

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIX.—No. 217. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

JANUARY 2, 1888.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
BY POST THREE HALFPENCE.

Contents

Leading Articles:—The New Year; Appeal for Support; Ladies at Political Meetings; The Opening of the Spanish Cortes by Queen Christina; The Wardmote Elections; The Maintenance of Mothers; Mr. Justice Kay on the Married Women's Property Act. Election Intelligence:—Dulwich; Winchester. Public Meetings:—Wells (Somerset). Drawing-room Meetings:—Upper Norwood; Brixton Road. Political Societies:—The Primrose League; Clifton (Bristol); Waterloo (Lancashire); Radford and District Liberal Club. Lectures: West Gorton, West Ham, Chipping Norton,

Oxford, Charlton Liberal Club, Southwark Radical Club, Balham Parliament, Kentish Town, Leytonstone Liberal Club, Richmond, Watton, Ely Working Men's Conservative Association, Wigston Working Men's Club. Debating Societies: Manchester, Carmarthen, Wiveliscombe, Bath. Scotland:—The Edinburgh Society for Women's Suffrage. Debating Society: Helensburgh Literary Society. Election of Parochial Boards in Scotland. Ireland:—Belfast Municipal Election; Queen's College Debating Society, Galway. Bulgarian Dress. A Woman Astronomer in Japan.

Women's Suffrage in Wisconsin. Women Students in Canada. Sketches from the Past, No. 2. Women among the North American Tribes. Women in Central Africa. Surprised Ladies in a Church Choir. Mothers' Rights in Nova Scotia. Obituary:—Col. Tottenham, M.P. The Weight of Women's Clothes. Prize Competition No. 7. Treasurers' Reports:—Manchester National Society, Central Committee; Bristol and West of England Society.

To Secure
Reckitt's
Blue
genuine, always see
the name on the wrapper.

HISTORY OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE.
Vol. III. Edited by ELIZABETH CADY STANTON, SUSAN B. ANTHONY, and MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE. Paris: G. Fischbacher, 33, Rue de Seine.

MARRIAGE LAW DEFENCE UNION
TRACTS.—Vol. 1, third edition, containing Tracts 1 to 43; also Historical Preface. Cloth, 2s. 6d., post free 3s., at the Office, 20, Cockspur-street, Charing Cross, S.W.; Messrs. SMITH AND SON'S Railway Bookstalls; or E. W. ALLEN, 4, Ave Maria Lane, E.C.

UGHT WOMEN TO LEARN THE ALPHABET? By T. W. HIGGINSON. Reprinted from "Atlantic Essays." Price 3d. A. Ireland & Co., Manchester.

GOLD MEDAL AWARDED
INTERNATIONAL
HEALTH EXHIBITION



BENGER'S
Tins, 1/6, 2/6 & 5/-
For Children and Invalids.
FOOD

"Retained after every other food has been rejected."
London Medical Record.

Of Chemists, &c., everywhere, or free by parcels post from the manufacturers,
MOTTERSHEAD & CO., 7, Exchange-street, Manchester.

NEAVE'S (FOR INFANTS, INVALIDS, AND THE AGED.) FOOD.

Gold Medal, Edinburgh, 1836. **"THE TIMES" (Dec., 1881) says—"Bradford's unsurpassed Washing Machines and Wringers have revolutionised the labours of the wash-tub in myriads of households.**

"My wife would not part with the 'Vowel' A1 on any account, as she can do the whole of the washing for seven of us in about three hours, without trouble, and without wearing the clothes."

"Your 'Vowel' A1 is one of our household treasures; it cleanses thoroughly, and is a decided saving in every way."



Bradford's Patent "Vowel" A1 Machine is a perfect Washer, and also a perfect Wringer and Mangler. Trial free, full instructions free, and satisfaction always guaranteed.

"It is a pleasure even to look at your machine, so substantially and strongly constructed, and at the same time so slightly—a contrast to much of the low-priced trash (aye, and not unfrequently high-priced trash) that abounds nowadays."

THOMAS BRADFORD & CO.
VICTORIA AVENUE, AND } MANCHESTER.
DEANSGATE . . . }
CRESCENT IRON WORKS, SALFORD.
BOLD STREET . . . } LIVERPOOL.
140 to 143, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON.

Machinery Annexe,
Manchester Jubilee Exhibition.
Stand No. 412.

Gold Medal, Liverpool, 1886.

"I am more and more satisfied with your 'Vowel' A1. To say nothing of its economy, its comfort in my family is beyond price."



"I have had a Wringer and Mangler for 16 years, and it has been of the greatest possible convenience and help to my family all that time."

Bradford's Wringer and Mangling Machines are universally admitted to be the best, and although innumerable attempts have been made to design some new and fanciful patterns, there is nothing to supersede the above.

HASTINGS.—A Public Meeting will be held at Hastings, on Monday, January 23rd, when an Address will be delivered by Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT on Women's Suffrage. Chair to be taken at Eight p.m.

EASTBOURNE.—A Public Meeting will be held in the Town Hall, Eastbourne, on Tuesday, January 24th, when an Address will be delivered by Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT on Women's Suffrage. Chair to be taken at Eight p.m., by Councillor NEVILL STRANGE.

BRIGHTON.—A Public Meeting will be held in the Town Hall, Brighton, on Wednesday, January 25th, when an Address on Women's Suffrage will be delivered by Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT. Chair to be taken at Eight p.m., by F. MERRIFIELD, Esq.

PORTSMOUTH.—A Public Meeting will be held at Portsmouth, on Thursday, January 26th, when an Address will be delivered by Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT. Chair to be taken at Eight p.m.

THORNTON HEATH.—Miss FLORENCE BALGARNIE will Lecture on the Enfranchisement of Women before the Thornton Heath Liberal and Radical Club, on January 25th.

Now Ready.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Volume XVIII January to December, 1887. With coloured cover, price, post free, Two Shillings.—London: Trübner and Co.; Manchester: John Heywood, Deansgate; or at the office of the *Women's Suffrage Journal*, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN THE LAW OF THE LAND. By SIDNEY SMITH. Price Threepence.—London: Trübner and Co. Manchester: A. Ireland and Co. May be had also at 28, Jackson's Row, Manchester.

TOWLE'S 1s. 1d. 2s. 9d.
4s. 6d. & 11s.
CHLORODYNE

Invaluable for Coughs, Asthma, Bronchitis, Cholera, Diarrhoea, Consumption, Spasms, &c. One Dose speedily relieves. TOWLE'S CHLORODYNE LOZENGES and JUBUBES. 6d. and 1s. per box. A. P. TOWLE, Chemist, 75, Back Piccadilly, Manchester, and of Chemists.—Post free 13d., 2s., 9d., 4s. 6d., and 11s.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.—Communications for the Editor and Orders for the Journal to be addressed to the Office, Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING PETITIONS.

We earnestly exhort our friends to help the cause by promoting petitions in their several localities. If desired, petitions ready for signature will be forwarded on application to the office of this *Journal*; but it is better that friends should prepare their own petitions according to the following directions:—

Write out the form given below on a sheet of foolscap or other large paper.

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

The humble petition of the undersigned

SH EWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners women who pay rates and taxes should have the right to vote in the election of members of Parliament.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to extend the franchise to duly qualified women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

The form given above may be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise.

It is, however, highly desirable that women householders should sign a special petition. The following form may be used for this purpose, but the same woman should not sign both petitions.

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

The humble petition of the undersigned women ratepayers of

SH EWETH,

That your petitioners possess qualifications which would entitle men to vote, and desire to be admitted to the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will pass a measure to extend the franchise to duly qualified women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Petitions to the House of Lords should run as follows:—

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the undersigned

SH EWETH,

That in the judgment of your petitioners women who pay rates and taxes ought to have votes for members of Parliament.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your lordships will give favourable consideration to any measure which may be submitted to your Right Honourable House for extending the franchise to duly qualified women.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

This form to be signed by men and women of full age, whether householders or otherwise.

FORM FOR QUALIFIED WOMEN ONLY.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the undersigned

SH EWETH,

That your petitioners possess qualifications which would entitle men to vote, and desire to be admitted to the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise.

Wherefore your petitioners pray that your lordships will give favourable consideration to any measure that may be submitted to your Right Honourable House for extending the franchise to duly qualified women.

The form should be copied without mistakes, as no word may be scratched out or interlined, and some signatures must be on the same piece of paper as the heading. If more room is required, more sheets of paper may be pasted on to the bottom of the original sheet. Petitions prepared during the recess should be carefully preserved until the opening of Parliament, and then forwarded with a letter to the member who is to present it, addressed to him at the House of Commons, or they may be forwarded to one of the offices of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, to be forwarded at the proper time.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

J. E. W. ADDISON, Esq., M.P.	Hon. GEO. T. KENYON, M.P.
Col. the Hon. F. BRIDGEMAN, M.P.	J. W. MACLURE, Esq., M.P.
Captain E. T. D. COTTON, M.P.	W. S. B. M'LAREN, Esq., M.P.
Capt. EDWARDS-HEATHCOTE, M.P.	R. PEACOCK, Esq., M.P.
Sir W. H. HOULDSWORTH, Bt., M.P.	Major SIDEBOTTOM, M.P.
H. H. HOWORTH, Esq., M.P.	W. SUMMERS, Esq., M.P.
Professor ADAMSON.	H. J. WILSON, Esq., M.P.
Miss BARTON.	W. WOODALL, Esq., M.P.
Miss BECKER.	Miss EDITH LUPTON.
THOS. CHORLTON, Esq.	Mrs. EVA M'LAREN.
Mrs. JOSEPH CROSS.	Rev. H. A. NOEL, M.A.
Miss S. ISABEL DACRE.	Mrs. PEARSON.
THOS. DALE, Esq., J.P.	Mrs. PHILLIPS.
The Hon. Lady GREY EGERTON.	N. C. SCHOU, Esq.
Mrs. JAMES ECCLES.	H. SLATTER, Esq., J.P.
	Miss ELIZ. SMITH.
	JOSEPH THOMPSON, Esq., J.P.
	Rev. ALEX. THOMSON, D.D.

HONORARY SECRETARY: Miss BECKER.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Miss BACKHOUSE.

TREASURER: Professor ADAMSON.

OFFICE:

QUEEN'S CHAMBERS, 5, JOHN DALTON STREET, MANCHESTER.

BANKERS:

THE MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY LIMITED, KING STREET BRANCH, MANCHESTER.

The Executive Committee of the above Society desire respectfully to call attention to its object and operations, and to make an appeal for donations and subscriptions in view of the present critical period of the movement.

The liabilities at the close of the financial year, in October last, amounted to one hundred and sixty-seven pounds. At the corresponding period of 1886 the liabilities were two hundred and five pounds. The Committee have therefore succeeded in reducing, but not in paying off their liabilities. The existence of this debt materially restricts the scope of their operations. They estimate that a fund of one thousand pounds, including the regular subscription list, is necessary to free them from debt and to enable them to carry on their work with effect during the coming year. The ordinary subscriptions may be estimated at about five hundred pounds; the extra five hundred pounds should not be hard to raise if all who approve of the measure would support their approval by assisting the Committee at this juncture.

The Bill for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women will be introduced by Mr. Woodall immediately on the opening of the next session of Parliament, and there is reason to hope that, if the action of the Parliamentary leaders be vigorously supported, the measure may soon become law.

The Committee appeal, therefore, earnestly to their friends throughout the country for the assistance that will enable them to take every step that may be necessary in order to give them such support, and they do so with hope and confidence that their appeal will not be in vain.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

VOL. XIX.—No. 217. PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

JANUARY 2, 1888.

PRICE ONE PENNY.
By Post THREE HALFPENCE.

THE new year brings with it the occasion for a retrospect of the events and a reckoning of the advance in the course of the movement during the past year.

No opportunity was open during the session of 1887 for the discussion of the Women's Franchise Bill, the progress of the question in Parliamentary opinion must, therefore, be sought for from other indications. In January, 1886, the number of known Parliamentary friends was 314, in January of last year it was 344, and this present January we count 355. The organisation of a committee of members of Parliament favourable to women's suffrage marks another stage in the advance of the question.

The extension of municipal franchise to women in Belfast, which was accomplished last session, forms a precedent which we trust may be followed up at an early period by the grant of similar rights to women in every corporate district in Ireland.

WITH a view to take advantage of every possible chance of pressing the Women's Franchise Bill in Parliament next session, we earnestly appeal to the friends of the cause for new and increased subscriptions. Some of our friends seem to imagine that because there appears to be a prospect that the Bill may be passed ere long, the Society does not need the same amount of support as in the earlier days of the work. This is an entirely erroneous impression. So long as the decisive Parliamentary battle has yet to be fought, and the victory still to be achieved, effort must not relax; nor can either the cause or the workers afford to bate one jot of exertion. We therefore spread our sails to catch the favouring breezes, and we trust that our friends will not let us lie becalmed at the entrance of our port, but that they will speedily supply the motive power which will enable us to steer the vessel in triumph home.

A REPORTER of the *Alnwick Guardian*, in noticing a meeting held by Mr. FENWICK, M.P., and Mr. DEASY, M.P., says they had a large audience, but he was struck

by one fact—there were no ladies present. This observation may be taken as a landmark of the progress that has been made during the last few years in the movement for the political education and enfranchisement of women. It is not so very long ago since the presence of ladies at a meeting of members of Parliament with their constituents, and not their absence from such a meeting, would have been the fact to strike the mind of a newspaper reporter, and been duly recorded as one of the incidents of the gathering.

THE opening of the Spanish Cortes in the beginning of December was of exceptional interest from a national and historic point of view. The infant King for the first time occupied his father's place. He entered along with the Queen Regent, his mother, and was seated on the Throne to the right of Queen CHRISTINA, whose black dress, only relieved by a tiara and collar of diamonds, formed a striking contrast to the mass of gold and colour around her. The Queen read the Speech from the Throne in a clear and audible voice, and, on the conclusion of the reading of the document, she took the King in her arms. On the Queen and King descending from the regal dais loud cheers were given, and taken up by the crowd outside. These particulars are taken from the picturesque description of the ceremonial given by the Spanish correspondent of the *Times*. The same writer bears emphatic testimony to the ability and political sagacity of the woman to whose hand is committed the guidance of the political destinies of Spain. He says: "How Queen CHRISTINA has distinguished herself as a ruler has recently been declared by the greatest of the Republican leaders, Señor CASTELAR, and his words were emphatically endorsed not merely by the chiefs of political parties, but by the entire nation. There was but one opinion in the lobbies of the Senate, namely, that the moderation of those political passions which were lately tearing Spain to pieces, and the tranquillity which prevails, notwithstanding a disastrous economical situation, involving great suffering among the people, are chiefly due to the universal

respect and sympathy which the Queen has gained for herself as a woman, and as Chief of the State."

The example of Queen CHRISTINA, following as it does on the record of the fifty years' reign of Queen VICTORIA, affords convincing proof, if fresh proof were needed, of the capacity of women for politics, and of the compatibility of political functions with domestic affections and duties.

THE annual election of members of the Court of Common Council of the city of London took place, on December 21st, in each of the twenty-six wards into which the city is divided. This was the first occasion on which voting was by ballot instead of by open voting, this change being brought about by an Act passed last session at the instance of the Corporation. The city of London is the only municipal borough in England which was not affected by the Municipal Amendment Act of 1869, and within its area, which occupies about one square mile, women are still unenfranchised. The electors at the wardmote elections need not be citizens, but they must have a certain property qualification within the city. An unusually large proportion of the city voters are members of business firms, and there would probably be a much smaller percentage of women voters in this than in other municipal centres if the restriction were removed so as to admit them. In the early days of the suffrage movement the dangers to women of open voting were especially insisted on, and with the introduction of the ballot one strong objection to their participation in this simple act of citizenship was considered to be removed. It is suggestive, therefore, of the opportuneness of causing the London elections to conform to those of other cities by the admission of women voters, that the same method of voting by ballot has just been introduced there.

The exclusion of women from the wardmote elections has entailed another disability on them, *i.e.*, that they have no vote for the School Board. A clause in the Education Act provides that in municipal districts those should vote whose names are on the burgess roll, and as there are no women's names on the burgess roll of the city of London, women ratepayers may not vote in School Board elections. This exclusion does not, however, extend to voting for Boards of Guardians. But surely the most time-honoured and important municipal election in the whole country should no longer remain peculiar in retaining a disability which was removed in every other municipal district nineteen years ago.

C. A. B.

A CURIOUS question has been raised in the Queen's Bench Division as to whether the children of a woman by her first husband are, on her second marriage, discharged of their liability to maintain her. Two men were summoned at the instance of the Northwich Union on the ground that their mother was unable to maintain herself, and that the respondents were able to relieve and maintain her. The respondents were sons of their mother by her first husband, and she had been married to and living with her present husband thirty years. The couple were in receipt of outdoor parish relief. The respondents were single men living with their mother and stepfather, and earning good wages. The Northwich justices had dismissed the summons, holding that the sons were not liable. The Court of Queen's Bench, however, allowed the appeal from this decision, and the case was remitted to the justices.

It certainly would seem a hard case if a destitute mother were held to have no claim for maintenance on able-bodied sons merely because she had married a second time. No second marriage can alter the fact that she is their mother, nor abrogate the natural rights or duties appertaining to that relation.

A RECENT case before Mr. Justice KAY, in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, called forth from his Lordship some observations strongly condemnatory of recent legislation as to the property rights of married women.

The facts of the case are stated in the *Times* report of the judgment. A lady, under twenty-one years of age, had married, and when her husband died, which he did while she was still under age, he left to her absolutely and unconditionally all his property. A year after that, being still not of age, she proposed to marry another husband. A settlement of the property was prepared, the trusts of which were first for the lady for life, then for her intended husband for life, and then for her children in the usual way. The settlement was executed by the parties, and the marriage took place in 1884, the lady being still a minor. But after she became of age, the lady brought an action to set aside the settlement executed by her while an infant, as she desired to have absolute control of the property.

Mr. Justice KAY, in giving judgment, said this was a result of the Married Women's Property Act of 1882 which certainly could not have been contemplated by the framers of the Act. The settlement was a most proper

one, which any lady marrying and having at heart the interests of her possible children would desire to make. It was made entirely at her own wish, the marriage took effect, and now she told his Lordship in the witness-box that after the marriage she became dissatisfied, not with the terms of the settlement, but that there should be any settlement at all. His Lordship had taken the pains to explain to her in the witness-box that she was entitled to protect her children and to provide for them now, even if the settlement were set aside. She declined to do so, and he regretted to say that it was his duty to hold that the settlement must be set aside. Judgment was given accordingly.

The expressions used by Mr. Justice KAY in regard to the Married Women's Property Act seem to imply that his Lordship really believes that the general result of recent legislation is inimical to the interests of married women. It would be very unfortunate if such a belief were generally entertained or expressed on the judicial bench, and we hold that the result in this particular case does not afford reasonable ground for condemning the law, even supposing that time should prove that the lady acted unwisely in breaking the settlement.

Undoubtedly it would be a great evil if settlements intended to secure the property of wives could as a rule be broken after marriage, but this appears not to be the case. The particular settlement in question was broken because the lady was a minor at the time it was executed, and the law, as it now stands, having made the property her own absolutely, she could not, whilst a minor, execute a deed to bind such property except under the provisions of the Infants' Settlement Act, which would have been effectual to have secured the permanence of the arrangement before the lady was subjected to any influence that might have induced in her mind the desire to break it which she evinced after marriage. There can be little doubt that as a rule, the property of a young wife is safer under the protection of a suitable marriage settlement than without it. But where there is no such settlement, or where property accrues to a woman after marriage, the recent change in the law affords a protection of inestimable value, the far-reaching benefits of which cannot be measured or expressed.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

DULWICH.

During the contest at Dulwich, at one of the Liberal meetings, Mr. Henderson addressed the meeting as "Ladies and gentlemen," adding a wish that he could say, "Lady and gentlemen electors,"

but he hoped that some day the ladies would have a vote. The election resulted in the return of the Conservative candidate, Mr. Brundell Maple. We have no definite information as to Mr. Maple's opinions, but believe there is some reason to hope that his views are not unfavourable.

WINCHESTER.

The death of Colonel Tottenham caused a vacancy at Winchester. The Conservative candidate, Mr. Moss, represented Winchester in 1884, and supported Mr. Woodall's amendment. Mr. Vanderbyl, the Liberal candidate, declared himself in favour of women's suffrage when a candidate for Portsmouth in the general election, 1886.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

WELLS (SOMERSET).

On Monday afternoon, November 28th, a meeting was held in the east ante-room at the Town Hall, Wells, to consider the question of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women. The Rev. F. S. B. PEPPIN presided, and there were present Miss Blackburn and Miss Sturge, of Bristol, Rev. J. S. Stubbs, Dr. Livett, Mr. G. P. Abram, Mr. J. Barnes, Mr. J. H. Holloway, Mr. Slade, Mrs. and Miss Bernard, Mrs. and Miss Garrod, and many other ladies, the room being quite filled.

The CHAIRMAN, having read letters regretting absence from the Rev. T. S. Holmes, of Wookey, and from Mrs. W. S. Clark, of Street, said perhaps he could not occupy his time better than by relating how it came to pass that he who had once been strongly opposed to women's suffrage had been converted to an opposite opinion. His reasons were manifold. In the first place, he could not help noticing that within the last few years women had taken a very different position in society from that which they formerly did. They had come considerably more to the front; they had emerged to a great extent out of the retirement in which they were formerly shrouded. That was a fact they must recognise and deal with. Women now went to the Universities, where they frequently passed examinations with very great credit, and they entered now at least into one of the learned professions—there were lady doctors. They also saw them occupying various public positions which in former years they never occupied at all. All these things marked a movement which they must recognise and deal with, and it appeared to him therefore that it was at the present day much more difficult to refuse the franchise to women, if they really demanded it; or, to put it in another way, it was far easier to grant it to them than it was some years ago. He was of opinion that the franchise should be granted to women for these important reasons, in order to redress, as far as possible, the balance of the constitution. That balance had been seriously disturbed by the perpetual lowering of the franchise, which had been going on for many years past. They all knew that now household franchise both in the town and in the county was the law of the land, and that must be followed by very serious results, which to a great extent they were already witnessing. Men had now a vote, many of whom bore what he considered an ill-omened name, that of an illiterate voter—men who, through no fault of their own, but from the force of circumstances by which they were surrounded, were really incapable of forming an intelligent opinion on subjects, some of which were of the greatest importance. As patriots they should try to redress that balance. As things now were, the centre of gravity in politics lay amongst the worst educated classes of the community; it was for them to try to bring to bear all the education and all the thought, intelligence, and culture to set things right, and it seemed to him that one of the most effectual methods of doing that was by giving the franchise to women. A vast amount of intelligence, culture, education, and moral force was represented by the women of England, all of whom in political matters were unrepresented, although a man who was so illiterate that he was obliged to put a cross and could not sign his own name had a voice in the most important matters affecting the country. That was an anomaly that ought to be redressed as soon as possible. They had conceded already the principle of women's suffrage in allowing women to vote at municipal elections. There was another reason, which was forcibly brought forward by the late Lord Beaconsfield, who said there was a vast quantity of property represented by women, who were absolutely dumb in political matters as things now were. For those reasons he was of opinion that the franchise should be

extended to women. Before he sat down he should like to give one word of friendly advice to the ladies. When they obtained the franchise, let them use it as good citizens, but let them not allow their gentleness, delicacy, and grace, which constituted their chief power, to be weakened or defaced by mingling in the turmoil of party politics. (Hear, hear.)

Miss STURGE then addressed the meeting, followed by Mr. G. P. ABRAM, of the Cathedral Grammar School, who moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women ratepayers."

Miss BLACKBURN seconded the resolution. Mr. A. F. SOMERVILLE then asked leave to move an amendment: "That it was not desirable that the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women." The amendment was not seconded.

Mr. SLADE supported the motion, which on being submitted to the meeting was carried by a large majority.

Miss BLACKBURN moved a vote of thanks to the Rev. F. S. B. Peppin for taking the chair, which was seconded by Mr. Alderman VONBERG, and carried.

The CHAIRMAN briefly replied. He had listened with the greatest interest to the speeches of the two ladies, and he hoped the discussion that afternoon would not be wholly of an academical character, but would be followed by practical results.

The meeting then separated.

DRAWING-ROOM MEETINGS.

UPPER NORWOOD.

On December 15th, a very successful drawing-room meeting took place by invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Stopes, at Kenwyn-Cintra Park, Upper Norwood. Mr. Stopes occupied the chair. A resolution in support of women's suffrage was moved by Miss Balfour, and seconded by Mr. Stopes. Mr. Hargreaves moved an amendment, which was seconded. Mr. David Chadwick spoke in favour of the resolution, and was followed by Mr. Fearon, Mr. Judd, Mr. Tebbut, and Mrs. Holah. The amendment was lost by three votes to fifty. The proceedings concluded with the usual votes of thanks.

BRIXTON ROAD.

On December 8th, at a well-attended drawing room meeting, held at the residence of Mrs. John Walker, 351, Brixton Road, S.W., Mrs. Ormiston-Chant delivered a lecture on women's suffrage.

POLITICAL SOCIETIES.

THE PRIMROSE LEAGUE.

CLIFTON, BRISTOL.

At the monthly meeting of the Clifton Habitation, No. 352, held in the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, Bristol, on November 15th, the following resolution was brought forward: "That it is not essential that women should be admitted to the Parliamentary franchise." This was opposed by Miss De Ridder in an able and telling speech, and the discussion was continued by the Ruling Councillor (Mr. J. H. Woodward), Messrs. W. Chamberlain, Robert Champion, and Amory, after which the resolution was rejected by a very large majority, thus affirming the principle of women's suffrage.

On November 29th, the executive of the Colston Habitation of the Primrose League held an entertainment in the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, about 1,000 persons being present. The chair was taken by the Ruling Councillor (General Lloyd Still). In the course of his speech the Chairman said there was another matter to which he would just like to allude, and on which, if it met with the approval of the meeting, he should submit a resolution. It was the great question whether women were to have the vote or not. (Cheers.) He contended that it did not follow, because a woman might have the franchise, that the exercise of that function would deprive her of her womanly instincts, or in any way make her less a true woman. (Cheers.) He thought that every woman with a property qualification, spinster or widow, should have the right of voice, or rather vote, in the selection of those whose duty it was to legislate and to uphold law and order. There was a vast number of women who would like to have the vote, although, doubtless, there were some who did not care much one way or the other. With

due restrictions, he thought that it was fair that a female burgess or property holder, if she desired, should have a right equal to that possessed by the humblest labourer. (Cheers.) No one could gainsay the general intelligence of women, and their educational attainments were not of such an inferior degree as should debar them from a right which was conceded to the most ignorant and uneducated of men. (Cheers.) Concluding, the gallant chairman submitted a resolution in favour of the extension of the franchise to women possessed of certain defined qualifications. This proposition was seconded by a gentleman at the end of the room, and, on being submitted, was carried by an overwhelming majority.

WATERLOO (LANCASHIRE).

On December 1st, the second monthly meeting of the Beaconsfield Habitation of the Primrose League was held in the Curzon Conservative Club, Waterloo. There was a large attendance of members. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. Eshelby, vice-ruling councillor. Miss Smithers (dame president of the Southport Habitation of the Primrose League) read a paper on "Politics as they concern women." She remarked that though women were amongst the "voteless" portion of the community, they were by no means voiceless. (Laughter.) If educated Englishwomen would read up both sides of the political questions, whatever they might be, and talk the subject over in the cottage homes of England, they would have the women to thank for an intelligent vote, even though it was not recorded on their own side. Every man ought to vote according to his convictions, but if a man only voted according to party or colour, he was not fit to have a vote. Touching upon the depression of trade and fiscal policy, Miss Smithers remarked that it might be asked what had women to do with such subjects. They were no doubt complicated questions, but she considered that, as women, with their own personal things and household requirements, created more than two-thirds of the trade that was carried on in the world, they had a great deal to do with such questions. (Applause.) If they were not the bread-winners, they were the bread buyers, and in most cases to them were consigned the hard earnings and otherwise of the men. A discussion followed, and the proceedings terminated in the usual manner.

RADFORD AND DISTRICT LIBERAL CLUB.

On December 5th, a meeting was held for the purpose of discussing the question of women's suffrage, Mr. Alex. Johnstone, hon. president, in the chair. A paper was read by Mr. J. Matthews on the question combating the principles of women's franchise, on moral, social, and political grounds. Messrs. J. Hancock, J. J. Saunders, J. Whittaker, H. Soubutts, W. Bucknall, C. S. Skevington, Truswell, and Whitwell addressed the meeting, the majority supporting the views of the essayist. A vote of thanks to Mr. Matthews for the excellent paper, and to Mr. Johnstone for presiding, brought the meeting to a close.

LECTURES.

WEST GORTON.

On December 12th, Miss Becker delivered a lecture on women's suffrage, in the Union Chapel schoolroom, Clowes-street, in connection with the West Gorton Popular Lectures and Entertainments Club. Mr. W. G. Jones occupied the chair. The lecture was well received by a large and attentive audience, and the proceedings concluded with the usual vote of thanks.

WEST HAM.

On November 28th, a lecture was delivered to the members of the New Town and West Ham Liberal and Radical Club, by Miss Florence Balfour. The chair was taken by Mr. Dodwell. The Chairman said he feared the subject was not taken up by men as it ought to be. The Conservative party had availed themselves of the assistance of the ladies, and they saw how much the Primrose dames had done for the interests of that party. Ladies were called upon to pay rates and taxes, they could vote for councillors; and why not for political representatives? (Applause.) Miss Balfour delivered her lecture. A discussion ensued, and a vote of thanks to the lecturer was adopted. Councillor Robinson next moved a resolution in favour of the extension of the suffrage to women, which was seconded by Mr. Gollidge, and carried. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

CHIPPING NORTON.

A lecture was delivered under the auspices of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, by Miss Florence Balfour, in the Chipping Norton Town Hall, on November 30th. The Mayor (Councillor Mace) presided, and was supported by the Ex-Mayor (Alderman Wilkins), Aldermen Simms and Keck, Councillors Leman, Young, Wilkins, Stayt, Betteridge, and Simmons; the Rev. T. Bentley, and Messrs. T. Donnelly, E. Gardner, J. Busby, T. Fowler, H. Lloyd, T. Prestidge, W. C. Shrimpton, D. Rose (Kingham). The Mayor, in introducing the lecturer, remarked that he had no desire to make a long speech, but he could not refrain from referring to the rapid strides made in recent years in the matter of women's rights. Seeing that women in the present day were called upon to perform important duties, and discharge important functions in the State, it did not appear right or reasonable that they should be debarred from exercising the rights of citizenship at Parliamentary elections. Miss Balfour then delivered her lecture, which was listened to with marked attention, and, at the close, Alderman Wilkins moved, "That the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who in all matters of local government have the right of voting." Mr. Prestidge seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Alderman Simms then moved, "That a petition embodying the foregoing resolution be signed by the Chairman on behalf of this meeting, and be sent to the House of Commons for presentation." Mr. John Busby seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously. Captain Wilkins then moved, and Mr. W. C. Shrimpton seconded, a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was acknowledged; also a vote of thanks to the chairman.

OXFORD.

A lecture was delivered on December 1st, at the Liberal Hall, by Miss Florence Balfour, entitled, "Should Women be Enfranchised?" Councillor J. J. Hughes presided, and there was a large attendance, including the Rev. W. B. Duggan, the Rev. R. Harley, Councillor Salter, &c. At the close of the lecture a discussion took place, after which Mr. Councillor Salter moved the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this meeting the Parliamentary franchise should be extended to women who possess the qualifications which entitle men to vote, and who, in matters of local government, have the right of voting, and that a petition to this effect be signed by the chairman on behalf of the meeting, and be sent for presentation to the House of Commons." Mr. Quelch seconded the resolution, which was carried with two dissentients. Votes of thanks to Miss Balfour for her able lecture, and the chairman for presiding, brought the meeting to a close.

CHARLTON LIBERAL CLUB.

On December 4th, Mrs. Ashton Dilke lectured on women's suffrage at the Charlton Liberal Club. At the close of her lecture, which was listened to with interest, a resolution in favour of the principal of women's suffrage was carried by a large majority.

SOUTHWARK RADICAL CLUB.

On Sunday, December 18th, Mrs. Ashton Dilke lectured at the West Southwark Radical Club. The room was crowded, and a resolution in favour of women's suffrage was carried with only two dissentients.

BALHAM PARLIAMENT.

On Tuesday, December 6th, Mrs. Ashton Dilke lectured on women's suffrage, at the Balham Parliament, St. Andrew's Hall. There were more than two hundred members present and one hundred and fifty visitors. The lecture was listened to throughout with the greatest attention.

KENTISH TOWN.

On Monday, November 28th, Mr. W. B. M'Laren, M.P., delivered an address on the enfranchisement of women, at the North St. Pancras Constitutional Club, Malden Road, Kentish Town. Dr. W. H. Pepler presided.

LEYTONSTONE LIBERAL CLUB.

A lecture was given by Miss Florence Balfour, at the Leytonstone Liberal Club, Tellebrook Road, Leytonstone, on Monday, December 5th, entitled, "Should women be enfranchised?" The chair was taken by Mr. J. Birch. The lecture was well received, and the proceedings concluded with the usual vote of thanks.

RICHMOND.

Mrs. Ashton Dilke delivered an address on the enfranchisement of women, at the Liberal and Radical Club, Old Friars, Richmond, on Wednesday, December 7th. The room was crowded with an excellent and most enthusiastic audience, and a resolution in favour of women's suffrage was carried with only one dissentient.

WATTON.

On November 22nd, a lecture was delivered at the Wayland Hall by Miss Florence Balfour. The audience consisted of ladies. The Rev. A. A. Savage presided. After the lecture a resolution was passed on the motion of Mr. J. E. Alexander affirming the principle and adopting a petition which was to be sent to Mr. Amherst, M.P., for presentation to the House of Commons.

ELY WORKING MEN'S CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 21st, a lecture was delivered before the members and friends of the above association in the Public Room, Ely, by Miss Florence Balfour. There was a large attendance. Charles Bidwell, Esq., J.P., occupied the chair. A resolution in favour of Mr. Woodall's Bill was almost unanimously adopted.

WIGSTON WORKING MEN'S CLUB.

Miss Edith Gittins, secretary to the Leicester Branch of the Women's Suffrage Society, read a paper on November 28th. The Rev. J. Page Hopps took the chair, and there was a large attendance of members, who listened throughout with the greatest interest. On the motion of two members of the club, a resolution in favour of granting the franchise to women householders was carried unanimously.

DEBATING SOCIETIES.

MANCHESTER.

At a meeting of the Y.M.C.A. Literary and Debating Society, held November 23rd, the following resolution was adopted by a majority: "That in the opinion of this meeting the rights now vested in women of voting at municipal elections should be extended to Parliamentary elections."

CARMARTHEN.

The *Carmarthen Weekly Reporter* of October 28th gives a very full report of the proceedings at the Carmarthen Debating Society, on October 25th, when Mr. W. Morgan Griffiths, solicitor, introduced the subject, "Women's rights or the deprivation thereof." The Rev. A. G. Edwards, vicar of St. Peter's, one of the vice-presidents of the society, presided, and a number of ladies were present in the gallery. After an able address, in the course of which the speaker pointed out many instances in which women had filled high functions in the state in past times, and how they were now earning honourable distinction in many careers, the speaker moved a resolution in favour of the franchise and other social rights of women. (Loud applause.) Mr. E. Spivey moved "that it is in the highest interests of society inadvisable that any steps should be taken which would encourage or assist women to compete against men either for the means of livelihood or for intellectual distinction." This appears to have found no seconder. Mr. D. Maclean, secretary of the society, proceeding to second Mr. Griffiths' proposition, Mr. Clarke (surveyor of taxes) and Mr. David Lloyd opposed; Mr. W. Lloyd-Edwards (surgeon), Mr. Williams, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Walter Spurrell, and Mr. James spoke in support; and after the reply of the opener the proposition was carried by a great majority. After the discussion the meeting proceeded to make an alteration in the rules, by substituting the word "person" for "man," and thus to admit women to be members of the Carmarthen Debating Society.

WIVELISCOMBE.

At the meeting of the Wiveliscombe Debating Society, held on December 6th, the Rev. H. W. Trott in the chair, Mr. F. Thorne moved that the franchise should not be extended to women. Rev. J. Cowden Cole moved the negative. Mr. Hews seconded the motion, and Rev. F. Tavender supported the amendment. On the vote being taken, ten voted for the motion and eight for the negative, the motion being thus carried by a majority of two.

BATH.

On December 15th, at Christ Church Hall, Bath, a debate took place upon women's franchise. The attendance was small, and consisted almost exclusively of ladies. The Rev. H. B. Freeman opened the debate by arguing that it would not be to the advantage of the country that women should be allowed to vote for members of Parliament. Mr. Browning, who presided, took the opposite side. Mr. E. S. Tylee thought that one of the strongest arguments against women's franchise in Parliamentary matters was the constitution of the town council of Bath, where very many ladies had votes. Several ladies made remarks on the debate, and the Rev. H. B. Freeman replied.

SCOTLAND.

THE EDINBURGH SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.
ANNUAL MEETING.

The twentieth annual meeting of the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage was held in Queen-street Hall on December 21st. The chair was occupied by Lord Provost Sir THOMAS CLARK, and amongst those on the platform were Miss Wigham, Miss Florence Balmorne (London), Mrs. Charles McLaren, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McLaren, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Kirk, Mrs. Forbes, Mrs. Millar, Dr. Alice Kerr, Bailie Walcot, Councillor Robert Anderson, Mr. J. E. Graham, advocate, and the Rev. C. M. Black. Apologies were intimated as having been received from Professor and Mrs. Lindsay, Mr. J. P. B. Robertson, Q.C., M.P., Solicitor-General; the Rev. John McNeil, Miss Burton, Mrs. Duncan McLaren, president of the society, and others. Mrs. McLaren wrote: "I cannot doubt that many besides myself have been greatly shocked by the way the press have reported the disgraceful, the horrible pugilistic fight which took place a few days ago, near Rouen. That fight has been written up and dwelt upon with so much keen interest, that one feels appalled to think how large a portion of the people must have been prepared to read with interest the dreadful details given. I saw in one paper with a large circulation the opinion put forth that so deeply interested have the public been in this fight between two human beings, that it would not be surprising if the old gladiatorial fights were to follow, and the people were prepared to enjoy them as in the old Roman time. I would ask the religious portion of this meeting if it is not time that a new and gentler force should be brought into our body politic."

Miss WIGHAM read the annual report of the committee.

Miss SIMPSON, Portobello, read the report of the treasurer, which showed that the income for the past year had been £168, and the expenditure £147. 5s. 8d. On hand, when the accounts were closed, there was a balance of £42. 11s. 9d.

The CHAIRMAN moved: "That the report now read be adopted, and along with the treasurer's statement be printed and circulated, under the management of the Executive Committee, and that the committee be reappointed for the ensuing year." (Applause.) He said he had very great pleasure in presiding, and he thought he was quite within the line which the Lord Provost should take in so doing—(applause)—because the Town Council of Edinburgh had petitioned in favour of women's suffrage. (Applause.) He should have been glad if this measure could have been carried during the Jubilee year of Her Majesty's reign. (Applause.) He thought it would have been a very graceful thing if, after the completion of fifty years under a lady's reign, such a measure as this had been passed by Parliament. (Applause.) That could not be now, but he hoped that it would not be long before it was passed, and passed by a very considerable majority. (Applause.) Indeed, he could not conceive any reason that could be alleged why ladies who were ratepayers should not possess the same privilege in voting for members of Parliament as they possessed in other directions at the present moment. For instance, in voting for Town Councils, ladies had a vote precisely in the same manner as men had. In voting for parochial boards the same thing existed, and he believed a lady could even be the overseer of a parish. (Applause.) The objection had been raised that females might be inclined to go a little further—that they might desire to go into the Town Council or into Parliament. He thought that was a complete *non sequitur*. He must confess he should be very sorry to see ladies taking an active share in political life. But there were many social questions

in which it was important females should possess a voice, (Applause.) He felt satisfied that so far as the municipalities were concerned they had benefited by the introduction of women's votes, that men had been returned on many occasions who were more suitable than might have been the case had the vote been confined to the male sex. (Applause.) He thought it stood to reason that it should be so. There were many questions that men really did not understand, and it would be a sorry thing—it was a sorry thing—that they should have no right to say what they thought upon the matter, and to give votes for those members of Parliament that they thought would carry out their views. They had had brought before them very forcibly lately by Mr. Besant the state of the employment of women. Various details were being brought out at present by the society that had been formed for the purpose of doing so in London that really startled one very much, and it seemed to him that it was absolutely necessary that legislation should step in and say that women were not to be starved. (Applause.) He believed that that was a perfectly legitimate object for Parliament to undertake. The result of proper measures being taken would be that women would have wages that they could live upon, and that the materials that they produced would be far better. The whole question of the employment of women he had no doubt would soon receive the attention of the Legislature, and it would receive it much more speedily if women had a voice in the matter. Education had made a prodigious change in the position of women during the last fifty years. He doubted very much whether during the reign of the Georges it would have been a desirable thing that women should have a vote, but now education had spread in all classes of the community, and women had an education at least equal to that of men. In Edinburgh they had had the experience of having ladies upon various boards. On the two Parochial Boards, for instance, ladies had done a great deal of good. Names would occur to his audience of ladies who on the School Board had done good service—(applause)—indeed, without whom, in many minds, it would have been difficult to carry on the business of the board, because they had taken an interest in matters that gentlemen really knew nothing about. (Applause.)

Mrs. CHARLES McLAREN seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Bailie WALCOT moved: "That in the opinion of this meeting, women who pay rates and taxes ought to have the right to vote for the election of members of Parliament, on the same footing as the franchise has been or may be granted to men." Two things gave him great pleasure and confidence in submitting this resolution to the meeting. The first was that he believed it was in full accord with the spirit of Christianity—(applause)—and the other was that he felt sure that it was in thorough accord with national sentiment and practice. (Applause.) He had great confidence as to the nearness of their time of victory. Indeed, it was possible that the next time they met they would be congratulating themselves upon success, instead of stimulating one another to go forward. (Applause.)

Miss FLORENCE BALMORNE seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. J. EDWARD GRAHAM, advocate, moved: "That a petition be adopted by this meeting, to be signed by the chairman, and forwarded to one of the city members for presentation, praying the House of Commons to pass a measure extending the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women."

The Rev. C. M. BLACK seconded the motion.

Mr. JOHN TODD rose in the body of the hall, and complained that conflicting statements had been made by the speakers. Miss Balmorne, he said, told them what was quite true, that the interests of men and women were one. He believed that; it was divine truth; but Mr. Graham stated that the interests of men and of women clashed. If what the lady said were true, he said it was a waste of labour for ladies to take the trouble to vote. On the other hand, if the gentleman's statement was true, he did not see how they were there competent to decide the question.

The CHAIRMAN said the gentleman might keep his mind at rest. The resolution only went the length of saying that the chairman was requested to sign a petition, asking that a measure be passed extending the franchise to women who were duly qualified. They had in Edinburgh 8,500 women who voted in municipal elections,

BULGARIAN DRESS.

Mr. T. W. Legh, M.P. for the Newton Division of Lancashire, lectured in the Town Hall, Newton-le-Willows, last month, on his recent visit to Bulgaria and Eastern Europe. Speaking of the dress of the Bulgarians, the hon. gentleman said he noticed a number of males wearing straps over their knees. On inquiry he found that denoted that the wearer was a candidate for matrimony. He noticed that amongst the wearers were a number of small boys, proving that they were prepared to enter the matrimonial state earlier than those residing in more civilised countries. Referring to the dress of the ladies, the lecturer said he lately attended as a member of the deputation which waited upon Mr. Matthews on the condition of pit-brow women. He remembered the Home Secretary saying that the dress of pit-brow women was more Bulgarian than English. In that statement he thought Mr. Matthews was altogether wrong, for the Bulgarian women's skirt was pretty much like the English one, but the women of Bulgaria varied their dress very much according to the stages of life, the young people especially adapting themselves for the boys who wore the straps over their knees.

A WOMAN ASTRONOMER IN JAPAN.

A correspondent of the *Woman's Journal* writes: "The scientific expedition which travelled to Japan in search of a solar eclipse did not meet with the gratifying success it deserved, in the matter of weather. The old feudal castle of Shirakawa, in the heart of the hills, chosen as the post of observation, might well be proud of its scientific guests, however, especially as one of them was a most unusual visitor, even in much travelled Japan."

To use the words of a Japanese journal: "Amongst these wise men of the West, there was to be seen also a wise little woman from the West, but also of the East, to wit, a young Chinese lady, who, having taken a medical degree in America, had afterwards acquired considerable proficiency in the higher branch of photography, chiefly microscopic, at the Smithsonian Institute."

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN WISCONSIN.

We learn from the *Woman's Journal* that a signal victory for woman suffrage has been gained in Wisconsin. The Legislature of that State passed a law granting women the right to vote "at all elections pertaining to school matters." The law was afterwards submitted to the voters, as required by the constitution of Wisconsin, and was ratified by the necessary majority. A discussion then arose as to the meaning of the words "pertaining to school matters." The women claimed that the election of officials who appoint school boards is an election pertaining to school matters, and that in cities where the mayor appoints the school board, women are entitled to vote for mayor. To make a test case, the Rev. Olympia Brown Willis, president of the Wisconsin Woman Suffrage Association, offered her vote at the municipal election in Racine, and the inspectors having refused to receive it, she sued them for damages. Judge Winslow has just decided the case in her favour. This establishes municipal suffrage for women in Wisconsin, unless the decision should be reversed by the Supreme Court.

WOMEN STUDENTS IN CANADA.

Sir William Dawson, the learned and energetic principal of McGill College, is finding out the absurdity of allowing young men and women to attend the same institution and at the same time trying to keep the sexes separate. While in Queen's College and University College women are allowed the full privileges of these institutions without a single attempt at restriction, in McGill College they are compelled to attend separate classes, and communication between the sexes is forbidden. The consequence, as any experienced teacher might have foreseen, is that while in Queen's and University Colleges the authorities have no trouble, in McGill they are already in hot water. It has been found necessary, in order to prevent free communication between the sexes, to forbid

but had not votes in Parliamentary elections. The motion was going no further than asking that this latter privilege be extended to them. He himself most certainly went no further than this, that the time had come when those women should have a vote alongside the men in Parliamentary elections. (Applause.)

Mr. GRAHAM: I think the gentleman will admit that the interests of husband and wife are one, and yet they frequently clash. (Mr. Todd: "Never," and laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN: I think we had better not raise that question. (Laughter.)

The motion was adopted, and a vote of thanks having been accorded, on the motion of Dr. ALICE KERR, to the Lord Provost for presiding, the proceedings ended.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

HELENSBURGH LITERARY SOCIETY.

At the usual weekly meeting of this society on December 9th the subject debated was, "Should women be enfranchised?" Mr. H. B. Fraser took the affirmative, while Mr. H. G. Smith moved a direct negative. The discussion was continued by several members, and the chairman (Mr. J. Fletcher Geddes) having summed up, a vote was taken, with the result that the young men, by a majority of two, decided against the enfranchisement of women.

ELECTION OF PAROCHIAL BOARDS IN SCOTLAND.

The present law relating to the election of parochial boards was passed in 1845. In the interpretation clause it is enacted that "every word importing the masculine gender shall extend to a female as well as a male." This interpretation clause extends not only to the right of voting, but to eligibility for election on the parochial board, which word seems analogous to the Board of Guardians in England.

Clause 26. And be it enacted that, in all meetings and matters under this Act, the husbands of owners of lands and heritages shall be entitled to vote and act in right of their wives.

IRELAND.

BELFAST MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

The women of Belfast voted for the first time in the recent election, under the Act that was passed last session. From the newspaper reports we learn that a very large number of them put in an appearance at the polling booth, and seemed thoroughly to understand the legal technicalities which they were bound to observe. Belfast is the only town in Ireland where the municipal franchise has been extended to women.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE DEBATING SOCIETY, GALWAY.

The first public meeting of the Queen's College Debating Society, Galway, was held on the 2nd December, at 7-30 p.m. Dr. Pye, president of the society, occupied the chair. There was a large attendance of students and the general public. The subject of debate was, "Is female suffrage consistent with wise legislation?" Mr. Finucane opened the debate on the affirmative side. He carried his auditors back through the pages of European history, pointing out the great capacity for government shown by female rulers, such as Catherine II. of Russia, Maria Theresa of Austria, and Elizabeth of England; and, furthermore, that women being naturally of a pacific disposition their introduction into the governance of the State would tend to diminish the necessity for standing armies and warfare. Mr. J. F. Ward sustained the negative side. He contended that no capacity for government had been shown by Queen Elizabeth. Mr. Freyer supported the affirmative side in a speech which displayed a thorough knowledge of the subject. He philosophically maintained that women were equal intellectually to men, and were as capable of undertaking government. Mr. Kennedy, in a rather jocular speech, replete with witticisms, supported the negative side. Amongst others who contributed to the debate were Messrs. Duggan, Gannon, Love, Semple, and T. D. O'Keefe. On the sense of the meeting being taken, the affirmative side carried by a narrow majority.—*Galway Express*, Dec. 17, 1887.

them from playing lawn tennis together, and the effect of the prohibition is to make the institution and its authorities look ridiculous.—*Canada Citizen.*

SKETCHES FROM THE PAST. No. 2.

ELA OF SALISBURY (1188—1261).

Even as her effigy on the great seal, with which she transacted affairs as sheriff of Wilts, portrays in Ela of Salisbury a presence at once graceful and dignified, so too all that history and legend have handed down of her life and her deeds combine to mark her as a woman of great administrative capacity, dignity, and devoutness of nature.

Left by the death of her father, the Earl of Salisbury, heiress, at the age of eight, to one of the richest earldoms in the kingdom, the little Ela was by feudal law ward of the King, Richard I., who possibly, after the manner of the time, already had matrimonial plans arranged for her; be that as it may, her mother clearly was desirous to keep her child herself, for she carried her away to lead a quiet hidden life amongst her own relations in Normandy. So effectually hidden that William Talbot, sent over to seek her out, wandered up and down Normandy, it is said, for two years disguised as a pilgrim before he discovered the hiding-place of the young heiress. Then, in the garb of a troubadour, he presented himself at the mansion and ingratiated himself greatly with its inmates. In the end he brought Ela to the English court, where in due course she became wife of the king's half-brother, William, surnamed Longespé, or Longsword, who was invested with the earldom of Salisbury in right of his wife.

The married life of the future Abbess of Lacock seems to have been of a quiet domestic character, marked by such events as the births of four sons and four daughters, and the departure of her husband to foreign wars—but with no special record except when the foundation stones of Salisbury Cathedral were laid; then, "amidst the acclamations of the multitude, the people weeping for joy," the first and second stones were laid by the Bishop in the name of the Pope and the Archbishop, the third in his own name, the fourth by the Earl of Salisbury, the fifth by the Countess Ela, "a woman truly praiseworthy because she was filled with the fear of the Lord."

That she had a living and practical interest in the events of the time, and was alive to the duties and responsibilities of her position, is apparent from the act of the King, Henry III., in appointing her to fill the office, so long filled by her father, and later, by her husband, of Sheriff of Wilts—moreover, the King declined to entertain any application for her son to enter on the Earldom during the life-time of his mother.

So for seven years Ela continued in a "free widowhood," as the term was, to exercise her high office, and ponder over her long-cherished design of founding a religious house. At length in 1232, on a site revealed to her in a vision, she laid the first stone of the stately Abbey of Lacock, to become one of the chief amongst those great abbeys which afforded centres of culture and learning to the women of the mediæval days.

There in 1238 the foundress herself took the veil, and two years later became abbess. Then in the summer of 1249 she bade farewell to her eldest son, a second William Longespé, who, "with the license and blessing of his noble mother the holy Abbess of Lacock," set forth for the Holy Land, acknowledged general of all the Crusaders of England. He fell in valorous fight the year after, and on the night preceding the battle "it appeared to his mother the most noble lady Countess, Abbess of Lacock, that a knight,

armed at all points, was received into the opening heavens." She recognised the device on his shield, and in astonishment asked who was thus ascending, received by angels into such glory, "and it was answered her in a distinct and audible voice *William thy son.* Having, therefore, taken notice of that night, the vision afterwards proved to be clearly fulfilled." When messengers arrived, full of fear, scarcely daring to break their evil tidings, great was their astonishment to find her receive them with grateful praise to God, who had vouchsafed her a son worthy of so glorious a death.

Let the Psychological Research Society regard this story as they may, it is evidence at least of the deep impression which mother and son had made on their contemporaries.

She ruled the abbey with vigorous rule for eighteen years, after which, feeling her strength no longer equal to the strain, she resigned, and passed the remainder of her days in peaceful retirement, "yielding up her soul in peace" on 24th August, 1261, and "was most honourably buried in the choir of the Monastery."

Valued by the sovereign, honoured by the people, devout of spirit, a careful administrator, and affectionate and devoted wife and mother, such Ela of Salisbury stands out down the dim vista of centuries. H. B.

WOMEN AMONG THE NORTH AMERICAN TRIBES.

The first annual report of the Ethnological Bureau of the United States Government contains much interesting matter, and especially on account of the social customs and conventions of the North American tribes. Some of the customs are singular, but still rational. For instance, among the Wyandotes a yearly council is held in each *gens*. The business of each *gens* is administered by a council of four women, with power to add to their number—one man. Everything, except what relates to war and the chase, is in the hands of this female board. At certain stated times the land of a tribe is reallocated among the different *gentes*, and the council of each *gens* further redistributes its portion among individuals, and this is done by the council of women. The individual holders, too, are women, the men having scarcely any rights in property at all.

WOMEN IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

We learn from the *Peoples of the World* that among the Banyai, a tribe in Central Africa, the wife is the husband's equal. The husband not only regards his wife with profound respect, but is expected to consult her before concluding any bargain, and to let her know his most private transactions. The women do business on their own account, and visit distant towns to effect commercial transactions for their husbands. In the Banyai customs of marriage the husband goes to the house of his father-in-law and becomes a kind of servant; he has to carry water, cut wood, and perform other similar duties. If he objects to this arrangement he may leave, but his wife and children must remain unless he can pay as much as will compensate the wife's parents for the loss of her services.

SURPLICED LADIES IN A CHURCH CHOIR.—A decided innovation, writes a correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, has been introduced in the parish church of Skelton-in-Cleveland. Lately ladies have been assisting in the choir, and in order to bring about a uniformity of appearance it was determined that the ladies should also wear surplices. This change was satisfactorily accomplished at the harvest festival last autumn. The ladies' surplices are exceedingly tasteful, consisting of Scotch lawn, with pleated backs, and in shape are not unlike a M.A. gown. Purple velvet caps, similar to those worn by D.C.L.'s, complete the attire. Although a ladies' surpliced choir is not unknown in London, the rector of Skelton-in-Cleveland is probably the first to introduce the institution in Yorkshire, if not in the North of England. The instability and unreliability of boys' choirs are often a source of so much trouble and perplexity to a clergyman that the example set by the Rev. R. J. Ellis, the rector of Skelton, is likely to find followers.

MOTHERS' RIGHTS IN NOVA SCOTIA. EXTRAORDINARY LEGAL DECISION ON A MOTHER'S RIGHT TO HER CHILD.

Halifax, N.S., May 29.—In the Supreme Court, on Saturday, Judge Smith rendered a decision which is as extraordinary as interesting. Mrs. Jane V. MacPherson applied under a writ of *habeas corpus* to obtain possession of her four-year-old child. The father, David MacPherson, now in Boston, deserted his wife before the child was born, and the mother gave it to the infants' home. It was subsequently adopted by County Councillor Poole, who has grown very fond of it, and refused the demand of the mother to give it up. Judge Smith said the question to determine was whether a mother has a *locus standi* in a court of law to demand possession of a child while its father lives. He could find no authority which gave a mother such right during the lifetime of the child's father, and therefore refused the application. According to this decision, no woman who may be deserted by her husband has any authority over her children.—*Toronto Daily Mail.*

Obituary.

COL. TOTTENHAM, M.P.—We regret to record the death of Col. Arthur Loftus Tottenham, M.P. for Winchester, which occurred last month. Col. Tottenham represented Leitrim from 1880 to 1886. He voted in favour of women's suffrage in 1884 and 1886.

THE WEIGHT OF WOMEN'S CLOTHES.

This is a phase of the dress question which has been too much overlooked. The clothes worn by women are, as a whole, far too heavy; and by a perversity of fashion, they receive an enormous increment of weight at this season in the shape of cloaks or mantles of sealskin or plush with quilted linings. The attention of medical practitioners needs to be specially drawn to this matter, in order that they may remonstrate with their female patients, and also avoid misconception as to the actual strength of some who complain of fatigue in walking, which may be mistaken for a token of weakness, whereas it is only natural exhaustion from carrying a burden that few strong men would care to bear. There are even worse evils than mere fatigue consequent on the practice of loading the body feminine with the outrageously heavy outer garments now in vogue. Not only are the ordinary movements of the legs and arms injuriously impeded, but the waist is encircled as with a belt or hoop, to which a load heavier than a felon's chain is attached, and the shoulders and chest are compressed by an additional burden. Breathing is laboriously performed, and the contents of the trunk and pelvis are thrust down with a force which, if represented in pounds, would occasion considerable surprise. We venture to suggest that, as a matter of more than curiosity, medical men should ask their female patients to ascertain precisely the total weight of the clothes they wear indoors and out. The matter is by no means unimportant. We have reason to think that not a few of the maladies from which women suffer acutely, and the general weakness and depression of the muscular and nervous system of which they very commonly complain, will be placed in an entirely new light when the facts to which we now call very serious attention are fully known.—*Lancet.*

PRIZE COMPETITION No. 7.

NAMES OF PRIZE WINNERS.

ANAGRAM.

VICTORY, Miss Charlotte E. Crane, 33, Grafton Street, Hull, 10s. 6d.
SATIS VERBORUM, Miss L. Wright, Forest Villa, Mansfield, 10s. 6d.

WORD FORMING.

MRS. BLACKBURN, St. Peter's, Putney, S.W., 10s. 6d.
SUSALIE, Miss Susan Kitching, Vine Cottage, Bewdley, 10s. 6d.

Miss Crane and Miss Wright have kindly returned a portion of the Prize as a donation to the funds of the Society.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, DECEMBER, 1887.

Mrs. Garnett	£25 0 0	Miss Crane	£20 2 6
Mrs. Gaddum	2 0 0	Miss Pogson	0 2 6
Mrs. Hogg	1 1 0	Mrs. Whitehead	0 2 6
Mr. Middlehurst	1 1 0	Rev. J. de la Touche	0 2 0
Rev. G. Twentyman	0 10 6	Mrs. Gudgeon	0 2 0
Mrs. Granly	0 10 0	Mrs. Willans	0 1 6
Mrs. L. Wright	0 5 6		
Miss F. Dracup	0 5 0		
Rev. H. A. Noel	0 5 0		
Miss Ellis	0 4 0		
Mad. E. Lohner	0 3 2		
Mrs. Milner	0 3 0		
Mr. W. E. Axon	0 2 6		
Mrs. Yearley	0 2 6		
Miss Lomas	0 2 6		
			£33 18 2

ROBERT ADAMSON, TREASURER, Queen's Chambers,
5, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, DECEMBER, 1887.

Mr. Wm. Woodall, M.P.	£2 2 0	Mrs. Carvell Williams	£0 10 0
Mrs. Theodore Fry	2 2 0	Mrs. Du Sautoz (2 years)	0 10 0
Mr. Dawbarn (2 years)	2 0 0	Mrs. F. Mitchell	0 5 0
Miss Willson	1 1 0	Miss Alger	0 5 0
Mrs. Lucas	1 1 0	Miss Anthony	0 5 0
Mr. James Howard	1 1 0	Miss Emily Reid	0 5 0
Mr. Thomas Hare	1 1 0	Mr. R. Toomer	0 5 0
Miss Andrews	1 1 0	Miss Andrews	0 5 0
Mr. Hullah	1 1 0	Mr. A. P. Busch	0 5 0
Sir Richard Temple, Bt., M.P.	1 0 0	Miss Van Putten	0 2 6
Mrs. Leach	1 0 0	Mrs. Bridell Fox	0 2 6
Mrs. Walter Bailey (2 years)	1 0 0	Mrs. Halliday	0 2 6
Miss R. Thomas	0 10 6		
Miss Warren	0 10 6		
Miss Rigby	0 10 0		
			£19 2 6

SPECIAL WINTER LECTURE CAMPAIGN.

Miss Browne	£1 1 0	Miss Andrews	£0 10 0
Mrs. Lucas	1 1 0	Miss Willson	0 5 0
Mrs. Stanton Blatch	1 1 0	Mrs. E. Morgan	0 5 0
Mrs. Tolmè	1 0 0		
Miss Annette Bear	1 0 0		
			£7 3 0

HARRIET MORRISON, TREASURER, 29, Parliament-street, S.W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FROM NOVEMBER 22ND TO DECEMBER 22ND, 1887.

The Countess of Portsmouth	£5 0 0	Mrs. Bond	£0 2 6
Miss Crookland	1 0 0	Miss Bowen	0 2 6
Mrs. Pease	1 0 0	Mrs. Lucas Cordes	0 2 6
Miss Sturge	1 0 0	Mrs. Cottrell	0 2 6
Mr. Jeffs (Gloucester)	0 10 0	Miss Elliott	0 2 6
Mrs. May	0 10 0	Mr. Jennings	0 2 6
Miss Pease	0 10 0	Mrs. J. K. Spender (Bath)	0 2 6
Mr. C. W. A. Tait	0 10 0	Mrs. Stone	0 2 6
Miss L. Thomas	0 10 0	Dr. Thomson	0 2 6
Miss Tribe	0 10 0	Miss C. Wedmore	0 2 6
Mrs. Eubulus Williams	0 10 0	Mrs. Openshaw	0 1 0
Dr. Nicholson	0 5 0		
Miss R. E. Pease	0 5 0		
Miss S. H. Taylor	0 5 0		
			£13 11 0

Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT, TREASURER, 69, Park-street, Bristol.

ENGLISHWOMAN'S REVIEW.—Published on the 15th of each month. Price 6d., or 6s. per annum.

CONTENTS FOR DECEMBER 15TH, 1887.

1. A Year's Retrospect.
2. The Primrose League and Women, by Jessie Boucherett.
3. Progress of the Women's Movement in Finland.—(Concluded.)
4. Commercial Education for Girls in France.

Municipal Vote in Wisconsin.

Correspondence: Chinese Women.

Record of Events: London University—B.A. and B.Sc. Pass List—Somerville Hall Scholarships—Municipal Elections, Belfast—Women Poor Law Guardians—Meetings, Norwood, St. George's, Hanover Square—Local Government Board, Decision on Qualification of Guardians—Boarding Out—Influence of Women Guardians—Medical Women, Edinburgh, Dublin, King's and Queen's College—National Union of Conservative Associations, Oxford—Primrose League—Women's Liberal Associations, South Kensington, Newcastle—British Nurses' Association—A Wife's Right to Maintenance—Ladies' Lectures—Miscellaneous.

Foreign Notes and News.

Published by Trübner and Co., Ludgate Hill, and at 22, Berners-street, London, W.

CASH'S CAMBRIC FRILLINGS.

Made in the following Patterns, viz.: PLAIN, LACE EDGE, IMPERIAL,
SPIRES, LILY, VIOLET, PLEATINGS, &c.

ILLUSTRATED BOOK OF DESIGNS FREE BY POST.

J. & J. CASH, COVENTRY.

DO NOT UNTIMELY DIE.
Sore Throats Cured with One Dose.

FENNINGS' FEVER CURER.

BOWEL COMPLAINTS cured with One Dose.

TYPHUS or LOW FEVER cured with Two Doses.

DIPHTHERIA cured with Three Doses.

SCARLET FEVER cured with Four Doses.

DYSENTERY cured with Five Doses.

Sold in Bottles, 1s. 1½d. each, with full directions, by all Chemists.

Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 13 stamps.

SORE THROATS CURED.

DO NOT LET YOUR CHILD DIE.
FENNINGS' Children's Powders Prevent Convulsions.

ARE COOLING AND SOOTHING.

FENNINGS' Children's Powders.

For Children Cutting their Teeth, to prevent Convulsions.

Do not contain Calomel, Opium, Morphia, or anything injurious to a tender babe.

Sold in Stamped Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. (great saving), with full directions. Sent post free for 15 stamps. Direct to ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.

Read Fennings' "Every Mother's Book," which contains valuable hints on *Feeding, Teething, Weaning, Sleeping, &c.* Ask your Chemist for a free copy.

EASY TEETHING.

SAFE TEETHING.

COUGHS. COLDS. BRONCHITIS.

FENNINGS' LUNG HEALERS.

The Best Remedy to Cure all Coughs, Colds, Asthmas, &c.

Sold in Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d., with directions. Sent post free for 15 stamps. Direct to ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.

The largest size Boxes, 2s. 9d. (35 stamps post free), contain three times the quantity of small boxes.

Read Fennings' "Everybody's Doctor." Sent post free for 13 stamps. Direct A. FENNINGS, West Cowes, I. W.

BRONCHITIS CURED.

FENNINGS' EVERY MOTHER'S BOOK sent post free on application by letter or post card. Direct Alfred Fennings, West Cowes, I. W.

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSEHOLD REMEDIES!!!

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS & OINTMENT

These excellent FAMILY MEDICINES are invaluable in the treatment of all ailments incidental to every HOUSEHOLD. The PILLS PURIFY, REGULATE and STRENGTHEN the whole System, while the OINTMENT is unequalled for the removal of all muscular and outward complaints. Possessed of these REMEDIES, every Mother has at once the means of curing most complaints to which herself or Family is liable.

N.B.—Advice can be obtained, free of charge, at 78, New Oxford Street, late 533, Oxford Street, London, daily between the hours of 11 and 4, or by letter.

ESTABLISHED 1835.



By the use of which, during the last Forty Years many Thousands of Cures have been effected; numbers of which cases had been pronounced INCURABLE!

The numerous well-authenticated Testimonials in disorders of the HEAD, CHEST, BOWELS, LIVER, and KIDNEYS; also in RHEUMATISM, ULCERS, SORES, and all SKIN DISEASES, are sufficient to prove the great value of this most useful Family Medicine, it being A DIRECT PURIFIER OF THE BLOOD and other fluids of the human body.

Many persons have found them of great service both in preventing and relieving SEA SICKNESS; and in warm climates they are very beneficial in all Bilious Complaints.

Sold in boxes, price 7½d., 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d., by G. WHELPTON & SON, 3, Crane Court, Fleet-street, London, and by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors at home and abroad. Sent free by post in the United Kingdom for 8, 14, or 33 stamps.