



VOL. II.—No. 13.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1908.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

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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.

'THE WOMAN CITIZEN,'

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

The paper is on sale at Messrs. Smith & Son's Depots.

Notes.

WE sincerely congratulate the helpers and readers of *The Woman Worker* on their well-deserved success. We think the terrible indictment against men's attitude of irresponsibility contained in the verses on the second page of last week's number might well be printed on all the petitions, &c., now being issued on behalf of Miss Lord.

IN a letter from its Special Correspondent on 'The Unemployment in Glasgow' in last Friday's *Times* we note the significance of the fact that women's wages in the textile factories have been reduced from 18s. or 19s. to 10s. or 12s. No doubt the enfranchised class have also suffered, but we are sure not to the same extent.

WE learn that women greatly outnumbered men at The Congress of Religions, and that Miss Ethel Rosenberg read a paper to the Semitic section on Behaion—one of the chief tenets of belief of which is the equality of the sexes.

THE Women's Suffrage Campaign in Colchester has exceeded all expectations. Crowded meetings have been held nightly and great enthusiasm has been shown. On Tuesday, September 22nd, the campaigners move to Halstead, where residents are already anticipating their arrival. Will local sympathizers communicate with Mrs. Hicks or Miss Muriel Matters, P.O. Halstead, Essex.

WE are again indebted to Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett for 4s., being the 1s. per week promised towards the publishing expenses of this paper; Miss Batchelor has sent 5s., being part of the proceeds from honey sold through the "most successful advertisement" in this paper.

FURTHER ADDITIONS TO THE 'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE' FUND.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Miss S. Abakanowicz	1 0 0	Brought forward	3 0 0
Miss J. E. Muntz... .. .	1 0 0	The Misses Shillington	0 10 0
Mrs. Shillington	1 0 0	Miss F. Ella Walrond	3 0 0
		Total	£6 10 0
Carried forward	£3 0 0		

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

GERMANY.—Special interest attaches to the news that Prussian Universities, where women have been for many years admitted informally as students, will now admit them to matriculation, thus conferring on them a status similar to that enjoyed by Englishwomen at all our Universities, except Oxford and Cambridge. In Germany reforms, though often long delayed, are usually systematically thought out and not brought about by mere accident; and the recognition of women at the Prussian Universities coincides with the new regulations for girls' schools in Prussia, which officially take cognizance of University studies, assigning a definite moment in the school course when the pupil must decide whether or not she intends to proceed to the University, in which case her future studies must be directed to that end. This concession can hardly be considered apart from the new Law of Association, which came into operation on May 15th, which permits women throughout the Empire to take part in political associations and meetings. As has been pointed out in this column, the preamble to this law recognized the importance to the State of women's professional work, and showed that women, in the capacity of civil servants were directly concerned in the government of the country. So far there is consistency. The natural corollary should of course be the concession of the franchise; and, far off as this seems at present, it may be that the exigencies of logic may bring it about sooner than the rest of Europe anticipates.

Meantime the German Suffrage Societies are showing great activity. Advantage has been taken of the holidays to hold meetings at the various summer resorts. They proved an attractive novelty, and brought in a good many new members, some of whom undertook to start branches in their own towns on their return home. A curious incident is reported from Langenschwalbach. The police, accustomed to interrupt feminine meetings, evidently resented the loss of part of their occupation, and determined to make the most of the paragraph in the new law which forbids young people under eighteen attending political meetings. Their plan was to interrupt by turning out any one who appeared to be below the appointed age, and as they were by no means infallible, these proceedings led to a good deal of controversy. After the mother of two babies had been turned out, lest the children's minds should be corrupted, the police proceeded to argue the age question with several of the audience, till at last the lady who was speaking inquired whether every person who attended a public meeting was expected to bring his birth certificate. The audience cheered this remark, and the sympathy of the whole meeting was won for her and the cause.

SWITZERLAND.—An Academic Association for Women's Suffrage was founded in Zurich in July, on the ground that the franchise is at the present time the most immediate need for women. The aims of the Society are: to place the just demands of women on a legal basis; to combat injustice towards women on all domains and promote equal laws for all individuals who work and think. It appeals in the first instance to men and women of University standing, because they seem best fitted and able to help and promote such a movement.

EGYPT.—It is reported that a Congress of Mahometan women will be held in Cairo during the winter, to discuss the methods of improving their position. Apparently the movement owes its inception to some of the men who are advanced enough to realize that "the woman's cause is man's."

A. ZIMMERN.

The Standing of an Abbess.

THE efforts that are made at the present time to improve the standing of women give a new interest to the rights and responsibilities which women held in various capacities at different periods of the past. A great opportunity for the development and exertion of women's power of management was afforded by monastic settlements—the homes of learning and culture throughout the Middle Ages. The history of these monasteries gives an insight into the standing of women

as landowners, as business managers, as teachers, and as philanthropists. The information which follows on the position of the abbess is taken from 'Woman under Monasticism,' by L. Eckenstein, published at the University Press, Cambridge, in 1896.

At the time when Christianity was introduced into Northern Europe, women held and owned land on the same conditions as men. It was usual for the king to settle land on his wife on the occasion of their marriage. This they frequently devoted to founding or endowing a religious settlement to which they sent their daughters for their education, and to which they frequently retired. Kings, in many instances, established their daughters in settlements of their own, probably in order to forestall the difficulties that might arise through the claims advanced by some undesirable son-in-law. These religious settlements in France, England, Germany, and Northern Italy had the standing of a monastery, that is, they held of the king, and the heads of these houses, be they abbot or abbess, were called upon to fulfil duties in accordance with their station like any other spiritual or secular baron of the land.

All the religious settlements for women that were founded in Anglo-Saxon times in England were monasteries, and those of them that survived the political changes of the Danish Invasion and the Norman Conquest always retained their standing as abbacies. The abbess of such a house originally ranked next in the land to the bishop. For in the charter that was granted to the churches and monasteries of Kent by King Wiltred and Queen Werburg between 696 and 716, the signatures of the abbesses of the five women's monasteries in Kent follow those of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Rochester. The signatures show that the abbesses were present in person at the meeting that was convened for the purpose of safeguarding the religious settlements against secular interference.

The abbess, like the abbot, had the power of a bishop within the limits of her property, and bore a crozier as a sign of her rank. Like the abbot, she had a twofold income. She drew spiritualities from the churches that were in her keeping, and temporalities in her capacity as landlord and landowner. The monastic settlement consisted of a residence or *villa* that was surrounded by walls, and the property belonging to it often extended over a considerable area. Thus the monastery of Shaftesbury owned manors in Sussex, Wilts, Dorsetshire, and Hampshire; the monastery of Barking owned property in Essex, Surrey, Middlesex, Berkshire and Bedfordshire. The wealth in land of many houses was remarkable. It was a current saying in the fifteenth century that if the abbot of Glastonbury were to marry the abbess of Shaftesbury their heir would have more land than the King of England.

Among the abbacies that dated from early times were those of Shaftesbury, Wilton, Barking, and Nunnaminster, the abbesses of which were of such quality that they held of the king by an entire barony, and by right of tenure had the privilege of being summoned to Parliament. Writs were regularly directed to them to send their quota of soldiers into the field. Thus the abbess of Shaftesbury, who was known as the abbess of St. Edward, found seven knights for the king's service in the reign of Henry I. In 1257 she was summoned to Chester to take part in the expedition against Llewellyn ap Griffith, and again in 1277 a writ was served on her. The claims that were made on the insight of the abbess regarding her standing were not inconsiderable. In the reign of Edward I., a general survey of the whole kingdom was taken to obtain correct knowledge of the rights by which property was held. On this occasion we hear of the abbess of Barking, who appeared in person in Essex, to defend certain rights connected with the property she held at Chelmsford, while she appeared by an attorney at Bedford and in Bucks, perhaps to avoid the difficulties of the journey. In the same way the abbess of Malling, in Kent, appeared by an attorney at Canterbury, where she secured renewal of her rights before the king's justiciaries, not only to liberties and franchises of a most extensive kind in East and West Malling, but also to the holding of a market twice a week, and of three fairs in the year.

It was a current saying in the Middle Ages that the first requirement for a good abbot was that he should have a head for business. The claims that were made on the abbess were similar to those that fell on him. To look through the cartularies of the old monasteries is to realize how complex were the duties that devolved on the head of a religious house. At home there was the responsibility of appointing, controlling, and directing the staff of women, which, in a large establishment included prioress and sub-prioress, sexton, cellaress, sub-cellaress, and woman-chaplain, besides the nuns, who often numbered over a hundred. There was the care for the young people who were educated in the house; the control of the attorney and business men who managed outside affairs; the relations with the clergy and the patron of the house, and the continuous and arduous task of attending and providing for religious service. Duty and business frequently took the abbess abroad. After her election she made her profession of canonical obedience to the bishop of her diocese, and then waited on the patron of her house. The abbess of Winchester was received by King Henry III. in 1265; her successor also was presented to the king. One abbess of Shaftesbury is known to have waited on Richard II., another on Henry V.

The great monasteries that held of the King were generally respected in their rights, and were the last to be suppressed by Henry VIII. The fact that many of the oldest woman's monasteries were the wealthiest at the time of the suppression bears witness to the business capacities of those who had directed them through a period extending in some cases over eight hundred years. When the blow was dealt that put an end to their existence, their last representatives behaved with a dignity which was in accord with their station and the traditions which they represented. But the rights which they held as landowners—have they been abrogated, or could they be cited nowadays as a precedent to the claims which women are putting forward?

An Open Letter to Mrs. Humphry Ward.

Glasgow, 25th July, 1908.

Mrs. Humphry Ward.

MADAM,—Charlotte Brontë, feeling her power stirring within her and wishing that feeling to be confirmed by a higher opinion than her own, sent some of her poems to Southey. He replied to her communication, as you know, by writing, that "Literature could not be the business of a woman's life, and ought not to be," the reason being, I suppose, the one you urge so strongly against giving women the Parliamentary Franchise. My object in quoting this opinion is to remind you that this reason has been continually brought forward whenever it is proposed to enlarge woman's sphere of activity in any direction. To be a wife and a mother is certainly woman's highest sphere, yet, in countries, as in the East, where woman's sphere is entirely restricted to maternity and to the home, her position is degraded and she is held in light esteem. Were you quite consistent in your opinions, as a wife and a mother, you ought not to have made literature your career. Of course such ideas are obsolete now, but it is a pity that you should use your great influence in reviving them, at least in one direction, and thus doing something to retard woman's crowning emancipation.

It may be that fifty years hence your opinions against giving women the Parliamentary Suffrage will be as obsolete as Southey's with regard to the inadvisability of women adopting literature as a career. Another inconsistency is that you strongly approve of the grant of the Municipal Suffrage to women. Seeing that safety and order in society depend on police-men, I take it that it requires as much "physical force" to face a brutal drunken ruffian in a town as a soldier of the enemy in a battle-field.

If you wish your campaign to succeed, you will require to get the best representatives of the professional and working women to join your association, as I do not think that a majority of liberal-minded men will long allow the pampered parasites of society, who have never done a real day's work for their living, to dictate that the women workers and taxpayers shall be forever deprived of Parliamentary representation with its consequent effect on their economic position.

As for married women having no time to study politics or specialize in other subjects, well, you write a great deal of politics in your novels, and, may I ask—Where do you get time to acquire your special information? or, are you merely writing about that of which you have no time to acquire a thorough knowledge? I hope not, and think not.

"If it be said that the education of the majority of women in the poorer and the working classes does not fitly qualify them for the exercise of such a choice of a representative in Parliament, it might surely be replied with great fairness, by the advocates of Women's Suffrage, that among the poorer and the working classes the great majority of male voters are not always quite qualified to exercise a sound and wise judgment in the choice of the representatives who are to go into the House of Commons and govern the country. There is no education franchise known to the British Constitution, and if there were it could be applied to women as well as to men, and the exclusion of an ignorant tapster would not detract from the service of the community any more than the exclusion of an ignorant charwoman." ('History of our Own Times,' vol. vi., p. 220.)

I remain, &c.,

A NON-MILITANT SUFFRAGIST,

and a sincere admirer of your writings.

Correspondence.

[The Proprietors of "WOMEN'S FRANCHISE" do not necessarily identify themselves in any way with the opinions expressed by their Correspondents.]

Fashion Papers and the Anti-Suffrage League.

THE autumn price list of a large firm like that of Messrs. Pryce Jones, which depends almost entirely upon the commercial support of women for its existence, is the last place where we should expect to find anti-suffrage propaganda. Yet *The Fashion Review* for September 5th contains two articles which may justly be said to come under that heading; the first, entitled 'Women's Anti-Suffrage League,' gives an account of that association, while in the second, which is called 'Is Woman Suffrage Inevitable?' the writer quotes Mrs. Humphry Ward, and proceeds to congratulate the American women that "the anti-suffrage movement has practically attained its end," &c., concluding with these words: "The same result has now to be achieved in England, and can be achieved, if only the women of this country will rouse themselves to the danger before us. . . . What we have to do now is to see to it that the present women's agitation, interfering as it does with the power and responsibility of men in those spheres where men are alone competent to act, and must act, for the common benefit of the State, should meet with a speedy and effective opposition among women themselves. The work must be begun with energy and carried on with patience and perseverance. Proposals to that effect will soon be laid before the public."

We understand that Col. Pryce-Jones is a supporter of Women's Suffrage. It would be interesting to know whether he also edits *The Fashion Review*, or whether these articles have escaped his notice.

HERMIONE RAMSDEN.

[Having received further communications on the same subject, we perused the September number of *The Fashion Review*, and think it right to say that, except for these apparently officially endorsed views, women's activities of to-day are set forth, and are not criticized in a one-sided manner.—Ed. W.F.]

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. **Secretary:** MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A. **Treasurer:** MISS BERTHA MASON.
Hon. Secretary: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A. **Organisers:** MISS E. M. GARDNER, B.A. MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON, B.A. MRS. COOPER.
Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON." **Telephone:** 1960 VICTORIA.

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. **Mrs. Broadley Reid**
Mr. A. Cameron Corbett, M.P. **Hon. Bertrand Russell**
Miss Edith Dimock **Mrs. Philip Snowden**
Miss I. O. Ford **Miss Lowndes**
Miss Margaret Ashton **Miss Ward**
The Lady Frances Balfour **Lady Strachey**
Miss Florence Balfour **And the Hon. Officers,**
Mrs. Allan Bright **ex officio.**

Newcastle By-Election.

THE past week's campaign here has been quite as successful as the first. We have held about sixty meetings. The Amalgamated Society of Engineers' Branch have had meetings to which we have been invited in the forenoon. We have had dinner-hour meetings at the gates of the Elswick and other great works, where politicians of every shade and type war with us for attention. In the afternoon committee-room meetings, and on Thursday afternoon a very successful drawing-room meeting, where we secured a number of new members; in the evening open-air meetings and two indoor. On Monday we have the Town Hall again for an afternoon and evening meeting.

We have passed unanimously at every meeting to which it has been submitted our resolution "It is just and politically expedient to grant equality of voting rights to women without delay," and every day we have kindnesses done and sympathy shown.

Our local members are helping very well, and with Miss Ward, Miss Hardcastle, Miss Lowndes, and Miss Rowlette, in addition to Mrs. Harrison Bell, Mrs. Cooper, and Miss Robertson as speakers we are able to do a great deal.

The press notices continue to be good. *The Morning Post* says: "The work of the women is certainly having an effect in this election." I feel certain that there is no subject, no single issue—in this election upon which greater interest has been shown than on ours. At practically every meeting the candidates have been heckled on our question, and we know that every candidate must feel that the electors have endorsed his pledge. We are securing in Newcastle that necessary mandate, and will leave a practically converted town.

Our Committee Room proves as great an attraction as ever. Mr. Hartley, the Social Democratic candidate, who has been interviewed since last week, declares himself a believer in Adult Suffrage (men and women), but will not pledge himself to vote for the equality Bill, so is really, for immediate practical political purposes, less satisfactory than Mr. Renwick and Mr. Shortt.

HELEN FRASER.

Garden Party for the Cardiff and District W.S.S.

MRS. LEWIS, President of the Cardiff and District Women's Suffrage Society, held a garden party at Greenmeadow on September 17th. About seventy members and friends assembled, and gained much encouragement and enthusiasm from the various speakers. Mrs. Lewis, in her speech of welcome, explained that the chief object of our society was to educate public opinion. The special visitor, Mrs. Conybear, gave a most helpful and encouraging address.

Miss Collin proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Conybear, and the guests then enjoyed the beautiful playing of the celebrated Welsh harpist Mr. Tom Bryant, and the recitation by Mrs. Lewis of Dora Stensen's 'Woman.' Mrs. Gregory read the Daisy Lord petition, and it was signed by all present.

The Caravan tour has come to an end. Want of space forbids us to publish Miss Gardner's last account, but we must thank Mrs. Rackham, Miss McArthur, and Miss Pringle for their splendid help.

A Lost Opportunity.

OLD AGE PENSIONS COMMITTEES.

THE local authorities responsible for the administration of the Old Age Pensions Act are busily engaged this month in making their arrangements, and in appointing their Committees.

So far, the great majority of the Councils have appointed themselves as the Pensions Committees. Few, apparently, have availed themselves of the power given by the Act to co-opt "suitable persons" from outside, and according to investigations made by a correspondent of *The Manchester Guardian*—only one Corporation has co-opted women. There may be more, but *Glasgow* is the only case, out of about forty places mentioned, where women are co-opted as suitable to serve on these important committees.

The omission is singular, seeing that women are eligible to receive pensions. Under these circumstances one would have expected that the presence and co-operation of women on the committees of inquiry, would have been sought as a matter of course, especially by those local authorities which are not fortunate enough to have amongst their members women elected by the ratepayers. It would not have been difficult, had inquiry been made, to find at least one woman in every district "suitable" for the work and willing to do it.

It may be alleged in explanation of this strange omission, that women are now eligible to serve on county, borough, and district councils, in whose hands rests the appointment of the pensions committees, and therefore there is no need to trouble about co-option. But it must be remembered that the Act which rendered women eligible to serve on county and borough councils only came into operation last year, and therefore there has been little opportunity for women to be returned to these bodies.

It is greatly to be hoped that the next November elections will result in a greater number of women being elected. Besides married women are not yet eligible for these councils, and therefore the supply of qualified and "suitable" women is greatly restricted. This being the case, it is surely all the more necessary that local authorities should avail themselves to the fullest extent of the provisions of the Old Age Pensions Act, and co-opt at present at all events (unsatisfactory as the methods may be in some respects), on every committee, women who have knowledge of local conditions and time to give to the work.

For the reasons given it is essential that local authorities should at once be reminded by their constituents and others who may be interested in the administration of the Old Age Pensions Acts, and wishful to see it properly carried out, that amongst the "suitable persons" women can be found; that the Act makes provision for securing the help of women, whose co-operation must not be lost through the oversight or forgetfulness of those who are responsible for the appointment of the pensions committees.

I do not for one moment suggest that the local authorities are deliberately excluding women from the pensions committees. Having served for many years on a variety of local boards, I have gained some insight into the inwardness of such bodies. It is this experience which leads me to believe that the two causes mainly responsible for the exclusion of women from these new committees are: (1) Forgetfulness. Unless women happen

Branch Societies.

to be on the appointing bodies, to draw attention to the fact that there are women suitable and ready to take the work, and that in the interests of the public their co-operation is necessary, local authorities are sadly apt to forget their existence. Further, it is far easier for councils to appoint themselves *en bloc*, ignoring the question of "suitability," than it is to go outside to search for "suitable persons." (2) The prevalence of the view held by an old Lancashire clogger of whom I heard the other day, who, though frankly confessing "he would *shape badly* without his wife," and admitting that he "had considerable respect for her, wouldn't for owt as oo got to know it." This view of life is not confined to Lancashire cloggers only. It prevails amongst members of local authorities. The appointment of women to the pensions committees would be an admission that the appointing bodies would "shape badly" without their assistance, an admission hardly to be expected from the majority of local authorities.

On the other hand it is only fair to point out that, once let a woman be elected on, or appointed to, a local authority, if she is sensible, tactful, and willing to work, if she has some knowledge of human nature, and the ability to *pleasantly* hold her own, she does win the respect and appreciation of the men on the board. They are, as a rule, glad of her presence and her co-operation, only like the clogger, many of them "wouldn't for owt as oo got to know it."

BERTHA MASON.

County Campaign Fund.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Berkshire.—C. E. Stansfield, Esq.	2	0	0	3	2	6
Glamorgan.—Miss Nanlet	0	2	6			
Mrs. G. C. Thompson	10	0	0			
Miss Ursula Thompson	10	0	0			
Hants.—Miss O'Shea	1	0	0	20	4	6
London.—Miss Muntz	5	0	0	23	15	6
Mrs. Shillington	1	1	0			
Northampton.—Miss S. Branch (Caravan)	0	5	0	295	17	6
Stafford.—Mrs. Langley Browne	0	10	6	0	5	0
Sussex.—Miss Cobb	0	5	0	0	10	6
Yorks.—Miss Hartley	0	2	6	37	16	0
Miss Palmer	0	5	0			
Miss Pringle	0	2	6			
				14	7	6
Total to Monday, September 21st	£666	16	2			

Reigate and Redhill Women's Suffrage Fete.

IN spite of a hurricane of wind and occasional sharp showers, the Garden Fête held in the grounds of Hethersett by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Auerbach, proved a success, and the Society will have a substantial balance with which to carry on its winter campaign. A charming performance of 'Twelfth Night' was given in an ideal spot in the garden, but, alas! for our English climate, the players had to make themselves heard against the gusts of the gale, and the final refrain of "The rain it raineth every day" was cruelly appropriate!

The rush to the refreshment tent for hot tea afterwards was good for the funds, and then about 200 people collected to hear a very interesting address by Miss Crickmay on women's economic and legal position under present conditions. In the evening there was dancing. A fortune-teller proved a great attraction; a "fish pond" did a roaring trade; while a dainty fancy stall and one for fruit and flowers brought many buyers, as did a well stocked literature stall.

Miss Hammond's speech in the evening roused much interest. Her final appeal to her audience, "Develop your women by votes, if they ask for them, but in every way possible," evoked a round of applause.

A debt of gratitude is due to Mr. and Mrs. Auerbach for lending their beautiful grounds for this very popular and profitable form of propaganda, and especially to Mrs. Auerbach for her enthusiastic and indefatigable efforts to ensure success.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE.—On September 15th Mrs. Bewick Colby, from the United States, addressed one of the monthly meetings. Dealing especially with statements made by Mrs. Humphry Ward, she showed how excellent has been the result of Women's Suffrage in the four American States which have adopted it, and how the available statistics exhibit a marked decline in the number of opponents to its adoption in other States.

CHELTENHAM.—The second outdoor meeting was held on September 19th near "The Norwood Arms," Leckhampton, under the scarlet and white banner. Miss Lilian How and Miss Theodora Mills (Hon. Sec.) were the speakers, and though the meeting was not so large as last time, when nearly one hundred people assembled, it was, as before, orderly and attentive, and the organizers were encouraged to proceed.

NEW FOREST SOCIETY.—Miss Bateson gave a garden party to the members of the Society on September 9th. Mrs. Rackham came from Cambridge to give an address which was greatly appreciated. Other speakers were Mrs. Heitland and Miss Maunden.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

		P. M.
Sept. 24.	Peckham , Meeting Girls' Improvement Society, Galleywall Road, Bermondsey	8.30
	Cheltenham , Open - Air Meeting, near Norwood Arms, Leckhampton	3
	Manchester , Open - Air Meetings Radcliffe, at 4 P.M. Whitefield, at 7 P.M.	
28.	Birkenhead , Public Meeting, Association Hall	8
	Manchester , Public Meeting Didsbury, Public Hall	
30.	Beckenham , Reception by Local Committee, Penge, Co-operative Hall	7
	Bristol , Public Meeting, David Thomas Memorial Hall	8
	Manchester , Public Meeting Farnworth, Public Hall	
Oct. 1.	Bristol , Public Meeting, Bethesda Schoolroom	8
2.	Manchester , Public Meeting, Memorial Hall	7.30
5.	London , Wandsworth, Reception by Local Committee, Wandsworth Town Hall, Dramatic Sketch, 'A Change of Tenant'	7.45
6.	Brighton , Public Meeting, Pavilion, Admission by Ticket, 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d.	8
7.	Bristol , Public Meeting, Small Colston Hall	8
	London , Brixton, Drawing-Room Meeting	8.30
8.	Leicester , Meeting of N.U.W.S.S. Secretaries at Y.M.C.A. (London Road Entrance)	5-6.30
	Soiree , Municipal Art Gallery, New Walk	8-10 A.M.
9.	N.U.W.S.S. Quarterly Council Meetings , Sunday-School Memorial Hall, New Walk	10.30
	Exhibition of Banners , Admission 6d., including Tea, Temperance Hall, Granby Street	3-6 P.M.
	Great Demonstration , Temperance Hall. Admission by Ticket—1s., 6d., 3d. Organized by an Independent Local Committee	8
	Bournemouth , Public Meeting, St. Peter's Hall, Hinton Rd.	4
	Cheltenham , First Social, Town Hall	4-6 Esq.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. GRAHAM MOFFAT.

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

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

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

Notes.

The N.E.C. in Scotland.

THE first visit of the National Executive Committee to Scotland has opened most auspiciously. Four successful meetings held on Friday and Saturday have given the campaign a thoroughly happy start. The Kilmarnock Branch held one of its most pleasant and productive meetings, three members of the N.E.C. (Miss Cicely Hamilton, Miss Irene Miller, and Mrs. Sproson) being the speakers.

On the same evening the Glasgow Western Branch entertained other members of the N.E.C. in the Partick Burgh Hall, where nearly a thousand people gathered to hear short Women's Suffrage speeches, and to see Mrs. How Martyn and Miss Hodgson perform the duologue.

Saturday was spent in Edinburgh, where in addition to sight-seeing a reception in the Goold Hall, and a public meeting in the Queen Hall, were held. Mrs. Holmes had spent two days in Edinburgh, where a Suffrage "At Home" and a number of out-door meetings were carried through most successfully.

The Scottish members of the League have been delighted to welcome the members of the N.E.C. in Scotland. They have made special efforts to do the honours of the North Country to the visitors. The programme before the speakers for the remaining week will take the N.E.C. members as far north as Aberdeen, as well as to Dundee, Perth, Dunoon, Ladybank, Leven, Kirkealdy, and Leith. In all of these places there are prospects of a good reception and good results.

Special Effort Week.

THE National Executive Committee finds that the work of the League has so largely increased that a corresponding increase in the funds becomes an urgent and immediate necessity. It has decided also that the greater sums needed must be obtained with some regularity. In order to meet this need a Special Effort Week has been instituted, during which by collection and personal sacrifice of all kinds the funds which become increasingly necessary can be provided. The required regularity will be secured by the Special Effort Week being fixed as the week of the *re-assembling of Parliament* after every adjournment.

The first Special Effort Week will begin on October 12th, and continue until October 19th. For this the preparations must begin immediately. On this occasion it has been decided that the effort shall, as far as possible, be concentrated upon the Million Penny Fund.

Every member of the League should send at once for as many Million Penny Cards as she can possibly fill, by any means, and every suggestion and offer of co-operation should be immediately forwarded to the Hon. Secretary.

Office Furniture.—The very kind response—in the form of curbs, fenders, and electric lamps—to our appeal last week emboldens us to reiterate the request for cupboards, a table, and a bookcase. We should be glad to know of either of these for sale.

Sacredness of Motherhood.

By DR. HELEN BOURCHIER.

"BUT circumstances alter cases," he said, speaking with authority as one whose judgment did not swerve aside at every gust of sentiment.

I will not quote Daisy Lord's case, because that is an extreme case, although I have maintained, and do maintain, that her motherhood was just as sacred as any married woman's motherhood, if there be sanctity in motherhood at all; and further, that if children are sent from heaven, where their angels do ever behold the Father's face, Daisy Lord's baby came from heaven, and was sent by God, as truly as any princely heir, whose birth is hailed with acclamations in any country; and that, given these two principles, the crime, in that case, was the crime of a society that makes of any motherhood a shame; of any child sent by God an outcast. But there is a case that pairs better with the one we have under discussion, the one in which 'circumstances' were judged to 'alter cases.' I mean the case I saw mentioned a few days ago in the paper, of a girl who was arrested for deserting her baby, which she had left in a cemetery, being driven to part with it because of the impossibility of getting work and earning her living with that baby in her arms. I come now to the case under discussion, to which it seems to me this one should be compared.

There is a young woman, whose name I need not give here, a perfectly respectable young married woman, who was unfortunate enough to have a dishonest man for her husband. He at this moment is undergoing a sentence of imprisonment for theft. The young wife was unaware of her husband's character, and was not in any way concerned in his dishonesty. When he went to prison she was left destitute with a young baby of four months old. Some charitable people in a certain Prisoners' Aid Society, and in some other humane societies, interested themselves in her case; and it was with one of these that I had my discussion.

"We found a place where they would take the baby, and a home where she herself could be trained, so that she could go out as a servant," he said; "but she refused to give up the baby; so what could we do? We cannot get her a place, of course. No one will take a woman with a four-months-old baby. I saw her to-day and I gave her our ultimatum—that if she would not give up the baby, we would do nothing more for her."

"Do you believe in the sacredness of motherhood?" I asked; because I had heard a good deal lately about motherhood, in conjunction with woman's place being the home, and not the polling booth, and other axioms of the like sort.

"Of course every man believes in that," he said.
"Then do you think it right for a mother to leave her four-months-old baby?" I asked.

It was then that he gave utterance to his dogma that "circumstances alter cases."

The whole position is absolutely illogical. You have the premiss that motherhood is sacred. But an unmarried mother is disgraced by her motherhood. Therefore it is not motherhood, but marriage that is sacred.

You have marriage and motherhood in the last case; but society says to the mother, "You must desert your child, or we will not allow you to earn your living."

"You cannot have things both ways, your majesty," says counsel in one of Mrs. Nesbit's delightful child stories; but that is exactly what the laws and customs of this country are always trying to have, where women are concerned. They want to "have things both ways."

Caravan Tour.

Canterbury, High Street—Thunder, lightning, and hail. Enter the "Votes for Women" Caravan.

As we halted outside the County Hotel, whilst our driver sought shelter from the elements, we heard a gentle voice outside, "Please let me in, I am the only Suffragette in Canterbury." This lady, Mrs. Innes, born in the sacred precincts of the city, proved a valuable friend and ally, introducing us to many people, and shedding a halo of respectability on us by her presence on the cart. The weather forbade all out-door propaganda on Friday evening, but afterwards our three meetings in the Cattle-Market went with a crescendo force in numbers and enthusiasm.

The last evening began somewhat noisily. An excellent comic singer entered the lists against us, and until his song—coarse but apposite—"That's what a man can't do," was over, we had no chance of a hearing. A regiment of soldiers was leaving the city next morning for Egypt, and some license being naturally allowed to them their last evening, we were warned rowdyism might be expected. However, the gallant soldiers proved themselves a most attentive and sympathetic audience, they boxed the boys and argued with the interrupters, and one young Irishman, I was told later, said that I reminded him of his mother, "and begorra the lady shall have a hearing, and I'll fight the first man who interrupts her."

Owing to this fortunate resemblance, order was restored, a fair collection was taken, and many signatures obtained to the Daisy Lord petition, the soldiers again showing themselves our best supporters. Perhaps the consciences of the men were touched, as all Poor Law authorities know the presence of Barracks always filling certain wards of our workhouses. Much kindness and hospitality was shown to us by Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Horsley, and Mr. and Mrs. Phelps. The latter kindly got up a drawing-room meeting for us where we carried the vote in favour of our cause, and gained four members as a nucleus. We hope for a future Canterbury Branch.

On Wednesday, Miss Sidley and Miss Joseph went on to Herne Bay, whilst Miss Ballam and I stayed behind to spring-clean the caravan before the journey. As we passed through the streets of the city (I crocheting ostentatiously at the window), we were met with smiling faces and waving pocket-handkerchiefs, but as we neared Herne Bay we were conscious of a hostile *aura*, fully justified as we took up our stand that evening just outside the pier. Storms of abuse and showers of rotten plums were our portion, and finally at question time our cart was dragged swiftly and dangerously through the enormous crowd, fortunately causing neither death nor mutilation. Hooting masses hustled us through the streets as if we were unpopular malefactors, our one protector, a small but gallant policeman; however, presently a cordon of chivalrous gentlemen of all classes formed up round us, and stood on sentry outside our yard for over an hour.

The orderly inhabitants of the town were much disgusted, several sympathizers called on us or stopped us the next day in the street to express their disapproval, and we were told that several ratepayers wrote to demand more police protection. On Thursday evening the unsympathetic authorities obliged us to meet in a dark street on the outskirts of the town, where, however, we had a large and respectful audience.

On Thursday morning we went to Margate, hoping to hold a meeting on the beach, but failed to obtain permission.

Miss Joseph and Miss Ballam have both made their *début* as speakers, and on the latter falls the heaviest burden of domestic duties. Tomorrow the van goes to Whitstable. The weather is gorgeous.

MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON.

Fortnightly Mass Meetings.

THE first of these will be held at the Athenæum, Camden Road, N., on Wednesday, October 21st, Miss Cicely Hamilton in the chair. Speakers—Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mr. L. A. Atherley Jones, K.C., M.P.

"The woman's place is at home"; but it is no one's business to supply her with a home.

It is the woman's business to fit herself for her sacred calling of motherhood; but if the fact of her motherhood is inconvenient to the powers that be, then she must be prepared cheerfully to abandon her child and neglect her calling. I am told that it has been suggested that girls in the Council schools should be taught to dress and undress dolls, so that they may know how to dress and undress babies. Should they not also at the same time be taught that they must be willing to give up the babies when it is considered expedient they should do so, under those "circumstances" which "alter cases."

Branch Notes.

Manchester Branch.—We had a splendid meeting on Thursday last. The room was packed with appreciative listeners, who tendered their best thanks to Mrs. Bewick Colby for giving us such a splendid address, and to Miss Manning for responding so heartily. On Friday the excitement of chalking pavements and hoardings with notices of our evening meeting was as nothing compared to the excitement at that same meeting. A huge crowd assembled in one of the busiest thoroughfares of Broughton and our speakers started gamely and fearlessly. But although they essayed again and again to address it, a part of the crowd, composed chiefly of boys and youths, was so antagonistic that, much against our will, we were forced to abandon our stand. Only for a few days, however, for we hope that next week sees us again on the same pitch. On Wednesday the 16th Miss Hines read an anti-feminist essay by Belfort-Bax, which was thoroughly and ably discussed by the members.

In view of the coming demonstration of October 23rd our organizer has arranged in-door, out-door and even Sunday meetings. Also a series of meetings, fortnightly, has been decided upon; for this purpose Mrs. McMurray has kindly placed her house at the disposal of the branch. Friends and sympathizers living in Chorlton-on-Medlock are invited to attend every other Tuesday at Mrs. McMurray's, 237, Upper Brook Street. Will members please be reminded to bring at least two friends each, to our "At Home" on Wednesday next as recruits for our Manchester Branch.

The "At Home" to be given by Mrs. Manning in Sale on the 24th inst. is looked forward to by us all. We expect to gain many new members.

Cheltenham Branch.—One of our largest open-air meetings was held on Sunday the 13th, at Montpellier. Mrs. Bewick Colby spoke of the work for the Suffrage in America, and Mrs. Keating Hill, of Cardiff, put the case from the workers' point of view, while Mr. Cattle dwelt on the benefits men will derive from women being politically free.

Advantage was taken of the Suffrage play, 'Diana of Dobson's,' being on at the theatre to distribute leaflets and sell portrait post-cards of Miss Cicely Hamilton to the people in the queues. Permission to do this inside during the interval was refused.

The Hackney Branch Jumble Sale will be held on Saturday, October 31st. Contributions of all kinds will be welcomed and acknowledged. They should be sent, carriage paid, to Dr. Elizabeth Wilks, care of Mrs. Watkins, 30, York Street, Hackney Road, N.E.

Wolverhampton Branch.—On Monday afternoon, September 14th, the members met at 25, Rugby Street, when they had the splendid opportunity of instructive and friendly intercourse with Mrs. Despard, who delighted them with her kindly, encouraging words.

In the evening at a fine public meeting in the Central Hall, Mrs. Despard gave an intensely fervent and highly instructive address.

A. CRESWELL, Hon. Sec.

The Case of Daisy Lord.

WILL all those who have had petition forms from this office kindly return them by September 26th to Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi?

THESE meetings require great and varied work if they are to be successful, and will give opportunities for all members to show their enthusiasm and talents. The Women's Freedom League would not hold the position it does to-day, but for the devotion and earnestness and self-sacrifice of its members. Every great movement, to succeed, must have a great mass of people behind it whose names never come before the public, whose efforts and whose sacrifices are known only to their own comrades. It is true that no revolution can be accomplished without leaders, but it is true also that leaders are powerless without followers. We appeal with confidence to the members of the League, who have never yet failed us, to join us in this part of our autumn campaign. Most especially we appeal to local members. No matter how small the assistance they can give, every little helps. It is not every one who, with the best will in the world, can undertake danger duty; but there is much practical work to be done, to make these meetings a success, in which every member can give her share of help.

Resolutions will be sent up from the meetings to the Prime Minister and to the Members of Parliament, and branches will be formed in the constituencies where the meetings are held—branches which will strengthen the League, and which will be of great value in the struggle of the general election, for which we ought now to be preparing.

Miss Sime Seruya has undertaken to arrange the first meeting for the organizing committee, and will give details of the work to be done to any one who applies to her.

Dulwich Autumn Campaign.

THE Dulwich Branch of the Women's Freedom League held a large and enthusiastic meeting on Saturday evening last, outside the Tabernacle, Rye Lane. The speakers and helpers were as follows: Miss Allwork, Miss Hillsworth, Miss Taplin, Miss Levy, Miss Chapman, Miss Williams, Mrs. Bond, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Albery, Mr. Aylwin, and Mr. Stanley Moore.

An attractive platform, the colour of fresh green fields, was adorned with the pretty green banner of the Dulwich Branch, with its mystic-looking device and democratic motto: "Equal opportunity for all." A collection was taken, and some literature was sold. The people were very attentive, and there was practically no opposition. The campaign will be continued next Saturday, the 19th, and throughout the following week some famous Suffragettes will visit Dulwich and hold forth on "Votes for Women" at various points of the Dulwich division.

London Council.

THE second "At Home" of the London branches was held on the 13th inst., and was, like the first, an unqualified success.

There was only one complaint and that was from the hall manager, who will no longer permit overcrowding, to which we have been obliged to resort to accommodate our visitors. This decision necessitates our engaging the large hall, the rent of which is double what we are at present paying.

A fund has been started, headed by Miss Mabel Allwork, to enable the Council to continue these "At Homes," and so also this splendid means of propaganda. Dr. Lewin, 25, Wimpole Street, will be pleased to receive further contributions. Twenty new members joined after our second "At Home."

The organizer wishes to remind members and friends that the next "At Home" will take place at the Holborn Town Hall on Sunday, October 4th. All those wishing to help in the entertainment would do well to send in their names as soon as possible.

September 27th will see the last of the outdoor meetings to be held by the London Council for this year.

DOROTHY MOLONY.

Members of the Cycling Corps had another very successful meeting at Hendon on Saturday, the 19th inst., Miss Molony and our Australian friend Miss Spencer were the speakers, and I took the chair. Much enthusiasm was called forth by their

splendid addresses, and the people asked us to give an indoor meeting. Good work was done by Miss Buckland and Miss Woolf, both of whom sold literature, and took a good collection, besides talking to some of the people on the outskirts of the crowd, and thereby helping to make converts. I again appeal for more members to help in this useful work, because if the corps were larger we could revisit each place by dividing it into two sections. We meet at Marble Arch at 3.15 sharp on Saturday, the 26th inst. From there we ride to Harrow, where we have been kindly invited to tea before the meeting by Miss Hunt.

HELEN LEVY,
Hon. Sec., Cyclists' Corps.

October Demonstration.

THERE will be in Manchester a record gathering of celebrated speakers for the Free Trade Hall meeting on the 23rd, and for the open-air platforms on the 24th. May their eloquence disperse some of the clouds of ignorance on the Women's Suffrage movement that, together with other unpleasant atmospheric conditions, at present envelope the city. The Lord Mayor is to be specially invited to witness from the Town Hall steps the procession of voteless citizens, many of whom contribute largely to the city's rates. The irony of the situation is enhanced by the reflection that their purses will soon be still more widely opened in order to palliate the results of a selfish trade dispute, permitted by an evil system of male government. On Friday our sandwich-boards paraded the streets for the first time, and received baptism. The rain also damped the efforts of certain energetic comrades armed with the ubiquitous leaflet, with which a fifteen-mile radius of Manchester will be flooded. Many meetings are being held, and the work for the Demonstration goes steadily forward. The Manchester Branch will be glad to receive financial help towards the cost of the organization, the brunt of which is being generously borne by the North of England society.

L. FILDES.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS. September 23rd to October 9th.

Date	Time	Location	Speakers	P.M.
Thurs. 24.	8	"At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Bewick Colby, of Oregon	3.30
			Miss Elaine Limousin	
			Despard Debating Society	8
		1, Robert Street, Adelphi	Miss Molony	8
		Highbury, 31, Highbury Place	Mrs. How Martyn	
		Dundee	Miss Cicely Hamilton	
		East Fife	Mrs. Billington-Greig	
			Miss Irene Miller	
			Mrs. Duval	
Fri. 25.	8	Prince's Head, Battersea Hackney Baths, Committee Room Perth	Miss Molony	8
			Mrs. Billington-Greig	
			Mrs. How Martyn	
			Mrs. Holmes	
			Miss Cicely Hamilton	
		East Fife	Miss Irene Miller	
			Mrs. Mitchell	
			Mrs. Sproson	
			Miss Molony	
Sat. 26.		Dulwich	Miss Munro and others	
Sun. 27.		Wandsworth Common	Mr. Duval	12
		Battersea Park	Miss Hillsworth	3.30
		Brockwell Park		3.30
		Clapham Common		3.30
		Finsbury Park	Mrs. Hicks	8
Tues. 29.		Bromley	Miss Molony	8
Wed. 30.		Herne Hill, Willoughby Hall	Miss Molony	8
Oct.				
Thurs. 1	3.30	"At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Despard	3.30
			Miss Molony	8
Fri. 2.	8	1, Robert Street, Adelphi	Miss Molony	8
		Hornsey, National Hall, High Street	Chair—Mrs. Sidley	
Sat. 3.		Carnoustie	Mrs. Billington-Greig	
			Miss Munro	
Tues. 6.	8	Tottenham, 91, Mount Pleasant Road	Mrs. Hicks	8
			Mrs. Toyne	
Thurs. 8.		Partick, Glasgow	Mr. Stanger, K.C.M.P.	
			Miss Cicely Hamilton	
			Mrs. Billington-Greig	
			Mrs. Wilson	
Fri. 9.		Middlesbrough	Miss Cicely Hamilton	
		Leicester	and others	
			Mrs. Billington-Greig	

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.

WE regret to say that Mrs. Humphry Ward is unable to accept an invitation to address our members on the subject of the Anti-Suffrage League. It was hoped that Mrs. Ward would have given us an authoritative statement on the precise standpoint of the League, and that a useful discussion might have followed. Mrs. Ward is, however, so much occupied with social and literary work that she is unable to give the time necessary for platform work.

It is still hoped that some other prominent member of her Society will arrange to take part in a debate.

The advent of a Socialist candidate at Newcastle in favour of Adult Suffrage still further complicates the issue. We are glad, however, to learn that excellent work is being done by all the women's societies.

By the way, What is the policy of the Anti-Suffrage League in this election? It is a little difficult for a young society to oppose all three candidates, which seems the only logical course. Yet we have not yet heard that they are running a candidate of their own.

An "At Home," in the Chiswick Town Hall, will be given on Wednesday, the 30th inst., at which Mr. Baillie Weaver (of the Men's League) and Miss Christabel Pankhurst will be the chief speakers.

Mr. Hy. East, a Chiswick member of the Men's League, has been invited, and has consented, to open a debate on Women's Suffrage at the Gunnersbury Congregational Debating Society. The date is not yet fixed.

Social Meeting.

THOSE who were present at our Annual Meeting will remember the suggestion that the members should meet together socially during the present winter campaign. The Committee has, therefore, taken the "Council Chamber" at the Holborn Restaurant for October 26th (Monday), at 8 o'clock.

The object of the gathering is twofold. In the first place it is felt that members should have an opportunity of making one another's acquaintance, and discussing the progress of the work, with a view to the exchange of information and suggestions.

The other object is equally important. Experience has shown that formal meetings do not greatly attract the average man. Even the moderate sympathizer is disinclined to give up his evenings—not unnaturally—while the opponent—equally naturally—does not voluntarily forsake his easy chair in order to be converted. We all know how often we have failed to drag an unwilling opponent "to the water."

To this social gathering members are invited most earnestly to bring their male friends. The proceedings will be quite informal, and tea and coffee will be provided by the Committee. Other refreshments may be obtained by those present at their own cost. It is expected that two or three short speeches will be delivered by prominent members, and any others who would like to make suggestions will be able to do so.

This gathering is experimental, and its repetition will, of course, depend on its success. If, as is hoped, our members

take up the idea vigorously, such gatherings may become periodical, and their scope indefinitely extended. We are convinced that the activity of the League would be greatly increased if the members were known to one another and to the Committee. One of the great difficulties which faces the Committee in planning meetings and the like is the possibility that the members might, for various reasons, not turn up in large numbers. The Men's League would deserve very ill of the Women's cause if it were to make a fiasco in public. Regular meetings, such as that arranged for October 26th, will give the Committee an opportunity of getting valuable information.

Queen's Hall Meeting.

THE Queen's Hall Meeting is fixed for Tuesday, January 26th. A sub-committee, to make detailed arrangements, has been formed, and it is expected that the names of the speakers will be announced in a fortnight or so.

It is, perhaps, a little early as yet to invite helpers for particular work. None the less we urge members to take note of the date, and to lose no opportunity of making it known. The great difficulty before the sub-committee will be to advertise largely without unduly taxing the resources of the League. Suggestions will be welcomed in this connexion. Many members and friends can arrange with tradesmen and others to exhibit posters, and almost all can distribute or get distributed handbills in their respective districts. Many also, from personal experience, know of ways and means by which economical advertising can be effected.

The Hon. Secretary will be greatly obliged to any one who will promise help or make suggestions. It would save a great deal of anxiety if all such points could be cut and dried before the stress of the ticket-selling, &c., begins, when every moment is valuable. Our members will not forget that a meeting of this character *must* be a success. The first we attempted was good; we hope that the cause will benefit still more by the second. Much depends on the co-operation of individual members.

A Call to Action.

ACTING partly on the suggestion of the Manchester Branch, with certain modifications of wording and scope, the Executive Committee has drawn up a letter, to be sent to all Members of Parliament, urging them during the coming Session to bring increased pressure to bear on the Government on the question of Women's Suffrage. The letter has been submitted to all the branch committees, and the attention of Members of Parliament will be drawn to the fact that the demand is backed by all the extra-metropolitan branches.

We frequently say that some 420 members in the House are in favour of Women's Suffrage. There can, however, be little doubt that many of the pledges were lightly made and vaguely expressed. At all events, there can be no doubt that many of our supporters need periodical reminders. Moreover the time has arrived in the life of the present Government when its friends and its foes alike recognize that it must act warily. This, then, is the time when we must convince Mr. Asquith that the electorate is leavened with a demand for Women's Suffrage. Sooner or later the members of the Cabinet will have to face their constituents, and those who favour justice to the women

will be specially reluctant to increase the number of their opponents by causing the defection of Liberals who, like them, resent the un-Liberal attitude of the Government towards the aspirations of the women.

Mr. Asquith knows well enough that when he and his friends go back to the electorate, and say they have upheld the Liberal principle that taxation without representation is tyranny, and have fought against class-legislation in the interests of justice and democracy, they will be met with shouts of "What about the women?" And the time when this will occur cannot be far off in the ordinary course of things.

We would urge each member of the League once more to attack his own Member of Parliament, and in doing so to say that he writes as a member of the League. By so doing he will strengthen the hands of the League, and give extra weight to the official letter. By continual dropping the stone is worn away.

The League Badges and Colours.

Now that the League is growing in numbers, and strong branches are formed or forming in the chief towns, the time has come for the adoption of a distinctive badge and colour. The Committee have, therefore, adopted yellow as the official colour. A badge is now ready, price 1d. On a strong yellow ground it bears the simple legend, "Men's League for Women's Suffrage" in bold black letters. It is clear and distinguishable, and perfectly plain.

This badge is primarily for use at meetings and in processions. It is thought, however, that many men who hold subordinate positions in business houses may be unable to wear so prominent a symbol except when work is over. There is, therefore, being designed a badge of smaller size with a design which is sufficiently striking to awaken curiosity without being unduly prominent. The blue ribbon of the Temperance cause was, perhaps, the greatest of such symbols for regular use ever invented. It is hoped that our small badge will satisfy the same conditions with similar success.

A New Pamphlet.

DR. C. V. DRYSDALE'S new pamphlet on the economic aspect of the women's cause, showing "Why Men should help Women in their Claim for Enfranchisement," is now on sale. It is a small eight-page pamphlet of a convenient size; the price is 1d., and the pamphlet is published by the Men's League. Mr. A. S. F. Morris, our Hon. Literary Secretary, will be glad to receive applications.

Dr. Drysdale, who is a well-known authority on economics, takes as his thesis the fact that women are, in fact, undercutting men in many departments of the labour market. This is due to the economic law that wages go down when the supply of labour exceeds the demand. What is the significance of this? Many of our opponents, especially among working men, argue that women ought to be prevented from entering the labour market and introducing this unfair competition. Dr. Drysdale very clearly shows the remedy is quite a different one, that the unfortunate condition brought about by women's presence in the labour market is due to the fact that, being without the power which only the vote can give, women are unable, individually or through trade unions, to protect themselves from the evils of sweated labour. The vote will enable women to demand equal pay for equal work, and then automatically women will cease to undercut men, and the economic balance will be corrected. "In consequence men ought, in self-defence, as well as in justice, to remove every obstacle to women's organization and political power, and to their securing equal remuneration for equal work."

Dr. Drysdale's pamphlet has the great merit of being simple and concise in idea and expression. We cordially commend it to those who are doing propagandist work, especially in industrial neighbourhoods.

Also Among the Prophets?

My ward, Evangeline, has recently joined the Anti-Suffrage Society, and is, I believe, a minor official already. I confess I was both glad and surprised to hear that she had joined anything which was neither a yachting party nor a bazaar. Though I myself am a confirmed Suffragist, I could not but feel glad that Evangeline was at least developing so far as to take any sort of interest in the position of women.

I decided to permit myself the luxury of a conversation with her on the subject after dinner. Having armed myself with a cigar, I began:—

"Evangeline, how old are you?"

"In ten years' time," she retorted, "anybody who asks me that will not be told the truth."

"Why so?" I asked.

"When a woman is twenty-nine," she said, gravely, "uncertainty and subdued lights become part of her self-respect."

Evangeline's flippancy has always pained—and baffled me. The reproof which was clearly demanded offered small prospect of success.

"I hear you have joined the Anti-Suffrage League," I said, to cover my retreat.

"Yes," she replied, drawing herself up to her full height (4 ft. 9½ in.), and entirely failing to look like Joan of Arc, "I was having tea at Hurlingham with Lady Adela, and she asked me to join."

"But what do you know about Women's Suffrage?" I ventured.

"All Lady Adela's friends have joined."

I pointed out that this, though a tribute to her friendship for Lady Adela, was scarcely an answer to my question.

"We all think that the Suffragettes are a disgrace to our sex, and we want to show that we don't agree with them."

"You mean that women ought not to speak on public platforms?"

"Oh, no, that's all right. What we don't like is when they go to the House of Commons and make a row."

"I see," I replied. "Then if they didn't do these appalling things, you wouldn't object?"

She hesitated.

"Because, you see," I added, hastening to follow up my advantage, "those ladies" ("Ladies!" she interjected, "ladies," I repeated, with emphasis, "are not the only Women Suffragists.")

"It's women's duty to look nice, and take care of their homes."

"That sounds like a quotation," I murmured. "Where were you when Lady Adela told you that?"

"At Hurlingham, stupid! I told you so."

"I beg your pardon. So you did. Does Lady Adela often go to Hurlingham?"

Evangeline is not obtuse. She eluded the question.

"You aren't in favour of the Suffragettes, are you?" she queried, suspiciously.

"I have always felt," I said, perhaps a little sentimentally, "that women ought to be put on an equality with men."

"So they are," she said, indignantly.

"Well, when a woman marries, she promises to obey her husband, and he doesn't promise to obey her."

"Oh, yes, I know," quoth she, with a superior smile; "but no sensible girl takes that seriously."

"Perhaps not," I said, "but the average man expects obedience, and the law recognizes that he has a right to do so."

"Everybody knows that the law is shockingly unfair. If I had my way I should change it at once."

"You can't change it," I chuckled, "because you haven't got a vote, and the funny thing is that you are doing all you can think of to prevent yourself ever getting one."



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Editorial Communications should be addressed to "THE EDITOR"—Business Letters to "THE PUBLISHER"—at the Office, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.
Printed and Published by THE WOMAN CITIZEN PUBLISHING SOCIETY at 13, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.—Thursday, September 24, 1908.