all. Moreover, marriage costs money, and the majority of men could not afford more than one wife. There is no prevalent feeling against polygamy except amongst the most enlightened. As late as '97 there was actually a case of fourteen girls of the same family being married at the same time to a Kulin Brahmin.

The misfortune of early marriage is not altogether appreciated thoroughly. It has been said by a doctor of thirty years' experience that 25 per cent. of Indian women die prematurely through early marriage, and 25 per cent. more are ruined in health by it.—Yours, S. F. WARING.

Mrs. Herringham writes:—Dr. A. K. Coomaraswamy is a man who, though not taking any part in English politics, holds very sympathetic views about women. He perhaps rather leans to the Indian ideal of the sanctity of women, for it is really the exaggeration of this which has brought about purdah, among other causes. He is a descendant of the old Royal Family of Ceylon, and of an English mother, and has an English wife. He is just appointed to the directorship of the Indian Art Section of the big Allahabad Exhibition this autumn. He has published among other things an important work on the old art of Ceylon.

ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS AND DEBATES.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—As one who has taken part in very many Suffrage debates, may I protest against the statement of Mrs. Colquhoun that it is impossible to secure courtesy and impartiality at debates arranged by Suffragists. I have been to scores of debates where there has been the greatest courtesy and politeness on both sides; I have been to others where the feelings of Suffragists ran away with them, but these have been more than equalled by others where the feelings of Anti-Suffragists have run away with them. I have known Suffrage speakers interrupted by their actual opponent on the platform; I have known Anti-Suffrage speakers who were allowed a quarter of an hour to sum up, when there had been a distinct understanding that only five minutes was available. I have known chairmen who have been strictness itself in limiting the time of Suffragists, but who have not cut short the perorations of the other side. I do not suppose it would have entered the head of a Suffragist to complain of these things. We know perfectly well that the Anti-Suffrage Society would deplore them, as we do, but both Suffragists and Anti-Suffragists alike are human. Audiences and chairmen, and anyone entering on a debate must be prepared to take the fortunes of war with good temper, or else keep out altogether. Discourtesy always tells in the end against those who show it, and we would be poor stuff indeed if we could not bear a few hisses for the sake of upholding our opinions.—Yours, E. M. GARDNER.

Miss May Huyshe Walkey, L.R.A.M., writes protesting against the ignorant statement made at the debate held on June 3rd at the Criterion Restaurant, by a lady in the hall, who said that "women had studied as doctors, but only followed on the lines set by men, and that the most they had ever done was to compose a harmless syrup." Miss Walkey suggests that this lady should visit the New Hospital for Women and witness the skilful treatment by women like Dr. Amy Sheppard, one of the most clever of operators.

PENSION-ASSURANCES FOR WOMEN.

EDUCATED WOMEN

who are enjoying independence and comfort during the active years of life **SHOULD PROVIDE FOR THEIR OLD AGE.** This may be done by means of a policy securing **AN ANNUITY TO COMMENCE AT AGE 55 OR A LUMP SUM AT THAT AGE.** The scheme also makes provision for the contingencies of death or marriage.

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Reports of Societies within the 'National Union.

Secretaries would simplify the work by sending in notices of FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, endorsed with those words, with time, place, and speakers legibly written, on one side of the paper only, and on a sheet of paper separate from other matter.

BIRMINGHAM.

We have been very much pleased with the response to our appeal for letters to be sent to Members of Parliament. There is no doubt that they have been well bombarded, for one of them told one of our supporters that it was a long time since he had had so many letters about any Bill. Our supporters have been of all parties, and there is no doubt that popular feeling is strongly for the Bill. Several encouraging replies have been received by individuals from members of the House. We are doing all we can to continue this work up to the 23rd. We have had a leaflet printed explaining the Bill and urging electors to help.

BIRMINGHAM—ERDINGTON. An excellent outdoor meeting was held on June 15th at Six Ways, by the kindness of Mr. Rymond, who allowed the Society to use his field. A large crowd gathered together and listened for over an hour in spite of a piercing east wind. At the end, a gentleman who stated that he was the president of the local Unionist Association and knew the Member personally, promised to write to Mr. Newdegate, and urged all the other electors present to do the same. Besides that, he has since secured for us the use of another field in a different part of Erdington, and has promised to see that all our handbills are distributed for our meeting without any expense to us. BIRMINGHAM—STREETLY. A garden meeting in support of the Bill was held at Mrs. Butcher's, Ashurst, on June 15th, Dr. Dickie, J.P., in the chair. Mrs. J. K. Reid spoke and explained the Bill. A resolution asking for facilities was unanimously carried, and two new members and a donation were obtained.

BOURNEMOUTH. Over one hundred members and friends attended the weekly At Home on Tuesday, June 14th. After a pleasant hour spent in eagerly discussing the present hopeful state of affairs and in partaking of tea, Mrs. Holmes, of the Freedom League, gave an address on the Conciliation Committee's Bill, which was listened to with the greatest attention. Her recitation of one of Olive Schreiner's appropriate "Dreams" was thrilling. At the close of the meeting a telegram was received saying the Conciliation Bill had passed the first reading. The collection, as usual, covered the expenses.

BRIGITON. A crowded meeting in support of the non-party Bill was held in the Howe Town Hall on June 15th, under the auspices of the Brighton Women's Franchise Society. The following resolution: "That this meeting begs the Government to give facilities for the passing into law, as a non-party compromise for the enfranchisement of women, of 'The Representation of the People Bill (1910),' the first reading of which was carried in the House of Commons yesterday"—was moved by Miss Frances Sterling, who made a powerful appeal for all supporters to show Mr. Asquith incontrovertibly that the nation wanted this Bill. Miss Barbara Duncan, who seconded the resolution, said that this Bill was not what most of us had demanded; but, on the other hand, it was calculated to meet the objections raised by Liberals, Unionists, and Labour members respectively. She expressed regret that the University women, who had been the hardest fighters for the vote and who would be best fitted to use it wisely, were not to be enfranchised; and also pointed out the strange anomaly that a brother and sister living in the same house might qualify as joint occupiers, whilst husband and wife might not. Dr. Leonard Parry was in the chair. The motion was carried, only one dissentient hand being raised.

Besides the above, two successful garden meetings have been held—one at Southwick, by the invitation of Mr. Cummins and Mrs. Dunlop; and one, by the kind permission of Mrs. Husey-Hunt, in Hove. Miss Frances Sterling and Miss Barbara Duncan were the speakers at both meetings. CAMBERLEY AND DISTRICT. Owing to shortage of funds it was impossible for us to organise another large public meeting in support of the Conciliation Bill; but we decided to hasten our annual general meeting of members and to hold after it a garden meeting, at which Miss Barbara Duncan, organiser of the Surrey, Sussex, and Hants. Federation, should give an address on the new Bill. This meeting was held at Portesbury Hill, Camberley, on June 15th, and was not confined to members. A non-member, Mr. E. T. Close, LL.B., very kindly took the chair at a few hours' notice. Miss Duncan impressed her audience most favourably by her lucid explanation of the various points in connection with the Bill. The resolution in support of the Bill was carried nem. con., and duly forwarded to the Prime Minister and the Member for N.W. Surrey.

We have joined with the other constitutional societies in the division in collecting signatures to a letter to the Member urging him to vote for the Bill. CARDIFF AND DISTRICT. A meeting of members and friends was held on Monday, the 13th inst., when Miss Barke, M.A., gave a very clear account of the scope of the Suffrage Bill now before the House. The following resolution was passed, with one dissentient:—"That this meeting urgently begs the Government to give facilities for the passing into law of 'The Representation of the People Bill (1910),' to be introduced by Mr. Shackleton on the 14th inst., believing it to be, as a non-party compromise for the enfranchisement of women, a step towards the solution of this difficult question."

Deputation waited on the Member for Cardiff, Mr. D. A. Thomas, and the Member for South Glamorgan, Mr. Brace. Both these members promised to use their influence to secure the proper debating of the Bill and to give it their hearty support. CHELTENHAM.

The Cheltenham Society took part in the London procession on June 18th. We are hoping to arrange a meeting in support of

Mr. Shackleton's Bill, and are also intending to have a garden party next month. COLWYN BAY.

On Saturday afternoon, June 18th, by the kind invitation of Miss E. W. Hall, the members and friends of the Colwyn Bay branch held a meeting in the Swedish Gymnasium, Prince's Drive, in support of the Women's Suffrage Bill. Dr. Lilian Blake took the chair, and the principal speaker was Dr. Guest, the secretary of the Llandudno branch. A resolution praying the Government to grant facilities for the passage of the Bill was passed unanimously; copies of the resolution being subsequently forwarded to Mr. Asquith and to Sir Herbert Roberts. DERBY.

The Derby Society has been able to get the two following Associations to pass a resolution in support of the Conciliation Bill—the British Women's Temperance Association and the Liberal Women's Federation. A members' meeting, at which the resolution was passed unanimously, has also been held. The Women's Co-operative Guild was also approached by Mrs. Worthington, but, owing to the fact that it is largely composed of Adult Suffragists, the resolution was not passed by that body. Several other bodies are being approached. FILEY.

Two meetings in support of "The Representation of the People Bill (1910)," were held on the sands on Friday evening, June 17th, and Saturday morning, June 18th. Mr. John Simpson was the speaker at both meetings, the latter of which was very poorly attended, but at both the resolution in support of the Bill was carried. Copies of the resolution have been forwarded to Mr. Asquith and to Sir Luke White, the Member for Buckrose. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Simpson for his splendid efforts on our behalf, and hope that on his next visit to Filey he may have a larger audience. GLOUCESTER.

In response to Mrs. Fawcett's urgent letter to the Societies in the Union, the Committee of the Gloucester Women's Suffrage Society at once met, and decided to hold a meeting of members and others on Monday, June 15th. This was well attended, and a resolution was carried unanimously urging Mr. Asquith to grant facilities for the second reading of the Representation of the People Bill (1910). Copies of this were forwarded at once to the Prime Minister and to the City member. Many letters were sent to influential electors in Gloucester and the neighbourhood, urging them to sign enclosed copies of letters to Mr. Asquith and the City member. The Mayor of the City and the Lord Bishop of Gloucester have both written to Mr. Asquith. GUILDFORD.

A special meeting of our Committee was held on June 6th. A resolution in support of the Conciliation Bill was passed and forwarded to the Prime Minister. It was also agreed that a public meeting should be arranged as soon as possible. This was held in the Constitutional Hall on June 15th. Lady Betty Balfour was in the chair, and Miss Margery Corbett was the principal speaker. Miss Milton also came from Farnham to help us, and spoke in support of the resolution. Our members had worked hard. Some had typed handbills for the meeting, and others had distributed them among the men who signed the petition, so that, in spite of the short notice, the hall was fairly well filled. Miss Corbett gave an excellent speech, and the resolution was carried unanimously, though several of the audience had come as Anti-Suffragists. One can only suppose that the sound logic of the Chairman and the two speakers had converted them, for they certainly did not vote against the resolution. HUDDERSFIELD.

The annual meeting was held on Saturday afternoon, June 18th, in the Parish Room, Honley. Miss Seddon presided over a crowded meeting. The General Council's report stated that much active work had been done by the Society during the year. The financial accounts showed a small balance in hand. The Council asked for £50 in order to do effective work during the coming year. Miss Siddon was re-elected president. Miss Fielding, of London, gave an address. She explained Mr. Shackleton's Bill, and described it as a wonderful advance. A resolution in support of the Bill was carried. After the meeting, Miss Siddon held a garden party for members at her house. KESWICK.

A successful public meeting was held on Monday evening in the Pavilion to advocate the Conciliation Bill which was introduced in the House of Commons on Tuesday by Mr. Shackleton. The platform was entirely masculine and non-party, and the resolutions were carried without a single hand being raised against them, though the meeting had been widely advertised, and admission was without ticket. The chair was taken by Mr. Broton, a member of our Committee, who was supported on the platform by Mr. Anthony Wilson, C.C., Dr. Withers, Mr. Frank Marshall, J.P., Rev. W. Taylor Heard, Rev. A. Bell, Mr. G. Watson, U.D.C., and Mr. H. T. Pape. Mr. Anthony Wilson proposed, the Rev. W. Taylor Heard seconded, and the Rev. A. Bell supported, the following resolution: "That this meeting urgently begs the Government to give facilities for the passing into law of 'The Representation of the People Bill (1910),' to be introduced by Mr. Shackleton on the 14th inst., believing it to be, as a non-party compromise for the Enfranchisement of Women, the best solution of this difficult question."

Dr. Withers moved, Mr. G. Watson seconded, and Mr. Frank Marshall supported, the following resolution: "That this meeting authorizes the Chairman to sign on its behalf a petition to Parliament in the following terms:—

"To the Right Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.
That the inhabitants of Keswick, in public meeting assembled, would cordially welcome the Extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to Women Householders and Occupiers, and do urgently beg that your Honourable House will pass 'The Representation of the People Bill (1910),' as a measure of justice already too long delayed."
"And your petitioners will ever pray, etc."

Both resolutions were carried unanimously. Copies of both resolutions were also sent to the four party leaders. The petition was sent to Sir J. Randles, M.P., to present.

LEEDS. Miss Fielden seems likely to be kept busy organizing meetings throughout June and July. On the afternoon of June 6th Miss

Fielden spoke to the Mothers' Union, Trinity Wesleyan Chapel, Roundhay. In the evening she addressed the British Women's Temperance meeting at Holdforth. On June 7th Miss Fielden spoke to the teaching staff of Thorsby High School, with the result that letters signed by the staff were sent to Mr. Asquith, begging him to grant facilities for the discussion of the Bill. On June 8th a successful drawing-room meeting was given at Chapel Allerton by Miss Foss. Miss Fielden was the speaker. The resolution was proposed and carried. Several people joined the Society at this meeting.

On Thursday morning, June 9th, two circular letters were drafted—one to Mr. Asquith, and the other to Members of Parliament. By afternoon 500 copies lay on the table at the Leeds Institute, when Miss Fielden spoke on "Our Future Work." The letters were divided amongst the audience, who promised to get them signed. At the meeting on Saturday evening, in Potternewton Park, we had the help of Mrs. Eary, of Rotherham. At a meeting on Sunday at New Wortley Recreation Ground, Miss Foster took the chair, and Miss Ford and Miss Fielden were the speakers. Leeds sends up a resolution in support of the Bill each day, and hopes to post before June 14th at least 1,500, if not 2,000, letters urging Mr. Asquith or the M.P.s to help forward the Bill.

On Monday, the 13th inst., we held an excellent meeting from the Queen Victoria Statue, in front of the Town Hall. Miss Foster and Miss Fielden were the speakers, supported by a band of members of the Leeds Society. The audience listened attentively, and at the end our resolution was carried, with no dissentient. A great many letters were sent up to Mr. Asquith from this meeting. The following Thursday our members met at the Leeds Institute. Mrs. Parrish took the chair, and Miss Fielden spoke on "The Story of the Women's Movement," and on Friday evening she had an opportunity of an informal talk to the nurses at the Women's Hospital after they came off duty.

LIVERPOOL.

This week has been devoted by our Society to organising the large Demonstration that was held outside St. George's Hall on the evening of June 18th, and also to obtaining signatures for a memorial that is being signed by city councillors, teachers, doctors, Poor Law Guardians, and nurses, earnestly begging the Government to give facilities for the passing of the Bill into law this session. On Saturday afternoon, in order to advertise the Demonstration, a motor procession was organised. Motors were lent by Liberals, Conservatives, the Independent Labour Party, and Suffragists, and were decorated in their respective colours. They created a great impression as they drove round the town. The Demonstration itself was a great success. The Liverpool, Birkenhead, and Wallasey Suffrage Societies, Conservative and Unionist Women's Suffrage Society, the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, the British Women's Temperance Association, the University Women's Federation, Liverpool University Suffrage Society, the Women's Liberal Association, and the Independent Labour Party, all sent representatives, with their banners, and marched in procession, with the speakers and supporters, to the three platforms that had been arranged on St. George's Hall plateau. Mr. Max Muspratt, M.P., one of the members of the

Conciliation Committee, spoke on the political platform; and also Mrs. Stewart-Brown, Miss Leadley-Brown, and Mr. Lias. The speakers on the other platforms were Mrs. Allan Bright, Miss Rathbone, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Hugh Rathbone, Rev. H. D. Roberts, Rev. Mathieson Forson, Mr. Crawford, and Mr. Allerton. Large crowds surrounded each platform, great interest was displayed in all the speeches, and the resolution was carried practically unanimously by all three audiences. Large numbers of political leaflets were given away, and many "Common Causes" sold.

LONDON—CLAPHAM.

On Wednesday, June 15th, a public meeting was held in St. Peter's Hall, Clapham. The Rev. Noel Tower, M.A., of St. Peter's, Clapham, kindly took the chair, and the speakers were Mrs. Rackham, Miss Palliser, and Mrs. McRae. There were about one hundred people present, and the resolution asking Mr. Asquith to give facilities for the Women Suffrage Bill was carried unanimously.

LONDON—EALING AND ACTON.

The last course of speakers' classes organized by Miss Hughes having proved so successful, a second course is now in progress, and proving very helpful to Suffragists who may be called upon to perform platform duties. Technicalities as to voice-production and gesture, introductory speeches from the chair, etc., are dealt with, and the classes, held by kind permission of Committee members at their different houses, have proved a very wise experiment.

We are hoping to hold a successful open-air meeting at 8 p.m. on June 27th on Haven Green, near the Ealing Broadway District Railway, at which Miss Cicely Corbett has kindly promised to speak, and Mr. Kennedy to take the chair.

A rummage sale will take place at 5.30 in the Alexandra Hall, West Ealing, on Saturday, July 2nd. A cart will call at any local address on Friday, July 1st, and contributions may be sent by Carter Paterson to the hall on that day, or to either of the Secretaries.

LONDON—EPSOM.

Our third open-air meeting was held on Monday evening, June 13th. Mrs. Rackham and Mr. Kennedy were the speakers, and attracted a most attentive crowd. Mrs. Rackham proposed a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill, which was carried, and forwarded to the Prime Minister. On June 15th a most successful drawing-room meeting was held at the house of Mrs. Eggar. The Rev. Canon Hunter kindly presided, and the Rev. Hugh Chapman, Chaplain of the Chapel Royal Savoy, gave a most impressive address on "The Religious Aspect of the Suffrage Movement." His listeners were all keenly interested, and five new members were enrolled as a result of the meeting.

LONDON—WALWORTH.

On Tuesday, June 14th, a public meeting was held in All Saints' Church Hall, Walworth. Mr. J. A. Dawes, M.P., took the chair, and the speakers were Miss Cicely Corbett, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, Mr. C. Jesson, L.C.C., and the Rev. A. T. Ellis. There was an attendance of about 200, and the following resolution was carried with only two dissentients:—"That this meeting of Walworth residents regards the Conciliation Committee's Bill for the enfranchisement of Women as of great national importance, and expresses the hope that the Government will see their way to give time for its full discussion by the House of Commons."

An open-air meeting was held in East Lane, Walworth, on Thursday, June 16th, when the speaker was Mrs. Rackham.

LONDON—WESTMINSTER.

On June 17th a very successful meeting was held at 224, Ashley Gardens, S.W. Mrs. Jackson having kindly lent her drawing-room. Lady Frances Balfour gave a most interesting address which was listened to with much attention. A long discussion followed, and several of the audience joined the London Society. The following resolution was put and carried unanimously, and the Chairman (Mrs. Jackson) was requested to send it to the Prime Minister, with a covering letter, earnestly begging his favourable consideration of the same:—"That this meeting urgently begs the Government to give facilities for the passing into law of 'The Representation of the People Bill (1910),' introduced by Mr. Shackleton on the 14th inst., believing it to be, as a non-party compromise for the Enfranchisement of Women, the best solution of this important question."

SCOTLAND—ABERNETHY.

Miss Williamson, the Hon. Secretary of the Abernethy Branch, is anxious to raise the membership, and is able to join the National Union and the Scottish Federation. They expect to be able to do this by the middle of July, and then to work up for a big public meeting in October.

EDINBURGH.

Knowing that it would not be possible to pass resolutions at outdoor meetings, owing to the noise of the streets and the constant coming and going of the crowd, the Committee decided to hold a series of meetings at works, and put a resolution in support of the Conciliation Committee's Bill to the employees. On June 13th, Dr. Inglis had a delightful reception from Bertrams, Limited (engineers), who passed the resolution with pleasure. Miss Low, who addressed the men at MacEwen's Brewery, also passed her resolution. During the week meetings were held and resolutions passed at the North British Rubber Works, Waverley Rubber Works, Macvie and Price's Biscuit Works, Cox's Glue Works, Duncan and Flockhart's Chemical Works, and the United Breweries. The original resolutions, signed as a rule by an elector on behalf of the meeting, were forwarded to Mr. Asquith, while copies of the same were sent to the Members of Parliament for the different divisions of Edinburgh.

On Friday, 17th, we had a most interesting paper on "The History of the Suffrage Movement" from Miss Beauchamp, Secretary of the Peebles Society, and an explanation of the Suffrage Bill from Miss C. Scott Moncrieff. At the end of the meeting Mrs. Hallows, President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of India, spoke of the terrible evils of the traffic in womankind in India in connection with the military cantonments, and urged the Suffragists to turn their attention to this matter when working for an equal moral standard for the two sexes. Several of the ladies from the World's Missionary Conference were present.

Nine resolutions from meetings have been dispatched to Mr. Asquith this week, in connection with the new Bill.

GLENFARG.

Mrs. Kirkland, of Fordel House, gave a Suffrage garden party on June 18th. By three o'clock a good number of Suffragists, and a few who have not yet joined any society, were already assembled in the garden. Miss Low, in a short speech, explained the nature of the new Bill, the possibilities of its passing, and what was being done to press the matter forward. Glenfarg is exerting itself to bring its membership up to the necessary twenty before affiliating to the National Union. Perth can now proudly announce that its membership has reached ninety.

GLASGOW.

On Tuesday, June 14th, the chairman and committee were at Home at 58, Renfield Street, to meet Miss Walshe, who was in Glasgow for a few days. There was a good attendance, and Miss Walshe gave a short address, in the course of which she made many suggestions as to how those present could further the sale of "The Common Cause." Miss Walshe also moved the resolution recommended by the Executive of the National Union on "The Representation of the People Bill." This was briefly seconded by the Secretary, who said that the committee had sent the resolution to twenty-five local M.P.s, and had urged them to bring pressure to bear on the Government to grant facilities for the passing of the Bill, and had also urged them to be in their places to vote for it. At the time of speaking several M.P.s had replied, and with one exception all had promised to do what they could. In addition, fifty-one men's political societies have been written to, and many electors and members of the Association have written to M.P.s and to the Prime Minister.

INVERNESS.

In response to the circular from headquarters, the committee of the Inverness Women's Suffrage Society called a meeting of the women householders of Inverness and of the members of the Society. Mrs. Hunter, president of the Society, was in the chair, and explained the provisions of "The Representation of the People Bill." It was unanimously resolved to send resolutions in support of the Bill to the Prime Minister, and to Mr. J. Annan Bryce, member for Inverness. On behalf of the women householders of Inverness, a letter was sent to Mr. Bryce asking him, in the event of his not being able to support the Bill, if he would be willing to absent himself from the debate.

Meetings are being organised in the surrounding districts to get resolutions passed and to rouse interest.

[We regret that, owing to lack of space, it is impossible to publish all reports of Societies sent this week.]

Forthcoming Meetings.

JUNE 23.	Nottingham—Felixstowe, The Park—Garden Fête and Sale.	
	Hon. Mrs. Handforth.	5.0-10.30
London (Bermondsey)—Settlement Lecture Hall—Rev. J. Scott	Lidgett, Miss Palliser.	8.30
Derby—The Friary—Mrs. Boden's Garden Meeting—Mrs. Swanwick.		
New Forest (Hants)—Milton Hall—Annual Meeting—Mrs. Stanbury.		4.30
Wallasey and Wirral—Egremont Promenade—Open-air Meeting—Rev. H. Parkinson.		8.0
North Herts.—Kempston Village Hall—Mrs. Wathen.		7.0
Leeds—The Institute—Miss Fielden.		7.0
JUNE 24.	Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—Rev. C. Scott Moncrieff.	
Bournemouth—Princes' Hall, Grand Hotel—Mrs. Stanbury—Tea.		4.0
London (Willesden)—Garden Party Meeting—Major-General Sir Alfred Turner, K.C.B.		7.0
London (Epsom)—Mrs. Moran's Garden Party—Miss C. Corbett.		8.30
London (S. Kensington)—Mrs. Curteis's At Home—Miss O'Maley.		8.30
London (S. Kensington)—Mrs. Hay Chapman's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Lownds.		4.30
JUNE 25.	London (Ealing)—Rummage Sale.	
Haslemere—Educational Hall—Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P.		8.0
JUNE 27.	London (Windsor)—At Home—Mrs. B. C. S. Everett.	8.0
North Herts.—Buntingford, Foresters' Hall—Miss Gordon.		8.0
Gildersome—Open-air Meeting—Miss Fielden.		7.30
JUNE 28.	London—Queen's Hall—Demonstration in support of Conciliation Bill—Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Mr. Walter McLaren, M.P., Earl of Lytton.	8.0
Leeds—Mrs. Hargrove's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Fielden.		
JUNE 29.	London (Sutton)—Mrs. Knowles's Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Stephens.	3.30
West Bromwich—Miss Gardner, B.A.		8.0
Horsham—Garden Meeting—Mrs. Robie Uniacke.		3.30
London (Kingston)—Open-air Meeting—Miss Ward.		6.0
London (E. Molesey)—Open-air Meeting—Miss Watson.		8.0
JUNE 30.	Wallasey and Wirral—Marine Park, New Brighton—Mrs. A. Bright.	8.0
Bristol—Victoria Rooms, Clifton—At Home to Delegates.		8.0
Norwood—Garden Meeting—Miss Abadam.		3.30
London (Paddington N.)—Paddington Town Hall—Social Gathering—Miss M. Hodge (Australia), Mr. Ed. Smith.		8.0
JULY 1.	Bristol—Victoria Rooms, Clifton—Council Meeting.	10.30
Bristol—Public Meeting—Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Snowden.		8.0
London (St. Pancras)—Mrs. Eve's Drawing-room Meeting—Mr. Cholmeley.		5.0
JULY 2.	Hindhead—Tweenways—Garden Fête—Mr. Forbes Robertson.	3.0
Norwood—Rummage Sale.		
JULY 5.	Leeds—Mrs. Thornton's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Fielden.	



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