

The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
 Societies.

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Notes and Comments.

The Pilgrimage.

The "Pilgrimage" scheme has aroused the enthusiasm of the whole National Union, and the Committee is hard at work on the details. The amount of organisation required will, of course, be enormous, but it will be carried through with the thoroughness and devotion which is characteristic of Suffrage work. The Pilgrims will have in view two great objects of equal importance. First, to reach the public throughout the entire country in a way in which it has never been reached before, holding meetings all along the route, and bearing the message of the Law-abiding Suffragists so that he who runs may read. And, second, to raise such a sum of money as may set free the whole energy and devotion of the Union to work without let or hindrance, and without fear of being crippled by lack of means. Last year we raised over £40,000. This means, at the least, £20,000 for the next six months. It would be unbearable to have any shrinkage. We ought to be growing all the time, and in spite of all the sacrifices of the past, we will. The Pilgrims will gather money in all along the line of march. Every Society will send its quota, and every individual. And when we arrive in London, or in Edinburgh, there will be brought with us, and announced at the great final demonstration, the proof—the incontrovertible proof of figures—that what we have done in the past is nothing to what we propose in the immediate future.

Mr. Asquith's Challenge.

The Prime Minister, on May 6th, called the world to witness that "no Legislature in the world" was so careful of women's interests as that of which he is a member. We could wish he had found time, before making his speech, to read an article published in the *Women's Trade Union Review*, a paper which represents the views of 250,000 organised women-workers. Suffragists are so often assured that "if women would only organise" they could get all they want without votes, that such an indictment—for it is an indictment—as this article contains, on behalf of organised trades-union women, must carry great weight. We have secured permission to reprint it, for we think no answer to Mr. Asquith's challenge could be more apt, and none more conclusive. It is at once a proof that

organisation into unions is not enough for the protection of women, and that the House of Commons can no more be trusted to look after the interests of voteless women than of voteless men.

The Government and the W.S.P.U.

The W.S.P.U. prisoners are now all released on bail, Mrs. Drummond owing to the very serious state of her health. It was wrongly reported in some papers that inquiries are being made by the Government as to the position of Miss Christabel Pankhurst, with a view to extraditing her. There is no doubt that her position is a very serious one, but Suffragists will be more careful even than usual to believe the minimum of what they read in the newspapers. "Failure of a Bomb Outrage" as a description of a parcel in a post-office which did not contain a bomb, is presumably the journalistic sense of humour. It must be so comic to see someone buying a paper for the sake of such a head-line as that! But seriously, with no desire to speak lightly of things which are tragic in their significance, we shall do well to believe nothing that is not proved up to the hilt.

The Publication of the "Suffragette."

It is well to hear that the Government does not, after all, propose to take up the hopeless position of suppressing a paper before it is printed. The assurance is now given that this had never been intended. It is a pity, in that case, that such a false impression was ever allowed to be conveyed, as it certainly was, even to the warmest supporters among the press of the Liberal party. Possibly Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's attitude had something to do with this change of front.

Women and the Universities.

Mr. Butler comments in the *Times* on Prof. Karl Pearson's letter from which we quoted last week, and Prof. Pearson replies with humour that the correspondence he has already received on the subject suggests that Cambridge has a "somewhat disturbed conscience." Mr. Butler's letter shows, indeed, that he has missed the point of the Women's Suffrage agitation. It by no means assumes that men have no reasons for their refusals of equal privileges with women. There is a reason to be offered, we do not doubt, for every difference made by the law or society in their treatment of women and men. What we are now considering is whether the reasons are good enough, and whether the women's reasons for objecting to the different treatment (where they do object) ought not to be weighed too. There are reasons why women should be excluded from Cambridge University, for instance. It is not "merely a policy of negation" which dictates Mr. Butler's attitude. But there are also reasons why they should be admitted, and we think it as well that "good reasons should perforce give way to better." Which are the "better" remains untried, so long as one side has power and the other none.

Women Architects.

The *Daily Telegraph* publishes an interview with Miss Annie Hall, a member of the Society of Architects—the only woman

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The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

The Faith that is in Us.

The National Union, with the co-operation of the London Society, held a meeting in Hyde Park last Sunday afternoon. In deciding to take this step, the Executive Committee will have had behind them the approval of every member of the Union. It was indeed time that such a meeting should be held, and that law-abiding Suffragists should claim the right, so seriously imperilled by recent events, to the protection of the law for all engaged in lawful and peaceable methods of agitation.

It was peculiarly the duty and the right of law-abiding Suffragists to do this, for in the case of meetings held by militants, the issue before the country was not a straight one. It is, of course, an axiom of the law that the police are bound to protect even convicted criminals from the hands of the mob and the horrors of lynch-law. Nothing can excuse the neglect of the police or of those who direct them, to give protection where protection was needed, and no Suffragist, however opposed to militancy, will have anything but disgust at the freedom that has been given to the hooligans of London and elsewhere to indulge in the brutalities and indecencies which have recently become a weekly event. Nevertheless, it is right that all law-abiding societies should claim the right of public meeting, because they alone can put a straight issue before the public. When the protection of the law is claimed for meetings at which those present are urged to break the law, and the right of free speech insisted on by those who have made a deliberate policy of denying it to other people, the confusion of the public mind as to the issue really before them may be forgiven. But, for this reason, it becomes all the more the duty of all law-abiding Suffragists to make that issue clear at any cost to themselves; and pre-eminently it was the duty of the National Union, as the oldest and largest of all.

On the whole, the response to our appeal was good. The police were quite able to protect the meeting, and for about thirty minutes a meeting was held, and speeches were made and listened to. No doubt the large banner, "Law-abiding Suffragists," was a help, but the Men's League meeting went off well too, though at the Teachers' Association meeting, even the presence of Miss Margaret McMillan, to whom the debt of the poor of this country is so large, failed to secure a hearing for the speakers. The meetings will continue to be held till order is enforced, though there may quite possibly be a degree of risk in holding them.

If that is so, there will be many volunteers for this duty. We believe the spirits of all Suffragists will rise in the presence of danger. There are so many among us to whom there seems no more desirable thing in the world than to suffer where no provocation has been given, and our danger is not of our own making. Such suffering is victorious. It is a witness of the faith that is in us. It proves to the world that we are ready to suffer everything for our belief, while at the same time it forces attention towards, and not away from the thing we suffer for. This, again, is peculiarly the task of the National Union—to keep before the country a straight issue, not only on meetings in Hyde Park, but on the Suffrage movement itself. To provoke outrage by attack is fatal as an argument, for it diverts attention from the thing demanded to the methods of those who demand. But to meet attack, unprovoked, in the course of one's work, to meet it without flinching and without revenge; above all, to oppose the attack of violence with reason and "the sword of the spirit"—this gives no opening for discussion about methods; it leaves us free to put the case for Women's Suffrage before a re-awakened public. This is, after all, all we need.

member—which will be interesting to more than those women who wish to take up architecture professionally. The extraordinary inconvenience of most houses, from the housekeeper's point of view, has created work for women long enough. It is high time that some improvement was made, and it is obvious that it must come from women architects. Men cannot be expected to know what helps the work of a house, because they have never done the work, and a smoking-room seems to them, out of all comparison, more important than a scullery. We once stayed in a house designed by the woman who lived in it, and the degree to which labour-saving was carried—and combined with comfort—was a revelation in commonsense. Of course, prejudice will continue to make the path of the woman-architect thorny at first, and, on the one hand, the Architectural Association still closes its doors to them; while, on the other, mysterious hints are heard as to the "physical capacity" of women to do the work. Apparently, this refers to the climbing of ladders! If there is one thing which we trust the "widening world for women" will soon take as an axiom, it is that one's clothes should be suited to one's work, and not one's work to one's clothes. Mrs. Spencer, whom N.U. members will remember as Miss McClelland of our literature department, recently gave a most interesting lecture on "Architecture as a Profession for Women," in which she aroused hopes of more intelligent housing in the future.

The Value of Election Promises.

The unfortunate man who imagined that the promise of a candidate for Parliament could be enforced like a legal contract, and brought a "test" case to prove it, has merely succeeded in proving that no contract exists at all. Suffragists could have prophesied the issue with some certainty! It appears, however, that the Judge did not state that no action could ever be taken against a breaker of election promises and the Manchester Guardian is of opinion that such a case might conceivably arise. Meanwhile, the question raises once more the old dispute as to whether a man elected to Parliament goes there as a delegate or a representative of those who sent him. British tradition is all on the side of representation, but the tendency now is growing stronger the other way. There is much to be said on both sides, but the strongest argument in favour of the older tradition lies in the type of man who is likely to go into politics as a representative, but not as a delegate. Men of any independence of character and judgment will not consent to become mere registers of their constituents' opinion.

A Notable Victory.

For the first time in the history of the Union at Oxford, Women's Suffrage has carried the day. After a brilliant debate, in which Mr. L. F. Urwick (New College) and Mr. R. H. Macmillan (Balliol) spoke on the Suffrage side, and Mr. P. R. S. Nichols (Balliol) and Mr. A. P. Herbert (New College) against, the House listened to their distinguished guest, Mr. Israel Zangwill. The speaking was excellent, and the resolution was carried, after debate, by 199 to 190—a narrow majority, but showing a significant change in the attitude of young Oxford. At the Women's Colleges, it is hardly necessary to say, opinion has for some time been overwhelmingly Suffragist. Truly our opponents may well despair when youth is against them. It is a losing battle that fights the rising generation.

Cruelty to Animals.

We notice with some astonishment a letter in the Standard calling attention to the massacre of birds and beasts for the adornment of women, and a suggestion that "women's societies of all kinds" should "demonstrate" against "this most iniquitous trade." We could think of a "trade" even more iniquitous against which Suffragists have demonstrated again and again, and we protest against the unwarrantable assumption that women are "chiefly, if not solely, concerned" in these cruelties. Men wear fur as well as women, and hunt deer and foxes and hares for pleasure, and eat *pâte de foie gras*. We sympathise most earnestly with all who protest against these things, but for that very reason we deprecate the injustice which attacks one sex for the cruelties of both.

How to Help the "Common Cause."

Come to the rally on Thursday afternoon (2.30, at 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.), and take papers to sell in the street. Send a P.O. for 2s. 6d. or 5s., in order that we may send copies of the paper to one or two possible subscribers for eight weeks, and invite them to go on at their own expense! (One friend has already done this, and we want more.) Give an hour to selling THE COMMON CAUSE in the street.

It is our conviction that our cause has only to be heard and understood, to triumph. People, the noblest and the best, will differ about the morals of physical force, the occasions on which it is right to use it, and whether it is right to use it at all. Tolstoi was not a coward because he rejected it, nor Garibaldi a brute because he wielded a sword. But of the cause of Women's Suffrage there can surely be no doubt in our minds that it has only to be understood to be accepted. To doubt that is a kind of un-faith which leads to despair and the methods of despair. But we do not doubt it, and therefore for us there can be no failure, except in ourselves.

It is not fatalism which says: "If this counsel be of men it will come to naught; but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it."—at least, it means no fatalism to those on whom the duty lies of fighting the battles of Truth. For, though the victory is certain in the end, it may be delayed for years, for generations, even for ages, by the failure of those who fight. Such long delays have happened before in human history. They may happen yet. It will be our fault if they do. The fault is not with the light—the sun rises and the day comes, whether we see it or not—but with the darkened windows of the house. Suffragists, it seems, are just those people through whom the light must pass, and their one care should be not to deflect or to darken it. In other words, we have to present a new truth to a new generation; and if we fail, it is not because the truth was weak or false, but because we who tried to present it, failed. It should be, at this time, our first concern to consider how far this has been so; how far we have fallen short in courage, in zeal, in devotion, in the spirit of justice and gentleness—above all in faith. It is not our concern how far our opponents have failed. Since we believe they fight a losing battle against truth, it should not surely astonish us greatly if they use the wrong weapons.

It is natural for those who have a bad case, to shout and yell to drown the opposing voice. How else can error fight? Its only chance lies in preventing the truth from being heard. And nothing can more successfully make truth look like a lie than when its prophets follow such methods too. Truth is great, and will prevail, and they who are on the side of truth can afford to be patient and just, and even more than just. They will be so in exact proportion to their faith in their own cause, to their belief that they are on the side of truth.

The scenes in Hyde Park have been disgusting enough, but only because they give us an insight into vile passions. They are vile, whether they are written on the faces and in the obscenities of a crowd of hooligans, or in the records of the great fight we wage against all that hooliganism and woman-baiting means. That such horrors should be possible is bad enough; it would be worse to believe that if the world knew what we stood for, it would choose the brutalities of Hyde Park rather than the victories of freedom. That is the one thing impossible. If victory is delayed, it can only be because we have not yet fought with a sufficiently pure spirit of selfless courage and devotion. We have not suffered or been loyal enough to our cause. Of itself it could not fail; it is too fair. It only remains for us to show it as it is, undisfigured by the least injustice, the least un-faith in goodness, the least despair of human nature; and it prevails. That is the faith that is in us.

Manifesto from the German Bund.

The following statement has been sent to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies by the President of the Committee of the German Bund for Woman Suffrage:—

The revolutionary practices of the Suffragettes, the representatives of a small part of the movement for Women's Suffrage in England, have been much discussed by the German public and the German press, and universally condemned.

Our German Movement has given sufficient proof of the great difference between its own quiet and patient work and the boisterous tactics of militancy, yet every fresh act of violence on the part of the Suffragettes is used against us to prove the danger of our demands and aims. To meet these false deductions, and to show their utter futility, the Presidency of the Bund decided at a Conference held on March 8th, that publicity should be given to the following declaration:—

"We are of opinion that any application of force stands in direct contradiction to the views and aims of our Movement, and that it can neither be justified by conviction nor by self-sacrifice. We further hold the opinion that the use of revolutionary measures is, in every way and for every woman, a break with her real nature and a sacrifice of her inmost self. Be the feeling of suffering wrong ever so powerful, she will still have to force herself to apply brutal

measures and to suffocate the voice of conscience which will rise up to warn her against such demonstrations. For this reason, such tactics can never have a lasting success apart from their doubtful nature. They must soon lose the effect they may have had in the beginning as the expression of fixed determination and absolute self-sacrifice.

"But the women who use revolutionary methods are not only acting contrary to their own interests, but are doing immense harm to the interests they stand for. The aim of Women's Enfranchisement, both social and political, has always been to raise their economic position and give them their share of work and responsibility in the great struggle of our day towards improving the conditions of humanity. A fight between man and woman, such as it becomes through militancy, lowers it and takes from it all idealism, whilst robbing it at the same time of all its creative powers.

"By copying the revolutionary methods which have been adopted by men, they destroy the quiet, convincing force which supports their demands, instead of which the movement gains the character of an embittered fight between the two sexes—a fight for power.

"For these several reasons we remain convinced that Women's Enfranchisement can only draw success from the positive work women are doing, and that their work can only be spoilt and destroyed by unlawful measures."

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE OF THE BUND.
(Dr. Gertrud Bäumer).

The National Union Meeting in Hyde Park.

We have received several very interesting reports from correspondents of the Sunday afternoon meeting in Hyde Park, all of them in agreement as to the success of the experiment on the whole. Miss Margaret Robertson, who was in the chair, writes:—

"It was decided not, on this first occasion, to try the patience of the crowd by long speeches, and the four speakers limited themselves to seven or eight minutes each, compressing the whole meeting into the space of half an hour. The crowd numbered many thousands, some few obviously sympathetic, groups here and there definitely hostile, but the mass merely curious and prepared to shout with the majority. From beginning to end there was no attempt whatever to break up the meeting. At intervals the organised groups (in each case one or two well-dressed men, shepherding a band of hooligan youths) sang and shouted ribaldry, but the points made by the speakers were well received. The speakers were Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Helen Ward, and Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, and myself in the chair. When we had all made our speeches, as arranged, I declared the meeting closed, and we all proceeded across the Park to the gates. A fair number of police were scattered amongst the crowd, and, where the mob seemed inclined to hustle the Suffragists, the police followed on a few yards in the rear, but it was never necessary for them to interfere. Indeed, had not some of the Suffragists been carrying rolled up banners and banner poles, they could probably have mixed in the crowd unnoticed. Mrs. Swanwick and Miss Marshall might have suffered a certain amount of jostling had not a band of Socialist men voluntarily accompanied them and kept the crowd away. There was an attempt to head the Suffragists off at the gates, hundreds of men and youths running at top speed to be there before them, but a few mounted police easily cleared a way through the crowd for the women, and no discomfort was experienced.

"The general impression of those present was that the mob was not dangerous, though the Press got somewhat hysterical over their 'hostility' and general wickedness. They were, for the most part, vacantly curious, eager to see any 'fun' that might be going forward, but not themselves intent on mischief."

Another correspondent writes:—

"I had some difficulty in finding the meeting, the Park was so quiet when I arrived, and it was only by some rather faint shouting in the distance that I managed to find the lorry where Miss Robertson was speaking. The crowd was listening to her with occasional boing or applause—it was not easy to say which from the other side of the lorry. The meeting finished quite quietly, and I walked back with Miss Mackenzie, who was carrying the banner furled up, and with Miss Robertson. There was a big crowd of very respectably dressed people on each side of the fence, and I noticed the men touching their hats as Miss Mackenzie passed with the banner. A few rowdy youths followed us, and, of course, there were some of the ordinary silly remarks; but, beyond that, we had no inconvenience of any kind. I met Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, who told me the Men's League had had an excellent meeting, and he was delighted with the contrast between this afternoon and the disturbances last Sunday, when one of the speakers had been severely hurt. He said that they had had much applause, and the police were pleased with the orderly reception the meeting had had. I don't know what happened at the Marble Arch. I can only speak for the N.U. meeting. As for the hooligan element, I didn't see it. The men who made a noise were evidently doing it for amusement, and were of the type that might be seen watching any cricket match. I saw one man who looked like a burglar, but he was perfectly well behaved!"

Everyone is agreed that the success of the N.U. meeting was largely due to the chairmanship of Miss Robertson, whose firmness, tact, and control were beyond praise. Miss Robertson will be speaking again next Sunday, with Miss Margaret Ashton and others, at the same hour.

Parliament and Women's Needs.

(Reprinted by kind permission from the "Women's Trade Union Review.")

For those who believe the improvement of industrial conditions to be one of the crying needs of our time, of incalculable importance both to the nation and the race, as well as to the workers who suffer in life, health, and pocket for lack of such improvement, the session just closed has been a season of protracted disappointment. And now that this period, barren of industrial legislation, is over, the new session opens with little better hope for the future. It is true that the Employment of Children Bill, so long and patiently promoted by the Committee on Wage-Earning Children, has been taken up by the Government and found a place in the King's Speech, and it may be that Lord Haldane's Education Scheme, if, indeed, that measure is introduced this year, will sweep away the present system of half-time and do something to regulate more satisfactorily the labour of the juvenile worker; but with these modest probabilities the list of official proposals is exhausted. Of the Truck Bill definitely promised last year by the Home Secretary, there is no word. We are not, it seems, to expect any legislation based on the recommendations of the Accidents Committee. Yet these recommendations are nearly three, and those of the Truck Committee over four years old. Also, there is a host of questions affecting factory and workshop life and, consequently, the domestic life of the people in the deepest and most serious way, which have long been awaiting consideration and treatment. Once again, it seems, they are to be passed by.

We will not, however, altogether give up hope. Governments—all Governments—reserve time and interest for those matters about which their followers in Parliament, or at least the most energetic section of those followers, display anxiety and enthusiasm; and members of Parliament, perpetually busy here and there, distracted by the multiplicity of calls made upon them, for the most part wait, in things unsensational, for a lead or an appeal from their constituents. Factory legislation is not sensational. There are no party gains to be made by it; it may even arouse some party discontent. It is pretty clear, therefore, that if we want it we have got first to create a demand for it. Cannot all those who read this article do something towards creating this demand?

Let us examine a little more closely the amendments to the Factory Acts which seem to us to be overdue. Since the last general revision of our Factory Legislation took place, nearly twelve years have gone by. During that period we have had a short Act dealing with laundries, the Notice of Accidents Act (1906), and an Employment of Children Act (1903), which, although framed primarily in the interests of the employed school child, has, in fact, had a useful bearing on the conditions of employment of children in factories. But with regard to the fines and deductions which form so important a factor in the industrial life of almost all grades of women workers, the rising accident list, the questions of overtime, long spells of work and abbreviated meal times, no legislative steps have been taken, although from year to year varied and convincing evidence of the need which exists for fresh legislation on these points has been accumulating. In the field of administration, every annual report has shown the growing need for substantial addition to the number of women factory inspectors. Nevertheless, since 1908 their number has remained stationary.

As regards the evils wrought by the permission of overtime in non-textile factories and workshops, there is overwhelming evidence tendered by H.M. Inspectors of the Factory Department, both men and women. It was one of the men inspectors, Mr. Parker, who stated unreservedly that overtime is mainly a woman's question. He wrote as follows:—"Most of the overtime in this country is worked by the women, it being seldom one finds any number of men working after the usual period of employment." That overtime, as at present allowed, is in their opinion not only injurious to the health of workers, but also to the best interests of employers, and unnecessary where businesses are efficiently organised, has again and again been stated by the factory inspectors. So long ago as 1900, Mr. Cooke-Taylor, one of the superintending inspectors, pointed out the "strange issues" to which the policy of permitting overtime in certain categories of industry have led, and the absurdity of the pleas on which claims to be included in such categories are frequently based. He added that "almost universally" his colleagues were "in favour of the total abolition of overtime as now practised." Further, he said: "It is notorious that the great weight of opinion among employers is thrown into the same scale, their only stipulation being that the incidence of the law should be equal." That this feeling should be strong among employers we need not wonder, since we learn from another

superintending inspector, Mr. Cramp, that overtime is chiefly made use of by classes of employers who could, if they would, perfectly well provide beforehand for press of work or orders. Other inspectors from the men's side of the Department point out that while some occupiers in a given trade seem to make it a binding rule to use every hour of permitted overtime, others, engaged in identical work, never work overtime from one year's end to another. A growing disposition on the part of a number of employers who formerly used overtime to abandon the practice is also noted; and this movement is found to be due not only to consideration for the health of the employed, but also to a growing sense of the unsatisfactory quality of overtime work, and the consequent absence of profit to the employer. As one of the women inspectors (Miss Sadler) remarked in 1905: "Skilled work cannot be got from tired hands and jaded eyes." There is no doubt that they are wise employers who have arrived at this conclusion for themselves, having learned that in many cases the work done in overtime hours does not repay the necessary outlay on extra power, light, and heating. Unfortunately, there are still many unwise employers, men (and women), who remain persuaded that it is to their advantage to wring the last ounce of effort out of those who work for them, and as long as the law permits them to impose overtime upon their employees, they will take all the latitude which the law allows. The normal working hours are already so long that this cannot be done without injury to the worker. "To allow . . . women to work fourteen hours in any consecutive twenty-four hours, exclusively of meal times . . . is and must be more or less injurious." Thus Mr. W. D. Cramp; and his view is expressed, in varying terms, by many of his fellow inspectors. The women inspectors continually report the scenes of suffering which they have witnessed in factories and laundries, owing to the pressure of overtime upon the workers, especially those who are young or delicate. At the present time, in laundries, any woman over eighteen may be obliged to work for thirteen hours a day on three days in every week; or, if the employer decides to restrict overtime to sixty days in the year, for four days in any one week. It is true that, in the former case, the total weekly hours are restricted to sixty-eight; but it is the abnormally long working day that tells. Miss Slocock has stated the experience of a forewoman who had left a large steam laundry in the hope of finding lighter work in a small hand laundry, and was bitterly disappointed, finding it far more tiring to work very long hours on four days a week than to work regularly for ten hours every day.

(To be concluded next week.)

The Women's Local Government Society.

The Report of the Women's Local Government Society for 1912-13 brings valuable insight to the uninitiated as to the vast amount of endeavour still necessary for the safeguarding of voteless women's interests, even in a cause that has won general recognition. Suffragists and Anti-Suffragists alike express approval now-a-days of women's work for the municipality, such activities receiving the sanction of an influential and growing body of men and women. Yet the pages of this Report reveal the magnitude of the effort necessary to prevent the inclusion in the Franchise and Registration Bill, 1912, of clauses which would have acted as "new rivets to the old fetters" of women's disabilities in the municipal government of England and Wales. This worsening of women's position in Local Government would indeed have been accomplished, despite the herculean effort of the Women's Local Government Society, had the Franchise Bill passed into law in the form accepted at the time of its withdrawal.

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Speakers:
MRS. BRACHER (on Women's Suffrage in New Zealand). MISS NINA BOYLE.
Chairman: MRS. DESPARD. ADMISSION FREE.

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AN IMPORTANT BOOK.

THE WOMAN MOVEMENT. By Ellen Key. (Putnam.)

This book will deepen and increase the longing for the time when the woman movement will be a thing of the past, when books will no longer be written about woman's soul, woman's sphere, woman in relation to society, and woman's future possibilities. So many prophets have prophesied falsely concerning woman, but they will still be talking, still presenting us with frameworks of theories into which they fit what they consider to be a complete and neatly rounded-off presentment of one-half of the human race.

The well-known Swedish writer who, as Mr. Havelock Ellis tells us in his introduction, "has felt, pondered, studied, and observed the woman movement in many parts of the world," is far less dogmatic on the subject than most of the writers who have preceded her, and it is a positive relief to find that she does not advance any theory about "the feminine soul life." Whether the reader will agree with most of the conclusions she draws from her observations will largely depend upon his or her philosophy of life and conception of the State. Those who do not believe in the monistic-evolutionary conception of spiritual life, but hold firmly to the belief in an independent spiritual life within our human world, will reject this mechanistic conception of spiritual progress. Setting aside the philosophic theory on which she bases all human progress, and considering merely the changes that have taken place in woman's position, and the effects these changes have produced in woman, we find here fairly broad-minded and dispassionate statements, with no taint of the spirit of fanaticism. Although the ideas are not very new or original, they will have interest from the fact that they are the outcome of an honest endeavour to arrive at the underlying spirit of a great movement, which the writer considers has now reached the point when it is about to pass from the dynamic to the static stage.

The chapters dealing with the influence of the movement upon single women, marriage, motherhood, and upon men and women in general, cover too much ground to allow of anything like fair criticism in a short review; but the main idea gathered from a study of the various illustrations given in support of her conclusions is that the earlier definition of womanliness ignored the universal human element in woman, and that the present definition of personality ignores the womanly element in woman. In the latter definition there is the danger of setting up the intellectual over the home life, professional work above the work in the home. The problem presented is how to reconcile and bring harmony out of the opposing claims. In the case of married women who possess genius or are capable of producing good and valuable work outside the home, the conflict between the desire to work and to minister to the needs of the home must, so the writer tells us, remain permanent and insoluble.

The insistence on the personality of women on making every other claim subordinate to this is the heresy preached by a certain section of women, to whom the writer gives the adjective "amaternal." In the advocacy of their views there lies considerable danger, but we cannot help thinking that too much importance has been given to a small body of women whose views are not shared by the vast majority of the woman movement. The other dangers threatening the movement are those with which anti-suffragists have made us familiar. Foremost among these is the fear that woman, in her struggle for existence under adverse social conditions, may come to be regarded by men as "sexless ants," and that political life will cause antagonism between men and women in the home, and finally there is the danger of a terrible sex-war if certain women persist in rejecting the best that men can give her. All these dangers are possible, Ellen Key thinks, but on the last page but one our good old friend "the fundamental laws of human nature" appears, and the defeat of "extreme feminists" is assured. Their overthrow is as certain as that the rivers cannot flow back to their sources.

The Parliamentary franchise does not occupy a very prominent position in this survey, but it is regarded as the reasonable condition for obtaining wider and deeper ends. Men and women together will consider social life from a wider point of

view. Civic right will increase woman's social responsibility and widen her horizon, making her more valuable as wife and mother. The anti-suffragist will be surprised to learn that the writer is anxious that the Parliamentary franchise should be given soon, before women "have lost their intuitive and instinctive power through masculinisation." The book should be read by all who are interested in the woman movement, even if they do not agree with the writer's interpretation of it, or believe that she has discovered its real aim.

Women's Liberal Federation.

Mrs. Acland's letter to the Press on the recent decision of the W.L.F. is of great interest to Suffragists, and we quote the following paragraphs for the light they throw on the position within the Federation. The italics are ours. It seems to us of supreme importance that party-women should emphasise, as Mrs. Acland does, "the right of women to judge what is Liberalism," in giving or withholding their help to the Liberal Party. The letter runs, in part:

To many of us it seemed that the dividing line between the two points of view expressed at the Council was not Liberalism versus Suffrage, certainly not, but rather between suffrage as a pious opinion and suffrage in real earnest; or between the right of women to judge for themselves what is Liberalism and their duty to accept any candidate who fulfils the men's official party tests.

In view of the fact that the Women's Liberal Associations, even those belonging to the Federation, still work in some constituencies for anti-suffragist candidates, I was not surprised the other day to hear a Member of Parliament express the opinion that the Tunbridge Wells amendment was very impertinent, since, as he thought, our Federation was part and parcel of the ordinary Liberal "machinery."

The Scottish Women's Liberal Federation.

The following resolution was passed unanimously by the Executive Committee of the Scottish W.L.F. at a meeting on May 9th:—

The Executive of the S.W.L.F. records its profound disappointment and indignation at the rejection on May 6th of Mr. Dickinson's Bill for the enfranchisement of women. The Executive acknowledges with satisfaction and gratitude the support of those Scottish members who voted for the Bill, but cannot ignore the deep discouragement to all political effort and work on the part of the Liberal women of Scotland who have for so many years laboured consistently and persistently in the furtherance of Liberal principles.

The following resolution was also carried unanimously:—

The Executive strongly protests against the exclusion of women from the electorate under the scheme of Home Rule for Scotland in the Bill introduced by Mr. Cowan, and supported by the Scottish Liberal Members. The Executive declares that no measure establishing a Scottish Parliament can be satisfactory, unless it provides for the enrolment of women as parliamentary electors.

Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association.

The following resolution has been passed by the Irish Women's Suffrage Association, and sent to Irish Members of Parliament:—

"The Committee of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association, while deeply deploring the fresh outburst of outrages on the part of a small number of misguided Suffragists which is following the rejection of Mr. Dickinson's Bill, much regret that they cannot exonerate our Irish Representatives, who voted against that proposed measure of justice to women, from a large share of responsibility for the recurrence of those outrages."

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LONDON SOCIETY OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

58, Victoria Street, S.W.

Public Reception, FRIDAY, MAY 23rd, 1913, Westminster Palace Hotel, Victoria Street, S.W.

Chair: MISS ROSAMUND SMITH (Ex-Com. L.S.W.S.) Speakers: MISS HELEN WARD (Ex-Com. L.S.W.S.); MR. MALCOLM MITCHELL (Hon. Sec. Men's League for Women's Suffrage). Tea, 6d.

MAY 30th. Chair: Mrs. F. T. SWANWICK, M.A. Speakers: Miss K. D. COURTNEY, Mrs. RACKHAM, and Miss A. M. ROYDEN.

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Public Conference of the Criminal Law Amendment Committee.
(Late "Pass the Bill" Committee.)

A Conference, which will be of great interest to all social workers, is to be held on June 3rd, at the New Central Hall, Westminster. The programme of ten-minutes papers, with discussion, will be as follows:—

Morning Session (10-1).—Chair: Mrs. Creighton.

Subject: "The Age of Protection."

Papers on: "Necessity for Raising Age of Consent."

"Legal and Other Difficulties."

"Position of Employers and Guardians."

"Extension of Time to Prosecute in Criminal Assault."

The legal paper will also deal with the problem of how to protect boys from commercialised vice, and the Conference is especially fortunate in having obtained the consent of Mr. Clarke Hall, K.C., the recently appointed magistrate, to read this paper. Mr. Clarke Hall has had immense experience in Criminal Law, and is entirely in sympathy with efforts to raise the "age of consent." Mrs. Rackham will take the paper on "Extension of Time."

Afternoon Session (2.30-5.30).

Subjects: "Public Solicitation."

"Affiliation Procedure."

"The Feebleminded and Immorality."

Under "Solicitation," Miss Constance Tite will read a paper on "Women Police," which will be the outcome of the special investigation of the system of women police in Germany, which she has undertaken on behalf of the C.L.A. Committee. Mr. Theodore Gugenheim will deal with solicitation from the young man's point of view, and Mr. Edward Smallwood and Mrs. How Martyn, A.R.C.S., will read papers dealing with the advantages and disadvantages of repressing public solicitation.

Papers on affiliation procedure will be read by Mrs. Nott Bower, P.L.G., and by Mr. W. Hanbury Aggs. Dr. Helen Boyle has kindly consented to take the subject of "The Mental Deficiency Bill in relation to Immorality."

All subjects will be open to discussion. Admission to the Conference is free, by ticket only, obtainable at the Office of the Criminal Law Amendment Committee, 19, Tothill Street, S.W.

The Abolitionist Congress.
Eleventh Meeting in Paris.

The eleventh Congress of the International Federation for the Abolition of State Regulation of Vice will be held at the Musée Sociale, Paris, on June 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, these dates immediately preceding the sessions of the International Suffrage Congress in Buda-Pesth. The speakers at the Abolitionist Congress will include distinguished French statesmen, lawyers and doctors, as well as many speakers from other countries, and there will be addresses and discussions on "La Réglementation et la Droite," "la Réglementation et l'Hygiène," "la Réglementation, la Morale et l'Ordre publique," "l'Abolitionisme et l'Hygiène," "les Conditions du Travail féminin et la Prostitution."

Tickets for the Congress (price 5 francs) may be obtained from Mr. Otto Pierson (Treasurer of the French Branch of the Federation) 97, Rue de Courcelles, Paris. Ticket holders are asked to note that they will be entitled to receive, free of charge, a Report of the Proceedings, and will also be enabled to travel at half-price on all French railways.

The Woman's Theatre.

We are glad to learn that Mrs. Fawcett has consented to join the General Committee responsible for the "Woman's Theatre" week, which Miss Bensusan, of the Actresses' Franchise League, is organising for next autumn. It is hoped that the Court Theatre may be secured for a week in October, when Brieux's new play, "La Femme Seule," translated by Mrs. Bernard Shaw, will be given for the first time in this country. Björnson's "A Gauntlet" will also be presented.

Miss Bensusan is anxious to obtain guarantees for sums of £1 and upwards, and every guarantor will receive for £1 guarantee 25s. 6d. worth of tickets—one in each part of the house—which can be sold at the ordinary price, and the Society to which the guarantor belongs will benefit by the extra 5s. 6d. The profits also will be divided, the Actresses' Franchise League retaining one-third, and the remaining two-thirds being divided among the guarantors in proportion to the amount of their guarantees. Further particulars can be had from Miss Bensusan, Hon. Organiser Woman's Theatre, Actresses' Franchise League, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

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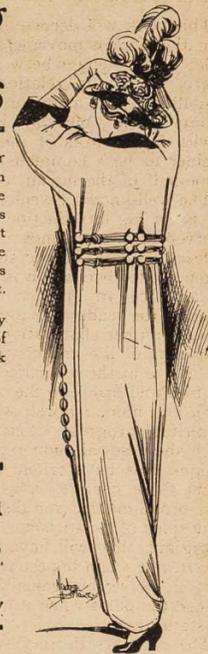
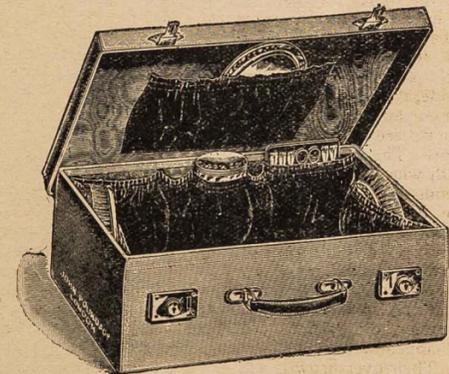
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Correspondence.

THE SINEWS OF WAR.

MADAM,—When I read Mrs. K. M. Harley's letter in THE COMMON CAUSE of April 11th, I was reminded of a scheme that is now being undertaken to pay off the building debt of a church with which I am connected. Many people are not able to give £1 or even 10s. a month; but more could give 5s., or 2s., or 1s., and these sums, collected regularly month by month, do amount to a substantial contribution, if members will only realise that "many a mickle makes a muckle," with an emphasis on the many. For instance:—

100 contributors at 10s. a month = £600 a year.
100 contributors at 5s. a month = £300 a year.
200 contributors at 2/6 a month = £300 a year.
400 contributors at 1s. a month = £240 a year.

If every subscriber to THE COMMON CAUSE would undertake one or another of these contributions, well over £1,000 a year extra would be gained. For my part, I am willing to contribute 2s. 6d. a month; and might I urge that all who think the scheme a feasible one should write without delay to state what contribution they will give?

D. E. BROWN.

23, Reynold's Close, Golder's Green, N.W.

THE N.U. POLICY AND MR. ARNOLD WARD.

MADAM,—Like Lady Selborne I, too, have been wondering over Mr. Arnold Ward's sentence (in *The Standard* of May 5th) that moderate Suffragists can absolutely rely on securing fair play and justice from Mr. Bonar Law and his colleagues.

Surely Mr. Ward must be aware that all Suffragists are fully alive to the value—or rather the valuelessness—of such words.

All earnest Suffragists are now fully aware that the only chance of success lies in a Government measure—that all thought of working for any party, except that which makes this offer, must be given up.

In the case of a General Election, even if the Liberal Government gets in, it may have a Suffragist Premier. At any rate, until either Conservative or Liberal make Women's Suffrage an official part of their programme there is nothing left for Suffragists to do but to support and strengthen the Labour Party, so that at the next General Election, whether Conservative or Liberal get into office, it may depend on the support of the Labour Party for a working majority.

S. M. FOLEY.

THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY.

MADAM,—With reference to Mrs. Cochrane's letter, is it not true that members of the N.U.W.S.S. (who are, we may hope, all "fair-minded persons") hold *not* that the Government were "compelled to break their pledges to the Suffragists by the action of the Speaker," but that they, and they only, must bear the responsibility for bringing in a Bill not capable of amendment? Do they not believe that such a Bill would have been brought in had the Government been more skilful or less careless, or, perhaps, more sincere? I desire that this point should be made clear to your readers because it is, to me at least, a foremost reason for the change of policy made at the February Council.

To hear, as we did during the recent debate, that our friends in the Cabinet are perfectly satisfied with the treatment the Suffragists have received at the hands of the Government must surely overcome the doubts of any who thought that change of policy too drastic. Is there now a Suffragist left who believes any of these gentlemen to be a "best friend" to our cause?

ROSAMOND SMITH.

12, Eaton Place, S.W.

[It is at least clear that our friends in the Cabinet are powerless to help us.—ED. C.C.]

THE SUFFRAGE PILGRIMAGE.

MADAM,—May I suggest that it would probably open up the Pilgrimage to a good many more pilgrims if a caravan could be added to contingents from distant parts of the country? A caravan travelling at walking pace could give lifts in turn to various pilgrims who could not hope to accomplish the distance on unassisted feet; and might or might not be used for sleeping. Faster vehicles would tend to break up the company, but a caravan would rather consolidate it; and could, of course, be decorated and fly the pennons.

Silverthwaite, Ambleside.

A. SHARP.

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PROPAGANDA BY POSTERS.

MADAM,—I wish to call attention to Miss Hudson's letter in COMMON CAUSE for April 25th, as her proposal seems to me, in view of the present position, to afford an exceedingly good method of making known the justice of our claims. I have seen the posters on hoardings in Croydon, and can vouch for their being plain and calculated to catch the eye of passers—in fact, I had seen them before her letter appeared, and had no idea they were a local effort. I had concluded they had come from headquarters. They might be still more useful if sometimes they took the form of an historical statement as "Women voted in such an election," followed by "date or reign." Mrs. Stopes speaks of one at Lyme Regis in 1789, and I should think if search were made in the records of old enfranchised towns and county records other evidences might be found. May I commend it to the members of branches situated in places possessing such records? There are many minds which would be influenced by such facts, but which would not be moved by new and untried departures.

M. A. LIND MOORE
(N.U.W.S.S., Croydon Branch).

[The Croydon Society has supplied posters to several others who have applied for them, and is, we believe, willing to continue to do so. The N.U. also stocks Propaganda Posters, and others of a larger size, headed "Protest Against Violence."—ED. C.C.]

MR. ASQUITH'S FREE VOTE.

MADAM,—I observe that in your Notes and Comments in your issue of the 9th inst., under the heading of "Mr. Asquith's 'Free Vote,'" in reference to what you call the "arrangement" that only one Cabinet Minister should speak on each side, you say: "As our supporters in the Cabinet far outweigh our opponents in weight and importance, this arrangement is grossly unfair to us, and conveys a false impression to the public," while you conclude by saying: "The fact that our friends have permitted themselves to be thus gagged (I italicise this word) proves the point made by the National Union at its Council, that however much they desire to help us they are, in fact, powerless to do so while Mr. Asquith is Prime Minister."

In the view of the Liberal Party, the maintenance of Mr. Asquith as head of the Liberal Ministry is essential to the progress of Liberal measures of, at least, equal importance to the enfranchisement of women, and longer overdue, and they are not prepared—however much they may individually favour "Votes for Women"—to see Mr. Asquith exchanged (with a consequent break-up of the present Liberal Administration) for a "Unionist" Prime Minister and a "Unionist" Government.

As regards the "gagging" of the supporters of votes for women in the Cabinet, here again, as it appears to me, is another example of the inability of even clever women to take a practical view of Parliamentary procedure. If your contentions were correct, that the majority of the Cabinet consented to be "gagged," it is clear that either (a) they are not such ardent supporters of votes for women as to outvote the Prime Minister's party in the Cabinet (if I may so express it), and therefore lead to the resignation of Mr. Asquith and their own extinction as a Government; or (b) they were quite satisfied to leave the pleading of their cause in the able hands of Sir Edward Grey. If he could not win votes to the support of the Dickinson Bill, could any of them hope to do so?

The more you and your sister Societies earnestly devote your and their literature, meetings and methods—as, for example, the proposed "Women's Pilgrimage"—to the "education" of both men and women in the constituencies, without recriminations on other people—as honourable as yourselves—the sooner will your Cause be won.

ROBT. H. BURNETT.

May 14th, 1913.

[We regret that Mr. Burnett's letter is too long to print entire. The omitted portions expressed his regret that we should abuse Liberals instead of denouncing militants—a very natural regret on the part of a Liberal (to whom criticism must, we suppose, always be "recrimination"), and one with which, being human ourselves, we heartily sympathise. With regard to the other points raised in his letter, we beg to reply (1) that even Sir Edward Grey could not say all there was to be said in our behalf; (2) that it seems to us a contradiction in terms to speak of "other Liberal measures of equal importance to the enfranchisement of women." No Liberal measure can be so important as the Liberal principle of government by the people. It seems to us a comedy to talk of Liberal measures at all, while half the "people" live under an autocracy.—ED. C.C.]

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In these days many of the blemishes and disfigurements of the complexion are simply the result of using bad soap, which has a most injurious effect upon the skin, robbing it of its natural oil, and leaving it dry and rough. Good soaps leave the skin clear and soft, particularly Oatine Soap, which possesses healing and cleansing properties unprovided by any other soap. It makes a soft creamy lather, and is altogether delightful to use.

If there are any readers of this paper who have not tried it, and would like to do so, the Proprietors will send a 3d. tablet free to all sending 3d. in 4d. stamps for the Oatine Sample Outfit, which contains a sample of Oatine Cream, Snow, Salve, Face Powder, Tooth Powder, Shaving Powder, together with a 2d. Shampoo Powder, also the free 3d. Tablet of Oatine Soap. Address The Oatine Co., 282D, Oatine Buildings, Boro', London, S.E. (ADVT.)

Provincial Council Meeting.

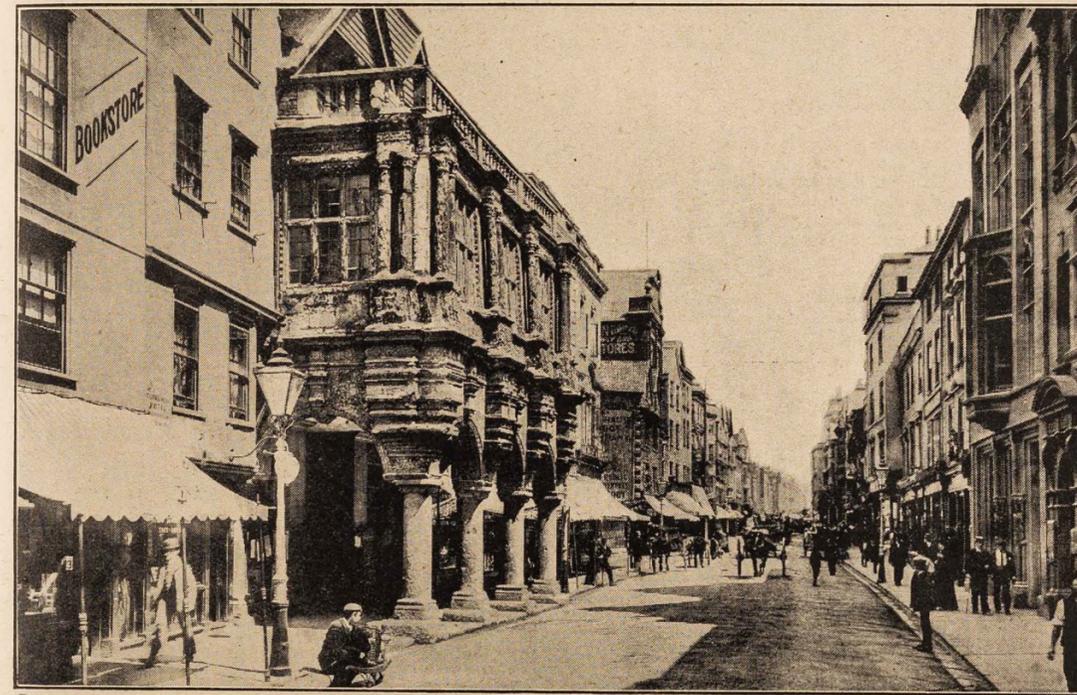
When this paper is in the hands of our readers, the Provincial Council meeting will be proceeding at Exeter. In addition to the women's meeting which is to be held on Friday, May 23rd, at the Barnfield Hall, the Exeter Society has organised a public meeting for the same evening, and has kindly invited delegates to a reception on Thursday evening.

The Provincial Council meeting is not, of course, concerned with questions of policy, these being the affair of the General Councils. But the smaller numbers make debates on practical affairs often even more interesting, though less exciting, to the delegates. This meeting promises to be specially valuable. The most interesting resolution on the agenda is that which outlines a policy of education to be taken up, if possible, over the whole country. Various educational schemes have already been worked with varying degrees of success, notably the programme of lectures by experts on Social Reform which gathered crowded audiences in High Wycombe; correspondence classes at Haslemere; and a considerable number of study-circles worked by different branches of the London Society. Valuable experience has been gained by these experi-

ments, which will be laid before the delegates at Exeter, and it is hoped that some scheme may be worked out for a really educational propaganda through the autumn and winter. It is the conviction of every National Unionist that the Suffrage cause has all to gain and nothing to lose by the education of the public, not only on Suffrage itself, but on all questions of public interest.

If time allows, there will also be discussion on the Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage, the organisation of which will lie so largely in the hands of the Federations; on political work throughout the country; and above all, on the ways and means of raising funds. It is evidently becoming a question of persistence whether we win the vote at once or not. Politicians always hope they can "wear down" the patience and enthusiasm of those who clamour for reform. If once they realise that the clamour is to go on steadily and increasingly, and the clamourers cannot be worn down, they will soon resign themselves to the inevitable. But the least sign of discouragement on our part puts fresh heart into our opponents, and we must see to it that no such encouragement is given them.

Members of the N.U. Societies are reminded that those who are not delegates to the Provincial Council may obtain admission as visitors.



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EXETER,

Where the National Union meets this week.

The By-Elections.

Newmarket Division.

Result: Mr. Denison-Pender (Cons.) 5,251
Mr. Nicholls (Lib.) ... 4,400

Majority 851

At the last election the Liberal majority was 399. The turnover of votes is ascribed to the unpopularity of the Insurance Act amongst agricultural labourers. The N.U.W.S.S. continued its propaganda up to the eve of the poll. Meetings were held at Wood Ditton and Dullingham on Tuesday, May 13th; at Ely Market Place on Wednesday, May 14th; at Bottisham and Swaffham Prior on Thursday, 15th. The speakers included Miss Clough, Mrs. Rootham, Miss Garlick,

Mr. Mirrlees, and Mr. Fisher. Stress was laid in many of the speeches upon the unfairness to women of the Insurance Act.

Nothing during the by-election has been made so clear, both by the candidates' addresses and by various speeches, than the relation between votes and wages. Quotations on this point were made in last week's COMMON CAUSE.

To these may be added:—

Mr. Walker (for Mr. Nicholls): "History shows the humanitarianism of the Liberals ... the emancipation of the poor—from the dominion of unjust employers."

Mr. Harold Spender (for Mr. Nicholls): "In some parts of East Cambs. they had already raised the wages, just because George Nicholls had come down. The mere sight of him had made them raise the wages. What would happen if he got in?"

Mr. Nicholls said, at Cherryhinton Schools, on Wednesday, May 14th, "that many, many men who were Tories before had felt that Nicholls had already been worth a shilling a week to them."—(Quotation from *Cambridge Daily News*, May 15th.)

Altrincham.

Candidates: Mr. Kay-Shuttleworth, Liberal.
Mr. G. C. Hamilton, Conservative.

Committee Rooms: 8, The Downs, Altrincham.

Organiser-in-Charge of Committee Rooms: Mrs. Russell.

Organiser-in-Charge of Election: Miss D. Darlington.

Polling Day, May 28th.

The election is now in full swing, and notwithstanding Whit-sundide holidays, meetings (open air) have been held twice daily. Large crowds gathered to hear our speakers at the dinner-hour meetings at the Linotype Works, many men coming to the women's meetings, while women and girls came to the men's meetings. Mrs. Annot Robinson had a fine meeting in Broad-heat on Tuesday night, at which nearly 1,000 people were present. In the afternoon of the same day, seeing a crowd gathering round us as we were placing our notice-board to establish our right to the pitch for the evening meeting, Miss Pemberton jumped on a chair and addressed the crowd for half an hour. This advertised the evening meeting, and no doubt secured us the big crowd at night. On Wednesday night the Conservative candidate (who is the Chairman of the Anti-Suffrage Society) held a meeting in the school at Rostherne. When he arrived there, however, we had already held our meeting in the centre of the lovely little village, having previously billed it from door to door with leaflets. Every woman, child, and, I think, man, came to their doors, where they easily heard what our speaker, Miss Pemberton, had to say. Certainly women in isolated places like this are anxious to hear all we have to say on the Women's Question.

The Antis, who have their shop not many doors from ours, are very active, although their emissary fails to draw any kind of crowd at his open air meetings.

It is interesting to learn that the Altrincham, Bowdon, and Hale Women's Liberal Association has decided that they will not actively support their candidate. This is the result of Mr. Kay Shuttleworth's opinions on Women's Suffrage. The individual members may, in some instances, lend their assistance, but he will not have the aid of the splendid organisation or the large number of workers who would otherwise have been enthusiastic on his behalf.

Dr. Anna Shaw at the London Society's Reception.

Those who attended the reception at the Westminster Palace Hotel—and there were a great many of them—were fortunate enough to have the unexpected pleasure of hearing Dr. Anna Shaw. Miss Shaw came as a guest, but in response to an urgent request from her hostesses, she addressed the meeting. She told them that, in America, people were bringing up the conduct of Englishwomen as an excuse for refusing the vote. They said that until women conducted themselves as they ought to, they couldn't think of giving them the vote. "Since sixty-seven years," cried Dr. Shaw, "we have been conducting ourselves as we ought, and some of us are getting a little white-haired over conducting ourselves as we ought!" and then she indignantly spoke of the cant of men who conducted lynching parties against unconvicted negroes, daring to suggest that the trifling outrages of women in another continent were a reasonable excuse for delay.

She spoke of the situation very hopefully, however, in spite of the handicap of militancy here. The great progressive political parties had put Women's Suffrage into their programmes, and in Pennsylvania all three parties had done so. She had herself just come from taking the chair in the great Opera House at New York, where Mr. Roosevelt spoke of "Our Cause" and what "we" are going to do.

She declared it was remarkable they didn't get Michigan last year, for she hadn't met a man there who did not assure her he had voted for them last year, although this year he had felt bound to vote against them "on account of militancy." But, she added happily, "We are going to get three more States next year!" And she was very contemptuous of the cowardly men who dared not judge men by the same standard as they judged women.

In an interesting supplementary statement she explained how the hearings before Congress used to be of little account, but recently the whole tone had changed. They had appointed a Committee of Investigation, and a good Suffragist from Alabama was its Chairman. The Senate Committee had been increased from five to nine members, and the Chairman was insisting that it should work. President Wilson had received four deputations to which he had been very civil and attentive, and the Senate Committee had given three public hearings. As the State prints the reports of these hearings and circulates them free of charge, "we get our Suffrage literature published and distributed free! Think of that!" cried Dr. Anna Shaw.

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DEPARTMENT.

A useful Cambric Camisole is shown on left, square neck of good Swiss insertion, edged torchon lace and silk ribbon threaded ... 4/9

Fine Longcloth Petticoat trimmed good embroidery and beading, threaded ribbon ... 10/9

A Dainty Nainsook Camisole is shown on the right, daintily trimmed with fine muslin and lace insertion, and neck edged lace and fine tucks in front ... 10/9

Nainsook Petticoat, without flounce, trimmed lace insertions in mitre design, and lace below. Thoroughly reliable materials used. 13/9

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9th-12th June, 1913, at the

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SUBJECTS:—La Réglementation et le droit; la réglementation et l'hygiène; la réglementation; la morale, et l'ordre public; l'abolitionnisme et l'hygiène; les conditions du travail féminin et la prostitution.

The speakers will include distinguished statesmen, lawyers, and doctors from many countries.

Persons attending the Congress can obtain tickets on all French railways at half-price.

Full information can be obtained from Miss F. M. McNEILL, Secretary of the British Committee, 19, Tothill Street, Westminster.

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MEETING FOR WOMEN ONLY.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 6th, 1913, at 3 p.m.

MISS ABADAM on "White Slaves—Supply and Demand."

Chair ... MISS LENA ASHWELL.

TICKETS 1/- and 6d. from the Offices of the A.F.L., 2, Robert St., Adelphi, W.C.

MRS. CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN

Will Lecture on "ASSORTED SINS."

Monday, June 2nd, at 8 p.m.

PORTMAN ROOMS, BAKER STREET (entrance in Dorset Street).

TICKETS—2/6, 1/-, and 6d., from Women's Freedom League Offices, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Election Fighting Fund in the
Constituencies.

I.—East Bristol.

Great progress is being made in many of the Fighting Fund constituencies, particularly in those at present represented by anti-suffragist Cabinet Ministers. In East Bristol (Mr. C. E. Hobhouse), where the prospective Labour candidate, Alderman Sheppard, is already in the field, the local society has shown great enterprise in arranging a "joint Labour and Suffrage campaign." A series of eleven meetings in halls carefully chosen in different wards of the borough was held in the week April 18th to 25th. Distinguished labour and suffrage speakers came from different parts of the country, and at almost all the meetings Alderman Sheppard, who was invariably well received, also spoke.

Considering the smallness of the area, the meetings were curiously different in character. Outside the wagon works, in the dinner-hour, the men crowded round and listened with eager and responsive sympathy to Mr. R. C. Wallhead's witty, logical, dramatic exposition of the case, and afterwards questioned him with no hostility but friendly anxiety to know more about it. Then, in the evening, gathered in the schools, was a quiet audience of thoughtful men and women, showing little emotion, but listening intently, and obviously weighing every word. Then again, on Sunday night, Mr. O'Grady's magnificent speech, in which he declared that, *being a democrat*, he would support the enfranchisement of any woman, in order that the sex barrier might be broken down, was received with enthusiasm—and followed by the enrolment of sixty-two friends.

As a result of the campaign, approximately 200 Friends of Suffrage have been enrolled, and several representatives of Labour organisations have been added to the East Bristol Committee.

All agree in attributing the success of the campaign mainly to the work of Mrs. Townley, whose tact and ability have won her golden opinions from all sorts of people. A little resumé of the work which she has done may give some sort of indication of the procedure by which she achieves success. When she first went to Bristol, she got into touch with the different Trade Unions and Labour bodies, and got permission to address them. She spoke to:—

1. The Women's Labour League.
2. East Bristol I.L.P.
3. Carters and Warehousemen.
4. Painters and Decorators.
5. Amalgamated Society of Engineers.
6. Women's Group, East Bristol I.L.P.
7. Central Co-operative Guild.
8. Kingswood Boot and Shoe Operatives.
9. Bristol Boot and Shoe Operatives.
10. Special meeting, Labour Representation Committee.
11. Co-operative Council, Kingswood.
12. No. 4 Branch, Carpenters and Joiners.
13. Lawrence Hill Co-operative Council.
14. Kingswood I.L.P.
15. Whitehall Co-operative Council.
16. Brislington I.L.P.

and put to them the following resolution:—

"That this meeting regrets the attitude of the Rt. Hon. C. E. Hobhouse, M.P., towards the enfranchisement of women, and it also demands that the Government shall redeem its pledges by immediately introducing a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women." At every meeting it was carried; unanimously at fourteen meetings; with one dissident at one; and with two dissentients at another. Encouraged by this success, she then formed a joint committee to carry out the campaign, and was immensely fortunate in securing as a delegate from the L.R.C. Mr. Burleigh, the secretary, whose advice and help, from beginning to end, has proved perfectly invaluable. Delegates were also sent by the I.L.P., the W.L.L., and the N.U.W.S.S., and Miss Mabel Tothill, president of the East Bristol Suffrage Society, was appointed chairman.

The outstanding features of this campaign seem to us to be:—

1. The very happy fusion of the Suffrage and Labour forces.
 2. The extremely moderate cost at which it was carried out.
 3. The unanimity of the Trade Unionists in their demand for women's suffrage.
 4. The growing sense amongst the electors of the importance of women's suffrage as an electoral issue.
- Certainly East Bristol's experience will encourage us to inaugurate such campaigns in many other constituencies.

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1,050 Fashionable Blouses
at substantial reductions on regular prices.

We have grouped these Blouses into 4 lots, at 4 prices as set forth below: we shall also devote 4 of our large windows in Oxford Street to the display of these beautiful creations—one price for each window.



400 Blouses in Muslin, Lace Silk, etc.—many of them worth 8/11 each—will all be marked at 5/- Included in this offer are about 8 dozen new Sponge Crepon Sports Shirts in various colours—usually 10/6 each—Now 5/-

300 Blouses in Veiled Ninons, Crepe de Chine and Silk—numerous patterns and designs—usual prices 15/- to 20/- each—to be cleared at one price 10/-

200 High-class Blouses in Lace, Ninon, Crepe de Chine and Silk—in white and colours—many patterns and designs. Usually 21/- to 29/6 each—Now all one price, 15/-

150 Elegant Blouses in the new Figured Crepe de Chine, also in Lace, Silk and Ninon; also several French Model Blouses. All marked at one price, 20/-

One of the Bargains at 20/-

SPECIAL NOTE.—As there are no two of these garments alike, and the quantities are strictly limited to the numbers stated above, we regret that we cannot send them on approval.

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
 Hon. Secretaries: MISS K. D. COURTNEY, MISS C. E. MARSHALL (Parliamentary), MISS EMILY M. LEAF (Press), MISS I. B. O'MALLEY (Literature).
 Hon. Treasurer: MRS. AUERBACH.
 Secretary: MISS CROOKENDEN.
 Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

International Congress.

Miss Rosika Schwimmer writes as follows:—"Delegates and distinguished guests and press representatives will have free admission to all meetings and social functions. Alternates and Associate members of the Alliance will be admitted free to meetings and those festivities to which a general invitation is issued, as, for instance, to the Hungarian Festival arranged by the City of Budapest. Visitors and fraternal delegates will be required to pay an entrance fee of 8s. 6d. to admit them to the Congress, and to buy tickets to those social functions for which invitations are not issued to the general public.

The membership fee should be sent by postal order to Miss Rosika Schwimmer, Budapest VII. Istvan-ut 67, Hungary.

Fru Anker.

Fru Anker has now left London, but after May 27th correspondence should be addressed to her at 86, Guildford Street, W.C. The following engagements have been proposed on her behalf by headquarters, and we should be glad to hear from societies which have not yet confirmed the date suggested. Secretaries of the Societies concerned are asked to write direct to Fru Anker, giving her details as to the time of meeting, name and address of her hostess, the best station to come to, and the most convenient train.

West Herts. (Watford), June 9th.	Solihull, June 19th.
Hertford, June 10th.	Malvern, June 20th.
Sevenoaks, June 11th.	Upton-on-Severn, June 21st.
Hastings, June 12th, evening.	June 23rd.—Still in communication with Societies with regard to this date.
London, June 13th, afternoon.	Penmaenmawr, June 24th.
Bedford, June 13th, evening.	Llandudno, June 24th.
Ramsgate, June 14th, afternoon.	Bangor, June 25th.
Margate, June 14th, evening.	Banon, June 27th.
Street, June 16th.	Scottish Federation, June 28th—July 5th.
Bristol, June 17th, afternoon and evening.	
South Wales Federation, June 18th.	

Literature Department.

New Publications.

The Literature Department has issued a new leaflet called "Law-Abiding Suffragists" (No. B. 93, price 6d. per hundred), which will be found very useful in places where there is strong feeling against militancy and ignorance of the N.U.W.S.S.

Mrs. Fawcett's article, "A Women's Pilgrimage," has been reprinted in leaflet form (6d. per 100, with corner in the colours). "Women's Suffrage and Temperance" is a leaflet by Mrs. Ring, of Birmingham. It has been reprinted by special request from "The White Ribbon" of March, 1913. (4d. per 100.)

Press Report.

Two weeks ago the *New Statesman* pointed out the folly of rejecting the Dickinson Bill, and of refusing to settle favourably the Woman's Suffrage question, lest such action should be taken to condone militancy. This week an excellent editorial expresses very forcibly its opinion on militancy.

"As a means of obtaining redress for a voteless class, the use of physical force in politics is out of date, and in the case of the Militants is calculated to bring about reaction very damaging to the community. Public opinion will not stand it, and the Militants recognise the fact in limiting their activities to attacks upon property. If the Militant carefully avoids injuring life, the advertisement value of her activities must fall with each fresh outrage; whilst if she does injure life, her cause must be ruined."

"The claim of the women to vote rests upon the assumption that physical force is no longer the basis either of citizenship or of Government, that we have reached a stage of civilisation in which the power to govern is derived from intellectual and moral forces in the creation and direction of which women are fully qualified to take part. That the vast majority of women Suffragists are alive to this, is shown clearly enough by their having resisted the temptation to adopt militancy, in spite of all the provocation thereto offered by the Government."

"The list of over 7,000 subscribers to the W.S.P.U. seems to us ridiculously small in comparison with the vast army of non-militant Suffragists. The militant section is small, and the fact that it is small

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New long shaped sailor in white tagel, lined black. Four ostrich plumes, £5 15s. 6d.

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 On WEDNESDAY, MAY 28th,
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KNIGHTSBRIDGE PALACE HOTEL (Tube Station: KNIGHTSBRIDGE).
 Chairman: Mrs. FLORA ANNIE STEEL.
 Speakers: The Rt. Hon. the EARL OF LYTTON, Mrs. CAVENDISH BENTINCK, Miss CLEMENTINA BLACK, A. C. GARDINER, Esq., Mrs. PEMBER REEVES, J. MALCOLM MITCHELL, Esq.
 Tickets of Admission, 1s., may be obtained from—
 THE WOMEN WRITERS' SUFFRAGE LEAGUE, 13, Henrietta St., Covent Garden, W.C., and
 THE MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE, 136, St. Stephen's House, Westminster.

THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, YORK STREET, St. James's, S.W.

The Club has been formed as a Social Club for
MEN AND WOMEN
 interested in the Suffrage Movement.
 CONSTANT LECTURES ARRANGED.
 There are only a few vacancies remaining for Founder members at £1 1s. 0d. subscription and no entrance fee.
 EARLY APPLICATION ADVISABLE.
 The Board of Management have decided to reserve a few Bedrooms for Lady Members wishing to make a prolonged stay in the club.
 INCLUSIVE TERMS FROM 25s. WEEKLY.
 Further particulars—Secretary.

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Best Nuts.....	24/6	Anthracite Nuts.....	40/-

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WILLIAM CLARKE & SON,
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 95, QUEEN'S ROAD, BAYSWATER, W.
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after all these years of advertisement and self-sacrifice, goes far of itself to show that somewhere or other it is wrong."

"For the main body of Suffragists, we have no hesitation in declaring our opinion that the only policy which has any chance of being practically effective is the policy lately adopted by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. We will not flatter the National Union by pretending to think that it is likely to be able to unseat Mr. Asquith in East Fife. But we do think that it might do a great deal to strengthen the Labour Party in the country, and thereby to make it at once more able and more anxious to bring effective pressure to bear upon the Government of the day. And it is worth remembering in this connection that with the reduction of the number of Nationalist Members consequent upon the passing of the Home Rule Bill, the Labour Party is more than ever likely in future to hold the balance of power."

The Blue Book Monthly Supplement to the *New Statesman* is a specially valuable addition to all who wish to study seriously present economic conditions and statistics in foreign countries. This week it gives admirable summaries of the Report, Part VIII., of the Enquiry into the Earnings and Hours of Labour of Workpeople in the United Kingdom, of publications dealing with the minimum wage in Australia, and the effect of the Queensland Wages Board Acts (in existence for four years) in raising wages, &c. A full list of Parliamentary and other official publications since the opening of the Session is also invaluable, including as it does particulars of Colonial Year Books just published, the Reports of Commissions on the Poor Law, and on Factories, &c.

E. M. LEAF.

New Societies.

EVESHAM.—West Midlands Federation.
 MARGATE.—Kentish Federation.
 CHEADLE.—Manchester and District.
 GAINSBOROUGH.—East Midlands Federation.
 TORQUAY.—South Western Federation.
 WELLINGBOROUGH.—East Midlands Federation.
 WADHURST AND DISTRICT.—Surrey, Sussex, and Hants. Federation.

Treasurer's Notes.

I give below another suggestion for those who are anxious to help us, and who find that it is easier to put aside money in small instalments rather than in one lump sum. I cannot do better than give in full the letter which has been sent to us by an anonymous contributor, together with her contribution.

"I would propose that one way of carrying out your proposal No. 2 for raising money for the Pilgrimage Fund would be for all members of the Union to put by, from now till July, every threepenny-bit that comes into their hands. I was going to propose that if a large number of members combined, they could help towards an Organiser's salary by this means, but now it shall be for the Pilgrimage Fund, and herewith I send you my first contribution: 29."

Contributions to the General Fund.

Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1912 ... £ s. d. 1,928 18 9
 Received May 13th to 19th, 1913:—

Subscriptions.	
Mrs. John P. Boyd Carpenter	10 10 0
Mrs. McCleverty	5 0
Miss Margaret Lytleton	10 0
Mrs. Price	5 0

Donations.	
Collection at Abbotsleigh, Maidenhead, per Miss E. A. Duncan	9 6

Affiliation Fees.	
Sherborne W.S.S.	5 0
Bideford W.S.S.	5 0
Wadhurst W.S.S.	5 0
Rishton W.S.S.	5 0

£1,941 18 3

Special Offerings.

Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage.	
Already acknowledged	£ s. d. 19 12 0
Mrs. Bassett Fox	100 0 0
Mrs. C. W. Earle	2 0 0
The Hon. Lady Acland	2 2 0
Miss Marion Chadwick	1 1 0
M. S. H.	2 2 0
Miss M. E. Dunn	3 0 0
Miss E. D. Spence	2 6
Collected in threepenny pieces	7 3

£130 6 9

Election Fighting Fund.

Already acknowledged	£ s. d. 5,367 17 1
Mrs. McCleverty	5 0
Miss A. Blow	1 0 0
A Friend	1 1 0

£5,370 3 1

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News from the Societies and Federations.

West Lancs, West Cheshire, and North Wales.

IRKINGHEAD—A successful drawing-room meeting was held on April 21st, by permission of Mrs. Winder at Egerton House, Rock Ferry. Mrs. Hodgson presided and Miss Jessie Beavan pleaded most eloquently the Cause of Women's Suffrage. Besides the addition of several new members, a gratifying result was the re-enrolment of some ex-members who had held aloof for some years on account of militancy. They are to be congratulated on their moral courage.

BLACKPOOL.—The Annual Meeting was held on April 15th at White House, Central Beach. The Rev. E. B. Hooper presided and the officers and members of the Society spoke. Work for the summer was discussed, and it is hoped to include a visit from Fru Anker.

CHESTER.—The Annual Meeting was held on April 16th, when Miss Jessie Beavan was the chief speaker. The attendance was fairly good. Tea was served at the end of the meeting, and a collection of 14s. 6d. taken.

COLWYN BAY.—The Y.M.C.A. having challenged the local Suffrage Society to a debate on Women's Suffrage, this took place on April 10th at the Y.M.C.A. lounge and was very largely attended. Mr. A. T. Hughes, on behalf of the "Antis," moved the following resolution: "That the political enfranchisement of women is neither necessary nor desirable now." Miss Mildred Spencer opposed the resolution and was supported by Lady Barlow, Mr. Austin supporting Mr. Hughes. The speaker of the debate repudiated most of the usual "Anti" arguments. There was a brisk succession of speakers and quite a number ready to speak when the Chairman called on the proposer to reply. The motion was lost by a large majority. It is interesting to learn that the debate had gathered a larger audience than any other debate this session. An additional piece of evidence that Women's Suffrage is a 'live' question.

LIVERPOOL.—The Annual Meeting was held on April 25th at the Rushworth Hall, Mrs. Egerton Stewart Brown presided. Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, read the Report, and Miss Brunner the Balance Sheet, which were unanimously adopted. Miss Jessie Beavan, Hon. Secretary of the Federation, gave a short account of the Federation, and appealed for funds. Miss Rathbone moved, and Miss Beavan seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Evelyn Deakin, and expressed the general regret of the Society at her leaving Liverpool. Mr. George Armstrong then gave an interesting address on the present political situation, and described very forcibly some of the great difficulties that have to be overcome.

LLANGOLLEN.—Mrs. John Aikin presided over a very successful gathering of members and friends on April 24th, which assembled in the Pavilion, Llangollen, to hear Mrs. F. A. Steel speak on Women's Suffrage, some of the audience having come from Chester, Cheshire, Wrexham, and Wrexham. Mr. Olley moved, and Mr. Walter Dodd seconded a very hearty vote of thanks. The collection covered the expenses.

ST. HELENS.—The Annual Meeting was held on February 24th, Miss Pilkington presided, and Miss Jessie Beavan spoke. The Officers and Committee were elected and instructions to the delegates to the National Union Annual Meeting were given. It was decided to hold an open-air campaign in the summer.

SOUTHPORT.—A meeting of members was held on April 4th to hear the report of the delegates to the Council Meeting and to discuss the new development of the National Union Policy. The Committee are much indebted to Miss Eskridge for her assistance, as unfortunately Miss Riggall, the indefatigable President of the Society, was away through illness.

WREXHAM.—A Drawing-room Meeting was kindly given on May 2nd by Mrs. Pen Dennis at Pendine, Wrexham. Dr. H. Drinkwater presided, and Miss Jessie Beavan spoke. Several new members were enrolled.

PRESBOT.—A meeting was held preliminary to forming a Society. The Rev. E. Bagley presided and Mr. Hughes, of Wigan, spoke excellently. Twelve persons joined to form a Suffrage Group, these being nearly all working women. Miss Eskridge reports that in canvassing for the meeting she found a growing feeling against Suffrage on account of militancy.

WALLASEY AND WIRRAL.—The Hon. Secretary addressed a meeting of girls and young women on April 17th at the Girls' Club, Egremont, six of the audience signing Friends of Women's Suffrage cards. A meeting was held by the kindness of Mrs. Masters at the Green Tea Rooms. Owing to the very wet night a very small audience collected, but those present listened eagerly to Miss Jessie Beavan's plea for just and fairer treatment of women politically and economically. On May 6th a pleasant gathering of members and friends was held by Mrs. Stanger at Pennard House, New Brighton. A delightful musical programme was provided by Miss Berwick, Miss Cowell, Miss Ferguson, Miss Ward Platt, Mrs. Dew, and Mrs. G. A. Hallybrass. An "American Sale" was held in the supper-room, which, with donations, realised over £9. The Hon. Secretary appealed to members to take part in the Suffrage Pilgrimage, and there was a very encouraging response.

Yorks: N. & E. Ridings.

ORGANISER'S REPORT.—During April I worked in Wensleydale and Richmond, breaking almost entirely new ground. Many of the villages lie miles away from the railway, therefore work in this area progresses slowly; but in these days, where an express train is a thing unknown, anything rapid would be quite out of keeping. I was fortunate in having opportunities of speaking at

the Central Wensleydale Liberal Demonstration, and also at a gathering of the Aysgarth Primrose League, held on Friarose Day. On both occasions many of those in the audience had never before heard a talk on women's suffrage, but they listened with great interest. A few joined as members, and many signed "Friends of Suffrage" cards.

The Rev. T. A. Ellwood, vicar of Hawes, kindly arranged that I should hold a meeting in the National School at Hawes, and also presided. In spite of an extremely wet night there was a fairly good audience. Six members joined, and ten "Friends" cards were signed. There were many requests for another meeting, and later on it should be quite possible to form a Society here and hold up excellent addresses. On April 21st I moved on to Richmond; here some suffrage work has already been done, but with very little result, and the formation of a Society will be a difficult process. There is both indifference and opposition to overcome, but with steady and persistent work we may hope to accomplish this. Before I left I discovered a few keen suffragists who will be able to arrange some meetings here in the Autumn.

HULL.—A Public Meeting was held in the Church Institute, Albion Street, on April 23rd. Miss Geraldine Cooke gave an interesting address dealing with the Suffrage Movement from its earliest days to the present day. She also explained very lucidly the present policy of the National Union. During this month we have had the pleasure of a visit from Miss Dutton, who gave most excellent addresses at "At Home," held at 7, Jameson Street, on April 30 and May 6. Miss Dutton spoke at a Public Meeting in Beverley on May 7th, when the Chair was taken by Council Member. On May 8th, a meeting was held at Barton-on-Umber, which was the first Suffrage Meeting held there. All arrangements were made by Miss Blyth and her friends. Miss Dutton's speech was much appreciated and fourteen F.W.S. cards were signed. Several of the audience signified their intention of joining the National Union, and we hope a branch will be formed there shortly. The Hull and District Trades and Labour Council passed a Resolution on May 1st endorsing the Labour Party's policy of January 30th, and calling upon the Party in Parliament to oppose any further extension of the franchise in which women are not included.

YORK.—At a meeting of the York Committee on April 24th, the President, the Hon. Mrs. Wilkinson, announced that she had received during the month over £40 in subscriptions for an Organising Secretary for the Branch. It was unanimously decided to retain the services of Mrs. Meyer, who has been connected with the York Society for some years. A drawing-room meeting was held on April 15th at Mrs. Chapman's, New York Terrace. Mrs. Meyer gave a most interesting address, and as a result, five new members joined and a good collection was taken. A further drawing-room meeting was held at 5, St. Nicholas Terrace, York. Miss Thompson, the hostess, took the chair, and Mrs. Meyer gave an interesting address. At the close of the meeting several new members joined, and "Friends of Suffrage" cards were signed. A collection was taken and copies of the Common Cause were sold.

Kent's.

DEAL AND WALMER.—A drawing-room meeting was held on April 22nd, at Beech Lodge, Walmer, by permission of Mrs. Harner. The future policy of the National Union, as expressed in the Annual Report, was discussed. Without any formal resolution being put to the meeting it was unanimously agreed that the recent violent and dangerous exploits of the militants were much to be deplored. It was, however, pointed out that although they show zeal without discretion, the National Union in many of its branches shows discretion without zeal, a failure not so reprehensible but scarcely less deplorable. Several ladies have promised to give Suffrage Teas and Talks in the near future.

MARGATE.—A successful "At Home" of the Margate Suffrage Society was held at the Foresters' Hall on May 5th, when the public election of officers took place. Miss Griffith Jones, organiser for Kent, spoke on the aims and work of the National Union, and a unanimous vote in favour of affiliation to the Union was carried. It was also decided to join the Federation of Kent, so as to keep in touch with all movements in the county. Miss Inez Benusian, assisted by Miss Alice Clayton Greene, Mr. Cyril Ashford, and Mr. Arthur Bachner, of the Actresses' Franchise League, gave much pleasure in their rendering of "The Englishwoman's Home" and other dramatic recitals. Refreshments were provided, and the enjoyment of the evening was much enhanced by the music rendered by the orchestra consisting of three well-known residents of Margate. The Society numbered one hundred members, but has now gained many additional names by the evening's work.

SEVENOAKS.—This Society is busy preparing the ground and sowing the good seed. Distribution of Suffrage Literature to the audience of an Anti-Suffrage Meeting on April 25th, is expected to bear good fruit. Arrangements have been made to secure an advertising board at the Railway Station, which will be used for propaganda work. On May 14th the General Meeting of the Society was held, combined with a musical and dramatic entertainment, in which the Actresses' Franchise League is giving its valuable aid. The meeting is free to members and friends.

SHOREHAM AND OTFORD.—A most successful drawing-room meeting was held on May 6th by permission of Mrs. Russett at Beech, Shoreham. Miss Griffith Jones spoke on the policy of the N.U.W.S.S. and was followed by Fru Anker, who gave an account of the struggle for the vote in Norway, and the effect which the woman's vote has had in that country. She excited great enthusiasm, and several new members joined the Society after her address.

TONBRIDGE.—Miss Griffith Jones and Miss Millington visited Tonbridge on April 24th and 25th and addressed a series of meetings. On the afternoon of the 24th Miss Griffith Jones addressed the Congregational Church Mother's Meeting; in the evening the North Adult School; and on the 25th the South Adult School. The subjects of her addresses were the White Slave Trade, Woman's Wages, and Sweated Industries. On the afternoon of the 25th, a drawing-room meeting was held at which Miss Griffith Jones spoke on Women's Suffrage. Arrangements are being made to hold a Mass Meeting on May 26th at which the Rev. Hugh Chapman will be the chief speaker.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—A meeting was held at the office on April 18, when Miss M. Abbott, from Tonbridge, made a spirited speech and told how she had done propaganda work cycling into small villages and getting up informal meetings. Discussion followed. It is hoped to organise work on similar lines during the summer months. On May 8th a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Madame Sarah Grand presiding. The speakers were Mrs. Rackham, P.L.G., of Cambridge, and Fru Anker from Norway. Anti-Suffrage feeling in the town has much increased since the outrages which resulted in the destruction of the cricket pavilion.

BISHOP AUCLAND.—A meeting was held in connection with the above society on May 5th, in the Edgar Memorial Hall, when Miss Mrs. M. Stock (Australia) delivered a very inspiring address dealing with the spiritual and humanitarian view of Woman Suffrage; Mrs. Dr. Brown, of Shildon Abbey, presided. There was a good attendance.

COMMON CAUSE SECRETARY.

WAKEFIELD.—Our Society has entered for the C.C. competition, and a meeting has been held of those interested. On May 23rd a Stock Exchange Tea was held at Westgate End House, by kind permission of Mrs. Reader, the proceeds being divided between the Federation and the Society. Mrs. Renton gave a most inspiring address.

Scottish.

PERTH.—A Cake and Candy Sale, on behalf of the Perth, Bridge of Earn, and Scene Branch of the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies was held in the Guild Hall, Perth, on April 19th. Mrs. Scott Murray, President of the Society, occupied the chair. The Rev. J. W. Slater, Scene, in performing the opening ceremony, said there could be no doubt as to the need of light on the subject of Women's Suffrage, when Cabinet Ministers made speeches gravely asserting that women were naturally unfitted to exercise the franchise. The movement was not merely a political movement; it was a religious movement. It was a matter of deep regret to many Liberals that the present Government had taken up the attitude to the question it had taken. Mr. Asquith's honour was pledged to give adequate facilities for the passing of the Women's Suffrage measure through the Houses of Parliament, and if that promise were not redeemed, many ardent Liberals might be compelled to withhold their support from the Government at the next General Election. Throughout the afternoon and evening the sale was well patronised.

FIFE FRANCHISE FORTNIGHT.—"I am not sure," said the Prime Minister to the Commons, on May 6th, "that I am at variance on the question of Women's Suffrage with the majority of those who sent me to this House." The workers in the East Fife campaign are very sure that Mr. Asquith's constituents are not so "Anti" as he thinks. During their fortnight of thirty-four meetings, and the longer time of preparation and preliminary canvassing, their reception amongst all classes and both sexes was almost universally sympathetic. Only in Guardbridge, a stronghold of Antis, was any opposition met with, and even there the speaker got an attentive hearing. To quote the report (in broad Scots) of this meeting from the "People's Journal," a widely-read weekly: "The men Liberals were almost convinced, and their attitude was well expressed by one in the words: 'Gie us time to think, and dinna thrust the measure doon our throats willy-nilly.' The greatest opposition came from the women, and this is accounted for by the fact that there is an Anti-Suffrage Society working in the village. This society, however, has been blown upon, and tho' in the Brig it is not of it, it is an exotic transplanted by the gentry." A better reception is promised to the Suffragists the next time they enter this one fortress of the Antis in East Fife.

From all sides reports reach us of the success of the campaign, and there is no doubt that East Fife is now awake to the urgency of our demand for the vote, and to the existence and energy of the constitutional Suffragists.

Progress in Birmingham.

The Annual Meeting of the Birmingham Society was held on May 7th, when there was a good attendance. An increase of membership during the past year of 137 was reported, some losses by removals having, however, been sustained. The number of Friends of Women's Suffrage was given as 1,111. Mrs. Stanbury gave an inspiring address, and Mr. A. D. Mathews also spoke on the rejection of the Dickinson Bill. A good collection was taken, and new subscribers were gained for THE COMMON CAUSE and the Englishwoman.

The Oxon, Berks and Bucks Federation is undertaking a campaign in Newbury (Berks) from May 19th to June 16th. Names and addresses of sympathisers and possible helpers will be gladly received by Miss Dora Mason, at the Island House, Newbury.

Forthcoming Meetings.

ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION.

MAY 23
Exeter—Provincial Council—Small Barnfield Hall
Exeter—Public Meeting—Barnfield Hall—Speakers, Lady Courtney of Penwith, Miss A. Maude Royden, Miss Margaret Robertson—Chair, Sir H. Newman, Bart.
York—Dilston House, Hull Road—Hostess, Mrs. Menell—Speaker, Mrs. Meyer
Grimsby—Council Chamber, Town Hall—Speaker, Mrs. Swannick, M.A.—Chair, Rev. H. Surgy
St. Alban's—Miss Lee's Drawing-room Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Rackham
Harpenden—Public Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Rackham, Mr. L. Housman
Gateshead—Open-air Meeting—Railway Works—Speaker, Miss Sheard
Ryhope—L.L.P. Outdoors
Leicester—Medway Street Council School—Speakers, Miss Agnes Dawson (President Teachers' Franchise Union), Mrs. Cowmeadow—Chair, Mrs. Pochin (Education Committee)

MAY 24
Exeter—Meeting, S.W. Federation
Seaham Harbour—Outdoor Meeting—Miss Pressly Smith

MAY 26
Tonbridge—Public Hall—Speaker, Rev. Hugh Chapman—Chair, Mrs. Abbott
Wednesbury—Y.M.C.A. Rooms—"At Home"—Speaker, Miss Noel Wright

MAY 26
Manchester—Hulme Suffrage Club, York Street Temperance Hall, Hulme
Didsbury Suffrage Club—Co-operative Room, Wilmslow Road, Didsbury—Speaker, Councillor Margaret Ashton—Chair, Miss Lucy Cox
Croydon—34, The Arcade, High Street—Speaker, Mrs. Knight
Sledeup—Westburton Iron Room—Speakers, Mrs. Rackham (P.L.G.), Miss Griffith Moncrieff-Jones—Chair, Lady Scott

MAY 26
Rugby House—Miss Abadam

MAY 27
York—The Vicarage, Easingwold—Garden Meeting—Speaker, Mrs. Meyer
The Schoolroom—Crayke—Speaker, Mrs. Meyer

MAY 27
Sutton Coldfield—Meeting at the Residence of Miss Parkes, Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield—Speaker, Miss Abadam
Bristol—"Give and Take Tea"—Mrs. Hale, 4, Slion Hill, Clifton

MAY 27
Chester—Holborn Restaurant, Foregate Street—Speaker, Miss C. Leadley Brown on "The Suffrage Pilgrimage"
Gateshead—Mrs. Hutchinson's Drawing-room Meeting—Debate, Miss Sheard, Mrs. Beltcliffe—Chair, Miss Beaver
Houghton and Philadelphia Members—Meeting—Bell's Cafe, Houghton—Visitors, Delegates from the Houghton I.L.P.—Speaker, Miss Pressly Smith
Taunton—Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser

MAY 28
Keswick—Fifth Annual Meeting—Albion Hotel—Chair, Mrs. F. Marshall (President)—Address by Councillor Margaret Ashton
Charlton—Open-air Meeting on the Green—Speaker, Miss Millington
Burnham—Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser
Ascot—Invitation Meeting at Mrs. Heywoods, Shrub's Hill Place—Speakers, H.H. the Rane of Sarawak and Mrs. Abbott

MAY 28
Gateshead—W.S. Office, 115, High West Street—Social Meeting for Women—Speaker, Miss Sheard
Hetton—Members' Meeting—Masonic Hall—Visitors, Helton and Merton I.L.P. Delegates—Speaker, Miss Pressly Smith

MAY 28
Bristol—St. Andrew's Branch—Cake and Apron Sale—Mrs. Borthwick, 1, Washington Street, St. Andrew's
Totterdown Branch—Fortnightly Meeting—Y.M.C.A. Totterdown—Speakers, Mrs. J. M. Barrett—Chair, Mrs. Treble
Suffrage Meeting of Liberal Men and Women—Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, Drayton, Beaufort Road, Clifton—Speakers, Professor Skimp, W. C. H. Cross, L.L.B.

MAY 29
Gateshead—W.S. Office, 115, High West Street—Social Meeting for F.W.S.
Hetton—I.L.P. Branch—Meeting—Visitors, Houghton N.U.W.S.S. Delegates
Cheltenham—Public Meeting—Town Hall—Speaker, Mr. Laurence Housman—Chair, Lady Isabel Marzessou—Speakers, Mrs. Helen Fraser
Chippenham—Town Hall—Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser
Trowbridge—Town Hall—Speaker, H. Baillie Weaver, Esq.

MAY 29
Bristol—Fortnightly Meeting—The Chessp Co-operative Hall, East Street—Speakers, Mrs. Hicks, B.A., Mrs. Danell
MAY 30
Merton—I.L.P. Branch Meeting—Visitors, Ryhope N.U.W.S.S. Delegates
Ryhope—Outdoor Meeting—Speakers, Miss St. John, Mr. Barrack
Portsmouth—Assembly Room—Speaker, H. Baillie Weaver, Esq.
Aynhoe—The School—Speaker, Miss Millington
Bradford—5, Eldon Place—Annual Meeting of the Bradford Branch of the N.U.W.S.S.

MAY 30
Bristol—Bridge and Whist Drive—Hostess, Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, 16, Berkeley Square
Evesham—The Council Chamber—Miss Abadam—Chair, Miss Noel Wright

MAY 31
Houghton-le-Spring—Central Com. and Delegates Meeting
Houghton-le-Spring—Outdoor Meeting—Miss St. John, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Banack

LONDON.

FRIDAY, MAY 23.
North Paddington—Drawing-room Meeting at 222, Portofino Road, Malda Vale—Hostess, Mrs. Pratt—Speaker, Miss M. Goddard
Westminster Palace Hotel—London Society's Reception—Chair, Miss Rosmond Smith—Speakers, Mrs. Homan Ward, Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell

MONDAY, MAY 26.
South Paddington—Drawing-room Meeting at 51, Hyde Park Mansions—Hostesses, The Misses Ford—Chair, Miss I. O. Ford—Speaker, Miss G. Cooke
Epsom—Annual Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Homan—Speaker, Mrs. Merivale Meyer

TUESDAY, MAY 27.
Battersea—Drawing-room Meeting at 74, York Mansions, Battersea Park, S.W.—Hostess, Mrs. Rawlings—Speaker, Mrs. A. Savory
Chelsea—Public Meeting at the Tora Hall, Chelsea (entrance in Manor Garden)—Chair, Miss Helen Ward—Speakers, Miss Philippa Fawcett and others
Hoxton—Meeting at Hoxton Market Mission, Pitfield Street—"The Uplifting of Woman"

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28.
East St. Pancras—Meeting at Y.M.C.A., 17, Camden Road—Speaker, Mrs. Rawlings
S. Kensington—Garden Meeting (indoors if wet) at 1a, Holland Park, W.—Hostess and Chairman, Miss Holland—Speaker, Miss Lowdes
Ewell—Debate at the Lecture Hall—Chair, Dr. Reichardt—Speakers, Miss Helen Ward and Miss Gladys Pott

THURSDAY, MAY 29.
Lambeth and Southwark—Jumble Sale at Alford House, 10, Lambeth Walk
Hampstead—Meeting at 5, Wynecombe Studios, England's Lane, Haverstock Hill—Chair, the Hon. Mrs. William Cecil—Speakers, Mrs. Rackham, Miss Clementina Black
Islington—Open-air Meeting at North Road—Chair, Mrs. Richardson—Speaker, Miss D. E. Brown
Ealing—Meeting at Ealing Broadway—Hostess, Miss Debac—Speakers, Mrs. Rackham, P.L.G.—Chair, Mr. J. Y. Kennedy
Richmond—Public meeting, Raleigh Road Hall, Lower Mortlake Road—Chair, A. J. Martin, Esq.—Speakers, J. Cameron Grant, Esq., Mrs. P. T. Swainwick, M.A.—Subjects, "White Slave Traffic" and "The Economic Position of Women"

FRIDAY, MAY 30.
Westminster Palace Hotel—London Society's Reception—Chair, Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A.—Speakers, Miss K. D. Courtney, Mrs. Rackham, P.L.G., Miss A. M. Royden
N. Kensington—Open-air Meeting, Corner of Lancaster Road and Ladbroke Grove—Speakers, Miss Agnes Dawson, Miss Elkin

SCOTLAND.

MAY 23.
Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place, "At Home"—Speaker, Miss Louisa Innes Lumsden—Subject, "The Religious Aspect of the Women's Movement"
MAY 28.
West Calder—Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Miss Lissa M. Gordon

MAY 29.
Kenilworth—Joint Meeting with the C.W.F.A., Pooching Hall—Chair, Lady Willoughby de Broke—Speakers, Dr. Sloane Chesser, The Rev. H. Wynne
MAY 30.
Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place, "At Home"—

Lady Selborne's dinner and reception on May 9th was a brilliant success, both in numbers, in the speeches given, and in the musical and dramatic entertainment which followed them. Lord Willoughby de Broke spoke of a possible "National" party, with the ideals of a national policy, built on a basis which must include women as well as men. The cause of Women's Suffrage, he said, must win, "not because of the mistakes of militancy, but in spite of them."

The first "Club" Dinner of the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, St. James's, S.W., took place on Sunday evening last and was a notable success, every table having been taken weeks in advance. An entertainment followed the dinner, at which many well-known artistes assisted, and a "first" performance was given of a new duologue by Miss Bertha N. Graham, entitled "Compromised," in which the rôle of the Suffragette journalist was acted with much spirit by Miss Leah Bateman Hunter, and the compromised Member by Mr. Hutton.

Friends' League for Women's Suffrage.

The first annual meeting of the League founded by members of the Society of Friends, was held at Devonshire House, Bishopsgate, on Monday (May 19th). Short addresses were given by Mrs. Percy Bigland, Miss M. Crosfield, Lady Scott Moncrieff, and others. The League has arranged for a meeting, with tea and speeches, at the Ideal Restaurant, Bishopsgate, on Tuesday, the 27th May, at 5 o'clock, to which all members of the Society of Friends are cordially invited. As the yearly meeting is now in full session at Devonshire House, a few doors away, a large attendance is expected.

Sweated Worker's Exhibition.

On Wednesday, May 22nd, a Sweated Workers' Exhibition will be held at Knightsbridge Palace Hotel, 3 to 6.50 p.m., under the auspices of the Women Writers' Suffrage League and the Men's League for Woman Suffrage. For full particulars see page

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS. Our readers are earnestly requested to support the Advertisers in the paper. Only firms of the highest repute are accepted by us, and if all readers will deal exclusively with them, it will materially help The Common Cause.

LADY BETTY Great Sale OF FRENCH MILLINERY AND BLOUSES. Paris Model Gowns. 19, QUEEN'S ROAD, BAYSWATER, W. Close to Tube and Metropolitan Ry.

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Coming Events.

We shall be glad to announce Meetings of Societies, Lectures, etc., in this column, and a charge of 2s. per insertion of 24 words will be made. To ensure insertion in our next issue all advertisements must be received not later than Wednesday morning. All communications should be addressed to The Manager, Common Cause, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD., 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. May 28th, 8.30 p.m. **DEBATE:** "Is Vivisection Justifiable?" Mr. Sidney Trist (Editor of the "Animals' Guardian," Secretary of London and Provincial Anti-Vivisection Society), Mr. W. McAdam Eccles, M.S., F.R.C.S. Chairman, Mrs. Stanbury.

THE ETHICAL CHURCH, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W.—Sunday, May 25th, at 11 a.m. Mr. Baillie-Weaver on "The Status of Women and How to Raise It." All seats free.

THE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. ISLINGTON BRANCH.—May 27th. **MEETING** in Church Room, Tollington Park. Dr. Helen Hanson, and others. **HORNSEY.**—May 29th. St. Luke's, Mayfield Road, at 8.30 p.m. **MEETING.** Miss Maud Bell, Rev. F. M. Green.

WOMEN'S TAX RESISTANCE LEAGUE SALE AND PROTEST MEETING, Mark Cross, Sussex. Saturday, May 24th, 6 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mr. Regd. Pott. Chair: Miss Roll.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Not exceeding 10 words: 1 insertion, 9d.; 2 insertions, 1s. 3d.; 3 insertions, 1s. 6d.; 6 insertions, 2s. 9d.; 13 insertions, 5s. 6d. Every additional ten words, 6d. extra per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, and all payments for Advertisements should be made to The Common Cause Publishing Co., Limited, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

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CAN any Owner lend or let **CARAVAN** for Suffrage Pilgrimage in July?—Miss SHARP, Silverthwaite, Loughrigg, Ambleside (Westmorland).

GENERAL.

GOD'S WORD TO WOMEN has never been a word of disapproval and suppression. The Bible encourages the development of woman and stands for her perfect equality with man, in spite of the teachings to the contrary. Do you wish to equip yourself for meeting the arguments of those who attempt, with sacrilegious hands, to throw the Bible in the way of woman's progress? Do you wish to know **WHERE** and **HOW** they mistranslate and misrepresent it? Send 7d. (15 cents in stamps from America), for "101 Questions Answered," a Woman's Catechism, prepared purposely to solve your perplexities.—Katharine Bushnell, 10a, Drayton Park, Highbury, London, N.

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I approve of the objects and methods of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and desire to be enrolled as a member of the affiliated Society in my district.

I herewith enclose cheque postal order for £ s. d., the amount of my annual subscription.

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Address

(in full.)

To the Secretary

Society for Women's Suffrage,

Or the Secretary, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.