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Notes.

MRS. CARRIE NATION, the prohibitionist, who is now visiting Dundee, is a strong believer in Woman's Suffrage, being firmly convinced that things will not be right till we bring the moral influence of women to the ballot-box.

IN reference to the meeting of the Council of the Women's National Anti-Suffrage League held recently, the statements made by two members of Parliament are, we think, rather startling. Mr. Hilaire Belloc is reported as having expressed his conviction that a Women's Franchise, limited to ladies holding the municipal vote, would come, but that the vote would sink into disuse from the opprobrium and ridicule which would be heaped upon it.

Mr. Julius Bertram was remarkably candid in his statement that politicians had to say and do a number of things a high-minded woman would not like to do or say.

To us this seems one of the important reasons why women should vote, being high-minded enough to refuse to say or do as some politicians do and say now, they would bring a purifying influence to bear on politics.

ACCORDING to a printed reply by Mr. Runciman, an increase of the number of women inspectors is contemplated by the Board of Education.

THE National Anti-Sweating League has obtained the consent of Mr. Asquith to receive a deputation next Monday afternoon. This deputation, comprising men and women, will be one of the most representative which has ever been arranged.

THE DAILY NEWS of last Saturday tells us that the position of champion typewriter is held by a woman, Miss Rose Fritz, who on Friday gave an exhibition of the lightning speed attainable—207 words a minute. This shows that women's success as typists is not solely because they are cheaper, but because undoubtedly they can be best. This fact, as our contemporary points out, should make women "insist on the same payment that a man receives."

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors

Weekly Numbers, 1½d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; half-yearly, 3s. 3d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. All Subscriptions must be paid in advance. Back Numbers can still be obtained at the Office.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,
13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

MADAME CLÉMENTINE JUSSELIN has just recently been elected as a Parisian "Conseiller Prudhomme." The new law which renders women eligible to these councils, and also extends the Franchise to women for election to these bodies, only came into force a few weeks ago. The courts exist for the settlement of trade and industrial disputes.

AFTER thirty years' work as rural "postman" for Wreclesham and the adjacent villages, during which period a distance of something like 200,000 miles has been covered, a woman named Stevens has had to retire owing to a third delivery being arranged. The reward given at the end of this faithful service to the Government is not a pension, but simply a gratuity of £10.

THE Lewisham Borough Council has decided to appoint a lady sanitary inspector at a commencing salary of £100 a year.

MISS L. R. C. SMITH, sister of the Rev. J. H. C. Smith, curate of All Saints, Southpool, has been elected to an important Congregational church in the south. If she accepts the offer she will be the first woman to be a minister in the Congregational church, though a Unitarian church at Leicester had Miss Petzold as a pastor until recently, when she accepted a "call" to America.

THE decision in the Scottish University Case in the House of Lords will be given to-day at 3.15, and will appear in our "extra specials."

MISS G. F. W. TORRY has sent 10s. towards the publishing expenses of *Women's Franchise*.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

UNITED STATES.—Interesting reports are to hand of the fortieth Annual Convention of the National American Women's Suffrage Association, which also commemorated the historic first convention held at Seneca Falls sixty years ago. Indeed, the Declaration of Rights ratified in 1848 was printed in the programme, and each of its twelve propositions was ably handled by an eloquent speaker. It is discouraging to learn that not one of these demands has yet been fully met, yet for all that progress has been made, and the interest in the cause is everywhere gaining ground. In particular the support given to the movement by college women gives hope and encouragement for the future. The formation of a National College League, representing the college leagues of nine States, was announced. President M. Carey Thomas of Bryn Mawr was elected president of the new League, and the college meeting was addressed by Miss Ray Costello of Newnham, who spoke of the work English university women are doing for the Suffrage. It was reported that thirty-seven States were auxiliary to the National American Women's Suffrage Association, represented by 130 delegates. Resolutions were adopted summarizing and rejoicing in the progress of women during the last sixty years, especially noting the progress made in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Great Britain. Congratulations were sent to the women of Great Britain on their gallant fight for the Franchise. The ballot was demanded for the protection of children and of wage-earning women. Women teachers were called upon to work for their own enfranchisement, and to train the children in Suffrage principles. It was also urged that the action of all officials on measures affecting the rights and interests of women and children should be watched and made public, especially just before the time for renomination.

The Convention closed with an inspiring speech by the president, Rev. Anna Shaw. "I myself," she said, "shall go away more hopeful for the work of the coming year, and expect it will be more effective in its results than at any time in our history. We are on the firing line now. The battle has been on for a long time, but we are now in sight of the promised and. It will not be long before we shall enter, if the enthusiasm

and heart's desire shown here are carried home and put into action. We shall win, and that soon, even though it may be found necessary to take to militant methods to secure our liberty."

VICTORIA.—At last the force of public opinion has asserted itself in Victoria, and a Bill giving women the right to vote at State elections has passed the Legislative Council. Thus Victoria has been brought into line with the other States. A. ZIMMERN.

Men Alone

MEN alone have done as well as could be expected under the circumstances. They have fought by land and sea, and destroyed the sons of women; they have added territory to territory, in right ways, and in wrong; they conquered Ireland by devastating her, but have not yet reconciled the people to their rule. Men have built a huge empire founded on women, yet from management of its affairs women are rigidly excluded, their position in the edifice being that of the sunk pillar. To a large extent men have domesticated the forces of Nature; invented marvellous machinery, used for the most part to enrich the rich and impoverish the poor; they have added storehouse to storehouse and barn to barn; and, to-day, millions of men, women, and children are on the verge of starvation. They manure the land with fish, and let fruit and vegetables rot, to keep up market prices forsooth, whilst hunger stalks the land.

Oh, they have made England great, but utterly failed to make her happy; failed to feed, clothe, and house the population of these islands. They have parliamentary procedure on the brain; they submit to legalized quibbles and strangulation by red tape; they are unduly impressed by unessentials; they have made one-sided laws, because they understand only one side of human nature, and that their own; they, the stronger sex, have bolstered themselves with the law, secured unto themselves and their heirs privileges that can only be exercised at the expense of the weaker sex, and to-day we see them hurriedly framing Bills for the protection of these privileges. Oh, the wonder of it, to women!

The economic system, for which men are responsible, floats thousands of women on the streets, and still the law pursues the weak and protects the strong, making it a punishable offence for a woman, destitute though she be, to solicit a man, whilst a man may solicit a woman and escape conviction. A man on the street at night returns to respectability with the day; a woman on the street may never return.

Men flout Nature by constituting themselves the sole parents of their wives' children, but do not claim parentage when the mother is not the wife; they have made it simpler for a husband to divorce his wife than for a wife to divorce her husband. They have seen to it that life is easier, freer for a man than for a woman.

Scripture does not report the Creator as saying to Adam, "Behold, here is woman! a creature who will bear children and replenish the earth; keep her for that purpose in compounds, harems, and houses; keep her for ever on her knees on the domestic hearth, lest she rise to question your authority, and let the only alternatives be the cloister or the convent." Yet men have treated women as though that had been the command, as though the Voice from Heaven proclaimed her an inferior dependent rather than a helpful companion. From earliest records woman learns her worth, and Christian teaching exhorts her to be no respecter of persons. From no source can she gather that she was created to do the bidding of a being who could not get on without her, who could not exist without her.

Had men and women journeyed through the centuries hand in hand, had women been as free to express themselves as men, had not men arrogated to themselves the sole direction of human affairs regardless of the helpmeet expressly divinely appointed (and remember, it was not left to Adam to dictate to Eve just the kind of help it would please him to receive), I firmly believe we should have been incalculably nearer the Millennium.

Face to face at last with the age-long victim of "passive neglects and negative injuries," men, according to their insight and nobility, hail the new woman as comrade and colleague; or, according to their moral aberration and spiritual poverty, class her with lunatics and paupers.

K. KILBURN.

Albert Hall Meeting, December 5th

As there were "riotous scenes" at the Suffrage demonstration arranged by the Women's Liberal Federation, and some excuse for the display of such tempting scare-lines as "Pandemonium at the Albert Hall," a degree of attention has been drawn to the meeting which, one is bitterly forced to conclude, would, without such incidents, have been given far less generous space. Any one in the vicinity of the reporters' table might have heard more than once the gleeful utterances of those seeking for sensational copy—"Oh, the place is honeycombed with them. I tell you I *know* we're going to have a good time!"

Owing to the wide publicity given to the meeting, it is unnecessary here to do more than briefly record the delivery of a clever and graceful speech from Lady McLaren as chairman, in which she scored many points and sought to establish an atmosphere of bonhomie and conciliation.

After affirming the entire confidence of the Federation in Mr. Asquith's previous announcement that on the eve of the dissolution an Electoral Reform Bill will be introduced by the Government which will be so drafted that a Woman's Suffrage Amendment will be in order, and that being proposed and carried, the Government will accept responsibility for it, and having laid stress on the fact that the Premier has "set free" members of the Cabinet and private members of the party to vote as they desire in the matter, Lady McLaren went on to emphatically disclaim credence in the assertion that "our friends are going to betray us." Drawing similes from flirtations, grumbling husbands, and King Cophetua, she pressed home her point with that if and when the enfranchisement of women is obtained it will be not because woman is fair, but because man is getting fairer. With what words, she continued, shall we speak of those who have made our cause their own? If they have never been properly thanked we thank them now, and offer them our heartfelt gratitude. We do not declare war upon the Liberal Party. We rest with them in faith and hope and charity—the kind of faith which brings about that in which it trusts—the kind of hope which spurs to fresh effort—the kind of charity which covers a multitude of past sins, but looks to the future for a sure reward. There is one danger only about our Bill. We have always advocated one simple principle. There are now signs in the atmosphere about the Prime Minister that a wider measure would meet with more favour. We want a Bill to win. Do not let us mix ourselves up in the matter. Let us trust our Parliamentary friends to pick us out a winner. We call on all members to redeem their pledges by voting for all or any Bill—if it seems to them too wide, let them endeavour to restrict it—if it seems too narrow, let them try to widen it; but in any case vote for it, that it be not lost. If, under the pretence that the one is too small for justice, or the other too wide for their courage, they fail to do so, we shall say they have betrayed us. At the next General Election they will be faced not only with the infuriated publican and the wily Tariff Reformer, but with the righteous wrath of the women of this country. Some other party will give us votes, but no other party will ever give us again our confidence in the Liberal Party. They will go down to history as the party which fixed the chains of political servitude on a majority of the population of these islands.

"But," she added, "let us not dwell upon this gloomy picture. There are signs that the Liberal Government is making for the women's harbour. Let us, then, not damp the generous ardour of our friends. Have patience just two years longer—in two years we shall have our chance—the best chance women ever had—the only chance, perhaps, for years to come. I implore you do nothing to wreck that chance. Violence may bring you friends by hundreds, but it will raise you up enemies by thousands. Wait, then, for a dissolution: either the House of Commons will have given women votes, or have cast us into outer darkness. In any case a new chapter of women's history will begin, and then we will take fresh counsel together."

Lady Bamford-Slack, who seconded the resolution, emphasized the claim of Liberal women upon the Liberal Party. "We helped to create the great Liberal wave on which this Government was carried into power. In Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman we had for the first time a Liberal Prime Minister on our side. To-day marks another advance: the Chancellor of the Exchequer is the chief speaker on our Suffrage platform. Mr. Lloyd George comes forth as a dove from the Government ark, and after he has looked over this meeting he can bear back to the dwellers in that ark the news that the floods of opposition to Women Suffrage are abated.

"Justice is overdue, because representatives of well-nigh all industries have votes, and to be voteless is to be exceptionally and conspicuously helpless. We are called upon more and more to do citizen work without citizen rights. We are loyal Liberals. This Government granted representative government to the conquered nations of South Africa, and we ask them to-day to extend it to the women of their own country. We have paved the way, and do not repent our past patience. This meeting voices a great and growing impatience among Liberal women. We are feeling that justice delayed is justice denied. If the Government brings in the promised Reform Bill, and does not extend equal franchise rights to women, Liberal women cannot think it either just or democratic."

Mr. Lloyd George had practically nothing to say which would be new to our readers. He announced his whole-hearted advocacy of the reform, and dwelt upon the economic disabilities of women. "The Message," which was withheld until Mr. Lloyd George had, as he thought, demonstrated that a "man would not be bullied," but would give way to supplication, resolved itself into a repetition of Mr. Asquith's declaration with regard to accepting an Amendment to the Electoral Reform Bill in favour of extending the vote to women, to be brought in just before dissolution, and advice as to strengthening the hands of its advocates. A warning was added which seems to suggest that Members of Parliament were either so weak-minded themselves or were so controlled by the less thoughtful of their constituents that they might deny justice if they or their constituents found cause to disapprove of the methods of some of the advocates of justice. We do not propose to follow Lady McLaren in her criticism of the disturbers of the meeting, which seemed difficult to reconcile with "The Orders of the Day," recommending no unkindness even in thought. For ourselves, we hope we may never witness at close quarters any such conduct as has been imputed by responsible people to many of the ejectors.

From the 'Journal of Education.'

THE Bristol Education Committee has been hauled over the coals by our youthful and enthusiastic contemporary, *Women's Franchise*. The Committee advertised in *The Athenæum* last month for a French Master or Mistress for St. George's Secondary Day School. The academic qualifications and accent acquired by actual residence on the Continent were to be the same for both; but, unfortunately, the salary was to be 130l. for the Master, rising to 170l.; for the Mistress, 100l., rising to 130l. Thereupon our contemporary inquires whether a woman's accent in French, her power to teach and maintain discipline, can be equal to a man's. If not, why does the Committee offer an inferior teacher to their scholars? But, if so, why offer less money to the woman candidate?—It certainly does look very bad all in the same advertisement, and for our own part we should counsel another and more diplomatic form—let us say, an advertisement for a man teacher in *The Athenæum* and for a woman teacher in an educational paper. It would look better.

[We presume this "diplomacy" is humorous!—Ed. W.F.]

[Pressure on our space again causes us to hold over the conclusion of "Unprogressive Women," as well as other interesting articles and correspondence.]

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OBJECT.—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men. The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. *Secretary:* MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.
Hon. Secretary: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. *Organisers:* MISS E. M. GARDNER, B.A. MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON, B.A. MRS. COOPER. MISS HELEN FRASER
Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

OFFICES: 25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. McLAREN. *MISS WARD*
MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT, M.P. *LADY STRACHEY*
MISS EDITH DIMOCK *And the Hon. Officers,*
MISS I. O. FORD *MRS. BROADLEY REID* *MISS BERTRAND RUSSELL*
MISS MARTINDALE, M.D. (Lond.) *MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN* *MISS LOWNDES*
MRS. FLORENCE BALGARNIE *MISS MARY MORRIS* *MISS MARY PENROSE*
MRS. ALLAN BRIGHT *MRS. MARGARET ROBERTSON* *MRS. COOPER* *MISS HELEN FRASER*

The Chancellor of the Exchequer at the Albert Hall Meeting.

I LISTENED most carefully to Mr. Lloyd George's speech at the Women's Liberal Federation meeting in the Albert Hall on December 5th, and have since read the report of it in *The Observer*. Except for the significance of a Cabinet Minister of the first rank appearing as an advocate of Women's Suffrage on a Women's Suffrage platform, which should be fully recognized, I cannot feel that Mr. Lloyd George did more than emphasize and underline Mr. Asquith's statement to the deputation of Liberal Members in May. The value of Mr. Asquith's concession depends entirely on the character of the Reform Bill which he intends to introduce, and on this neither the Prime Minister nor the Chancellor of the Exchequer gives any indication of the intentions of the Government. Mr. Lloyd George's speech was valuable in the advice it contained as to the immediate policy of Suffrage workers: we have to lay our case before the electorate and obtain evidence of the support of the constituencies to the principle of Women's Suffrage. This is the object towards which the by-election policy of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has been directed. Mr. Lloyd George's speech confirms us in our belief that our policy is the best yet devised for gaining the support of the electors to the enfranchisement of women.

The speeches of Lady McLaren and Lady Slack, in moving and seconding the resolution, were courageous and outspoken in their plain statement that the continued work of the Federation will not be given to their party unless the Liberal Government recognize the justice and necessity of extending the Parliamentary Franchise to women. There has been no such recognition at present. If none is given, Lady McLaren said, the Government will be faced at the next General Election not only by their traditional foes, but "by the righteous wrath of the Liberal women." From the practical Suffrage point of view this was the most valuable thing said at the meeting.

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

As many inquiries have been received here regarding the Albert Hall Meeting on December 5th, we reprint, by request, the letter which appeared in the London press on December 3rd.

The letter is not the official declaration of any Suffrage Society; the signatures collected by Mrs. Herringham represent a large body of opinion.

The promise of a speech from Mr. Lloyd George for Women's Suffrage, announced for the meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation at the Albert Hall on December 5th, has aroused a great interest and expectation among women of all shades of political opinion who desire the Parliamentary vote.

One section of the women seeking enfranchisement (the National Women's Social and Political Union, whose settled policy is opposition to any Government which refuses support to their demand for the vote) intends to break up the meeting, and to prevent Mr. Lloyd George from speaking, as a part of their usual tactics. We, the undersigned, wish to point out that nothing can, from any point of view, be gained by such action equal to the advantage of having a Cabinet Minister's pronouncement on this burning question.

It is most important that this statement from Mr. Lloyd George should, in the first instance, be heard, and then reported, as it would be, all over the English-speaking world.

Frances Balfour (Lady); Anna Bateson (Mrs.); Anna Bateson (Miss); Mary Benson (Mrs. Benson, Horsted Keynes); Clementina Black; Florence Nightingale-Boyd, M.D.; Sophie Bryant, D.Sc.; E. M. Cadbury (Mrs. George Cadbury); Eleanor Cecil (Lady Robert Cecil); Julia C. Chance (Lady); Adela Coit (Mrs. Stanton Coit); Emma Cons; Kate Courtney of Penwith (Lady Courtney of Penwith); Louise Creighton (Mrs.); Sarah Dickinson (Trade and Labour); J. F. Dove (Miss); Gertrude Elliott (Mrs. Forbes-Robertson); Mary A. Ewart (Miss); Millicent Garrett Fawcett, LL.D.; Mary Arnold-Forster (Mrs.); Alice Gardner (Newnham College); Helen Gladstone; Eva Gore-Booth; "Sarah Grand"; Agnes Grove (Lady Grove); E. S. Haldane (Miss); Jane Ellen Harrison; Margaret Heitland (Mrs.); Susan M. Jebb (Miss); Gertrude Jekyll (Miss); Julia Kennedy (Miss); Gertrude Kingston; J. Mary Lockyer (Lady Lockyer); Marie Belloc-Lowndes; Edith Lyttelton (Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton); Margaret E. Macdonald (Mrs. Ramsay Macdonald); S. E. S. Mair (Miss Mair, Edinburgh); Alice Meynell; Madeleine Midleton (Viscountess Midleton); May Morris; Emily Penrose (Miss, Somerville Hall, Oxford); Georgina H. Pollock (Lady Pollock); Sarah T. Prideaux; M. J. Prothero (Mrs. George Prothero); C. D. Rackham (Mrs., Cambridge); Esther Roper, B.A. (Women Textile Workers); Alys Russell (Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell); Isabel Somerset (Lady Henry Somerset); Jane Strachey (Lady Strachey); Margaret Todd, M.D.; Agnes J. Turner (Mrs.); Mary Ward (Mrs., Cambridge); Beatrice Webb (Mrs. Sidney Webb); Frances Julia Wedgewood; Alice Westlake (Mrs.); Mary (Theodore) Williams (Mrs.); Margaret L. Woods.

London Reception.

THE Doré Gallery reception on Tuesday, December 2nd, was again most successful. Miss Cockle's description of her motor-car experiences in the Chelmsford constituency was received with enthusiasm, and Mrs. Fawcett, from the chair, spoke of the paramount importance of educating the country at large, and the men in particular, which can be effected so much more successfully at by-elections than in any other way. Miss Lowndes, presented the scheme of the new monthly, *The English-woman*. Miss Marshall described the great success of her Suffrage stall in the market place at Keswick. Miss McNaughten gave an artistic rendering of French and English songs. Next week and the following, it is hoped that speeches will be delivered respectively by Miss I. O. Ford and by Mrs. Brownlow. All who are doing their Christmas shopping on December 22nd are invited to come in to the Doré Gallery for tea.

County Campaign Fund.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Leicester W.S.S., per Miss Sloane	10	0	0		12	2	0
Total to Saturday, December 5th, 1908	£789	0	8				

Correspondence.

Petitions to Parliament.

SIR,—I beg to call the attention of all workers for Women's Suffrage to the necessity of letting Parliament know the strength of the agitation which is spreading over the country in favour of this measure. Countless public meetings, drawing-room meetings, and association meetings are held, of which no record is kept, and which merely obtain a short notice in some local paper. A resolution is usually carried, which no one hears of again, or which at the most is sent to the local M.P. No lasting effect is felt, and Parliament knows little or nothing of the matter.

The proper course to adopt is that at every meeting a petition to the House of Commons should be moved and carried, and signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and sent to the local M.P. for presentation, whether he is in favour of the Suffrage or not. If this is done there will be a record of every meeting held, and the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions, which is issued weekly, will record all these petitions. It is true that each will only be signed by one person, namely, the chairman; but they will all be recorded as being petitions from meetings, according to the description given on the petition itself.

This is the most effective reply which can be made to the Anti-Suffrage Society. They intend to get up big petitions signed by thousands of women, who will sign anything if they are asked by their mistresses or influential ladies. We do not believe that such petitions have any value. But petitions from public meetings will have far more weight, because there is proof that before the petition was adopted the subject was discussed.

I append a form of petition as an example, but of course the wording may be altered in many ways. Every petition must be written out on a single sheet of paper, and signed on the same sheet.

I am, yours truly,
 WALTER S. B. McLAREN.
 56, Ashley Gardens, London.

FORM OF PETITION.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled:

The Humble Petition of Inhabitants of..... in Public Meeting assembled, on the.....day of.....

SHOWETH—
 That your Petitioners believe that the Parliamentary Franchise should be granted to duly qualified Women.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray your Honourable House to pass a Bill to remove the disability of Sex, and to enable Women to vote in Parliamentary Elections.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.
 Signed on behalf of the meeting,

.....
 Chairman.

5,000 Guineas Fund.

Miss Cara Blood	..	..	(Chelmsford)	£0	5	0
Mrs. Gunter	..	..	"	0	10	6
Mrs. Herringham	..	..	"	1	0	0

In our issue of October 15th the resolution proposed by Reading at the Annual Council Meeting was wrongly reported. It should have read:—

"That the by-election policy of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies shall in future be one of propaganda only; and that the Union shall refrain from supporting any Parliamentary candidate (whether he be in favour of Women's Suffrage or not), unless there be a non-party candidate expressly standing for the cause of Woman's Suffrage."

Exeter and Plymouth.

Dr. Davey of Exeter kindly gave a drawing-room meeting on November 27th, at which Sir Robert Newman, an enthusiastic supporter, eloquently answered objections raised by Lady Dudley Duckworth. A number of influential people of the city and university were present. I am now in Plymouth, where I have valuable promises of support, but I must take a shop for ten days if good work is to be done here. Can anyone help with the rent, 3l. Will readers kindly send me names of sympathisers in Plymouth and Devon to 12, Old Park Road.

MARGARET ROBERTSON.

New Women's Suffrage Society at Farnham.

The inaugural meeting of the Farnham (Surrey) W.S.S. was held on November 16th. About twenty supporters attended. The Viscountess Middleton was elected president, and a nucleus executive committee appointed: Mrs. Henry Bury, Mrs. C. Tanner, Miss E. Clarke, Miss T. Wilson, Mrs. R. Durand, Lady Treacher, Miss Betty, Miss Wint, Mr. Henry Bury, Dr. C. Tanner, and Mr. R. Durand. It was decided to act on a non-party basis, and that the Society should be affiliated to the N.U.W.S.S. The Society starts with a membership of about forty. Miss Milton was elected Hon. Sec.

Branch Societies.

ALTRINCHAM.—Two splendid meetings were held here last week. On Thursday Miss Abadam gave an eloquent and impressive address to a large number of women. At the end nine new members were enrolled. On Friday there was a meeting for men and women, at which Prof. Weiss, of the Victoria University, took the chair, and Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., and Miss Abadam spoke.

BIRMINGHAM.—One result of Miss Abadam's series of meetings for women only has been an increase of membership in the Birmingham and district societies of, at least, 100, and the interest aroused has been so great that there has been a universal demand in the district that Miss Abadam should address a large public meeting in January.

Stratford-on-Avon.—A most successful drawing-room meeting was held on the 16th inst. at Miss Ashford's studio. The president, Mrs. Hastings, was in the chair. Miss Abadam gave a most eloquent and stirring address to an interested audience.

Solihull.—A successful drawing-room meeting for women only was held on Friday, Nov. 27th, at Malvern House, Solihull, by kind permission of Mrs. Gibbs, at which about eighty ladies were present to hear Miss Abadam speak on 'Suffrage and Morals.' Mrs. Yoxall kindly took the chair, and Miss Taylor (Birmingham) also spoke.

BOLTON.—A successful public meeting was held in the Temperance Hall on Nov. 3rd. Mrs. William Haslam presided. The speakers were Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A., Mrs. Allan Bright, and the Rev. G. E. Rees, M.A. The audience, which numbered over 2,000, listened to the speakers with great attention and interest.

BOURNEMOUTH.—The annual meeting was held at 3, The Quadrant, Nov. 23rd. After tea and chat, a large attendance of members listened with satisfaction to the report of the year's work, which has been strenuous. The financial report showed a better balance in hand than ever before, with which to carry on the season's work. The officers were mostly re-elected, and one or two names added to the committee. At the close of the business arrangements Mrs. Holmes, of the Freedom League, gave a splendid address.

CAMBRIDGE held on Nov. 26th what was certainly the most successful of its annual meetings. The room was crowded to overflowing, and though a few irrepressible undergraduates were present, this small element of opposition seemed only to intensify the earnestness and enthusiasm of the rest of the meeting. Mrs. Cooper dwelt on the need of the working woman for the vote; Mr. Comford, Fellow of Trinity College, and Mrs. Heitland also spoke. The success of the meeting is partly attributed to the fact that on Saturday last some members

of the Association opened a stall in the Market Place for the distribution and sale of Suffrage literature. During the day considerable numbers of men and women came round the stall; cheap leaflets were given away, and these served as an introduction to talk on the subject of the Suffrage, and led to the sale of other literature. It is proposed to hold the stall every Saturday, as long as sufficient helpers can be secured. About four stall keepers, two for the front and two for the back, seem to be needed for effective work.

LONDON, Chiswick and Bedford Park.—A very successful drawing-room meeting was held at Oulart, Bedford Park, on Nov. 20th, by kind invitation of Mrs. Waterlow King, about seventy people being present. The chair was taken by Mr. Waterlow King, J.P., who delivered an impressive opening speech. The speaker, Mrs. Corbett, gave an interesting address. A very lively discussion followed. Ten new members were added to the society.

NORTH FOREST.—Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., very kindly consented to address the first public meeting of our society, which was held in Milton Hall, on Tuesday, Nov. 24th. The honour conferred upon us by our President was fully appreciated, and a great deal of interest was shown in the meeting from the first. The hall was filled to overflowing, and a considerable crowd collected outside of those unable to find standing-room. It need hardly be said that Mrs. Fawcett's ability, clearness, and sincerity profoundly impressed her audience. To many of those present a woman speaker was an absolute novelty. In country districts, where events are rare, an impression such as this is not readily effaced, and the memory of Mrs. Fawcett's presence will remain with us not only now, but years hence. We were fortunate in having Mr. J. C. Tinne, J.P., as our chairman. The Rev. W. E. Cove, Miss Mabel Anderson, and the Rev. J. E. Kelsall also spoke. A resolution in favour of Mr. Stanger's Bill was carried by a large majority. Already we are being asked to organize meetings in other parts of the constituency.

NORTH OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.—Last week this society challenged the Women's Anti-Suffrage League to a public debate, to take place in Manchester early in 1909. Negotiations are in progress, and we hope it will be an event of some public interest.

Now that we can seat over 100 in our own offices, we hope to make our Friday meetings a great feature of our work, and we are arranging for a speaker to address us on some special subject every Friday. On the 20th we had a paper on 'Proportional Representation.' On the 27th the Warden of the Manchester University Women's Hall of Residence spoke on 'Women and their Chances in Life.'

Mr. Belloc having expressed the view that his constituents did not care about Women's Suffrage, we are organizing a campaign in Salford with very encouraging results. A detailed scheme of organization in the nine parliamentary divisions of Manchester and Salford is also on foot, for which money and workers will be wanted. So far the North of England Society has never appealed in vain for either. The October demonstration cost close upon 300L., the whole of which has been met, the sale of tickets for the Free Trade Hall realizing nearly 100L.

SALFORD.—Manchester and Salford are two great cities, separated for administrative purposes, but indistinguishable to the man in the street, for they are geographically continuous. In order to bring the weight of public opinion to bear upon the members for the three divisions, the North of England Society is organizing meetings, and hopes to have a local committee in Salford, where Canon Hicks, the president of the Manchester Men's League, is a power for all reform. The first meeting was held on Wednesday, 25th, in St. Philip's Schoolroom, when Miss Hicks took the chair.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—A members' meeting was held here on November 27th under the presidency of Madame Sarah Grand, at which the report of the Provisional Committee (elected for two months in order to start the Society) was given by Miss Mosely, chairwoman of the Committee. After an address from the president, the meeting proceeded to the business for which it had been called, and elected a very representative and influential committee. The society now numbers seventy members (Hon. Sec. Mrs. Tattershall Dodd).

WARRINGTON.—On Nov. 24th the Rev. C. Harvey Cook took the chair, and Miss Royden and Miss L. Broadbent spoke at a Women's Suffrage meeting. An attempt was made to wreck the meeting with the aid of chemicals, but it was a failure, owing to the firmness of the chairman and the stewards.

SUCCESSFUL Woman's Suffrage meetings of our societies are reported from Southampton, Olton, Wandsworth, York, Warwick and Leamington, Worcester, Leeds, Altrincham, and Edinburgh. The two first of a series of At Homes have been held at Reigate and Redhill. They have been a great success. Cheltenham W.S.S. held its annual meeting, the largest held in recent years. Dr. Mary Murdoch addressed the Hull W.S.S.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

			P.M.
Dec. 10.	London, Social Meeting 57, Bedford Gardens, Studio, 1A	Hostess, Miss Luxmoor Chair, Miss F. G. Wright Speakers, Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, Miss Lowndes.	8.30
	Willesden, Public Meeting	Speaker, Miss Hill	
11.	Aberdeen, Drawing-Room Meeting, Oakbank Villa	Hostess, Mrs. Gleg Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser	3
	Bournemouth, "At Home" Princes Hall, Grand Hotel	Chair, Mrs. Eddison Speaker, Miss Abadam	4-6
	London, Camberwell Banner Show, Camberwell Public Baths	To be opened by Mrs. Ceil Chapman Speakers, Miss Lowndes, Miss M. Corbett, Rev. T. Stephens, T. Gautrey, Esq., L.C.C., Malcolm Mitchell, Esq., and others	5-10
	Manchester, Weekly Meet- ing, 85, Deansgate Arcade	Speaker, Mrs. Stevenson	8-10
	Southport, Drawing-Room Meeting	Speaker, Miss Lucas	
12.	Manchester, Drawing-Room Meeting, Romiley	Hostess, Mrs. Frank Leigh, Speaker, Mrs. Swanwick	
	Tunbridge Wells, Drawing- Room Meeting	Hostess, Miss Scott Speakers, Mrs. Alfred Pollard, Miss Mac- naghton, Miss Birnstingl	4
14.	Darlington, Debate, Y.M.C.A.	Opener, Miss Lucas	
	Leicester, Debate, Wigston Literary Society.	Opener, Mrs. Donaldson	
	London, Forest Hill, Public Meeting	Speaker, Miss Abadam	8
	Stratford-on-Avon, Social Meeting for Members only	Hostess, Mrs. Cossins Paper and Discussion	
15.	Galashiels, Meeting Abbots- ford Literary Society	Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser	8
	Leicester, Debate, Clyde Literary Society	Opener, Miss Edith Gittins	8
	London Society Recep- tion, Doré Gallery		4.30-7
16.	Darlington, Debate, Holy Trinity Parish Room	Opener, Miss Lucas	
	Galashiels, Public Meeting, Town Hall	Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser	8
	Leicester, Meeting, St. Mark's Group of N.U.W.S.S.	Speaker, Mrs. Donaldson.	
	London, Highgate, Meeting for Working Women, Spears Memorial Hall. Music, &c., arranged by Miss Wallace	Speakers, Mrs. Holyoake Marsh, Mrs. S. Fenton	3
	Barrhead, N.B., Public Meeting, Public Hall	Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser	8
17.	London, Camberwell, "Par- liament" Debate	Speaker, Lady Grove	8
	Lewisham, Debate, Congrega- tional Literary and Social Guild	Speaker, Miss Lowndes	8
18.	Billshill, N.B., Public Meeting, Public Hall	Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser	8
	Darlington, Social Meeting, Temperance Institute. Tickets 6d. Music, refreshments.	Speaker, Miss Mein	7
	Manchester, Weekly Meet- ing, 85, Deansgate Arcade	Speaker, Miss Olga Hertz	8-10
19.	Hull, Franchise Tea, Odd- fellows' Hall		
22.	London Society Recep- tion, Doré Gallery.		4.30-7
23.	London Society, Lecture, 20, Craven Terrace, W.	Lecturer, Miss Mildred Ransom.	8

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

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League (late W.S.F.A.).

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. WOOD.

NATIONAL OFFICES: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

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

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

Ireland for the Suffrage.

THE first Irish branch of the Women's Freedom League was formed in the autumn through the instrumentality of Mrs. Wilson of Glasgow and Dr. Harriet Neill. Bangor, co. Down, was its birthplace. Its members are few—about a score—and some of them are still breathless at their own militant Suffragist outbreak; but they are not without spirit and promise. Some of the younger members, and one or two of the older, will help the indefatigable Dr. Neill to carry the branch through its days of infant trial.

Following upon the formation of this branch has come a reawakening into action of the Suffragists of Belfast and Dublin. In both of these cities new societies have been formed. The new Franchise Society of Dublin has already sent a warm official appreciation of our work to the headquarters of the Women's Freedom League. From my personal experiences among the Belfast Suffragists, I know the same feeling of admiration for the militant Suffragist prevails with them also.

Bangor, in the holiday season, when the branch was formed, had made itself notorious by its treatment of Mrs. Wilson and her supporters. On the occasion of my visit on December 1st a recurrence of violence was anticipated. The meeting was, therefore, advertised for women only, while the few men who were admitted came by special invitation. Such precautions were proved unnecessary, however. A packed meeting of a perfectly peaceful character, at which a unanimous resolution was carried, brought joy to the heart of Dr. Neill, and a sense of relief and security to those of her more timid followers.

I arrived in Belfast at about five in the morning. After travelling to Bangor and taking breakfast, Dr. Neill carried me off on an Irish jaunting car to support her in the distribution of invitations to the meeting, and to be "displayed" to the disbelieving populace. For Mrs. Wilson's sweet motherliness had left folk still convinced that all "real" Suffragettes were old, sour, and ugly.

We called upon the local editors, the mayor and the councillors, the medical men, and the tradespeople in the town itself. Then we took our courage in our hands and called upon the gentry. We were received with varying degrees of cordiality, and, having completed our work, returned, cold and hungry, to dinner at 2.30.

In the afternoon Mrs. Coulter, the president of the branch, was at home to the members. With them I had consultation and helpful conversation. In the evening came the meeting. I am quite sure that on our next visit we shall have the largest hall in Bangor, and we shall fill it, and the branch will make a profit for its now seriously depleted funds.

The next day was spent in Belfast. There is no doubt at all but that we shall have a flourishing branch of the Women's Freedom League in the northern capital of Ireland during the next few months. It is just possible that the branch may be formed at once. I am in communication with the prospective members with this object; but for the very recent formation of the Suffrage society above-mentioned the branch would have been formed then and there at my first meeting. As it is there are more than enough militant spirits ready for action. A woman Doctor of Laws, Dr. Letitia Walkington, took the chair for me, and two women with medical degrees supported me upon the platform. In spite of a group of rowdies at the back of the hall, the meeting was very enthusiastic and thoroughly successful; and Mrs. Lennon and Miss Galway, with a few others, had organized it in three days!

I have promised to return in February with other speakers and workers. We must do so: the harvest is there to be gathered; the support is there to be won. I am hoping to get meetings arranged in all the chief cities and towns of Ireland. Already arrangements are in hand for meetings in Dublin, Belfast, and Bangor, and I have hopes of Cork, Limerick, and Monaghan.

The first campaign in any new district is almost necessarily a financial loss; but I propose that this should be met by special donations. Divisional funds for organization and propaganda are to be promoted in various parts of the three kingdoms. I appeal for donations for the Irish Fund at once; let us have in hand a sum of 50L. by February 1st, with which to cover the expenses of a preliminary organizing campaign in the Emerald Isle. Two other things are needed:—

1. The names and addresses of all Irish Suffragists known to our friends and members.
2. The names of voluntary workers and speakers who will help in the February campaign.

With these things, and with the money appealed for, we shall have a strong Irish organization behind us early in the New Year.

T. B. G.

The Campaign in Mid-Essex.

THE by-election is over; but its effects will be felt for a long time in Chelmsford and district. We have left a branch behind, and if enthusiasm counts for much, this branch ought to be one of the most flourishing in existence. Miss Boothby, 26, Fairfield Road, Chelmsford, is the hon. secretary, and Miss Snelling, Great Baddow, is the hon. treasurer.

On Thursday the branch came into existence; and already the members have plenty of work in hand, and soon will have an important announcement to make.

Many men were anxious to enrol as members. I referred them to the Men's League, but they were obviously disappointed. We enlisted their services, however, for future work in the district.

Throughout the constituency the voters declare that the large majority was due to the Women's Suffrage agitation; and yet outside the district one would hardly realize that we had been present. Inside, however, there is no doubt of our activity, and we have left friends everywhere.

ALICE SCHOFIELD.

Correspondence.

DEAR MADAM,—May I disclaim, in your columns, all "discovery" of the early Chelmsford Suffragist attributed to me by Miss Schofield.

My informant was Miss Florence Balgarnie, who in 'The Case for Women's Suffrage,' edited by Brougham Villiers, published by T. Fisher Unwin, states on p. 26:—

"The earliest leaflet on the Suffrage was issued in 1847 by an aged Quaker lady called Ann Knight, of Quiet House, Chelmsford. She subsequently assisted in founding the Sheffield Female Political Association, which, at a meeting held February 26th, 1851, adopted the first address on Suffrage formulated by women in England. Their petition was presented to the House of Lords by the Earl of Carlisle that same year." KATHARINE MANSON.

DEAR MADAM,—We are told that our propaganda work is impeded by lack of funds. May I suggest to members that they shall withdraw all subscriptions paid to any and every charitable institution—no matter how much they may be interested in it. When the yearly reminder comes round they should write a note to the treasurer, saying that the amount will not be paid, but that it will be sent instead to the Women's Freedom League. The purse greatly influences the minds of many influential persons, and if this were systematically done (even where subscriptions amount only to 1s. per annum) the effect would, I feel sure, be quite noticeable. Money thus collected for the Women's Freedom League should be described as "withdrawn from a charity" for the encouragement of others. SIME SERUYA.

Past Events.

At Croydon.—At a recent debate on "Votes for Women" which took place at Horniman Hall, Croydon, between Mrs. Holmes (Women's Freedom League) and Mr. T. Lawler-Wilson, Mr. Julius Wilkinson took the chair. The resolution which Mrs. Holmes moved was, "That the Parliamentary Franchise should be extended to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men." The value of the vote was pointed out.

Slavery was defined as a condition in which restrictions were imposed from without and obedience to these compelled by force. Restrictions even with good aims and well intentioned do not make for the betterment of the unconsulted section. Better, indeed, to have had conditions than have good ones forcibly imposed from without!

Mrs. Holmes enumerated the different classes excluded from the Parliamentary franchise, and showed that woman should not be included with these—she had no link with them. The one real disqualification of women is—sex!

Mrs. Holmes pointed out how the laws pressed unjustly on women—woman's legal status being wholly inferior to man's. The State degrades women by making sex a disability and disqualification for the vote.

Mr. Lawler-Wilson said Mrs. Holmes assumed an ideal State, and none such existed; contended that women do exercise great influence—though not by votes! Said if Mrs. Holmes's definition of slavery were granted, all men were slaves; responsibility for keeping laws rested on men as on women. Women were classified with criminals and imbeciles "simply for legal purposes" (!), no sensible man supposed women were meant to be put on such a level—it was an insult to man to say so. (Great laughter.) The classification simply meant: women had not the power to vote!

Certain responsibilities are put on men and not on women, so they cannot have the same privileges. But inequalities in law operate in favour of women. (Derisive laughter.) For instance, in breach of promise cases the juries almost always believe a woman's word before a man's, and favour her side—indeed are always moved by tearful faces and pretty gowns! (Loud laughter.)

Complained that Suffragists deceived working women as to vote asked for, telling them they would be enfranchised by this measure, if passed. Suffragists were frauds. Expressed great horror of Adult Suffrage (for adult men and women), as women would outnumber men, and would rule; this was not to be thought of for a moment. Man would not take a back seat. (Great laughter.) Mr. Lawler-Wilson would concede the vote to those women who were now qualified as Municipal voters, but certainly to no others. There was, in fact, no such thing as sex equality! (Great laughter and applause.)

On the vote being taken, 104 were in favour of the resolution and 35 against. The result of the voting was received with great enthusiasm, and the supporters felt that the cause had been brilliantly championed, and the other side was conspicuously wanting in logic and common sense.

At Hackney.—Members of the Hackney Branch held large and enthusiastic gatherings on Friday and Saturday evenings in the Stoke Newington Library Hall.

Round the room were stalls for the sale of needlework,

dolls, pictures, literature, and refreshments, all of which did good business.

Holloway Prison Cell made a very interesting side-show, and Miss Cicely Hamilton staged a most entertaining group of living wax-works, depicting in her inimitable way many of the gross exaggerations of the press; while Mrs. Fenton showed the picture post cards as tableaux vivants by children.

The duologue of 'Granny Bo-peep' was presented by Mrs. How-Martyn and Miss Hodgson. The acting was instinct with real pathos, and gave food for thought on the present anomalous position of women.

Mrs. Sadd-Brown occupied the chair both evenings, and made very clear the aims and purposes of our League.

Mr. Hart-Davies, M.P., gallantly supported us in a very interesting speech; Mesdames Despard, Billington-Greig, Hicks, and Nevinson gave inspiring addresses; whilst recitations were given by Miss Limousin.

The South Place Orchestra added much to the enjoyment of the evenings by their fine rendering of a good selection of music. The funds will profit by about 26l. S. A. MUSTARD.

At Chester.—The Freedom League held a very successful meeting in the Temperance Hall, Chester, in November. It was the first except for a small outdoor meeting held by Miss Schofield in the Market Square. Both Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Billington-Greig were well received, and their speeches much appreciated. Before the meeting few of the audience had other than a vague idea of what women are agitating for; but at the close many were keenly enthusiastic, and showed their appreciation by giving in their names as members or sympathizers. Further meetings are now being arranged for.

At Paddington.—A most interesting meeting took place on Wednesday evening, the 2nd inst., in the Paddington Town Hall. The meeting was splendidly organized by our local workers. The chair was taken by Mrs. Despard, who moved the following resolution: "That this meeting protests against the treatment of Suffragette women as common criminals, and calls upon the Government to immediately enfranchise women by passing into law the Bill now before Parliament." She reminded us how that no great measure of reform has ever been carried without agitation, how that very few great social changes have taken place without a breaking of the law, and how the law, to be strictly just, must have the consent of the governed.

Miss Molony, just back from the Chelmsford by-election, gave a gratifying account of the friendly attitude of the electors there, saying that large numbers of them had signed petitions publicly, and even in the streets where no secretiveness was possible, demanding the enfranchisement of women.

Then came Mr. O'Dell, who made an excellent point in saying how little women cared about the vote! It is the "beyond" that they are really working for. "To right the wrong"—that, as he truly said, is the whole meaning of this movement.

Mrs. How-Martyn then spoke on the influence women now wield in those countries and in our own colonies where they already have the vote.

A really appreciative audience passed the resolution enthusiastically, and Mrs. Despard brought the meeting to a close with a few words of hearty encouragement to all workers for the cause.

Special Notices.

L.C.C.—More help is needed from members as handbillers, canvassers, speakers, chalkers, &c., for the meeting at South Place Institute, Finsbury, on the 16th inst.

From December 10th to 16th (inclusive) workers are needed all day in the City. A form is hanging in the office inviting helpers to give names and exact time they can spare for this work. Members are wanted to canvass business men and others, to collect, and sell tickets and literature, and give handbills (cards) in the streets—all day. Early morning chalkers required for 16th. The hall seats 670; this must be filled. Suggestions will be welcomed. Will members please volunteer at once?

SIME SERUYA, 13, Pembridge Crescent, W.

The Lending Library.—The Library has received the following gifts: 'The Blot on the Shield' from Mrs. Darent Harrison, and the 'History of Human Marriage' from Dr. Edward Westermarck. Mrs. Alice Meynell has also very kindly promised her poems.

Christmas Party, December 19th.—Members of the South Place Orchestra have very kindly promised to play selections of instrumental music during the evening.

Pound Stall.—Please send to Miss Margaret Fitt, 38, Park Road, Alleyne Park, West Dulwich, pounds of jams, jellies, marmalade, cakes, home-made sweets, crystallized fruits, ginger, tea, coffee, chocolate, and fresh fruit especially appreciated, though anything will be welcome. Things may be sent to Miss Fitt, or 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, if more convenient; and friends intending to bring perishable articles on the day of the party, are asked to let Miss Fitt know beforehand.

Branch Notes.

Hampstead Branch.—A crowded and sympathetic audience met at the Hampstead Library to welcome our local prisoners back from Holloway. The room was prettily decorated, and a good musical programme had been provided.

Miss Hamilton spoke upon the enslaved position of women; and the ex-prisoners, Mrs. Brindley, Miss Bremner, Mrs. Williams, and Miss Bottell (of the Women's Social and Political Union), gave an account of life in gaol; Mrs. Russell presided.

Battersea Branch.—Mrs. Duval was warmly welcomed back into her branch on December 4th.

Central Branch.—No meeting on the 10th. Annual meeting to elect branch officers on 17th, 8 P.M. P. H.

Lewisham Branch.—A lively meeting was held, at a day's notice only, at the Parish Hall, Ladywell, to advertise the 9th of December, the audience being collected by chalked paving-stones. "Are you the Society that scratches policemen's faces?" said a member of the audience on entering, "You, somehow, don't look it!" "I sympathize," said another, "but not with your ruffianly methods." Mrs. Holmes, who spoke forcibly, and the first local prisoner, Miss Gibb, who gave a plain, unvarnished statement of her arrest on May 21st in Downing Street, proved to the audience conclusively that the "ruffianism" of the ex-prisoners on the platform was slight in comparison with the "orderly conduct" of the gentlemanly party of about a score who stood at the doorway attempting to serve "good old Asquith" by making themselves appear very like savages. The bulk of the audience was thoroughly sympathetic. K. M.

Manchester Branch.—The members held an At Home on Wednesday last to welcome back Miss Manning. The room at No. 47, Mosley Street was full of members and their friends all eager to meet Miss Manning again. Mrs. Lidd officiated in the chair in a very able manner. Miss Manning gave an account of the demonstration in London, and also of her prison experiences. At the conclusion of her speech Miss Banner, the hostess of the evening, presented her with a bouquet from the members of the branch.

Western Branch, Glasgow.—Miss Esson Maule, Edinburgh, gave a lecture to this branch in the Academy Rooms on December 2nd; the title was one that is always attractive, 'Evolution of Mankind,' and the members and friends attended in number, who spent a most pleasant evening.

On December 16th Miss I. C. Hamilton will speak upon the matter of 'Education of Girls: a Modern Problem.'

Sale Branch, Cheshire.—The Sale Branch is "in luck." On Thursday, December 10th, we are to have Mrs. Despard for an afternoon meeting in the Studio, at 3 P.M., and at our "Prisoners' Welcome" meeting, Miss Muriel Matters, the heroine of the Grille. Friends and foes are heartily invited to come to our At Home in the Free Library, Sale, at 7.30, on December 17th, to hear "The True Story of the Grille."

Invitation cards can be obtained from Mr. Merrin, School Road, Sale, or in the Memorial Hall, Manchester, on December 10th.

New Branches.

Birmingham and District.—The Birmingham and District Branch of the Women's Freedom League came into existence on Thursday, November 19th, at the Stinchley Institute. Miss Manno was elected Hon. Secretary, and Miss Arundel Hon. Treasurer. A temporary committee was chosen, on which are Mrs. Cottrell, Miss Hull, and Miss Ashford, in addition to the above-mentioned ladies.

A challenge to debate has been sent to the local branch of the Anti-Suffrage League. Preparations are being made for the visit of Mrs. Despard on December 14th. Altogether the branch is keenly enthusiastic and ready for active service. An interesting feature of Thursday's meeting was that we had the company of a Norwegian lady who is the proud possessor of a vote in her own country. ALICE SCHOFIELD.

Marlow.—The Women's Freedom League has succeeded in gaining a footing in Buckinghamshire, and through the work and influence of local friends a branch has been formed with Miss Witcomb as Secretary.

Some months ago our meetings in the Town Hall and Market Place were disturbed by organized disorder, but Mrs. Sargent Florence did not allow this to interfere with her determination that Marlow should hear the gospel, and a successful Sunday meeting was recently held, followed in the evening by an informal meeting for women in Mrs. Sargent Florence's house, and here great interest was shown, and the branch formed.

Meetings were also held in the Market Square and in the Church Schoolroom, the latter through the courtesy of Mr. Light, the Vicar.

Thanks are due to Miss Witcomb, and to all those who supported us during the various meetings, and it is hoped that, after such stirring beginnings, Marlow will become a stronghold of the movement. A. NEILANS.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS. December 10th to December 21st.

Dec.			P.M.
Thurs. 10.	Manchester, Memorial Hall,	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Billington-Greig Miss Manning Miss Matters	8
	Woking	Mrs. How Martyn Mrs. Holmes Mrs. Toyne	3.30
	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Hicks Dr. Thornett Miss Leighfield	8
	Highbury, Northampton House, St. Paul's Road	Speakers' Class Miss Eunice Murray Miss Molony, Miss Munro	8
Fri. 11.	30, Gordon Street, Glasgow Dunoon, Burgh Hall	Dr. Earegey Miss Muriel Matters	7-10
	Cheltenham, Sandford Lawn Hackney Baths Committee Room Public "At Home" and Sale of Work	Jumble Sale Miss Molony, 2.30 to 10 P.M. Ex-Provost R. Wilson, J.P. Café Chantant and Sale Miss Molony, Miss Munro Rev. David Graham Alex. Mackendrick, Esq.	2.30 P.M.
Sat. 12.	Tottenham, High Cross Institute Glasgow, Charing Cross Halls, Café Chantant	Miss Matters, Mrs. Despard "At Home"	8
Mon. 14.	Glasgow, Hillhead Branch, Glasgow, Burgh Hall, Hillhead	Mrs. Despard Miss Matters Countess Russell	7.30 3 1
Tues. 15.	Bournville, Ruskin Hall Chichester,	Miss Matters, Mrs. Despard "At Home"	8
Wed. 16.	South Place Institute, Finsbury 47, Mosley Street, Manchester Glasgow, Academy Rooms, Partick	Mrs. Zangwill Mrs. Mills Miss Matters Miss Manning Annual Meeting Central Branch	3.30 7.30 8
Thurs. 17.	Caxton Hall, Westminster Cheltenham, Lowmandale Sale (Cheshire) "At Home" Free Library 1, Robert Street, Adelphi	Mrs. Billington-Greig Miss Eunice Murray Miss Anna Munro Miss Matters Miss Munro	8 8 8
Fri. 18.	Denniston, Blackfriars Hall Montrose, "Young Scots" Chester		8
Sat. 19.	Aberdeen, Club Room Caxton Hall, Christmas Party		6
Jan. 8.	Queen's Hall, a Woman Member of Parliament from Finland		

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

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

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.
Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.
Hon. Literature Secretary: A. S. F. MORRIS.

Notes and Comments.

THE tickets for the QUEEN'S HALL MEETING on Tuesday, January 26th, are now ready. In order that the office work may be simplified, friends are asked to book as soon as possible.

The prices are as before: Sofa Stalls, 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s.; Grand Circle, 2s. 6d. and 1s.; Orchestra, 1s.; Balcony and Area, 6d.

All except the 6d. seats are numbered and reserved.

Tickets may be obtained on sale or return, but it is earnestly requested that those friends who help in this way will send in the actual numbers of tickets sold as often as possible, so that the "box-office" plan may be kept up-to-date.

There has been a most unfortunate delay in securing promises from speakers. The fact, however, that Mr. Stanger will speak, and that Mrs. Philip Snowden will give an account of her experiences in America, is sufficient to show Suffragists that the meeting will be an interesting one.

Handbills and posters will be prepared as soon as the speakers are certainly known. Will those who intend to help in connexion with the advertising send in their names as soon as possible, so that there may be no delay when the bills are ready? The Committee will welcome any advice on this point.

It is not easy to express any opinion as to the Albert Hall meeting under the auspices of the Women's Liberal Federation. The probable fate of the Women's Suffrage amendment to the promised Reform Bill, both in the Commons and in the Lords, is purely a matter of speculation. At all events, it is satisfactory to have positive corroboration that if the amendment passes the Lower House it will go to the Lords as part of the Government measure. The view we take of the probability of this coming to pass depends on whether we regard Mr. Asquith, Mr. Lloyd George, and our pledged members in the House as honourable men or not. At all events, Mr. Lloyd George will not forget the significant remark made at the close by Lady McLaren as to the attitude which the Liberal women will adopt if the cause is dishonestly obstructed.

Without entering in any way into the burning question of the tactics adopted by the National Women's Social and Political Union, we believe that we are voicing a unanimous feeling when we congratulate Mr. Lloyd George on the equanimity with which he endured an exceptionally trying ordeal. On the other hand, whereas some approve and others dislike the policy adopted on such an occasion as this by the National Women's Social and Political Union leaders, no one will fail to realize the extraordinary courage displayed by the rank and file. To stand up in a hopeless minority, as they did, deliberately one after another, was heroic. We only wish that the authorities who decided the plan of campaign would also warn their supporters to avoid hopeless struggling. Only the highest discipline and training would enable stewards to effect continued ejections without temper and violence. If a person struggles in the narrow space between rows of seats, the amateur steward is certain to do harm sooner or later. It has frequently been gravely feared that the persistence in such tactics would result in some women being killed before the cause is won. We would ask those who share this fear whether the contemplated victims of such a policy would not be more usefully employed in converting hostility and indifference into active support.

Our Literature.

THE enthusiasm which greeted Dr. Drysdale's pamphlet on the economic dangers which beset the whole labour market in consequence of the votelessness of women, shows no sign of diminishing. We shall shortly issue a new edition.

Gloucester.

THERE are not many male Suffragists in Gloucester. The shadow of antiquity is still dark round the cathedral environs. None the less, the National Union meeting held in the Shire Hall last Friday was both large and enthusiastic. Mrs. Allan Bright gave a powerful summary of the whole question, while Mrs. Pember Reeves gave a vivid account of the history of the cause in New Zealand. Mr. J. M. Mitchell spoke on behalf of the Men's League. From the courtesy and attentiveness of the audience, and not least of the men present, it was fair to infer that the seed was planted in good soil. The fact that the local M.P., Mr. Russell Rea, and his wife are ardent Suffragists is much in favour of the cause among Gloucester Liberals.

Wandsworth.

WE beg to acknowledge with thanks the generosity of the Wandsworth Branch of the National Union, which presented the collection (22s.) taken at a drawing-room meeting at Mrs. Shillington's on Wednesday, December 2nd, to the Men's League. Not very many men were present at this meeting, or at a similar one held by Miss Powell on November 27th, but those who were assured Mr. Mitchell, who spoke on both occasions, of their strong approval of our work.

Sevenoaks.

MR. VICTOR D. DUVAL, secretary of the Clapham Branch, was good enough to go at short notice to represent the League at a meeting in Sevenoaks. He reports a good meeting and successful work for the cause.

Special Meeting of Members.

THE date of this meeting is fixed for January 7th at Anderson's Hotel, Fleet Street. Notices will be issued without delay to all members, but, as pointed out last week, this notice is deemed sufficient, even though some members fail, owing to change of address, to receive the special notice in time. Full agenda next week.

At Home Next Saturday.

By the courtesy of Mrs. Lilian Tillard an At Home to members and friends of the Men's League will take place at 10, Cheniston Gardens on Saturday next at 3 P.M.

Mr. Herbert Jacobs will take the chair, and short speeches on methods of extending the League's work will be delivered.

Those desirous of being present should kindly communicate with Mrs. Tillard, Westwood, Southborough, or with the Hon. Secretary.

The Growth of Opposition.

A FEW weeks ago there seemed a fair prospect that, within the life of the present Government, a Bill conferring the Parliamentary Franchise on women would be safely piloted through the House of Commons. Its most sanguine supporters could

Correspondence.

[The Men's League is essentially a non-party organization, in which all shades of political opinion are represented. For this reason we feel bound to state that the League is not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.]

Meeting at Brentwood.

DEAR SIR,—I notice you ask for reports of meetings addressed by members of the League. On Saturday, November 28th, I addressed a meeting of over a thousand with Miss Cicely Hamilton and Mrs. Hicks, under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League, at the Brentwood Town Hall. At the conclusion of the meeting an enthusiastic male in the audience arose and moved, "That this meeting pledges itself to work for Women's Suffrage." Another gentleman in the audience seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously. This, indeed, is a sign of the times! Yours truly,

VICTOR STORR ALBERY.

Reply to 'The Times,' November 26.

DEAR SIR,—We welcome the advent of the Women's National Anti-Suffrage League, and we rejoice to see numbered among its adherents the names of so many ladies distinguished for their benevolent and charitable qualities.

We are convinced that the cause of Women's Suffrage is becoming a power, indeed, when so formidable an opponent is arrayed against it. No doubt these worthy ladies have always "done the work that lay to their hand," but it does not seem that they have accomplished all that is to be done.

Are they so blinded by their own state of comfort and well-being that they cannot realize the degraded condition of hundreds of women of the present day? Is no more to be done in the crusade against the starvation wages paid to women under the sweating evil? Is the moral condition of our streets without reproach? Are there no victims of immorality to protect? Is there no injustice to women, imposed by the law, to redress?

Surely the social status of woman at the present time only proves that men in the past have been either incapable or unwilling to provide for her protection and wellbeing; and yet the members of this conscientious body cannot see why they should undertake work "which they had better leave to men."

They resolve that the "work of women on municipal and other bodies... is of great and increasing value," because it deals with the "social and domestic" affairs of the nation.

What does Parliamentary legislation deal with if not with the social and domestic affairs of the nation? and yet "there is no demand whatever for this constitutional change."

It may occur to these ladies at some time that the services they are so adequately fitted to render to municipal bodies may have a much wider scope when the Franchise is granted; and surely it is the welfare of the community they are seeking or—Is it that life is a bit dull, and they need "some new thing"?

Is it possible that there are liberty-loving English people who can say to their fellow-subjects, "We do not want to be burdened with the Franchise, and you shall not have it if we can prevent it"; and if, according to the view expressed by a member of the League, ridicule will soon bring the use of it into disrepute, and cause it to become a thing of no account, why trouble to oppose it? A. N. R.

WE have received from Mary R. Newell, Corresponding Secretary of the Pennsylvania Women's Suffrage Association, the following letter:—

Secretary of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage.
13, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.,
London, England.

DEAR SIR,—The Pennsylvania Women's Suffrage Association, in Convention assembled at Norristown, November 4th, 5th, and 6th, 1908, wishes to express its gratitude to and appreciation of the men who prefer justice to chivalry in their dealing with women, and are helping to secure to their sisters the crown of citizenship—the Parliamentary Franchise.

Philadelphia, Pa., November 20th, 1908.

hardly have expected such a measure to escape shipwreck in the Lords; they would, however, have been able to congratulate themselves on bringing it through the first and most important stages of its voyage. Now, in spite of the announcement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on December 5th, the omens for 1909 are far less favourable. It is impossible to doubt the sincerity and value of Mr. Lloyd George's promise, but, at the same time, there is good reason to believe that his promise can never be fulfilled. The undertakings to which the Government is already pledged are many and controversial, while the rejection of the Licensing Bill, the withdrawal of the Education Bill, and even such a minor matter as the Chelmsford by-election, seem to indicate that the end is too near for a great scheme of electoral reform to have any chance of becoming law.

The nature of the opposition which such a reform must overcome, if the claims of women are to be met, has become perfectly clear within the last ten days. The new Committee formed to resist the demand for Woman Suffrage cannot fail to be a far more formidable antagonist than any we have yet encountered. Hitherto we have had mainly to combat ignorance and prejudice. The new association contains representatives of all that is best in art, science, literature, statesmanship, finance. Among its members are Lord Lister, who has perhaps done more for humanity than any man now living; Lord Cromer, with his unrivalled administrative genius; Lord Rothschild; Sir William Anson; Mr. Rudyard Kipling; and a host of other men hardly less distinguished than the most eminent of these. The mere list of names will surely have its effect on a public which still, as in the days of Arminius von Thunder-ten-Tronekh, would rather judge an idea by the names of its advocates than by its own intrinsic merit. Apart from the authority with which the new association will speak, there can be no doubt of its financial strength. The official programme appears to include the formation of a propagandist centre in every constituency. It seems evident that the country will be well supplied with Anti-Suffragist speakers and writers whose arguments and organization will reach a higher level than heretofore. All this, combined with the advertisement recently given to those dissensions which, unfortunately, exist in the Suffragist ranks, seems likely to retard the progress of the cause for some time to come.

It is well that we should know the strength of the other side. And, on broader grounds than those of mere partisanship, it is well that a reform involving such vast issues should not be carried out until the country has grasped all that can be said against it, as well as for it. Our duty in the present crisis is to face the facts without discouragement, and to consider what we can do to lessen the reaction that is imminent. It should be possible to arrive at certain practical results. All the Suffragist societies are unanimous in their aims, though not in their methods. Is it too much to hope that if they cannot agree to sink their differences, they may at least refrain from thwarting one another?

Then there is the question of finance. Increased expenditure cannot be avoided if the new Anti-Suffragist organization is to be met on equal terms. Every member of the Men's League can help here, if only by going to the nearest news-vendor and guaranteeing him a weekly sale of two or three copies of *Women's Franchise* for the next six months. It is also important, if authority is to count for as much as argument, that the names of eminent supporters of Women's Suffrage should be brought prominently before the public. We, too, must make capital out of great names; it might even be desirable for the Men's League to secure for itself a number of distinguished patrons; but whatever means we adopt, we must advertise the fact that the aristocracy of intellect is as much with us as against us. A fact it is; and even if it were not so, we should still have on our side three allies more efficient in the long run than the most expert organizer or the most eloquent orator whose services the Anti-Suffragists can command. For the case for Women's Suffrage is founded upon justice, and reason, and experience.

K. G. JAYNE.

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