

THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.)

VOL. I.—No. 26.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and MANAGING DIRECTOR respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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WHAT WE THINK.

The Conciliation Committee.

Mr. Spencer Leigh Hughes recently alluded to the suffrage as being one of those subjects which was bringing men of all parties into touch with each other. The Conciliation Committee, of which Lord Lytton is chairman, according to the *Manchester Guardian*, is endeavouring to discover if it be possible to obtain some means of advancing the women's cause by general consent. The *Manchester Guardian* further says of the second meeting, "the proceedings were private, but it is understood that a general discussion took place which showed quite a possibility of non-party agreement." Conciliation is an excellent thing, though Peace with Honour is better. But whatever the result—even if it were to enfranchise only one woman, and that one Mrs. Humphry Ward—we would welcome it. An opening for the thin end of the wedge is what we have been seeking, and once it is in we will supply the necessary leverage to prise the Parliamentary door wide open.

The Lost Amendment.

On Thursday last (the 14th) the Marquis of Tullibardine (U.) moved an amendment to exclude from the operation of the Veto Resolution Bills affecting the Parliamentary franchise. He remarked that "under the Government's proposal it would be possible to deal with the question of plural voting or women's suffrage without the people being able to say a single word on the subject." Mr. Churchill, in declining to accept the amendment, which was subsequently lost, pointed out that the invariable constitutional practice had been "to go to the country immediately after, and not before a great reform had been carried into law. . . . Moreover, an attempt to restrict the sovereign power of Parliament by the insertion of such phrases would be ineffective even if it were necessary." Considering that "within living memory" Mr. Asquith declared that the opinion of the women of the country on our particular reform was necessary before it would be granted, it is refreshing to hear the Home Secretary declaring that the invariable Constitutional practice is the contrary, unless, of course, the gender of country be as undecided as that of "people" and "person." As we have given the proof which the Premier required, and which he, ostrich-like, dug his head into the sand lest he should see, it is interesting to now hear from another

member of the Cabinet that such a referendum was unnecessary. Those who take the political temperature of the House have given us hope, and from these latest utterances of the Home Secretary we can draw even a larger measure of comfort. Mr. Asquith has had such a plenteous meal recently from his own words that a surfeit may probably cause an intellectual indigestion. Taking the risk, however, we add our little "plat" to the well-spread table.

French Suffragists.

The present struggle in France may be briefly regarded as a whole-hearted attempt to get rid, once for all, of the Napoleonic ideal of woman. The Napoleonic woman was never a numerous species in France, but the Code Napoléon and its abominable restrictions helped to carry on her tradition. In Tighe Hopkins' recent book, "Women Napoleon Loved," an utterance worthy of Mr. Belloc is found: "In France women are made far too much of; they should not be regarded as men's equals, for after all they are nothing but the machinery for the turning out of children." The ladies who are contesting constituencies—though they have not yet been accorded the vote—are out against the Code Napoléon. In France women play a far greater part in the commercial life of the nation than they do in this country, but so far they have taken no part in politics. It is even said that, unlike the majority of Englishwomen, they have never even taken any part in the elections of their brothers and husbands. But they are certainly learning the ropes amazingly quickly. The exact nature of the chivalry which the political woman who selfishly does political work for herself will be deprived of, is being discovered by these ladies from a section of the male French public which might not like to be called either hooligan or Apache. Officialdom, too, is out against them, and unlike the other male candidates for election, Mme. Pelletier (candidate for the Chamber of Deputies in the 18th Arrondissement), Mme. Durand (candidate in the 9th Arrondissement), and the other women candidates have had to pay for space for their electioneering posters. When the French Government drove the religious sisterhoods out of France and secularised thus compulsorily a large portion of French women, they were making trouble for themselves in ways they had little contemplated, for the small amount of organising power which might have been enclosed within convent walls is now free to find a serious outlet elsewhere, and add its quota to the rising tide of feminism. Though they know the attempt to be chosen as Deputy is likely to be unsuccessful, these plucky ladies say they will have the vote as soon if not sooner than we will. Such a Marathon for the franchise will not be without interest.

Housing for Women.

The question of proper lodgings for single women and widows of the poorer class seems to have almost escaped our philanthropists. In the new Samuel Lewis buildings at Islington there is, however, a step in the right direction in the accommodation for widows at 2s a week. But there is plenty of room for a scheme which, without pauperising them or interfering unduly with their individual liberty, shall provide decent housing for single women of the poorer class.

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OUR WORK.

There is, as he or she who runs may read, a dissolution near at hand. Quietly and thoroughly we are preparing for it. Throughout the country, the towns, and the cities our influence is spreading and our membership is growing. Strong, healthy branches such as that of Sunderland spring full grown like our own Minerva from the head of Jove, and, like her, armed and full of vigour. Our older branches in Scotland and in the provinces—to name any in particular would be invidious—have been doing splendid work. The messages which their emissaries to the Conference brought back to them have borne fruit, and we have every reason to view the splendid propaganda work they are doing with exceptional gratitude. On all sides we hear of corps of willing helpers going out to sell THE VOTE and bringing in this way the message of Freedom into lives that were growing monotonous and lethargic. The world movement of Freedom, which has spread like the message of a new prophet from country to country, has known its greatest impulses in our midst. It is as if the air and elements in which at least old Mother Nature has given us equality, have joined issue with us and borne the whisperings of revolt against the scandals of the old order to the women of every country. That Freedom which is our watchword is perhaps nearer than some of us suspect, and for this reason it is all the more necessary that our old and new workers should strain every nerve to lessen the time of waiting.

The Central Branch has found new outlets for its energies. Educative work in economic and social questions is being done at the evening lectures held at 1, Robert Street, Adelphi; new speakers are learning self-confidence at Mrs. Chapin's speakers' classes, and the Sunday morning crowds at Regent's Park pay tribute to the success of the open-air meetings. All through the League the process of strengthening and of getting ready is spreading. Our beloved President is at the office continually advising and helping, and ready always to give of her good counsel, her enthusiasm, and her experience to the new member as to the old.

Our At Homes at Caxton Hall on Thursdays are doing splendid propaganda work. There are each week interesting speeches from interesting people; questions provoking instructive answers; that air of camaraderie and comprehension that the Freedom League with its democratic principles inspires. These things make our At Homes kindly welcoming places for lovers of Woman's Freedom.

But Money is always needed. We spend it with that economy which is our feminine birthright. We spend knowing that it is an investment for the future—coin paid in counters of Freedom. We, like all who are not free, must of necessity be mendicants, and those of us who can should help in every way in their power to fill our coffers, knowing that they are helping not only themselves, and the women, poor and rich, of this generation to be free, but unborn women who, living under greater and freer economic conditions than we are doing, will use them well knowing that they owe that priceless gift of liberty to our sacrifices. When their sons and their husbands went to war, the Roman matrons gave their rich jewels to pay for the long campaigns that were the price of their city's free-

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dom. But the members of the Freedom League are fighting for something more than a city—they are fighting for a citadel—the citadel of their sex—that it may be free for all time. And the price is also paid in terms of personal sacrifice.

"AT HOME" AT CAXTON HALL.

The Thursday afternoon "At Home" at Caxton Hall on April 14th was in every way successful. In response to Mrs. Despard's eloquent appeal £25 was taken as collection, or promised by the audience.

Mrs. Cope took the chair in the absence, through illness, of Countess Russell, and Mrs. Chapin, the joint heroine, with Miss Neilans, of the Bermondsey Ballot-box Protest, was the first speaker. She remarked that it was in the Law Courts of to-day that the sex war was most to be seen. It seemed that there you get the woman not so much lonely as isolated. Even your lawyers do not treat you there in the same pleasant way they do outside. Mrs. Chapin's lawyer said to her before her trial, "I am doing my best, but against terrible odds." He evidently did not think the law was being administered justly on that day. It always seemed that a woman in the dock was a person who had to be suppressed. Prison itself was torture of the worst kind for mind and body. No messages were allowed to be received. They never knew if relatives were ill or how they were getting on outside; in cases of very bad illness or of death, "the Governor would let them know." In conclusion, Mrs. Chapin wished to preach impatience at the wrongs existing, and patience in continuing the fight against injustice.

Women and Painters.

Mr. Frank Rutter followed with an excellent address on "Women and Painters." "As an apology for my appearance on the platform this afternoon," he said, "I can only offer the Adamite excuse that 'the woman tempted me,' and when I tell you that the woman in question was Mrs. Manson, you will know how impossible it was to refuse. I think it only fair to add, also, that the subject on which I was to speak was also chosen for me. I think I cannot be going very far wrong if I gather this subject to mean that Mrs. Manson would like me to say something this afternoon about women's position in the art world, and what are my own observations in going to exhibitions and mixing with artists, and what my own experience has been as to the way in which women are regarded. I do not think it is possible to speak of men and women as if women were quite distinct from men—that is not the point of view with which I should agree.

"We all know that women have inspired great artists, and I hope I do not say too much when I say that men have inspired great women artists, for I should not like to see all the inspiration drawn from one sex, and so I think it would be more interesting to consider the position of women in art from the standpoint of the working artists themselves, and there I think we at once come face to face with the situation which we meet with in any other sphere—that there is a tendency to regard the work of a woman as something not quite serious, merely because she is a woman. You meet it in art just as in other forms of industry. I myself have seen examples of it. There was an extremely clever painting by a woman artist, and a well-known collector admired it very much. He bought this painting without knowing that it was by a woman, because she was a foreigner, and had one of those Christian names which might either belong to a man or a woman. This collector added this painting to his collection, and the following year he again came to the same exhibition, and we also had some more pictures by the

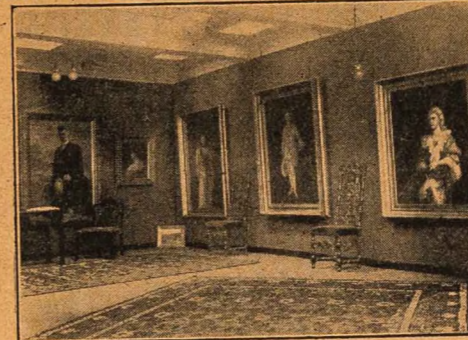
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same artist. He came up, saw them, and, in fact, was so interested in the work that he had seen a year ago that he remarked, 'Yes, it's really very clever work; I like it. Is he a young man?' Well, very foolishly from a business standpoint, I said, 'It's not a man, it's a woman.' 'Really,' he said, 'I had no idea of that. If I known it was a woman I should not have bought that picture last year.'

"There are, there have been in the past, women painters who have achieved fame and whose fame is familiar to-day, although I have no doubt that if women had had the vote and had had perfectly equal chances for the last 400 or 500 years we should be conversant to-day with a much greater number of names of women artists. Even after making allowance for the women artists whose work has been lost sight of, there still remains enough to justify the claim of women in art. I think that probably the greatest portrait-painter that France produced in the eighteenth century was a woman, Mme. Vigée Lebrun, and I think that every person is familiar with the name of Angelica Kaufmann. Sofonisba Anguisciola, for example, who made some distinct advances, and Mme. Berthe Morisot, the impressionist, added something to the history of art. Critics and historians of art work seem to have sought, when they are men, to minimise the quality of the work done by women artists, and will always try to forage around and find a man in the background. They don't say *cherchez la femme* in these cases, but *cherchez l'homme*."

REPLY FROM THE LABOUR PARTY.

As was stated in last week's VOTE, a deputation, consisting of Mrs. Despard, Miss Benett, Mrs. Amy Sanderson, Mrs. Manson, and Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson, waited on the Labour Party at the House on Tuesday. Mrs. Despard, in introducing them, stated that the object of the deputation was to put our case for more definite support from the Labour Party as a party and not as individuals. She spoke in terms of approval of the friendly attitude of the Labour men as a whole.

Mrs. Amy Sanderson spoke as an ex-member of the party, urging the importance of the women's cause in the interests of the party, pointing out (1) that as practical politicians they were agreed on the policy of supporting a Women's Enfranchisement Bill, even as a first step to adult suffrage; (2) that they were responsible to their constituencies as well as the Labour Party Conference, and that the constituencies supported the demand for the removal of the sex disability and not adult suffrage; (3) that their support as individuals had no more significance than the support of Liberals as individuals. Therefore they urged them, in view of another General Election, to make a public declaration as a party in support of the women's demand.

Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson spoke as one who, in spite of being a member of the W.F.L., had remained loyal to the

party at election times, but indicated in various ways how keenly she felt her position and how much she wished for a further declaration from the Labour Party.

Mrs. Manson spoke from the point of view of the Liberal woman on strike, and pointed out how a favourable answer from the Labour Party would influence not only such women as herself, but Liberal men in a similar position, who were disgusted with their own party.

Mr. Parker (Halifax) and Mr. Duncan (Barrow-in-Furness) both endorsed Mrs. Sanderson's statement about the feeling in the constituencies. Mr. Barnes, chairman, said that the matter would be brought before the party meeting on the following Thursday, and assured them that all the points would be carefully considered.

Mrs. Despard thanked the members for their courteous reception of the deputation, who then withdrew.

The following letter was received on Friday from Mr. Parker, on behalf of the Labour Party:—

House of Commons, S.W., 14th April, 1910.

DEAR MADAM,—

At the Labour Party's meeting this afternoon the officers reported on the interview which took place with your deputation on Tuesday last.

The matter was considered at some length (sympathetically, I may say), but the party was eventually forced to the conclusion that it could not make the declaration asked for in view of the Annual Conference decisions. Unless and until these decisions are reversed the party's hands are tied.

It will not be necessary for me to remind your League how the members of the party have voted when the Women's Enfranchisement Bill has been before the House of Commons, and I see no reason for believing that on any similar occasions in the future the action of the members will be in any way different.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) JAS. PARKER.

Mrs. E. How Martyn, Women's Freedom League.

THE SUFFRAGE PROCESSION.

DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS,—

Our sister society, the N.W.S.P.U., are organising a great procession and pageant of women in London on Saturday, May 28th. The W.F.L. have been invited to march in it, wearing their own colours and displaying their banners. I hope, all being well, to march myself, and I trust that every member of our society, either in London or belonging to our provincial branches, will do her very utmost to take a part in what will be, we believe, the finest and most beautiful spectacle that has ever been seen in London. All the Suffrage societies, we hear, are joining. The W.F.L. must not be behindhand. It is time we should show our friend, the enemy, that, although we may differ in method and tactics, we are bound together in the one great aim, freedom and political rights for women.—Yours fraternally,

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A WOMAN REVOLUTIONARY.

"We may die in exile, and our children may die, and our children's children, but something will come of it at last." These were the words of Madame Breshkovsky to an American journalist whom she met while she was in exile in Siberia. They are notable words, and they tell of the indomitable will and unselfish sincerity which tilts against its conception of injustice. The trial which has just concluded of Tchaikovsky and Madame Breshkovsky has attracted the attention of the followers of Count Tolstoy (the leader whose disciples are relentlessly punished, but who himself remains untouched because he is too much in the public eye), and protests were organised which ultimately led to the acquittal of Tchaikovsky. But Madame Breshkovsky, though the charges against both were the same, was condemned to life-long exile in Siberia.

Briefly her career and "crimes" were (according to the *Boston Woman's Journal*), as follows:—Catherine Breshkovsky was the daughter of a nobleman in Little Russia. Her parents were excellent people according to their lights, but they saw no harm in living in luxury upon the unpaid labour of their serfs. The little girl, however, from her earliest childhood, was shocked and pained by the contrast between the life of the nobles and that of the peasants. From the time that she was eight years old, her ruling idea was the longing to secure justice for the serfs, and to promote their welfare. Again and again she came home without her dress or her coat, having given it away to some peasant child; and her parents, who had brought her up on the Gospel, were in a quandary to keep her from carrying out its precepts in what they regarded as too literal a way. At fourteen,

her besetting dream was to travel and collect money to buy the serfs their freedom.

When she was eighteen, the serfs were emancipated; but upon terms so hard that their state was in some respects worse than before. They were given only very small allotments of the poorest and most barren ground, and for these they had to pay their former masters, in instalments, at a rate far beyond the real value of the land. Madame Breshkovsky and thousands of other Russian young women and men of the educated classes threw themselves zealously into the work of teaching the peasants. But the Government did not want them taught. The agricultural schools and manual training schools opened by private benevolence were forcibly closed; all sorts of obstacles were thrown in the way of peasant schools; everybody connected with them was kept under police surveillance as a dangerous character; and in 1865 an edict was issued forbidding any college graduate to teach in a primary school.

Then the young Russians who had been trying to teach

the peasants, decided, since they were forbidden to teach them officially, to teach them unofficially. They disguised themselves as peasants, and went direct to the people, working side by side with them in the fields, the factories, and the workshops, for the sake of instructing them. Madame Breshkovsky, who in the meantime had married, felt it her duty to take part in this movement, and invited her husband to go into it with her. He was not willing to face its dangers; so she faced them without him.

Madame Breshkovsky was detected through the curiosity of a peasant woman, who pried into her bundle, and found there a map, books, and other things not consistent with the character of the poor illiterate labouring woman whom she was personating. She and a hundred or more others were imprisoned for two or three years under such conditions that many of them died or went insane. The survivors were then tried, and most of them, among others Madame Breshkovsky, were sent to Siberia. This was in 1878.

She had been condemned to hard labour at the mines of Kara. In spite of miserable food, cold, and vermin, she says that this was the happiest time of her life, because of the delightful friendship she enjoyed with other young women, who had been condemned to the same punishment—girls of the noblest character, the very cream of Russian young womanhood, intellectually and morally.

But owing to the nature of their food, one after another, her companions sickened and died of scurvy. She nursed and cheered them to the last. After a time she was transferred to a tiny village of aborigines under the Arctic

circle. Here she spent what she says were the eight hardest years of her life. She was no longer in prison, except as the whole hamlet was imprisoned by the infinite snow plain; but she had no outlet for her active energies, and rarely had a civilised human being to speak to.

After this, she was sent again to the mines at Kara, and it was *twenty-three years after her first arrest*, her term of exile having expired, that she returned to Russia.

After a short time spent at home, Madame Breshkovsky resumed her work of teaching the peasants; but now she taught them doctrines much more advanced than those which she had held in her youth. She was surprised at the change that had taken place in the peasantry in the twenty-three years of her absence. She found them much more miserable—for their numbers had increased greatly, making their small plots of land still more inadequate—but she found them also much more intelligent. For eight years, she circulated all through Russia, in all sorts of disguises, the Government making every effort to catch her, but never succeeding. The peasants loved her



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too well. They would no more have betrayed her than the Scotch would have betrayed Prince Charlie. They called her by the affectionate name of Babushka—"Little Grandmother." Wherever she went she left the desire for better things behind her; and the Government is still obstinately set against the betterment of the people's condition.

Then she went for a while to America, but no persuasions could keep her from going back to Russia and resuming her work. For a few years longer she carried it on. Then she and Nicholas Tchaikovsky were betrayed to the Government by the traitor Azeff, and thrown into prison. Tchaikovsky, too, had won widespread affection and respect in America, and a great petition for clemency to the two aged philanthropists was signed in an unprecedentedly short time by many of the most influential men and women of the United States. Stolypin promised a fair and speedy trial. With the characteristic bad faith of the Russian Government, the trials were postponed interminably, and when they did come on, they were held behind closed doors! Madame Breshkovsky, with her usual generosity, determined to give Tchaikovsky every chance. To the question of the President of the Court as to their profession Tchaikovsky replied that he was "a journalist," whilst Madame Breshkovsky fearlessly replied that she was "a revolutionary propagandist," and in this way pleaded guilty.

She now goes back, an old woman, and a great and brave old woman, of whom any civilised country might be proud, to the wilds of Siberia. She once said to a friend, very simply: "If an opportunity of personal happiness came in my way, I took it, as I might have eaten a bonbon or picked a flower on a long journey." But the object of the journey was always the same, and from it she never once turned aside.

When in town, our country members should do their shopping with our advertisers.—See "THE VOTE Directory."

COMPETITION FOR RECEIPTS.

The first prize (10s. or 2 fully paid-up shares in THE VOTE), for largest number of receipts for goods bought from advertisers goes to

Mr. Thomson-Price,

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(Mr. Thomson-Price has asked that the amount be devoted to sending out specimen copies of the paper.)

The second (6s. 6d. or one year's subscription to THE VOTE), for largest amount spent, goes to

Mrs. Knight,

7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.

There were a good number of entries, which goes to prove that our advertisers are being well supported. We propose continuing this competition.

BOUND VOLUMES OF "THE VOTE."

The first volume of THE VOTE, consisting of twenty-six numbers, is completed with this week's issue. An exceedingly attractive binding case has been prepared, made from art green cloth with an artistic design and title embossed in gold on one side and on the back.

The price of these cloth cases is 1s. 6d. each, including title-page and index; or the twenty-six numbers (if sent to the office carriage paid) will be bound complete for the sum of 2s.

Any missing numbers will be replaced at a charge of 1d. each.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1910.

MARKING TIME.

The clang of the warning-bell that betokens danger has, it seems, at last reached the ears of our politicians and statesmen. In the *Daily News* issue of April 12th, under the heading of "The Second Resolution," I find the following remarkable paragraph:—

"Every thoughtful observer is aghast at the way in which, for over a quarter of a century, we have let our social problems pile themselves up gigantically against us, till the menace of national decay stares at us under a thousand aspects."

Those are appalling words, which call for earnest consideration from those who love their country. To some of us there is something more appalling still, and that is the inability of our party-politicians to see from what direction the danger to the State is coming. I heard a grim story the other day. It was of a mother—a poor, untaught creature—who was gifted with a strange sort of intuition which warned her of danger, but left her ignorant of the quarter from which the danger was coming. One day the intuition came. Hurt of some kind, she felt, was threatening her one passionately-loved child. She rushed out to find her child, but alas! the intuition did not go far enough. She left her house by the wrong door, and returned after a frenzied search to find her little one dying.

Our party politicians stand aghast. They have discerned the signs of the times. Our State is in peril; our country is menaced. How is the danger to be averted? Those on one side assert and profess to believe that a door of escape is to be found in minimising (not abolishing) the power of the Lords and in keeping the Tories out of office, while those on the other side are, or seem to be, as firmly convinced that even to lessen the power of the Lords would eventually bring ruin to the country.

And while this momentous question is being exhaustively discussed the bell continues to ring and the ship of State rolls heavily.

How is help—how is safety to be found? "Ye shall know the truth," said a great master of the ancient wisdom, "and the truth shall make you free."

The truth is that to save the community we want more than a male electorate, more than rival politicians. We want a great people—men and women conscious of their needs, definite in their aims, gifted with the intuition by which they can perceive and know not only the danger that threatens their nation, but also the direction from which the danger comes, and this, as we have been asserting for many years, will only come about when the women of the country, politically free, stand side by side with the men of the country at the helm of the State.

There are faint indications here and there, even in the political world, that men—and not only our own fully-convinced and pledged adherents, but others also—are beginning to discover this; are secretly wishing the unnatural strife of the last few years to end. For indeed, if we could only all perceive it, in the continuance of this strife lies our real danger. Sometimes, when I am considering the present crisis, I seem to see as in a dream the ancestral home of a great family in flames, while its elder sons are quarrelling in the garden over their right of possession in certain furniture of little real value.

For if the fears expressed by our politicians, and summed up in the quotation I have given from a highly-representative party paper, are not gross exaggerations, if in any sense they represent a truth, then, surely, all the available force of the nation should immediately be brought into service, so that the dangers which threaten the national life may be averted.

The real truth is that we as a nation are living a lie, are pretending to be what we are not. Democracy! How often we have had that word flung at us by our opponents! Do many of those who so glibly use the word understand what it means? It was said by the great patriot and world-lover, Giuseppe Mazzini, "The flag of democracy is torn in many pieces, and one waves one part and one another; and each asserts that he has and holds democracy. But Democracy itself is none of these," and then he gives the legend which should be inscribed on every democrat's banner, "Progress of all, for all, under the guidance of the wisest and the best."

"Of all; for all, with the best leading!" On this we women take our stand. It is indeed to the Democracy—the People—that body in which there is neither sex nor class, that we make our appeal. We are of the People. The ancient story of the beginnings of human life tells us that "in the image of God created He man"; and, lest there should be any mistake, "male and female created He them." That which God hath joined together the man politician has, in his folly, set asunder. Hence the weakness of his position. It is too much to hope that the present apparent recognition by all parties of the menace which hangs over the nation will soon bring our politicians to a healthier frame of mind?

They need the help of the women, for this, if for nothing else, that woman is far-seeing. Love and sorrow have given her the vision through which she perceives, as none of our modern statesmen do, that the strength—the wealth—of a nation should be estimated not by her material possessions, but by the type and quality of human life she is able to rear. In her secret soul, moreover, woman is conscious that but for her energy and endurance, but for her unceasing struggle with piteously hard conditions, the position that faces us would be even more appalling than it is now. And if men continue to ignore our just aspirations, if they try to put us back now, the result will be either such a revolt as will surprise them, or a sinking down into despair that would, I believe, be much more dangerous to the community.

For what lies behind our present demand and makes it urgent is that sweet human life is dear to us, and that we know it is being daily sacrificed on the altar of expediency. While our politicians are marking time, while the woman and the helpless multitude whom she represents are waiting, human lives are passing—may, worse still, human beings are growing up stunted, crippled in body and mind, useless and joyless; social problems pile themselves up and "the menace of national decay stares us in the face."
 C. DESPARD.

BOYCOTTING WOMEN COMPOSITORS.

Another instance of sex-jealousy in trade and an attempt to oust the woman from one of the few trades in which, though paid less than a man, she yet manages to get a very decent living comes from Edinburgh. From the current number of the "Caxton Magazine" we take the following:—

"The Female Compositors to go."

"The Edinburgh Typographical Society, at a recent meeting, considered the desirability of obtaining an undertaking from the master printers of that city that the policy of taking on female learner compositors shall cease. It was decided to await developments. The Master Printers' Association declined to accede to the terms of the memorial presented to them, and the compositors, it is understood, have now obtained the necessary two-thirds majority to bring their own and kindred trades out on strike, should such a step be deemed necessary. Meanwhile, it has been agreed to let matters take their own course."

What the result of this piece of boycotting will be it is hard to say. Men have calmly appropriated women's trades, and seen to it that they did not lose by it, and now they seek to close the doors of one of the few trades in which, by sheer merit, women have won a footing. They are gradually being denied the right to work; it only remains to deny them the right to live. A petition to the sun to only shine on men, to the trees to shelter them alone, may be daily expected.



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BRANCH NOTES.

Willesden and Maida Vale.—15, Creighton Road, Kilburn.

Our first open-air meeting of the season was held near "The Prince of Wales," Harrow Road, on Friday evening last. Mounted on a pulpit, kindly lent by the Paddington Labour Council, Miss Neilans soon gathered a large audience, which listened with keen interest for nearly two hours. There was some heckling, but the witty replies of the speaker kept the crowd in an excellent temper, and at the close of the meeting we were asked when we were coming again. The people were eager to buy Miss Neilans' pamphlet, and in a few moments her stock was exhausted. About a dozen copies of THE VOTE were also sold.—L. BENNETT, Hon. Sec.

Ipswich.—160, Norwich Road.

Mrs. Milano is doing good work for us in Felixstowe and adding new members to our Branch. We find that many people are anxious for a meeting there and we are arranging for one next month. THE VOTE is selling well and we are hoping to increase the circulation by a new method we are adopting. At our last Branch meeting Mrs. Hutley gave an interesting address on "Women and War." Miss Nicholson presided, and there was a good discussion. Next Saturday Mr. Brailsford has promised to speak to the Ipswich Independent Labour Party in reference to what should be their attitude to the question of Women's Suffrage. Miss Edith Craig has promised to produce the Pageant of Famous Women in Ipswich on October 20th. Miss Craig will personate Rosa Bonheur. We are already busy with arrangements to ensure the success of the enterprise.—CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

Swansea.—Chez. Nous, Sketty, S.O., Glam.

At last Wednesday's Branch meeting Miss Holmes gave a delightful and interesting paper on the "Fight for Woman's Education," and an animated discussion followed, presided over by Miss Phipps, B.A. This week we have our Parliamentary debate, which promises to be a great success. Now the forthcoming Pageant occupies the centre of the stage. Members are reminded that 2s. 6d. seats (area and front row of balcony) can be booked at Mr. A. R. Ways, 4, Wind Street, and that there are a large number of unreserved tickets to be disposed of at 1s. and 6d. The programme is now being drawn up, and Miss Dorothy Salmon has kindly written a short biographical

sketch of each character, which will be incorporated. We particularly desire that the programme should pay for itself, so all members are urged to use their influence in obtaining advertisements.

Central Branch.—1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

Mrs. Chapin has kindly consented to give her time every Friday evening to the speakers' class, which will be held at above address, at 8 o'clock, each week. Any member of the League may attend the classes. Will Branch members please remember the business meetings before the lectures commence at 7.30?
 M. E. T.

Northern Heights.—Merok, Great North Rd., Highgate.

The Northern Heights Branch held a very successful meeting on April 15th, at Spears Memorial Hall, Highgate Hill. There were about a hundred and thirty people present. Tea and coffee were served from 7 o'clock till 8, and during that time Miss Aimée Parkerson and Miss Gypsy Andrews, pupils of Mme. Larkcom, sang to a very appreciative audience. Miss Sell, a member of the Branch, recited. At 8 o'clock the chair was taken by Miss Hicks, M.A., who, in a short speech introducing Mrs. Despard, explained the objects of the League and touched on the present political situation. Mrs. Despard, in one of her finest speeches, dealt with the urgent need for the immediate enfranchisement of women. In the ideal state, as in the home, men and women should work together for men and women and for the children. However good the intentions of men might be, they could not possibly see things from a woman's point of view; in such legislation as the Children's Charter, for instance, it was obviously ridiculous for men to imagine they could do without woman's help. In conclusion, Mrs. Despard made a stirring appeal for members, pointing out that the success of the woman's movement lay in every woman feeling that it depended on her. The collection was then taken and amounted to 35s. Several new members joined and others took membership cards away with them. Literature to the value of 13s. was sold. Our sincerest thanks are due to the speakers, to those who took part in the entertainment, and to Mrs. Harbord, who kindly took charge of the refreshments.—ADA MITCHELL, Hon. Sec.

Manchester (Central Branch).—9, Albert Square.

The members met on Thursday to arrange the details of the coming campaign in Stockport, which will begin on Monday, the 25th inst. A meeting will be held that night in Mersey Square, at which we hope Miss Manning will be the speaker, and will be followed by others in various parts of the town each night until May 11th, when we hope to have an indoor meeting to test the result of our work. Now that the Eccles campaign is over, the Manchester members who have loyally helped in the work are taking a breathing space and therefore there will be no Branch meeting next week. The report of the Organisers' Committee meeting will be given on Thursday, April 28th.—M. I. NEAL, President.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

Glasgow Office: 302, SAUCHIEHALL STREET, GLASGOW.

Hon. Treasurer: MRS. JULIA WOOD.

Office Secretary: MISS KIRBY.

Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas.

Edinburgh.—17, Upper Gilmore Place.

Bad weather has again interfered to some extent with our work this week. An open-air meeting held at Gilmerton on Saturday, was addressed by Miss Madge Turner and Miss McLachlan, but as the afternoon was wet the audience, consisting mostly of miners, was small. At the afternoon "At Home" on Tuesday great interest was aroused by Miss Turner's account of her arrest and imprisonment, and a good report of her speech appeared in the *Evening Dispatch*. The hostesses at this "At Home" were Miss Crawford and Miss Henderson. Miss Turner has been devoting much time to visiting, with very satisfactory results. Many promises of help for the Cake and Candy Sale at the opening of the Shop and for the Jumble Sale on May 21st, have been received. But we want more!—HELEN MCLACHLAN, Assist. Sec.

Glasgow—£1,000 Fund.

| | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. |
|---------------------|----|----|----|-------------------|------|----|----|
| Mrs. Mactaggart | 0 | 12 | 0 | Mrs. Gordon | 0 | 17 | 4 |
| Mrs. Gilchrist | 0 | 4 | 0 | | | | |
| Miss J. M. Semple | 0 | 5 | 0 | | £19 | 2 | 4 |
| Anon | 16 | 0 | 0 | Amount previously | | | |
| Miss Morrison, Pol- | | | | acknowledged | 272 | 18 | 0 |
| lokshields | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Mrs. Meikle | 0 | 4 | 0 | Total | £292 | 0 | 4 |

Toilet Specialities.

Any of our readers who are not above taking an interest in their appearance will find many delightful preparations (which they can try, free) at Madame Cross' salons at 186, Regent Street. From personal experience we can recommend her delightful Bath Crystals, which make the hard London water as soft as rain-water and considerably more fragrant. Madame Cross will send her attractive little booklet "Aids to Beauty" on receipt of a postcard.

"WHY I WANT THE VOTE."

*** Under this heading we shall have from time to time the personal opinions of our best-known supporters, giving the reasons why they want the vote. We all know the broad reasons why we want it; but the intimate reasoning which has led others of us into the ardent fighting front ranks has a special interest. This week Mrs. Joseph Clayton, whose booklet on Mary Wollstonecraft has been one of the best of recent additions to suffrage literature, gives some pithy and reasonable arguments.*



MARGARET S. CLAYTON.

First of all, because I want the equality of the sexes—not the identity, but the equality—acknowledged definitely as part of the Constitution. Nowadays, when women have nearly as good opportunities as men in the way of education, and compete successfully with them in many professions and in the labour market, it is only the least developed of mankind who can be guilty of the crudity of speaking of "only a girl, only a woman!"

Small boys do so still; in the ill-regulated nursery might may still make right, but it is time Englishmen made it clear that they are past that stage.

Women still require to be taught to respect themselves. No sadder suggestion of the lingering subjection of women can be made, to my mind, than the outspoken disappointment of some mothers at the birth of a baby girl. And I think the vote, as a certificate of citizenship, will do much to remove the sense of inferiority implied in that disappointment.

I want the vote because the woman's point of view will find definite expression in Parliament, when intelligent men—as many of our M.P.s really are—take the trouble to find out the wants and opinions of the feminine electorate, and politics will at once become more intelligible, therefore more interesting, not only to the man in the street, but to the woman in the home.

The domestic woman is not an unreasonable, thoughtless creature, occupied only with the physical wants of her family and her neighbours' affairs; but the newspapers (whence the ordinary middle-class man gets his opinions) she does not read seriously, and, speaking generally, she gets her ideas of politics as she gets her notions about football and cricket, from the scraps of male conversation she happens to overhear when she is darning the socks. Naturally, from such talk, the good housewife decides that politics have nothing to do with women or the everyday affairs of life, for the said conversation, as a rule, is concerned with the abolition of the House of Lords, Tariff Reform, war with Germany, and similar romantic improbabilities.

On the other hand, the average man takes a very meagre interest in the management of the home. He is content to leave his domestic affairs in the hands of his wife; and so she takes the view that politics are outside the home, and belong entirely to clubs and smoking-rooms.

But, if we had the vote, politics would be lifted out of the unwholesome and stuffy atmosphere of the saloon-bar and the club smoking-room, for woman's aptitude for details would soon come into play. Legislation is more and more invading woman's place—the home. The

spectacle of babies left outside public-houses, by that piece of male legislation called the Children's Charter, is making everybody realise that Parliament is not concerned only with Imperial politics, but can interfere with our daily life.

The poor understand now that if their children are burnt to death, they are liable to a fine of five pounds if there is no fire-screen in the house; and that every baby in our slums is entitled by law to its own banana-box. The calm acquiescence in the appalling poverty implied in this sort of legislation makes me ferociously anxious to have the right to choose our law-givers.

I fancy the discussion last year as to the feasibility of forbidding the clothing of children in flannelette dropped, because of the confusion in the minds of "our" representatives between flannelette and gun-cotton—and the members of the Women's Freedom League were at the moment waiting humbly outside the House, in the wind and rain, hoping to be allowed to present a petition, explaining why we women want to help in the management of our own affairs.

A mad world, my masters! where women are excluded from political citizenship, and elderly gentlemen lay down, in Parliament, the whole duty of the working-class woman!

MARGARET S. CLAYTON.

WHAT WE ARE SAYING AND DOING.

"If any man is for captivity, into captivity he goeth."—BOOK OF REVELATION, xiii. 10.

*** In this column we give W.F.L. news items in tabloid form week by week.*

Lady Cook's Lecture.

Mrs. Despard is speaking at Lady Cook's meeting on "The Need of Revising Morals and Laws" at the Albert Hall, on May 6. The Rev. Hugh Chapman will take the chair, and any of our members who intend to be present should apply at once to the W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, for tickets, which can be had free of charge.

"The Vote."

We again call the attention of our readers to the offer made in last week's VOTE to the effect that the paper will be sent free for four weeks to any address (supplied by a reader) of a likely subscriber. Already some of our readers have sent in lists containing as many as four addresses; we are glad of this, as the paper appeals to a very varied public, and we are desirous of making that public even more varied.

Important to Branches.

Miss Manning will be in London and available for outdoor meetings, &c., on May 7th (evening), May 8th, 9th, and 10th. All applications must be made to Miss Sime Séruya at 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

Our Competitions.

The greatest interest has been shown in our competitions, and the delightful picture of Mrs. McCabe and her little son is, we are inclined to think, highly typical of the real suffragette at home. Mrs. McCabe is a well-known suffragist, and the happy face of her baby-boy and his healthy appearance prove that he is not being neglected.

Suffrage Questions.

Questions connected with suffrage matters will be answered in future in the columns of THE VOTE. Such queries must be briefly and clearly put, and should reach the office not later than Friday if an answer is required in the following week's issue. Such questions must be addressed to the Editor, 148, Holborn Bars, E.C., and should be marked "Suffrage Questions."

Prison Effect

Speaking at the Edinburgh branch of the Café Vegetaria, Miss Madge Turner observed that prison effects were such as to make one callous and to kill one's good feelings and emotions. Suffragettes might enter the prison gates enthusiastically, but they departed blazing hot. The sooner the prison system was reformed the better, because at present it was a waste of money.

Speakers' Class.

The Speakers' Class was held at 1, Robert Street, last Wednesday evening, when it was arranged that for the future the class would meet every Friday evening at 7.30 p.m. After the exercises Mrs. Chapin called unexpectedly upon Miss Henderson, who gave a very good, clear, and concise little speech.

We hope to have a still larger class next Friday. All members of the League will be admitted free, and non-members on payment of 1s. each meeting.

At Barry.

Speaking at the Masonic Hall, Barry, Mrs. Despard said "she did not claim that women were in any way superior to men. George Eliot said the truth when she wrote that 'God Almighty made them to match the men.' Men said they did not want petticoat government—neither did she, but neither did she want trouser government."

THE INDEPENDENT WOMAN.

"I hope the time will come when women will have the sense to stay out of business and remain at home and marry, as they should," growled Tom Oldfogle crossly.

"But what are they going to do if they need money?" put in his sister.

"Oh, half of them don't. They have parents who could just as well support them, only they want so many frills."

"If they want the good things of life and have brains enough to secure them, why should they go deliberately without, just because they don't happen to be men?" retorted his sister, who earned a neat income herself writing clever advertisements.

"They take the bread out of other women's mouths; that's what."

"Do you know, that never appealed to me as good argument," she answered. "If there were any question of favouritism among employers, it might be; but, all things being equal, why should not women stand or fall on their own merits, as men do? What would a man think of his son when he came to the age when boys usually

begin to work if the son were to remark that he had a sufficient income in his own right and did not think he should be dealing justly by men who were penniless if he took payment for his labour?"

"Humph! But it is different. A woman is a woman, and she ought to marry."

"But they all can't—"

"Their own fault, then—"

"—because they are homely, or there are not men enough to go around."

"Tut! Nonsense! That isn't the principal reason why girls don't marry. It's because they run after the men too much. Men don't want anything that's easy, and they'd run after the homeliest girl that ever was if she made herself difficult."

"Philosopher!" commented the sister dryly. "I see you have the lovely little characteristics of your sex down fine."

"Look at that Johnson girl, for instance," went on Oldfogle complacently. "She fairly makes a slave of herself over Jack Bender. She even begs him to come and call on her, and she keeps telephoning him and writing him notes. No wonder the chap is conceited. I pity her if she ever does succeed in getting him to marry her."

"My dear," chuckled the sister, delightedly, "don't you see there are five Johnson girls, and it's a case of marry or perish? They must marry! It's dinned into them morning, noon, and night. Do you blame a girl for acting anxiously under the conditions? If the Johnson girls were each self-supporting, they wouldn't be in that wild fever, and men would lose their relative importance."

"Humph! But, leaving them out of the question, many

women do the proper thing, and wait quietly at home to get decently married and have a husband to support them," he persisted.

At this moment, Mrs. Oldfogle, a timid little woman, entered, and, clearing her throat nervously, remarked, "I'm awfully sorry, Tom, but I'll have to ask you for two pounds. The children's boots—"

"Great heavens!" growled Oldfogle. "Didn't I give you a sovereign only the day before yesterday?"

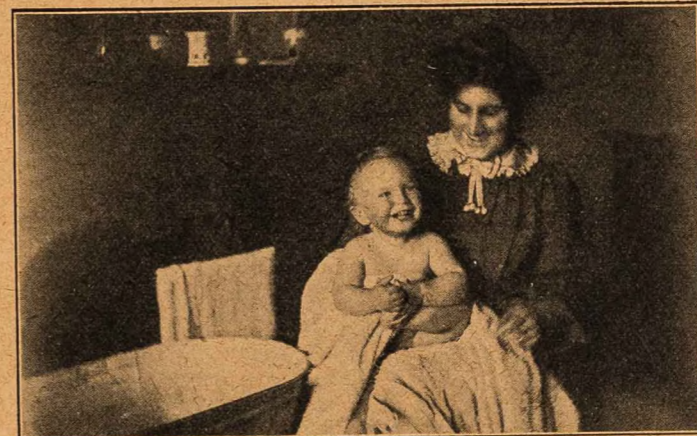
"But that was for my winter hat," replied Mrs. Oldfogle, with spirit. "You surely can't expect me to go bareheaded."

"What was the matter with your last year's one? Anybody would think you were a millionaire when I married you. Many's the hat you had to re-trim when you were with your father, and precious glad you were to get me and escape it all. There, don't ask me again for money for an age—here it is! Now I want to read my paper. I declare, women are enough to drive a man to the poorhouse!"

Miss Oldfogle followed the weeping little wife into the bedroom.

"Oh—h!" sobbed the latter, "I nearly die of shame when I have to ask him for money! Oh, if I could only earn some! As it is, no matter what he says to me, I have to stand it. I can't even leave him. I—I should starve! What can I do? What can I do?"

Miss Oldfogle looked at her pityingly; then she said, softly: "You can teach your children to be self-supporting, so that, even if they love him, they need not be the slave of any man."



SUFFRAGETTES AT HOME.

(7) (Prize Photo) Mrs. Joseph McCabe Bathing Her Baby.

THE "AT HOMES."

Next week's "At Home" will be held at Caxton Hall on April 21st, when Mrs. Nevinson will speak on "Some Struggles for Freedom," and Sir John Cockburn will give an address on "The Women's Vote in Australia." Mrs. Hicks will take the chair, and Mrs. Despard has promised to attend and say a few words on the activities of the hour.

A reception to the Actresses' Franchise League will be held at Queen's Hall, not Caxton Hall, on April 28th, 3 to 6, when Miss Decima Moore's Anti-Suffrage Recital will be among the attractions. Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett will be in the chair. Mrs. Sproson and Mrs. Pertwee will supply the speeches.

No wonder!

At a women's working party, recently, a lady told of a person she had known early in life and who had died insane. After the funeral the husband remarked that he "did not see why Mary Ann should have took crazy, for to his knowledge she had not been out of that kitchen for thirty years."



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These points will cover the legal, social, and economic grounds on which women demand the vote, and will call attention to the glaring inconsistencies which demand a change in the present condition of the franchise.

16.—Instances of favouritism towards women on the part of the law are, with hardly an exception, merely instances of the failure of lawyers to subordinate the old doctrine of coverture to the new conditions of the Married Women's Property Acts.

These so-called privileges have never been sought by women, and are exercised by a very small section of the feminine community. One of these is that although the wife could pledge the credit of her husband with tradespeople, a husband could not similarly pledge the credit of his wife. The cook and coachman can, however, also pledge his credit, and this law was originally made to protect the tradesman, and not to give privileges to the wife. It is also a reminder that the wife has been by law the husband's chattel.

LORD WOLVERHAMPTON'S BILL.

We have received the following letter from Mrs. Sidney Webb, whose work in connection with the break-up of the Poor Law is attracting such wide attention.

SIR.—Will you allow me to call attention to a proposed grave injustice to thousands of poor women? At present when a woman in her hour of trial is attended by a midwife the midwife is required by statute to summon a doctor if any complication ensues. No provision is at present made for the payment of the doctor whom the State, not the patient, insists on summoning. This is an injustice to the doctor.

Now, the Government proposes (in the Bill just introduced by Lord Wolverhampton) to require the Board of Guardians to pay the fee (as parochial relief to the woman and her husband). This is a grave injustice to these poor families. The woman and her husband are not paupers; they are not even destitute persons. Through the exercise of thrift they have made for themselves the normal provision for childbirth of their class—i.e., a midwife. The Government proposes to make them compulsorily into paupers (even if they subsequently repay the full amount it makes no difference in this respect); their homes will be visited by the relieving officer, with his hated inquiries—often to the detriment (as any nurse or midwife will testify) of the woman's health; they will be liable to be proceeded against by the Board of Guardians if (as is intended by Clause 17, Sub-clause 2) the "relief" is given "on loan," and compelled to repay a charge which they have never incurred, but which the State, in the public interest, has chosen to require.

I cannot believe that the House of Lords will choose this moment to thrust thousands of poor women involuntarily into pauperism, or that the House of Commons will think of tolerating such an injustice. When the police call a doctor to attend to a patient in an emergency the fee is paid out of the municipal funds, and the patient is not thereby made a pauper. The Town Councils of Manchester and Liverpool are already, with the knowledge and consent of the Local Government Board, following a similar course with regard to the doctors called in by the midwives, and this course is open to any other sanitary authority (under Section 133 of the Public Health

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Act). There is accordingly no need for the degrading and insulting Clause 17 of Lord Wolverhampton's Bill, and I hope that the Government will withdraw it.—I am, etc.,
BEATRICE WEBB.
41, Grosvenor Road, S.W., April, 1910.

SUFFRAGE SHEARINGS.

Physical Force and the Plural Voter.

One of our ablest speakers has pointed out that men have not only a "double standard of morality" for the two sexes, but also a double standard of argument. They harp perpetually, for example, on the fact that votes represent physical force—when speaking to women about Women's Suffrage: when speaking to men of the suffrage of men, this idea never enters their heads. This week several hours of the valuable time of the House of Commons were given up to a debate on plural voting. One scans the reports in vain for any reference to the argument—so well worn, and so obvious, to the anti-Suffragist—that the plural voter does not represent a degree of physical force, in proportion to his plural voting! Mr. Sherwell informed his hearers that at the last election four brothers cast one hundred and twenty votes. The talk was all of their "stake in the country," which might be their property, or their lives. But no one so much as asked whether these four brothers were really as strong as 120 men! Can "our friends the enemy" not hear the roars of laughter with which that easily amused assembly, the House of Commons, would have greeted such a question if they had? But the same gentlemen will expound the "argument from physical force" with admirable gravity, to an audience of women.—*Common Cause.*

Contemptuous Treatment.

At a meeting of Liberal women in Southport there was considerable dissatisfaction at the way they had been treated by the Liberals. Miss Kate Reilly observed that "it was difficult to be Liberals in Southport when they were so badly supported by those whom they had so consistently supported for many years. One of the leading Liberals in the division, alluding to a suffrage meeting addressed by Mrs. Philip Snowden last Friday, not only wished it no success, but said All Fools' Day was an appropriate date for it. It was a great testimony to the strength of their Liberalism that they continued in the party and found it pecuniary support when they were treated in that scandalous manner. The object seemed to be to have the division a merely male constituency."—*Manchester Guardian.*

Feminism in France.

The ladies of the Suffragist class have retorted by joining the Socialists, and becoming candidates for the elections to be held this month. One lady is to represent the Quartier d'Europe, a city district, while another has chosen the out-of-the-way place of Vienne, in the South, as a rural district. They have already secured their electoral agents, and are prepared to daub the walls of city and country with flaring posters. But here the Government again steps in. For every poster one foot square they must pay a penny. Such is the tax all over France. Electioneering posters alone are exempt. Of course, we need not pay, thought the ladies. But the Government said no. These posters are not legally electioneering posters, which concern only properly recognised candidates. You ladies may be what you like, but you are not properly-recognised candidates. Therefore you must pay.—*Daily Telegraph.*

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N.W.S.P.U.

On the last Saturday in May the most imposing Demonstration ever yet held in the course of the agitation will take place. A procession of men and women representing many professions, trades, guilds, etc., will march from the Victoria Embankment to the Royal Albert Hall, where a meeting will take place. A large number of other Suffrage societies have already promised to take part in it.

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Messrs. PITTAR BROS. have opened the largest dental chambers in Great Britain, fitted with the most modern electrical appliances to reduce pain, appliances not to be found elsewhere in the Kingdom. WE INVITE YOU TO CONSULT US. You will be treated with every courtesy and will not be urged, or expected, to favour us with your patronage unless you are convinced we can serve you better than any others.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.

- Thurs., April 21st **Caxton Hall**, 3.6 p.m. Sir John Cockburn, Mrs. H. W. Nevinston, Mrs. Hicks.
- Thurs., April 21st **Willesden Branch**, 14, Great Western Road. Dr. Marian Thornett, 7.30 p.m.
- Thurs., April 21st **Highbury Corner**, 7.30 p.m. Miss Hicks, M.A.
- Fri., April 22nd **Willesden Branch**, Prince of Wales, Harrow Road, 7.30 Mrs. Duval.
- Fri., April 22nd **Mrs. Tanner's Drawing-Room Meeting**, 32, Wynne Road, Brixton, 7.30. Mrs. Manson and Mr. Gugenheim.
- Fri., April 22nd **1, Robert Street**, Speakers' Class. Mrs. Chapin.
- Sat., April 23rd **Battersea, Lower Town Hall**, Lavender Hill 7.30. Social. Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, Miss Hicks, M.A.
- Sat., April 23rd **Harrow**, 3 p.m. Mrs. Sproson.
- Sun., April 24th **Clapham Common**, 5.35 p.m. Mrs. Sproson.
- Sun., April 24th **Finsbury Park**, 11.30 a.m. Miss Munro.
- Sun., April 24th **Battersea Park**, 6.30. Mrs. Sproson.
- Sun., April 24th **Regent's Park**, 12 noon. Mrs. Sproson. Mr. Kennedy.
- Mon., April 25th **Strand**, 31, Bedford Street, 8 p.m. Miss Edith Craig's Drawing-Room. Mrs. Chapin, Miss Law, Mr. Kennedy.
- Tues., April 26th **1, Robert Street, Adelphi**; London Branches Council.
- Wed., April 27th **Croydon Branch**, South Norwood Clock, 8 p.m. Mrs. Sproson.
- Wed., April 27 **Hackney**, 4, Clarence Road.
- Thurs., April 28th **Queen's Hall**, 3-6 p.m. Reception to A.F.L. Songs, recitations. Artists, Miss Decima Moore (engagements permitting), Miss Adelaide Kind, Miss Gwladys Morris. "The Pied Piper," a children's operetta, arranged by Miss Elisabeth James. Speeches by Mrs. Sproson and Mrs. Pertwee. Admission free to A.F.L. Reserved seats 1s., unreserved 6d. A few free seats for W.F.L. members. Tea 4d.
- Thurs., April 28th **Highbury Corner**, 7.30. Mrs. Sproson.
- Fri., April 29th **1, Robert Street**, Speakers' Class, 7.30. Mrs. Chapin.
- Fri., April 29th **Willesden Branch**, Prince of Wales, Harrow Road, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Sproson.
- Sun., May 1st **Regent's Park**, 12.
- Sun., May 1st **Brockley Hilly Fields, S.E.**, 3 p.m. Mrs. Manson, Miss Henderson.
- Sun., May 1st **Finsbury Park**, 11.30 a.m. Mrs. H. W. Nevinston.
- Mon., May 2nd **Peckham**, Mrs. Pickering's Drawing-Room, 23, Albert Road, 7.30. Miss Law, Mr. Yaldwin.
- Mon., May 2nd **Bromley**, Co-operative Hall, East Street, 8.30. Mrs. Manson, Mr. Gugenheim.
- Wed., May 4th **Norwood Clock**, 7.30. Mrs. Manson.
- Wed., May 4th **Hackney**, 4, Clarence Road.
- Wed., May 4th **Central Branch**, 1, Robert Street. Mrs. Cope, "Ireland and Irish Women," 8.15. Business Meeting, 7.30.
- Thurs., May 5th **Queen's Hall**, 7.30. Reception to Men's League. Mrs. Hicks, Messrs. H. Jacobs, Golmann Bate, H. G. Chancellor, M.P., Joseph Clayton, J. Malcolm Mitchell.
- Sun., May 8th **Trafalgar Square**, 3 p.m.
- Thurs., May 26th **Queen's Hall**, 3 p.m.

Mrs. Despard, when in London, is at the office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, and will be pleased to see members of the League who wish to consult her.



DARE TO BE FREE.

THE PROVINCES.

- Wed., April 27th **South Shields**, Mrs. Amy Sanderson.
- SCOTLAND.**
- Thurs., April 21st **Shettleston**, 7.30. Miss Marguerite Sidley.
- Sat., April 23rd **Bonnybridge** (near Stirling), 3.30 and 6.30. Miss Marguerite Sidley.
- Sat., April 23rd **At Home**, Suffrage Centre, Sauchiehall Street, 7 p.m. Speaker, Miss Eunice Murray.
- Sun., April 24th **United Irish League**, Govanhill Branch, Miss Marguerite Sidley.
- Tues., April 26th **Café Vegetaria**, Edinburgh, 4-6 p.m. "At Home." Speaker, Miss Madge Turner.
- Sun., May 1st **University Students Settlement**, 3.15 Miss Marguerite Sidley.
- WALES.**
- Thurs., May 5th **Swansea, Albert Hall: Woman's Pageant**. Miss Cicely Hamilton and Miss Edith Craig. Speaker, Mrs. Despard.
- Fri., May 6th **Town Hall, Maesteg, Swansea**, 7 p.m. Miss Cicely Hamilton and Miss Edith Craig.

OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

The "Permanent Congress of International Feminism" had their last meeting at La Francaise on March 21st. The speakers were: Mrs. Heineken-Daun, authoress; Mrs. Jane Misme, President of La Francaise Society; Mrs. Berot-Berger, President of the Travailleur; Mr. Hamond, professor of the Sorbonne; Mr. Briand, editor of *Le Spectateur*; Miss Pissargeosky, Russian publisher. Mrs. Orka, general secretary, read a letter from Ellen Key, who sent to the Congress a paper on "La femme et l'anti-militarisme." Interesting communications from Mrs. Gilain, President of the Belgian Alliance for the Suffrage, and Mrs. Lillian Wollister, President of National Council of Women, were read. The Congress has received an invitation to take part in the International Congress at Buenos Aires, which begins on May 18th. Several documents concerning the municipal suffrage of German women have been sent by Mrs. Apolan, of Frankfurt.—Mrs. ORKA, General Secretary, 38, Rue de Penthièvre, Paris.

New Constitutional Society.

On Saturday, April 9, an entertainment took place at 6, Wentworth Studio, Chelsea, at which Miss Cicely Hamilton gave a representation of her waxworks, and Miss Winifred Mayo delighted all present by her recitations. The speakers were Mrs. Cecil Chapman and the Rev. Hugh Chapman.

The office and shop of the New Constitutional Society was formally opened on Thursday, April 14. Those members of the committee who had worked so hard to make the occasion a success were well rewarded by the numbers of visitors who poured in during the afternoon. The President made a short speech of welcome, and a splendid business was done in literature and in other articles which had been given for sale. The society's membership is rapidly increasing.

"At Homes" will be held in the shop every Tuesday afternoon and evening at 3.30 and 7 o'clock respectively.

The evening "At Homes" will be made especially attractive Miss Mayo and other artists have promised to help, and it is hoped that these meetings will be a means of introducing the Suffragist point of view to the numerous women in business in the neighbourhood.—Address, 8, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge.

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| Ducker, Miss G. | 1 | 5 | 0 | Anderson, Mrs. W., per Mrs. M. Allan | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Saunders, Miss M. L. | 0 | 10 | 0 | Cleeves, per Mrs. McLeod | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| How, Miss E. | 1 | 12 | 10 | Ron, Mrs. J. L. | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Benett, Miss | 3 | 11 | 0 | Cleeves, Mrs. McLeod | 0 | 17 | 8 |
| Maughan, Miss M. | 0 | 1 | 0 | Collection (bye-election) | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Turton, Miss D. O. | 0 | 2 | 6 | Bremner, per Miss Knolly, Mr. | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| Aberdeen Branch | 2 | 2 | 6 | Deane, C. C. | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Cope, Mrs. | 0 | 2 | 0 | Bremner, Mrs. | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Symons, Miss H. | 0 | 1 | 0 | Lindsay, Miss | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Meeson-Cotes, Mrs. D. | 0 | 5 | 0 | Metge, Mrs. | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Napier, Miss C. | 1 | 10 | 0 | Collections | 1 | 12 | 10 |
| Hadfield-Jones, Mrs. | 0 | 1 | 0 | Tickets | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| Balfour, Mrs. | 5 | 0 | 0 | Matters, per Miss Leach, Mrs. (Lecture Fee and Expenses) | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Briant, Mrs. E. | 0 | 10 | 0 | Collecting-box | 0 | 2 | 8 |
| Budd, Mr. and Mrs. | 0 | 10 | 0 | Tickets | 4 | 16 | 2 |
| Powys, Mrs. D. | 0 | 1 | 0 | Leach, Mrs. (Lecture Fee and Expenses) | 1 | 13 | 6 |
| Gilchrist-Thompson, Mrs. | 10 | 0 | 0 | Smith, per Miss N. "A Well-wisher" | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| McGilchrist Gilchrist, Miss | 20 | 0 | 0 | Stirling, per Miss "Anonymous" (Lecture Fee) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Dawson, Miss C. M. | 0 | 10 | 0 | Munro, per Miss South Shields Membership Fees | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Black, Dr. A. | 1 | 1 | 0 | Despard, Mrs. C. (Lecture Fees) | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Clark, Mrs. | 5 | 5 | 0 | Snow, per Mrs. J. E. Vote Sales | 5 | 14 | 5 |
| Todd, Miss E. K. | 0 | 1 | 0 | Neilans, per Miss A. Anonymous | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Potter, Miss A. | 2 | 0 | 0 | Collections | 4 | 11 | 8 |
| "Anglo-Argentine" | 10 | 10 | 0 | Tickets | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Uttley, Mrs. | 0 | 5 | 0 | Goods sold | 0 | 7 | 2 |
| Tizard, Mrs. | 0 | 2 | 6 | | | | |
| Vickery, Dr. | 1 | 1 | 0 | Total | 24 | 65 | 7 |
| Fisher, Mrs. M. | 15 | 6 | 3 | | | | |
| Hyton-Dale, Mrs. | 1 | 1 | 0 | | | | |
| King, per Miss Central Telegraph Office | 0 | 5 | 0 | | | | |
| Special Effort: Tottenham Branch (Whist Drive) | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Edinburgh Branch | 3 | 10 | 0 | | | | |
| Light, Miss | 0 | 5 | 0 | | | | |
| Holmes, Mrs. | 2 | 17 | 0 | | | | |
| Pierpoint, Miss M. I. | 0 | 2 | 0 | | | | |
| Pickering, Mrs. | 0 | 3 | 0 | | | | |