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Notes.

IN our next issue we shall devote attention to the beginning of the International Congress, and propose in the following number to deal with the matter at some length. We also hope in our next issue to publish the words and music of Mr. Mackenzie Bell's 'To the Women of Great Britain.' If our hopes are fulfilled the paper will be enlarged. This enlargement ought to be permanent, and we are earnestly considering the matter. Will any of our readers help us?

AFTER witnessing the performance of 'How the Vote was Won,' at the Royalty last Tuesday, we felt renewed satisfaction that we should have provided the means by which Miss Cecely Hamilton's idea first saw the light, viz., *Women's Franchise* for November 14th, 1907. Owing to lack of space we must content ourselves with congratulating all those who had any part whatsoever in the performance.

ON the morning of April 16th Mrs. Pethick Lawrence was enthusiastically greeted at the gates of Holloway Gaol by a large gathering of friends and members of the N.W.S.P.U. A breakfast was given in her honour at the Criterion Restaurant, at which five hundred members were present. Mrs. Pankhurst was in the chair, supported by Lady Lely and Lady Constance Lytton. On the following afternoon members and friends assembled at the Marble Arch, and formed a procession of over half a mile in length, with bands playing martial music, and the women marching four abreast. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence was escorted to a mass meeting at the Aldwych Theatre. In her speech Mrs. Lawrence referred to Holloway as the graduating ground for Suffragists, and said that she herself had found there rest and time for thought—after the first battle with nerves. All the women, she said, came out of Holloway with renewed energy and determination; and so far from stemming the movement, the Government would find that each "graduate" was fired anew with fresh energy and courage.

WE shall be glad to receive copies of *Women's Franchise* for January 16th, 1908, if any reader has any to spare, as this number is out of stock and is being asked for.

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

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

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

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

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

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

The paper is on sale at Messrs. Eason & Son's,  
80, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin.

## Actresses' Franchise League.

MEMBERS of our League are reminded that the next large "At Home" will take place on Friday, May 7th, in the Grand Hall of the Criterion, kindly given for the occasion by Miss Gertrude Elliott, and Miss Maxine Elliott will be hostess for the afternoon. Tea will be served to members and their friends in the West Room, by kind permission of the Criterion Management, and tea tickets for 1s. may be obtained now from the hon. sec., or from the stewards at the meeting.

Members of our League who are, or who are going, on tour are kindly asked to send a list of their tour with dates to the hon. sec., 19, Overstrand Mansions, Battersea Park, S.W., as many requests are coming from the provinces for our members to attend meetings in the large towns.

ADELIN BOURNE, Hon. Sec.

## The Suffrage in Other Lands.

FRANCE.—At the second meeting of the new French Union of Suffrage Societies Madame Schmahl, who was in the chair, expressed her pleasure at the new adhesions to the society, especially welcoming the young recruits who were coming in to take the place of the veterans. Referring to the international character of the movement she said:—

"You know that this question is just now engaging the attention of all thinking persons.

"You know that men who are universally recognized as the intellectual élite defend and support the principle of Women's Suffrage.

"You know that at the present time preparations are being made for an assembly of women coming from all parts of the habitable world, who will meet together next month in London to declare that they have become conscious of their rights and also of the duty of asserting them.

"And you know, too, unfortunately, that France is the country where the Suffrage finds most indifference among women. It is therefore of the first importance that those who have not the position which they think themselves entitled to occupy, should make their claims heard. Have you ever seen any privileges given to men which they did not demand? Do you believe that those who profit by an abuse will ever be sufficiently disinterested to come forward and abolish it? And, if you keep silence, this silence will be interpreted as acquiescence in the injustice or egotism of which we are the victims.

"Above all, do not let any one say that to be a Suffragist or a feminist is to be the enemy of men. On the contrary, you should affirm that the woman's movement of to-day is summed up in the sincere effort to bring more justice and equity into all the conditions, where the interests of the two sexes are apparently opposed to one another. The feminism which we profess is animated by honourable intentions on the domains of morals, economics, and politics. It is not enrolled under the banner of any one party."

Madame Schmahl also made an eloquent appeal for money to carry on the propaganda. French Suffragists are exhorted to imitate the zeal of their English sisters, and give both money and work to the cause.

ALICE ZIMMERN.

## Book Notice.

## 'WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN MANY LANDS.\*

"Women's Suffrage exists in New Zealand," said Sir Joseph Ward, the Prime Minister, "because it dawned upon the minds of thinking men that they were daily wasting an almost unlimited supply of mental and moral force."

"It would be hard to prove that there has been any material change in the balance of parties as the direct result of this extension of the Franchise. But it is possible to trace various subtle modifications in public feeling which I regard as wholly beneficial:

"(1.) The position of women has undoubtedly improved since the new political force has had to be seriously reckoned with. (2.) Women themselves are gainers by having to face the responsibilities of full citizenship. (3.) There is a growing conviction that the moral functions of the State will secure more proportionate emphasis. (4.) Legislation on behalf of children, girls, and women will be more speedy and more adequate. Australia is thus reaping the reward of having responded to the unanswerable appeal of justice."

BISHOP OF TASMANIA.

These are quotations in Miss Alice Zimmern's happy-thought of a book, just out (1s. net. Published at 13, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane).

We give it a cordial welcome: a whole-hearted "All-Hail!" It is just what we have been wanting. Lucid, ordered, correct: it is the production of a sympathetic scholar's mind. Conceived in a most admirable spirit, there are no invidious distinctions inscribed on its pages: no belittling statements, no carping criticisms. There is a delightful unity about it; it breathes a globe-round harmony. It makes certain appeal to those many women of one mind and one voice in this kingdom who are demanding the Parliamentary Franchise on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men. This swift record and review of the evolutionary Woman Suffrage movement in many lands has a foreword by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Sixteen countries are affiliated to this Alliance: more are coming in we can be sure. More power to them all! We can read in this volume, well set up and nicely bound, how the vote has been won by the gallant women of Norway. Finland and Norway are in the van. Little Iceland, away up in the frozen north, is well to the fore: Sweden is fighting a determined fight: Denmark too: France and Germany are working for the Franchise. Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Russia, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary and Austria are pushing forward against great odds: too often the handicap is cruelly severe. We read of what has been done, and is strenuously doing in Canada and South Africa, in Australia and New Zealand, those outermost lands of the Empire. To us, we women of the Mother country, who are in the thick of the battle, in the dust and the rush of it, how inspiring a record! As we read we hear with the inner ear of the mind an inspiring chorus. We hear the cry of women in their thousands, in their millions, swelling up and sounding over the earth in many tongues: a compelling cry for justice, for that freedom which is not license, but liberty. There are those of us who know that in the eternal region of things as they are, that cry is already answered: that justice prevails, and will be made manifest.

To tell you more of the contents of Miss Alice Zimmern's book would be to give it away. We want it to be bought, bought largely, read widely; spread broadcast over many lands. Ten thousand thanks to her!

APHRA WILSON.

\* 'Women's Suffrage in Many Lands.' By Alice Zimmern. (Published at 13, Bream's Buildings, E.C.)

MRS.  
**OLIVER,**  
115, NEW BOND STREET, W.  
DRESSES. COSTUMES. HATS.

## The Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME.

Sunday, April 25th.—Dr. Anna Shaw will speak at Men's Meeting at the Rev. Silvester Horne's Church, Whitefields, Tottenham Court Road, in the afternoon. Sympathetic reference will be made to the Congress in many London churches.

Evening.—Private Reception of officers and delegates at the Lyceum Club.

Monday, April 26th, 9.30 A.M. to 5 P.M.—Business Meeting in the St. James' Hall.

Public Meeting in St. James' Hall in the evening at which Mrs. Chapman Catt will speak, also delegates from those countries where the vote has already been granted to women.

Tuesday, April 27th, 9.30 A.M. to 5 P.M.—Business Meeting in St. James' Hall, to be followed by a Public Meeting in the Albert Hall in the evening.

Speakers.—Mrs. Fawcett in the chair. Mrs. Chapman Catt, Dr. Anna Shaw, Miss Frances Sterling, Mrs. Snowden, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P.

Wednesday, April 28th, 9.30 A.M. to 5 P.M.—Business Meeting in St. James' Hall, to be followed by an Official Dinner and Reception at Prince's Restaurant, when there will be a Dramatic and Musical Entertainment.

Thursday, April 29th, 9.30 A.M. to 12.30 P.M.—Business Meeting in St. James' Hall.

Afternoon.—Excursion to Wycombe Abbey School, where the delegates will be received by Miss Dove.

Excursion to Hampton Court, where the delegates will be received by Mrs. Creighton.

Excursion to Windsor, where the delegates will be received by Lady Edward Churchill.

Evening.—Meeting at Albert Hall of the National Women's Social and Political Union.

Friday, April 30th, 9.30 A.M. to 5 P.M.—Business Meeting in the St. James' Hall, to be followed by a Public Meeting at St. James' Hall in the evening.

Speakers.—Mr. H. Y. Stanger, M.P., Miss Rosika Schimmer, the Rev. John Ivory Cripps, Miss Margaret Ashton, also Frau Minna Cauer.

Saturday, May 1st, 9.30 A.M. to 12.30 P.M.—Business Meeting in St. James' Hall.

Afternoon.—Excursions to Oxford, Cambridge, Roedean School, Brighton.

Evening.—Reception to delegates by the Men's League.

Sunday, May 2nd.—At the afternoon service at St. Paul's Cathedral 200 seats will be reserved for members of the Congress, when special reference will be made to the religious aspects of Women's Suffrage in a sermon by Canon Scott Holland.

Evening.—Dr. Anna Shaw will preach in the King's Weigh House Chapel, Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, W., at the invitation of the Rev. F. A. Russell.

Monday, May 3rd.—Reception of the delegates by the Women's Freedom League, from 3 to 6 P.M., Caxton Hall.

Speaker.—Mrs. Chapman Catt and others.

Shakespearean League invite the delegates to a discussion upon "What Shakespeare thought of Women," at King's College, at 8 P.M.

Tuesday, May 4th.—The Writers' League invite ten or twelve of the writers among the delegates to an afternoon reception at the Waldorf Hotel.

## Ladies are Advised ON ALL MATTERS OF BUSINESS BY

The Auditor of the Women's Freedom League,

Mrs. E. AYRES PURDIE, Certified Accountant and Business Specialist,

(London Chamber of Commerce Senior Honorary)

62, CRAVEN HOUSE KINGSWAY, W.C.

## National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

At the Albert Hall Meeting (under the auspices of the London Society), on Tuesday, April 27th, at 8 P.M., Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., will be in the chair. Mrs. Chapman Catt, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, Dr. Anna Shaw, Miss Frances Sterling and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P., will speak, and delegates will be present from all parts of the world. A Lantern Procession (arranged by the Artists' Suffrage League), of one thousand professional and industrial women, grouped with emblems of their trades, will march from Eaton Square, via Sloane Square, Sloane Street and Knightsbridge, to the Albert Hall. Tickets can be obtained from Miss P. Strachey, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. Prices: 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d. Boxes various prices.

With reference to the above-mentioned procession we are informed that it will include representatives from practically all women's trades, professions, and industries, although the number of those taking part is limited to 1,000. Early in the pageant will come lady doctors and sanitary inspectors, whose emblems are somewhat similar. That of the doctors in black and silver shows the two serpents of Æsculapius and the Cock; that of the sanitary inspectors, one of the serpents looking into the mirror of the future, while below, set on the staff in the manner of the old Roman standards, will be a miniature sun and the chemical formulae for water and oxygen. Political speakers will show a winged hour-glass and "words, words, words" inscribed on the scroll. The journalists have chosen a carrier pigeon as their emblem, and the writers, a black eagle on a book. Women chainmakers from the Midlands will carry miniature hammers and anvils and specimens of the finished product, and pit-brow women from Wigan will be present in their work-a-day costume. Jam makers have the old sign of those engaged in the fruiterers' industry—Adam and Eve on a shield; and the various branches of education, music, nursing, the art of the jeweller, embroiderer, and needlewoman, silk and cotton weaving, gardening, farming, and house decorating will be represented. Some places still remain to be filled amongst the groups of professions and trades, and volunteers are also required as banneret bearers to divide these groups from each other. The assembly will take place, wet or fine, at 7 P.M., and the walk will be for a distance of about a mile and a quarter. All who are prepared to take part are requested to communicate at once by post card with the secretary, Miss P. Strachey, 58, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W., who will supply all details.

WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON (N.U.W.S.S.).—A delightful "At Home" was given on Easter Monday at the Lindens, Leamington, by the Misses Harraden, who kindly invited a goodly number of Suffragists belonging both to the N.U.W.S.S. and the N.W.S.P.U., thus giving an opportunity of meeting which was much appreciated by the zealous workers present. The chief feature of the afternoon was a reading by Miss Beatrice Harraden of her bright and clever little play 'Lady Geraldine's Speech,' lately published in *Votes for Women*.

CHELTENHAM (N.U.W.S.S.).—In order to raise funds for local purposes it has been decided to hold a Garden Fair, probably on June 19th, in the grounds of Sandford Lawn, kindly offered by Mrs. Swiney. There will be a stall of work, painting, &c., to which all members are asked to contribute two articles, and tea, a café chantant recitals and a dialogue will provide entertainment at a small extra charge. Admission to the grounds, 6d. Any one able to help with music, &c., is requested to communicate with the Hon. Sec., Miss Theodora Mills, Lowmandale, Cheltenham. Open-air meetings will be resumed in a fortnight's time.

[Owing to lack of space we are compelled to hold over till next week the reports of the Darlington and Uxbridge meetings.]

## Oxford Women's Suffrage Society.

A VIGOROUS Women's Suffrage Campaign was carried on under the direction of Miss Margaret Robertson, one of the organizers of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and the Oxford Women's Suffrage Society, in Oxford and the district, from March 15th to April 3rd. The meetings for the week of March 15th—22nd were held almost without exception in Berkshire.

The first meeting was held at New Hinksey, Mr. Matthews, of Boar's Hill, being in the chair. After an address from Mrs. Russell, on Temperance Reform, Miss Robertson spoke on Women's Suffrage from the point of view of those women who wish to further the reforms which they have at heart by means of the ballot.

Much the same programme was repeated at Bayworth, on March 17th, when Mr. Robert Alden took the chair. On Tuesday, March 16th, Miss Robertson addressed a drawing-room meeting at Court Place, Ifley, the house of Mrs. Pearsall Smith, and another on Thursday the 18th, at Mrs. Bertrand Russell's house in Bagley Wood.

On Friday, the 19th, a meeting was held at South Hinksey, and was well attended, considering the size of the village.

On Saturday, the 20th, Mrs. Docker Drysdale was the hostess at an informal meeting in the schoolroom at Radley, and Miss Robertson's most interesting talk was followed by a tea.

On the same day Miss Robertson also addressed the annual meeting of the British Women's Temperance Association.

The last of the Berkshire meetings was held at the Boar's Hill Hydropathic Establishment on the afternoon of Monday, March 22nd, by kind invitation of Mrs. Shawcross. Mr. H. T. Shawcross took the chair, and the audience was large and enthusiastic.

The work of the remaining fortnight was mainly carried on in Oxford. Of the public meetings the most important were those organized by the Women's Co-operative Guild, on March 30th and April 1st, by the Oxford Women's Liberal Association, on Monday, March 22nd, and that held in the schools at Headington, on Thursday, March 25th.

There was also a certain number of drawing-room meetings viz., by invitation of Mrs. Skrine, on Tuesday, March 24th, of Mrs. Haverfield, on March 25th, of Mrs. Kerry, on March 29th, of Mrs. Colegrove, on March 30th, of Miss Allen, on March 31st, and of Miss Margoliouth, on April 2nd and 3rd. Mention should be made of the "At Home" for members of the Oxford Society on Friday, March 26th, when speeches were made by the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell, Mr. W. M. Geldart (Trinity College), Miss Robertson and Miss C. D. Corbett.

Open-air meetings were held on Friday, March 26th, in Great Clarendon Street, for the hands of the Clarendon Press, on Saturday, March 27th, at the Martyn's Memorial, and at the Plain St. Clements, and on various other occasions.

The campaign was brought to a close on the evening of Saturday, April 2nd, by a large gathering in the Corn Exchange. Prof. Margoliouth presided, and speeches were made by Mr. H. Yorke Stanger, M.P., and Miss Robertson. The audience was large and sympathetic, and the resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was carried almost without opposition.

The Oxford Society have every cause to congratulate themselves on having secured the assistance of so impassioned a worker and so impressive a speaker as Miss Robertson. The result of the three weeks' work has been to add substantially to their membership, some fifty names having been added to their list, and to materially further the cause of Women's Suffrage in the city and district.

### Correspondence.

SIR,—In your paper for April 1st I notice an extract from my speech at the meeting of the Aberdeen Association for Women's Suffrage held on March 22nd. This extract is evidently copied from *The Scotsman* of March 23rd. The context is omitted, as well as a very essential qualification before the words "totally imaginary." In my speech, while condemning the action of the Government I was careful to express my own disapproval of militant tactics. And what I really said was that "in some cases the law breaking was imaginary"—a very different statement. I am, sir, yours, &c.,

LOUISA INNES LUMSDEN.

Aberdeen, April 7th, 1909.

[We regret that lack of space prevented our giving the whole speech. We are, of course, sure that the italicized words were not intentionally omitted from the report received by us.]

Meetings of the N.U.W.S.S.			
APRIL	22.	<b>Nottingham</b> , Annual Meeting	Speaker, Miss Abadam 8 P.M.
		<b>Nottingham</b> , Drawing Room Meeting, Felixstowe, the Park. Subject, 'The Magnetic Vote'	Speaker, Miss Abadam 3.30
		<b>Nottingham</b> , the usual monthly "At Home," in the Ball-room, Culvert's Café	Tea and coffee 7
		Election of Officers and Committee, and Reports	7.30
		Address, 'Women's Suffrage: Its Effect on Moral Questions'	Chair, Dr. Sarah Gray 8 Speaker, Miss Abadam
		<b>Birkenhead</b> , Drawing-room Meeting	Hostess, Mrs. J. H. Ziegler Chair, Miss Ivens, M.S. Speaker, Miss Maude Royden
	23.	<b>Liverpool</b>	Speaker, Miss Abadam 3
		<b>Wallasey and Wirral</b>	Speaker, Miss Abadam 8
	29.	<b>Bournemouth</b> , Prince's Hall	Speaker, Miss C. Hamilton (Diana of Dobson's) 4
		<b>Broadheath</b> , Congregational Schools. Subject, 'Sweating and the Minimum Wage'	Chair, Mrs. Dickenson 8 Speaker, Miss Maude Smith
	30.	<b>Derby</b> , Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'Women's Suffrage and the case for National and Social Reform.'	Chair, Miss Vaudrey 7.30 Speaker, Dr. Herbert Moxon
MAY		<b>Farnham</b> , Free Meeting for Women only, at Town Hall	Chair, Mrs. Ralph Durand 4 Speakers, Miss Abadam and a Foreign Delegate to the International W. S. Convention
	4.	<b>Farnham</b> , Public Meeting, The Institute, South Street	Chair, Sir Wm. Treacher, 8 K.C.M.G. Speakers, Miss Frances Sterling, H. Baillie-Weaver, of the Men's League, and a Foreign Delegate to the International W. S. Convention
		<b>Kensington</b> , "At Home," Studio 1a, 57, Bedford Gardens	Speaker, Miss Abadam 8.30
	5	<b>Derby</b> , Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'Women's Suffrage and Legislation affecting Women and Children.'	Chair, Miss Dorothy Martin 3 Speaker, Mrs. Howard James
		<b>Cambridge</b> , Corn Exchange Meeting	Chair, Rev. R. St. John Parry 8 Speakers, Sir Victor Horsley, Miss Abadam, Miss Frances Sterling, Mr. Israel Zangwill
	7.	<b>Pontypridd</b> , Meeting, Women only	Speaker, Miss Abadam 2.30
		<b>Pontypridd</b> , Meeting, Men only	Speakers, Miss Abadam 8 Mr. Malcolm Mitchell
	19.	<b>Uxbridge</b> , Meeting, Women only, Small Town Hall	Chair, Mrs. Davidson 3.15 Speaker, Miss Abadam
		<b>Uxbridge</b> , Meeting, Men only, Small Town Hall	Chair, Rev. J. Brady 8 Speaker, Miss Abadam
	21.	<b>Derby</b> , Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'When we have the Vote.'	Chair, Mrs. Frank Stones 7.30 Speaker, Miss M. Norma Smith
JUNE	9.	<b>Derby</b> , Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'The Woman Movement.'	Chair, Mr. T. Mawbey, 3 J.P. Speaker, Mrs. W. Dowson
	25.	<b>Derby</b> , Orpheus Hall, Stafford Street. Subject, 'Woman's Suffrage.'	Chair, Miss Cook 7.30 Speaker, Mrs. Gerard Smith

### Nottingham Special Effort Week, May 17th to 26th.

"At Home," Ball Room, Culvert's Café.  
Meeting, Southwell, Notts. Speaker, the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell, of Oxford.

"At Homes" so far promised:—Miss Rowena Goldberg, Miss R. P. Hutchinson, Mrs. W. E. Dowson.

Speakers' Class, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, 25th and 26th. Mrs. Russell.

Luncheon to meet Mrs. Russell.

Stall in the Market Place for sale of literature and articles made by members.

If you can help by arranging or assisting at an entertainment, please send in your name to the Hon. Secs., Felixstowe, The Park, Nottingham.

## VOTES FOR WOMEN.

### Women's Freedom League.

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

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

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

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.S.C., A.R.C.S. Hon. Treasurer: MISS BENNET.  
Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

President: MRS. DESPARD.

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

### The Green, White, and Gold Fair.

THE great Fair has come and gone, and we can look back with satisfaction upon an undertaking carried through to a completely successful conclusion.

#### OPENING CEREMONIES.

The Upper Hall was crowded some time before the hour fixed for the opening ceremony by Miss Ellen Terry on Thursday the 15th inst., and as the great actress entered the hall—accompanied by her daughter, Miss Edith Craig—the large audience showed in no uncertain way the affection and esteem with which they regard her. A hearty welcome also awaited our revered President, Mrs. Despard, who presided. A bouquet was presented by Mrs. Holmes's little daughter to Miss Terry, who, amidst enthusiastic applause, declared the Fair open.

On Friday the chair was occupied by Mrs. Billington-Greig, and the opening ceremony was performed by another distinguished member of the theatrical profession—Miss Lena Ashwell; and in the applause that greeted Miss Ashwell there was a measure of congratulation on the successful production of the new Kingsway play ('The Earth') on the preceding evening.

On Saturday Mrs. Marion Holmes presided, when we welcomed Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., who inaugurated a most successful day's business.

Short speeches were delivered nightly by Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett, Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mrs. L. M. Hicks, Miss Muriel Matters, Lady Russell, and Mrs. Zangwill.

#### THE DECORATIONS.

Respecting the splendid costumes and decorations designed by Miss Edith Craig, one heard on all sides expressions of admiration. In a brief review it is impossible to convey any adequate idea of the beautiful effect produced, for which press and public alike had nothing but praise. Miss Craig, who is one of our cleverest and most artistic stage producers, does not do things by halves. Her colleagues on the Fair Committee soon learned that fact, and, recognizing that the success of the Fair was in a large measure due to her untiring efforts and expert advice, are accordingly grateful. Therefore, when she was called on to the platform on the last night to receive a small memento of the occasion, there went with it the affectionate congratulations and thanks of her co-workers.

As to the general arrangements these were carried out without a hitch by a band of helpers, some 300 in number, whose efficiency and devotion were beyond all praise.

The Flower Stall (in the vestibule) was arranged and managed by Dr. Thornett (Central Branch), assisted by Miss D. Spencer and others.

#### REFRESHMENT DEPARTMENT.

Mrs. Hicks and Mrs. Bell, in the Lower Hall, were assisted by a large contingent of workers, who ministered to the wants of the multitude; and the careful attention that was given to the organization of this department was shown in the excellence of the service throughout the day.

#### THE STALLS.

In the Upper Hall business was conducted with the same care and precision. The Blouse Stall had been arranged with great taste and skill by Mrs. Snow and Mrs. Fisher, whose stock, containing many beautiful creations, was most attractively displayed. At the Children's Clothing Stall there was a large selection of artistic garments—mainly hand made—and Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett and her helpers exercised their powers of salesmanship with very satisfactory results. Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Holmes of Hackney were responsible for the Ladies' Outfitting Stall, where good business was done during the three days. At the Household and Table Linen Stall Mrs. Nevinson presided, assisted by Mrs. Overy and others, and a fine choice of goods was offered to customers replenishing their linen cupboards. Perhaps the largest stock of all was that displayed by Miss Pocock on the Fancy Stall, where a large quantity of beautiful embroideries and fancy work of all kinds was on sale.

The Prize Competitions (the results of which will be announced next week) yielded some fine specimens of work.

The four remaining stalls in the Upper Hall were as follows:

Pottery and China—Mrs. F. Earengy, B.A.; Toys—Mrs. Toyne; General Literature—Miss Fitz-Herbert; Suffrage Literature—Miss Clare Pocock.

#### HANDICRAFTS.

Many notable exhibits were made in the handicrafts sections, including: Mrs. Jonas's Metal Work, Mrs. Whipple's Enamels, Madame Tate's Embroideries for Church, Heraldic, and Domestic Purposes; Miss Ada F. Hines's Miniatures; Laces by Miss Barnes; and Miss Roberta Mills's Leather Work (the residue of the latter exhibit in the Women's Freedom League colours will be sold privately by Miss Mills, 7, Stansfield Road, Brixton, S.W.).

Mrs. Meeson-Coates's Bric-à-Brac Shop also proved a great attraction, and many choice vases, enamels, statuettes, &c., were sold.



An interesting exhibition of Telegraphy was given by some of our members engaged in this work, who installed and operated their apparatus throughout the Hall.

#### SIDE SHOWS.

The Palmists, who kindly gave their services (including Madame Vita, Madame Jean, Madame Ulica, Miss Lillian Tweed, Miss Elisia Bolim, and others), were kept busy with delineations, and Miss Hamilton Williams also seemed to be almost continuously engaged on her clever lightning sketches; while long queues of visitors lined up to inspect the famous Holloway Cell.

#### ENTERTAINMENT BOOTH.

To the members of the Actresses Franchise League, who organized the Entertainment Booth, and to the distinguished artistes who appeared under their management, we tender our grateful thanks. Some of the principal attractions in a programme full of stars are enumerated below.

Thursday, 15th.—Miss Esther Palliser in a musical sketch; Miss Esmé Hubbard and her Pierrots; Mr. Dawson Millward and Miss Sara Brooke, Max Darewski, and other well-known Artists.

Friday, 16th.—Miss Marie Lloyd; Mr. Harcourt Williams and Miss Jean Mackinley in Duologues; Miss Scaife and Miss J. Dilla in a Sketch; Miss Esmé Hubbard in an Operetta entitled 'Suffragetta'; Miss Marie Shedlock's Fairy Tales; Miss Ada Moore; Mr. Robert Cunningham, and other well-known Artists.

Saturday, 17th.—Miss Eva Moore; Mr. Charles Fry; Mrs. Navette; and other well-known Artists.

#### IN ROOM No. 18

Miss Edith Craig provided a succession of entertainments, which also afforded the utmost satisfaction and delight:—

On Thursday there were shows every half-hour from 12.30 to 10: Miss Ellen Terry in a new One-Act Play; Miss Cicely Hamilton's Waxworks; 'How the Vote was Won,' a Play in One Act, by Cicely Hamilton and Christopher St. John (Star Cast); and a Mixed Variety Bill.

Friday.—Shows every half-hour from 12.30.—Ju-Jitsu Exhibition by Mrs. Garrud; Mr. Henry Ainley and Miss Suzanne Sheldon in a new One-Act Play; Star Cast in 'How the Vote was Won,' by Cicely Hamilton and Christopher St. John; Tableau: 'Brave Women in History'; Mixed Variety Bill.

Saturday.—Shows every half-hour from 12.30 to 10.—'How the Vote was Won,' by Cicely Hamilton and Christopher St. John; Miss Cicely Hamilton's Waxworks; Ju-Jitsu Exhibition; Tableau: 'Brave Women in History'; Mixed Variety Bill.

The illustrated souvenir programmes are still on sale, containing photographs of Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington-Greig, and Mrs. How-Martyn, Miss Ellen Terry, Miss Lena Ashwell, and Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., and a copy will be forwarded to any address post free on receipt of 2½d. in stamps.

It will be seen that it is impossible for us in these columns to publish more than a general expression of thanks to all our members and friends who worked for the Fair, and without whose assistance such a success could not have been attained. To each and every one we tender our grateful thanks.

MARIE LAWSON, Hon. Sec.

A report of the new plays and the result of the Prize Competitions will be published in these columns next week.

LOST PROPERTY.—A few articles were brought to the Inquiry Office at the Fair. Will those who lost things kindly send description at once to the Hon. Sec. W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

### Prison Abuses. (Continued.)

"MR. BYLES: I desire to join in the remonstrance of my hon. friends. Speaking for myself, and I am quite sure for a good many Members of this House, I regard the treatment to which these women are being subjected and the whole method of punishing them in this way for doing what they are doing from honourable motives as repugnant to us, and we call upon the Government to put a stop to it at once. It is confusing the mind of the public altogether as to what crime is and what punishment is when you mix up women of this kind, who from public motives, and from honourable motives from their point of view, desire to put forward a public question in which they are deeply interested and concerned—when you mix them up with the ordinary criminal you confuse the public mind as to the meaning of law and the meaning of crime. If the Government of this free England is not able to invent some better way of putting a stop to the proceedings of ladies who desire to present a petition to the Prime Minister it is time that the Government had more intelligent Members than it appears to have. I appeal to the Under-Secretary on this subject, and I join in the protest that has been made by my hon. friends.

"THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (MR. HERBERT SAMUEL): I regret that my right hon. friend is prevented through indisposition from attending the House, for, had he been able, I am sure he would have been in his place to answer the criticisms of the hon. gentlemen who have just spoken. The complaint made is with regard to the treatment of the Suffragettes in prison, and it proceeds on two grounds. In the first place, it is stated that these ladies should have been made prisoners in the first division, and in the second place, that in the second division they are exposed to indignities and hardships which ought not to be laid upon them. The Home Secretary has explained again and again that in his view it would be unconstitutional for him to override the discretion of the magistrates with regard to the division in which these ladies should be placed. The case of Dr. Jameson was, as has been repeatedly pointed out in answers to questions, before the Prisons Act of 1898. That Act distinctly declares that it is to be in the discretion of the Court to say in which division a prisoner was to be placed, and since that time the Home Secretary has not in any case overridden the decision of the Court. There have been one or two cases in which the Courts made no order in which division a prisoner was to be placed. In such a case the Home Secretary has made representations to the magistrate asking whether he might not think it was suitable to place a prisoner in the first division. That was done in one or two cases. Since then the magistrates have made orders with regard to the second division. The cases are differentiated entirely from that of Dr. Jameson and from the earlier cases in which these ladies were concerned. The Secretaries of State again and again have expressed the opinion that it would be unconstitutional to override the distinct terms of the Act of Parliament under which the magistrates imposed the sentences. It is idle to say that these ladies are imprisoned for attempting to present petitions to Ministers. If these ladies were sent to the first division, allowed to receive their friends, and conduct their lives as if they were in their own homes, and if the agitation was allowed to go on unchecked, the supporters of other causes might act similarly. The result would be that it would become not only their right, but their duty, to follow the same methods in order to secure a remedy for the grievances of which they complain. Imprisonment is intended to be penal, but it is not intended that imprisonment should be cruel for these ladies or anybody else. I have no doubt ladies of education and culture feel the conditions of prison life more than ordinary offenders. The Home Secretary has been unwearied in inquiry into every complaint, whether large or minute, which has been addressed to him on behalf of these ladies, either by themselves or their friends. He has found that the majority of complaints were unfounded. Of course, the House will imagine that those women are taken into the presence of wardresses and that their clothes are almost torn off their backs.

"MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: It was so at first and until we got it stopped.

"MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: It might have been at first. I do not see that the hon. Member should raise as an abuse something that has long ago been remedied. It was the case of these ladies as of other women that they were required to undress and change their clothing in the presence of wardresses. That was a very necessary precaution in the case of very many prisoners of the ordinary type, but objection having been raised to this, my right hon. friend ordered a change, and therefore now they are allowed to change their clothing absolutely in private. Many of these ladies have made no complaint, and one or two have spoken, I will not say in cordial terms, but at any rate in terms by no means critical of the treatment they have received while in prison. The specific allegations raised by the hon. Member will be most carefully inquired into by my right hon. friend, and if any reasonable case is made out for a change of practice I am sure the experience of the past will lead the House to believe that my right hon. friend will welcome the opportunity of making the necessary alterations.

"Question put: 'That this House do now adjourn.'

### Russian Mis-Statements.

SOME statements have been appearing in two leading and widely read Russian papers, which I propose printing, and then answering. My answers will reach our Russian sisters, and on that account you must have patience with me, if much that I say appears to you ancient history. It is a disaster that the English Suffragists should be laughed at, and their conduct misrepresented in foreign papers, as the women's movement in all countries is one, and England takes the lead.

"Last year the women in England got their municipal rights; but the very great majority of them do not use their rights" (*Russkoje Bogatstvo*, January, 1909). Mr. Schuloresdy alludes to the local Government (Women) Act. The first year seventeen women were candidates for election to Town Councils but only five were elected, which shows, I think, that the men who do not wish us to have the vote do not wish us to sit on these councils, and that we must get the vote before doing much in the other direction. Besides this a good many of us hold that we must work for the vote, and nothing else, till it is won. The Government hoped to divert our attention from our struggle for enfranchisement, by offering us other work; but such a hope was foredoomed to disappointment. "The militantism of the Suffragists is not called forth by the terrible conditions of the working woman, or of the victim of the sweating system. The Suffragists as well as the Conservative feminists belong to the middle and higher-middle class."

Think of Mrs. Despard, who has for years devoted herself to philanthropic work. It is precisely the terrible conditions of working women and of the victims of the sweating system, which have made her a "militant," and nearly all the important Suffragists have either some personal experience of the bad industrial conditions of women or are in close touch and sympathy with those who suffer. I have lived among working women as one of themselves, and I can vouch for their desire for enfranchisement, but they are much too heavily burdened and down-trodden to take an active part; they could not be militant, and it is nearly as impossible that professional women should be, and so, from the vast body of women devoted to the cause, a mere fraction can come forward as confessors and fighters, and chiefly those who are independent or whose husbands like them to help. This perhaps gives colour to Mr. Schuloresdy's assertion, which is yet not true.

"The feminists as well as the Suffragists, want the right for a small number of women. If their demands were realized, it is the women singers, writers, doctors, actresses, the widows, and tradeswomen who would get the vote; but not the millions of married women who toil in factories."

Marriage is neither a qualification nor a disqualification for men, and as we are asking for the vote on the same terms as men, only those married women would be enfranchised who paid rates; but statistics prove that 82 per cent of those enfranchised

would be working women, and many of them toilers in factories, and it is to obtain the enfranchisement of these toilers that well-to-do women are working so hard, and making so many sacrifices.

"The militant women are constantly told that they help the Conservative party, which never promised to support the Suffragists, while the Cabinet has declared that it wants to introduce a Bill which would give votes on a larger scale, and which under certain conditions would give votes to women."

We do not help the Conservatives or any one else, we only and always oppose the Government, and if Mr. Schuloresdy examined its pledges, as we have done, he would find that they are absolutely worthless.

"The Suffragist demonstrations, in the very great majority of cases are most illogical, the militant women did all they could to break up the meeting in Glasgow. They were turned out one after the other. Then they organized a meeting under the windows of the hall to protest against not being given liberty of speech, that is against their not being allowed to break up the meeting"; then comes too long a passage to quote, in which he accuses us of working with brewers and publicans and drunkards. Can he not see that we have a simple and perfectly logical policy, and that our strength lies in the steadfastness with which we pursue it. The Women's Freedom League does not break up meetings; members of the N.W.S.P.U. do sometimes, and justify themselves by saying that they are not allowed to ask questions when other people do. No such scandalous scenes as he relates ever took place, and people in England understand and respect the action of the Suffragettes at the bye-elections. Time and space fail, but we will examine some more of Mr. Schuloresdy's mis-statements next week. S. B.

### East Edinburgh By-Election.

THE result at East Edinburgh shows once more how effective our by-election policy is. Reducing a majority from over 4,000 to under 500 in a Liberal stronghold means much in Scotland and causes quaking on the part of the Government and its supporters.

The constituency is suburban working-class. Most of the campaign has been conducted in the open-air, at the works and street corners, where we and our arguments have been received kindly and with approval.

Election day was very wet, but our workers stood at their posts all day getting post cards signed. Over 1,300 of the latter were returned to me and posted to Mr. Asquith on April 16th. The following is a copy of the message they contained.

East Division, Edinburgh, 16th April, 1909.

TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

Sir,—I have this day voted against the Government Nominee at the request of the Women, as a protest against your attitude on the urgent question of Votes for Women. My vote would otherwise have been given for the Liberal Candidate on this occasion.

Yours truly,

Name .....  
Address .....

Many post cards were written and sent independently by electors. Several were handed to me to be posted with the printed ones, stating that the writers had voted against the Government nominee because of the treatment meted out to the women, and others again who had refrained from voting because of the attitude of the Government to "Votes for Women" sent post cards explaining their action, or rather, inaction. The press, otherwise silent about the women, made special mention of the post cards. They cannot get behind the fact that these post cards have been signed by electors who read and who know what they are doing.

Amongst the women we have gained many friends who, we trust, will join the East Edinburgh Branch. Altogether we have had a very satisfactory campaign.

My speakers for the week included Mrs. Billington-Greig, Miss Munro, Mrs. Donaldson, Miss Jack, Miss Marshall, and the Misses Scott. Other helpers I am unable to name just now but I beg to take this opportunity of thanking them for their assistance.

ALICE SCHOFIELD.

## The Art of Self Defence.

A NOVEL feature of the Green, White and Gold Fair, at Caxton Hall, was the jiu-jitsu displays given by women. Apart from the fact that it is splendid physical exercise, jiu-jitsu is the most suitable form of self-defence for women, success depending on the dexterous use of the opponent's strength. The science has three branches: the throws, which require much practice; the art of self-defence exclusively, by which all attacks by violence may be resisted; and the art, when the opponent has been thrown, of wrestling on the ground and rendering him unconscious by neck locks and other means. Happily, measures so stringent as those taught in this third branch are not often necessary, but in an encounter with a desperate burglar or an escaped lunatic the knowledge would be decidedly useful.

In the course of the last quarter of a century women in this country have developed physically, as mentally, in an amazing way; while men have been—well, let us say—at a standstill. The modern healthy girl, backed by a knowledge of some scientific art of defence, could render a very good account of herself when necessary and men "Anti's" who are so fond of the physical force "argument" would do well to take heed in time lest the day come, and perhaps it is not far distant, when they will not be allowed to let the matter drop.

We are all familiar with Mr. Punch's famous advice to those about to marry, but, though Mr. Punch "were like to die of it," we have not yet heard Mrs. Punch's opinion on the matter. May we suggest, with all due deference to Mr. Punch, that her advice to the girl would be "learn jiu-jitsu"? Such a precaution would be, let us hope in the majority of cases, merely a matter of form. At the same time it is idle to ignore the fact that there are men, in all classes of society, who habitually ill-treat their wives. At present the usual advice given to the ill-used wife, when circumstances render it practically impossible for her to leave her husband, is "do not lower yourself by retaliation, at all costs uphold your womanly dignity." Setting aside the utter impossibility of being dignified under such circumstances this advice is, theoretically, perfectly sound. Practically jiu-jitsu is likely to prove far more effective for it is universally acknowledged that your bully is usually a coward.

It has long been the custom to consider women more timid than men, but one has only to scan the newspapers day by day to realize that in cases of great emergency—such as the Messina earthquake—women are every whit as brave as men; and hardly a week goes by but some woman goes to the assistance of the police in a street brawl while a crowd of men—citizens—stand idly by, indifferent or amused, oblivious of any responsibility. Moreover, in the days when entrance to the army was an easy affair, many women fought side by side with the men and many instances are on record of women taking part in sea fights. There was "Hannah Snell, who enlisted as a marine and saw active service, and Mary Ann Talbot, otherwise John Taylor, who was wounded in the action of the Glorious First of June," both of whom received pensions from a grateful Government. Anne Bonney and Mary Read, after serving in the Navy, turned pirates—to their own profit, doubtless, if not to that of the State.

Public opinion has hitherto been the greatest enemy to the physical development of women; the pioneer women cyclists were covered with scorn, the girls who first declared their preference for hockey over croquet were looked at askance as hoydens. Happily the world soon gets accustomed to new ideas, and to-day the girl who cycles and the girl who plays hockey are taken very much as a matter of course—just as will be the girl of to-morrow who practises jiu-jitsu. In a few years time let us hope that the woman who is not versed in the art of self-defence will be regarded, and rightly regarded, as an anomaly.

N. TEGAN LEWIS.

## By-Elections.

WE now have Committee Rooms in Sheffield and in Stratford-on-Avon. Will all those who can give help of any kind please communicate at once with the Hon. Sec, W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi? Contributions towards the expenses will be gladly received. Committee Rooms, 31, Wood Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

## Glasgow "At Homes."

THE first of the evening "At Homes" was given on April 3rd at the Albany Galleries, the hostesses being the Misses Semple and Hamilton. There was a large gathering. Mrs. Billington-Greig was the speaker. Several new members joined the League, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

April 7th the first afternoon "At Home" was given by Mrs. Murray of Cardross. The chair was taken by Miss Murray. The speaker was Mrs. Billington-Greig. The numbers were not so large as at the previous "At Home," owing to the Easter holidays, but a few new members were enrolled, and all spent a pleasant afternoon.

April 14th.—An "At Home" was given by Mrs. Montgomery. There was a good musical programme. The Rev. J. Forson was in the chair; he gave a most instructive address, and urged those who did not belong to the League to join at once and work hard. Miss Anna Munro was the speaker, and a very enjoyable afternoon was spent.

## Branch Notes.

THE GLASGOW BRANCHES.—A Cake, Candy, and Flower Sale will be opened by Mrs. Sanderson at 30, Gordon Street on Saturday, May 8th, at 2.30. Being the opening of the new office a most successful sale is expected. All members and friends of the Glasgow branches are requested to send gifts or donations on or before May 8th to Mrs. Hill (Convener) or to any member of the Cake and Candy Committee, 30, Gordon Street.

HERNE HILL AND NORWOOD BRANCH.—On Thursday, April 22nd Mrs. Toyne will give an address on 'Women's Franchise,' to be followed by questions and discussion, at 90, Norwood Road, S.E., at 8 p.m. Visitors are cordially invited.

On Sunday, April 25th, the first open-air meeting will be held in Brockwell Park, from 3 to 5 p.m. Mrs. M. Holmes has promised to speak, and if any members of the Women's Freedom League will kindly assist our branch by selling literature, &c., at our Sunday afternoon meetings will they please communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Miss B. Spencer, 32, Geneva Road, Brixton, S.W.?

## PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

April 22nd to May 3rd.

APRIL.			P.M.
Thurs. 22.	Olney Caxton Hall	Mrs. Despard Chair, Mrs. Hicks Mrs. Nevins Rev. W. J. Gomershall	3.30
Sat. 24.	Glasgow, Bell Grove, Church Hall, Cake and Candy Sale Kensal Rise, 59, Wrentham Av.	Miss Bremner Mrs. Despard	7.30
Sun. 25.	Birmingham	Miss Robertson	3.6
Wed. 28.	Glasgow, Albany Galleries, Charing Cross, "At Home" Croydon, Mecca Tea Rooms	Miss FitzHerbert Mrs. Sudd Brown Mr. Joseph McCabe Miss Muriel Matters Miss Cicely Hamilton	7.30 3.30
Thurs. 29.	Caxton Hall		
Fri. 30.	Stratford-on-Avon, Corn Exchange		
MAY.			
Sat. 1.	Glasgow, Albany Galleries, Charing Cross, "At Home"	Mrs. Craig and Miss Lawrence	7-10
Mon. 3.	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Reception to International Delegates Mrs. Chapman Catt, Mrs. Despard, and others	3-6
Thurs. 6.	172, Tulse Hill, Norwood Road, S.W.	Mrs. Frances Swiney	3
Fri. 7.	Harringay, Fairfax Hall	Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett	7

Suffrage Day, Sat., June 19.

## Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 40, 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. I. G. JAYNE.

## Notes and Comments.

Members are reminded that Friday (to-morrow) is the last day for sending in nominations to the new Committee for the year 1909-10.

The agenda contains a proposal from the Committee that the League should grant powers to increase its numbers from sixteen to twenty. For this change there are two main and two subsidiary reasons. In the first place the numbers of the League are increasing very rapidly. In order, therefore, that the Committee may really represent the opinion of the League, it is advisable that the sixteen members elected on April 29th should be enabled to add to their numbers in the course of their year of office.

The second of the two main reasons is the necessity for the formation of new offices in connexion with the executive and administrative work of the League. The probable adoption on Friday of two new branches makes it imperative that we add to our officers a Branch Secretary, whose duty it will be to foster and record the work of local societies. We have already added an Open-Air Campaign Secretary, and several other functions must shortly be taken from the normal work of the Honorary Secretary if the work of the League is to be properly carried on.

Now it is in the highest degree important that those who discharge responsible duties for the League should not be casual persons appointed only by the Executive, but representative persons either elected indirectly or specifically approved by the members. In other words such officers ought at least to be approved by the majority of the League as members of an elected committee.

The subsidiary reasons for the increase are these. First that during the summer months it is sometimes difficult to obtain a quorum, especially during the holiday season. Once or twice last summer, in the absence of a quorum, it was absolutely necessary for two or three members of committee to incur personal financial risk in the event of their decision being not ratified by a subsequent full committee. Second, that it is perhaps desirable in the interest of real representative government that from time to time some leading member of a strong branch should be elected to the central Executive. The committee which are now about to retire and offer themselves for re-election are of the opinion that the total strength of the League depends in large measure on the preservation of cordial relations between the national committee and the governing bodies of branches and affiliated societies. Hence they desire to have on the central body one representative each of as many as possible of the executives of strong local societies.

Members are earnestly requested to be present at the Annual General Meeting, so that the new committee may have the satisfaction of knowing that they begin work with a real backing from the League as a whole.

The date is April 29th (Thursday). The place, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street.

Both the militant societies achieved great triumphs last week. The Green, White and Gold Fair on Thursday, Friday and Saturday was splendidly organized. The scheme of decoration, worked out with bewildering variety of conception in the League's colours, attracted great attention, while the cleverness of the entertainments deserved all the applause which they

obtained. On Saturday afternoon the N.W.S.P.U. had a great procession from the Marble Arch to the Aldwych Theatre, where a meeting was held to celebrate the return of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence to the scene of action. There was a great muster of Suffragists and the enthusiasm was magnificent.

Next week will witness a memorable series of functions in connexion with the Quinquennial Convention of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. The programme is an elaborate one, made up of business meetings, propagandist meetings, and social assemblies. Delegates from all parts of the civilized world will be present, and the assembly of eminent supporters of the cause will assuredly be not only a striking object lesson to the general public, but also a great incentive to increased activity on the part of the men and women in this country who support the cause.

Our chairman, Mr. Herbert Jacobs, and Dr. C. V. Drysdale will represent the Men's League, on whose behalf a brief address of welcome will be delivered at the opening meeting on Monday the 26th.

On Saturday, May 1st (8 o'clock), the Men's League have the honour of entertaining delegates and friends at a reception in the Galleries of the Royal Society of British Artists, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall. Each member is entitled to one free ticket, and may obtain tickets for guests at a cost of 1s. each.

## A Welcome.

We, who feel it yet—  
The shame that long years since was ours,  
We, who still regret  
The scorn that vents itself upon your powers—  
We, who feel the pain  
That lit the passion in the woman's soul,  
We, who deem it vain  
To stem the flood that sweeps towards the goal,  
We, who love our land  
That wavers yet to make her daughters free;  
We who know the band  
That knits the sexes through eternity,  
We, who feel it true  
That new ideals will send the old a-fleeing  
We send to you  
Our greeting.

TH. GUGENHEIM.

## Formation of Bournemouth Branch.

WE are glad to announce that a strong branch has been formed at Bournemouth. It has not yet been officially adopted, but as the Rules and Constitution are quite normal it is not premature to make the announcement. The Hon. Sec. is Mr. W. R. Hull, who informs us that arrangements are in hand for a big public meeting in May.

## Open-Air Campaign.

At a meeting of the sub-committee last Monday it was decided to continue the Hyde Park meetings (Sundays, 2.30 p.m.) throughout the summer. It was also decided to extend the scope of the work, and on Sunday, May 16th, to hold meetings not only in Hyde Park, but also in Finsbury Park and Brockwell

Park. The meeting in Finsbury Park will begin at 2.30, and that in Brockwell Park at 6.30 p.m. The subsequent programme will be mapped out later, according to the number of speakers who volunteer for service.

We have received from Mrs. Bowden-Smith the welcome news that her father has most generously undertaken to provide us with another platform for use in South London. We are most grateful for this most useful gift, and we promise to give it very hard wear this summer.

Next Sunday the Men's League speakers will be reinforced by Miss Mildred Ransom and Miss Irene Miller. We also want many new male speakers. During the seven weeks since this work began more than half a dozen men have made their first essay in out-door oratory, and, even in spite of the seasoned Hyde Park heckler, have done splendid service, and are rapidly growing accustomed to the conditions. "You have the best platform ever seen in Hyde Park," said an old stager the other day. "Yes," was the reply—"and the best cause."

The meeting in Hyde Park on Sunday last may be fairly described as successful and animated. Mr. Mitchell, who presided during the earlier part of the proceedings, opened with a speech which, although long, was the reverse of tedious. He put the familiar arguments for Women's Suffrage in so clear and convincing a fashion as to draw and retain a crowd of nearly 300 persons around our platform. Mr. Mitchell was followed by Dr. Macpherson, whose assistance was very welcome, and then by Mr. Kennedy, whose short speech was very well received. Mr. Mark Wilks concluded the meeting. There was a certain amount of interruption, but the interruptions were fully answered by Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Wilks, who presided over the concluding part of the meeting, and who was fully equal to the task of dealing with several rather boisterous questioners.

A. W. H.

#### Men's League Speakers.

The resources of the League have been heavily taxed to provide speakers during the last week. The most important meetings have been those at Hastings, for which we were fortunate enough to secure Mr. H. Baillie Weaver, and a debate at the Delphian Coterie, a club of business men meeting in Cannon Street Hotel on Monday at 7 o'clock; at this meeting Mr. S. A. Guest kindly spoke at very short notice. Other meetings were our own regular Hyde Park meeting on Sunday (reported below), and a large meeting of the Women's Freedom League in Battersea, on Monday evening, addressed by Mr. Joseph Clayton and Mr. Duval. Sir John Cockburn opened the Green, White and Gold Fair for the Women's Freedom League on the third day (Saturday last).

#### Equal Pay for Equal Work.

It is a strange thing that in the midst of our modern social and economic system, ostensibly based on logic, common sense, fairness and similar criteria, it should still be necessary to argue the contention that all persons who discharge identical duties under identical conditions with equal efficiency should have equal remuneration. Yet this was a point which had to be voted upon by the Postal Telegraph Clerks' Association at Southampton last Saturday. Miss Slade, of Liverpool, had, in proposing a motion for the equalization of wages among postal telegraphists, irrespective of sex, to point out that the "physical advantages possessed by men did not count in clerical and telegraphic work" (*Evening Standard*, Sat., April 17th).

Mr. Robertson (also of Liverpool), who seconded this proposal, showed the danger which exists in modern society of women displacing men solely for the reason that, though their efficiency is equal, they can be employed for considerably less wages. It appears that even this fairly reasonable resolution was opposed by some of the delegates, but it is satisfactory to learn that the motion was carried by an "overwhelming majority."

The fact that there was any opposition at all is symptomatic of some very serious defects in the thinking apparatus of the male employee. The most obvious defect is the absence of a sense of justice. If two men perform *identical duties equally well*, and one receives higher wages than the other, the anomaly strikes every one as preposterous. Yet there still exist persons who are perfectly satisfied to overlook the anomaly, and even to deny that there is an anomaly, when the less highly remunerated person is a woman. What possible reason is there for this? Two "reasons," if we may call them so, are discovered to operate in the minds of certain persons. The first is the assumption that the man is the head of a household, while the woman is a person with practically no responsibilities, probably living at home, partly at the cost of a father or a husband. Now this assumption is to a great extent falsified by the facts: a very high proportion of women workers are responsible for the support of other people—parents, children, and so forth. And of that comparatively small class of women workers who do live in the house of a father or a husband a great number go out to work because extra support is required to maintain the household in the degree of comfort or respectability to which it regards itself as entitled or constrained.

The second "reason" which is apparently held to justify the inequality is the ludicrous idea that women in the labour market are trying to oust men from their legitimate privileges, and therefore should be penalized in the matter of remuneration. Many male opponents suffer under the curious delusion that the enfranchisement of women will enable them still further to displace men in the labour market. Now what is the fact? When women are enfranchised they will, through trade unions and through the ballot box, bring pressure to bear on the Government of the day, and (secondly) it will become worth the while of legislators—even apart from such pressure—to give thought to women's needs, with the result that employers will, in various ways, be compelled to pay wages irrespective of sex. The result will be that there will be no incentive to employers to select women as opposed to men—their chief reason at present for selecting women being the cheap rate at which they can be obtained—and therefore, other things being assumed equal, they will choose men.

It might seem that women will then be damaged, not benefited. But this is not the case. We women suffragists agree with our opponents that woman's place is specially and peculiarly the home, regarded as the sphere in which the special capacity of women has unique and unchallengeable scope. That is to say it is good for the whole community that women should be free from the necessity of going out of the home to earn their daily bread. This being assumed, how does the equalization of wages between the sexes achieve such a result? Because, it being a matter of indifference to employers in respect of outlay whether they employ men or women, men will be employed in a large number of cases where women now work. This means that a greater number of men will be able either to marry, or, being married, to maintain their households without the help of women. Therefore, fewer women will be forced to work out of doors, and more women will be able to devote themselves to their natural and necessary avocation of rearing and bringing up the children who are to be the citizens of the next generation.

In some, and to a certain extent in all, professions and trades, women will still be employed, because of their superior fitness—because, of course, the capacity of women is by no means confined to the domestic sphere. But those women who by the operation of the law of supply and demand are survivors in the economic struggle will be on equal terms with their male rivals. They will survive, not because their services are more cheaply obtained, but because those services are pre-eminently valuable or productive; and their remuneration will be in proportion to the value of the work done, without regard to their sex.

J. M. M.

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