

THE  
CATHOLIC SUFFRAGIST

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Daughter of the ancient Eve,  
We know the gifts ye gave and give;  
Who knows the gifts which *you* shall give,  
Daughter of the newer Eve?

—Francis Thompson.

## THE DIVINE REMEDY.

BY REV. FATHER T. J. WALSH.

The causes of the present war are manifold, but one stands out pre-eminent—the spirit of aggressive nationality. We ask in wonder and perplexity how it happens that the honourable and heroic sentiment of patriotism produces such dire and deadly results. During the days and nights of this severe winter, our thoughts go out in deepest sympathy and gratitude to the brave men upon whom the duty has been laid of sacrifice for the well-being of the land and the people whom they love. “Dulce et decorum est pro patriâ mori!” And the patriotic sentiment has Christian as well as Pagan sanction. “I wished myself to be an anathema from Christ for my brethren, who are my kinsmen according to my flesh.” We call to mind, too, that the note of gentleness in those words of Our Lord which He addressed to soldiers. We reflect that the Centurion of Capharnaum and the Centurion of Calvary, their profession notwithstanding, were deeply affected by the beauty and sublimity of His character and words. Does it follow that, in the mind of the Master as well as from the standpoint of patriotism, war is a necessary, though deplorable, feature of the Christian life which He came to establish? Such a supposition seems strongly and strangely at variance with the disposition of Him who “quenched not the smoking flax nor did He break the bruised reed.” Whilst

on the one hand it is obvious that our present political ethics render war at times a solemn duty, and that the teaching of theologians lays down specifically the conditions which make it lawful, on the other hand it is abundantly clear that war is not in harmony with the precepts of the Lamb of God who came to heal the sinful passions of our human nature. And yet we are face to face with the fact of European slaughter, together with the profession of the Christian Faith, whose fundamental principle is one of self-sacrifice and love!

It is not difficult to explain how the contradiction has arisen. The seeming paradox is but an example, on a huge scale, of the discrepancy between profession and practice. Political morality accepts no doubt in theory the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount, but refuses to put in practice the fundamental principle on which it is based—the principle that the members of the human stock, whatever may be the accidental differences of race and nationality, constitute one family, one mystical body of which Christ is the Head!

I have been thinking lately of the wars of the Heptarchy. Seven kingdoms in this island fought long and fiercely against one another. In process of time the warring elements coalesced into one kingdom and war ceased for the nonce. I can well imagine

how certain politicians would argue from this instance that war must be terminated by the predominance of the strongest factor, that in fact "Might is Right" according to the gospel of Nietzsche, who undertook to leaven the world with his social and political wisdom and died in a mad-house! But the example is more fruitfully suggestive. The peace of nations comes from union and brotherhood. Enduring peace is won by the adoption of the Divine remedy voiced by an Apostle who was an intense patriot: "put away anger, indignation, malice. . . there is neither Jew nor Gentile, barbarian nor Scythian, bond nor free, but Christ is all and in all!"

I think I hear the comment of the critic: "hopelessly idealistic." But if we desire to judge of the practical efficacy of this remedy, we can do so indirectly by noting the futility of other schemes and directly by reminding ourselves of the authoritative source whence the remedy comes. Just lately in the speech made by Mr. Wilson to the American Senate, the hint was thrown out that if after the war an international court of arbitration be established to settle disputes between nations, America might join with European countries to secure the acceptance and observance of the judicial verdict. But neither the senators as a body nor the American people were willing that their country should be embroiled in European conflicts. Another suggestion has been made. The disputants before the court of arbitration should be compelled to wait a year after the adjudication before they could appeal to the arbitrament of war. So that war may not be eliminated but postponed! No other suggestion of any practical value has appeared.

But is it unpractical to suggest that the nations of the world should lay aside their aggressive attitude one to another and enter into an international compact of common help and service? Is it impossible that the ideal of the family, the members of which are bound together by the cords of Adam, should be extended, so as to o'erpass artificial divisions and geographical accidents? Is the "Civitas Dei," of which Augustine wrote, the dream of a pedant? Is the "Holy Roman Empire," however imperfectly real-

ised, a fable or a fact? Is the teaching of One infinite in wisdom and in power, who knew perfectly the weaknesses of men, so far outside the realm of reality as to merit the name of Divine Idealism? Alas for mankind if the aim of His teaching is beyond human achievement. Faith and Hope and Charity must ultimately go, and the destructive forces of war in the air, on the earth, on the seas and beneath the waters will constitute the polity of nations—the concrete embodiment of their hate!

Granted that an extension of the principles which regulate family life—respect, esteem, service—is the true antidote of national antipathies, and that the individualities of nations (comparable to the varying individuality of the members of a household) are consistent with union and brotherhood, it follows that as the wife and mother have a necessary rôle in the domestic circle, so should woman's effective influence have its just play in the wider sphere. And if we remember that women have from nature (to say nothing of the Supernatural) a special development of those instincts which make for peace, for temperance, for the observance of the precepts of Natural Religion, it is easy to see how important her influence would be to prevent such national catastrophes as we deplore at the present time. It is said on reputable authority that the forthcoming "push" on the Western front will involve a total (counting both sides) of something like four million casualties! The diplomats of Europe may well question the wisdom of those ethics of government which culminate in this horror! And in the new light which sorrow and disaster bring, they may perhaps recognise the value of the complementary influence and power of her of whom the inspired writer has said: "lex clementiæ in linguâ ejus."

It is curious to see how quickly public opinion changes in these strenuous days. Before the war, the newspapers, which voiced the views of political parties, were lukewarm if not actually opposed to women suffrage. Now both Conservative and Liberal papers, antagonistic on many points as they are to each other, unite in acclaiming the magni-

(Continued at foot of page 13).

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Speaker's Conference has presented its report on Electoral Reform, and the majority are agreed that some action must be taken with regard to conferring the Franchise on women. It is proposed to raise the voting age for women to 30, or even 35. We are told that this is a victory for women. If the report is accepted it will be a victory for the principle of woman suffrage, but a defeat for the principle of equality for which we stand. The vote on the same terms as men has been the motto of all the Suffrage Societies, they have not abated their claim; if this fancy franchise for women is passed, it will not be of long duration. No suffragist worthy the name is likely to be content while any lad of twenty-one is considered fit to choose the legislators of the country and no woman under thirty. The case for the supremacy of the male in the government of the world is a lost cause; the war has but hastened its ultimate defeat.

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Members will be glad to have another article from our staunch friend, Father Walshe, whose belief in our cause and in the power of women for good has been so great an inspiration to us all.

\* \* \* \*

Our associate, Father Northcote, who, we regret to say, was badly wounded some time ago, and has lost the sight of one eye, sent us the following message before his return to France:—

"Before I return to France, after a considerable time passed in various hospitals as R.C. Chaplain, moreover, having myself had experience as a patient, I should like to express my warm appreciation of women's work under war conditions. Nothing could exceed their devotion and womanly kindness, unless it be their courage, endurance and discipline. I feel sure that their noble example will have done more for the advancement of the cause of woman's enfranchisement than years of educational work and political agitation. And so, to the cause you have at heart, God speed!"

P. M. NORTHCOTE, C.F.

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At the Annual Meeting of the Incorporated Midwives' Institute the following resolution

was passed unanimously:—"That the Incorporated Midwives' Institute is strongly opposed to Notification of Pregnancy, because it would tend to prevent early engagement of the doctor or midwife and to undermine the confidence between midwife and patient, so necessary if effective ante-natal care is to be attained." Other resolutions dealt with the importance to the nation of an adequate supply of well-trained midwives being maintained. As 80 per cent. of working-class mothers are attended by midwives, the question is of sufficient importance, as Miss Agnes Mott pointed out in her article on the Prevention of Infant Mortality, which appeared in our December issue.

(Continued from page 12).

ficient work of women in the nation's crisis, and gladly endorse their political claim. The cause is practically won. No doubt some "die-hards" still remain whose judgments are clouded by inveterate prejudice. I received an anonymous letter some time ago from an aristocratic London club in which the writer tried to be witty, but succeeded only in shewing coarseness and vulgarity. He had sent a similar document with name affixed to another quarter, and I was sorry to find that he stood revealed as a Catholic bearing a historic English name! May he rest in peace! In the advocacy of important reforms one must expect both the opposition which claims respect and the opposition which merits contempt. All honour to the women who have braved the hardships of the campaign! Writing as a Catholic priest, I look forward with the deepest confidence to the influence of women—the effective influence which the vote will give—upon questions bearing upon the need of religious education, the advocacy of temperance, the amelioration of the hideous evils resulting from the hidden plague, and last but not least, the prevention of those international conflicts which curse the earth that God has made and blaspheme the teaching of Him who died to give to His people peace of heart and peace of mind in a brotherhood of union and love!

## LAW AND THE WOMAN.

To be enjoyed to the utmost, Judge Parry's book, "Law and the Woman," should be read in conjunction with Mr. Beltort Bax's, "The Fraud of Feminism." The latter set out to show that woman is a privileged being in the eyes of the law, Judge Parry gives us a practical handbook showing that the Courts deal out inferior justice to woman. He finds that there is a lot of legal machinery merely waiting for a "friendly shove to topple on to its last resting place on the scrap heap. Much of this law is connected with woman, and it is only chivalrous and respectful to help to clear it out of her path."

We know that the Saxons regarded woman as a chattel, and that fathers sold their daughters to prospective husbands, and Judge Parry tells us that nearly everywhere in the Saxon Laws woman is mentioned as a thing, rather than as a person. So ingrained in the English mind is this idea of woman as property, that even in the last hundred years there have been many authentic instances of wives being sold to other men by their husbands. The latest case which Judge Parry has come across occurred as recently as 1881, where a woman gave evidence that she had been married to another man, but added: "He sold me for twenty-five shillings, and I have it to show in black and white with a receipt stamp on it, as I did not want people to say I was living in adultery."

Till a late date the law allowed a man to beat his wife, and we are reminded in these pages of the various medieval punishments invented by men for the special benefit of women. The scold's bridle, the ducking stool, the whipping of prostitutes (one wonders whether their clients lent a hand in this most moral performance), the burning alive on the charge of petit treason, of a wife accused of the murder of her husband, so the tale goes on.

It is a tale told with humour and much good sense, nevertheless it is often painful reading.

Some thoughtless people have been known to say that at least the law which holds a man responsible for his wife's actions, places the woman in a privileged position. This is not a privilege, it is an insult. Of course when a woman had no right even to her own earn-

ings, it was useless to sue her for damages; when the Married Woman's Property Act was passed, our legislators would seem to have forgotten to alter the law in accordance with the new era.

Catholics will not always agree with Judge Parry's views, and, in all friendliness, will regret to see that the learned judge, more learned in law than in theology, falls headlong into the Mâcon trap, and informs his readers that "early celibate theologians" even went so far as to deny a soul to woman. No theologian, early or late, celibate or married, ever put forward so ridiculous a theory, which, other considerations apart, would strike at the fundamental doctrine of Christianity. For is it conceivable that any man outside of a lunatic asylum, would teach that God became man, taking human flesh of his Virgin Mother who, being a woman, did not possess a soul, and consequently could not be considered a human being at all? It has always been incomprehensible to me how any one person could be found ready to believe such a story. As an independent witness both of its foolishness and of its origin perhaps Mr. Havelock Ellis may serve as well as another. Writing some years ago, he says: "It is sometimes said that the Christian tendency to place women in an inferior spiritual position went so far that a Church Council formally denied that women have souls. This foolish story has indeed been repeated in a parrot-like fashion by a number of writers. The source of the story is probably to be found in the fact, recorded by Gregory of Tours, in his history (lib. VIII., cap. XX.), that at the Council of Mâcon in 585, a bishop was in doubt whether the term "man" included woman, but was convinced by the other members of the Council that it did. The same difficulty has presented itself to lawyers in more modern times, and has not always been resolved so favourably to woman as by the Christian Council of Mâcon." ("The Psychology of Sex, vol. VI. p. 399.)

I need scarcely say that I do not agree with Mr. Havelock Eills' opening sentence, but it at least saves the writer from being suspected of bias in favour of Christian theologians. Ecclesiastical historians have also traced the story to the Mâcon incident, notably the Rev.

Father Thurston, S.J. (Month January, 1911), who further suggests that the discussion may have arisen in connection with the wording of a certain decree of the Council which was to be applicable to both sexes.

There are so many real grievances for our champions to attack, that it seems a pity to waste powder and shot on moonshine.

L. DE ALBERTI.

## LONDON AND BRANCHES.

London and Branches. Office: 55, Berners Street, London. Hours 3-30 to 5-30, Saturdays 10-30 to 12-30. Other times by appointment. Library books 2d. a week. Holy Mass will be offered to the intentions of the Society (for Peace and all killed in the war) on Sunday, March 4th, at St. Patrick's, Soho, at 10-30.

LIVERPOOL BRANCH.—Hon. Sec., Miss W. Cooper, M.A., Seafield House, Great

*Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.*

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

### ANNUAL REPORT, 1916.

In spite of the fact that ordinary methods of propaganda have been more or less in abeyance, Suffragists may congratulate themselves on the remarkable growth of the movement in the past year, and recent events have proved that the Suffragist Societies, including, of course, the C.W.S.S., are more than ever determined that women shall take part as free citizens in the rebuilding of civilization.

Our Annual Meeting was held at the Catholic Association Rooms, 55, Russell Square, on January the 29th. Miss Smyth-Pigott took the chair, and Miss Whately read the report. Miss Fedden moved, and Mrs. Finlayson Gauld seconded the adoption of the report. Mrs. Merivale Maver moved the adoption of the financial statement, which was seconded by Miss Christopher St. John. Miss Fennell moved, and Miss Antonelli seconded a vote of thanks to the Executive Committee. Miss Gadsby made a successful appeal for subscriptions to the office rent fund, and Miss O'Sullivan, who had sold over a thousand copies of the "Catholic Suffragist" in the streets, appealed for papersellers. The whole

Crosby. The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, January 20th, at 18, Colquitt Street. Miss F. Barry, General Secretary, was present, and we were very glad to welcome her amongst us.

The Secretary presented the year's report, and the Treasurer made a financial statement. Several members undertook to help in collecting signatures for a petition organised by the Liverpool Suffrage Societies.

Members will be interested to hear that Miss Lenn is now in France engaged in rescue work.

Prayers are asked for our member, Mrs. Hughes, who has recently died. Arrangements will be made for Mass to be offered for her.

Miss W. Cooper, M.A., has kindly consented to take on the secretaryship in place of Miss T. M. Browne, who, owing to press of work, has been compelled to resign. We offer our best thanks to Miss Browne for her good service in the past year.

tone of the meeting made it very clear that members of the C.W.S.S. are more than ever eager to obtain the vote.

Throughout the year Holy Mass has been offered at St. Patrick's, Soho, at 10-30 on the first Sunday of the month for the intentions of the Society, that is for Peace and for all killed in the war. And on December 31st, Holy Mass was offered for the intentions of the Society at St. James', Spanish Place, by kind permission of his Lordship Bishop Butt, to enable us to take part in the day of prayer arranged by the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union.

On March 18th, a meeting was held, by kind permission of Mrs. Whately, at 75, Harcourt Terrace, when Mrs. Finlayson Gauld delivered an interesting address on "Woman's part, Yesterday, To-day and To-morrow," and Miss Whately from the chair gave a vigorous suffrage speech.

In April, Miss Thurstan kindly gave us an account of her experiences among the refugees in Petrograd, Moscow and the interior. Miss

O'Sullivan, who was hostess, entertained the audience to tea after the lecture. The meeting was held at the Catholic Association Rooms. A donation from the collection was given to the funds of the Maternity Unit sent to Russia by the N.U.W.S.S.

On the Sunday within the octave of the Feast of Blessed Joan of Arc, the Committee and members of the C.W.S.S. attended Mass at Westminster Cathedral, and placed a laurel wreath, tied with our colours, on the shrine of our Patron.

In June, by kind permission of Miss Aungier, a meeting was held at 2, Gordon Place, W., when Mr. Majdewicz lectured on "Poland and her cause," giving us a lucid sketch of the history of that unfortunate land. Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A., presided. Earlier in the month, having received an invitation from the Uxbridge Suffrage Society to send a speaker to give an address from the Catholic point of view, Miss Fitzgerald kindly represented the Society, and explained to a most appreciative audience the aims and views of the C.W.S.S.

In July, by invitation of Miss Forbes-Robertson, a meeting was held at Museum Chambers, at which Miss Gadsby, B.A., presided. Mrs. Anderson gave an account of her work for the National Food Economy League, and Miss Fennell, of our Wimbledon Branch, also addressed the meeting.

During the course of the year delegates from the C.W.S.S. have attended various conferences convened by other Societies, notably the Imperial Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, in July; various Suffrage Conferences convened by the N.W.W.S.S., the United Suffragists, the Women's Freedom League; the Conference on Sex Education of the Young, convened by the Criminal Law Amendment Committee, and the Conference on Venereal Disease, convened by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

**Suffrage Crisis.** The crisis due to the proposed Registration Bill was foreshadowed by suffragists as far back as the autumn of 1915. Various joint letters have been sent to the Prime Minister by the Suffrage Societies during 1915-1916, and a letter was sent from the C.W.S.S. to every Catholic Member of Parliament. In May of this year a Consultative Committee of Constitutional Societies was formed, upon the sug-

gestion of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, the objects being:—(1) To collect and communicate to each other information of mutual interest respecting the activities of the constituent societies, or the political situation generally, (2) To consult together over questions of future policy or methods of action. Seventeen societies, including the C.W.S.S., are represented on this Committee.

**Christmas Sale.** Our stall at the Christmas Sale, organized by the United Suffragists (1915), realised over £20.

Thanks are due to Miss Barry and Mrs. Clarke, to whose efforts this success was due.

The Committee received with great regret the resignation of Miss Smyth-Pigott, who has been a member of the Executive since the foundation of the Society, and desire to record their deep appreciation of Miss Smyth-Pigott's services, especially her work as press secretary, which was of great importance to the Society.

We offer our congratulations to our members, Miss Hastings, who has entered the convent of the Sacred Heart, and Miss Whittam on her reception into the Carmelites.

**Secretaryship.** Miss Gabrielle Jeffery kindly undertook the duties of secretary during Miss Barry's absence from February to June, and Miss Whately has been kindly acting as secretary since November. We very much hope that Miss Barry will return to us in the New Year completely restored to health.

**The Catholic Suffragist.** Our paper is entering on its third year, and has been a greater success than at such a time we had dared to hope. It has been a very valuable means of propaganda, and we have had proofs that it has reached to distant parts of the globe. We have received very generous literary help from professional writers, members or associates of the Society. We have received many letters and messages of congratulation, both from Catholics and non-Catholics. *The Catholic Suffragist* deals with all subjects of interest to feminists. Poor Law Reform, education, emigration, infant welfare, the prevention of infant mortality, venereal disease, &c., are some of the subjects which have been dealt with during 1916.

We offer our thanks to all who have come forward during the year to help either in the office or in paper selling, or in other ways. A special word of thanks is due to Miss Cochrane, who has helped both at the office and in paper selling, and to Miss Whately, who went to the Catholic Truth Society, at Manchester, to sell the paper, and again to Oxford to the Catholic Social Guild Conference for the same purpose, having splendid sales on both occasions. The paper aroused great interest, and everyone attending the Conferences were discussing votes for women. Many of our members are engaged on work in connection with the war in France, Serbia, Greece, and here in England. Before our next report is issued we hope that peace will have been restored, and women enfranchised.

**Finance.** At the conclusion of 1916 we find that £264 14s. 10½d. has passed through our hands, shewing that the funds of the Society have been well maintained. We offer our very sincere thanks to all those members who, notwithstanding the many claims upon their generosity during this terrible time of war, have not ceased to contribute to the needs of the C.W.S.S.

The year 1917 is likely to prove a very critical one in the history of our movement, and the Suffrage Societies must see to it that if there be any bill giving more votes to men, that bill shall also include women. We ask our members once more to help us, by personal service and by subscribing generously to the funds, to do our share of the work among the women's suffrage societies towards bringing the movement to final victory.

#### BRANCHES.

**Birmingham.** So many of the members of this branch are engaged in war work—or in extra work occasioned by the war, that it is impossible to have regular meetings. *The Catholic Suffragist*, however, which is much appreciated, keeps us in touch with the work of the Society.

**Brighton and West Sussex.** The Annual Meeting of the Brighton and West Sussex Branch was held on January 21st, 1916, at the Sussex Pioneer Club. Miss Manning and Miss Wood were elected members of the Committee in place of Miss Bennett and Mrs. Lambert, who had resigned.

Our Chairman, Councillor Ellen Chapman, was this year elected to be our representative on the Executive Committee in London.

In January Miss Busse, the Hon. Secretary, was sent as delegate from the Brighton Branch to the Conference of the various Suffrage Societies held at Essex Hall; only those who were present could understand how extremely interesting it was.

Working parties have been held regularly every week all through the winter at various members' houses, and parcels of clothing sent to Lady Harvey's Maternity Hospital in Belgium, and also to the Serbian refugees in Russia. An immense quantity of beautiful work was done by the Worthing members.

By means of collecting cards, the members of our Branch obtained the sum of £4 10s. to send to the Prisoners of War Fund in Brighton.

Early in January a very delightful social and musical afternoon was held at one of the member's houses; the object being not only to bring all the members together, but to invite those foreigners who had no homes of their own, and to give them some little entertainment. Miss Docker gave great pleasure with her singing, and the harp playing of Miss Hardy was very fine. Little Stella Swift delighted everyone with her artistic dancing.

We hoped to have had a great treat again this year with a lantern lecture from Father Walshe, but he was unfortunately prevented by illness from coming south.

In Worthing, owing to the very strenuous conditions existing, the members who usually undertake the meetings, etc., have been quite unable to carry on their work or hold any meetings locally.

**Cardiff.** Members of the Cardiff Branch are engaged on war work, and are unable at present to hold suffrage meetings.

**Hastings, St. Leonards and East Sussex.** Our Annual Meeting was held on June 5th, when a very pleasant social re-union took place, members being asked to invite their friends, non-Catholics as well as Catholics. When the formal business of the branch was over, tea and talk followed, and this was succeeded by the event of the afternoon—a very delightful and inspiring address from Miss Abadam, who came down most kindly for the occasion. Everyone felt

the better for her address, which was entitled, "From the Woman's Watchtower," and showed forcibly the importance and responsibility of our position as women, to-day and in the future.

Mrs. De la Garde Cameron presided, and at both the beginning and conclusion of the meeting some delightful music on piano and violin was contributed by Miss Frances Wenham and Miss Weisser.

The Hon. Secretary and several members have, during the year, taken part in various drawing-room meetings organized by the Hastings and St. Leonards W.S. Propaganda League. This League, like our own C.W.S.S., believes in the necessity for keeping up the interest of its members in the Suffrage question by frequent meetings and discussions, so as to be ready to take advantage of every opportunity that arises for urging our claim on the Government.

Our Society is also assisting the Propaganda League next month (December) with a Christmas sale, of which half the proceeds are to be given to the "Mothers' Institute and Babies' Welcome"—a valuable society at which our Hon. Secretary has for some time been a member, being elected specially to represent the Catholics and to interest Catholic mothers in the work.

A Ladies' Debating Society having arranged a series of debates on "The Duties of Citizenship," our Hon. Secretary was invited to read a paper at one debate when the work of women in the Church was to be discussed. She read a paper on the work of women in the Catholic Church, being followed by a Church of England and a Free Church member, and an interesting and quite harmonious discussion resulted, in which another of our members, Mrs. Cameron, took part, and contributed some interesting details of Catholic social work.

**Liverpool and District.** The Annual Meeting was held on January 28th, Mrs. Macdonald presiding. The report was read by the Hon. Treasurer. Miss Cooper spoke of the work of the C.W.S.S. at the club in Burlington Street for the relatives of soldiers and sailors. Three vacancies on the committee were filled, which for 1916 stood as follows: Mrs. Macdonald (Chairman), Miss T. M. Browne, M.A. (Hon. Sec.), Miss McKinley (Hon. Treas.), Miss de Bulnes,

Miss Cooper, M.A., Mrs. Hughes, Misses Jervis, Lenn, McKinley, Parle, and Shannon.

In February, the members' meeting took the form of an enjoyable musical evening. Members and friends contributed to the programme.

In March we joined with the other Suffrage Societies who belong to the Liverpool Women's Suffrage Club in organising a lecture at Hardman Hall. Fr. Walshe gave a most interesting lecture, entitled "In the Footprints of St. Catherine of Siena," illustrated by beautiful lantern slides. The Society felt very proud that it could claim Fr. Walshe as one of its earliest and most staunch supporters.

On May 6th we had an extremely interesting paper from Miss D. E. Brennell, M.A., of Liverpool University.

The Jumble Sale held in June, by kind permission of Father O'Brien, of Burlington Street, and organised by Miss Barry, was a great success—over £5 being realised—£1 of which was sent to headquarters to the "Office Rent Fund."

In view of the possibility of a new Franchise or Registration Bill, a public meeting organised by a joint committee of the C.W.S.S., C.L.W.S., and C.U.W.F.L., was held at the Picton Hall, on July 27th. On behalf of the C.W.S.S. Mrs. Macdonald proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., who was the principal speaker.

On the occasion of the C.T.S. Conference in Manchester, several of our members gave valuable help in paper selling, and were most hospitably entertained to lunch by the Manchester Branch. On October 10th a meeting was held at Colquitt Street, at which Miss Whately gave a most stimulating account of her work during the conference, and urged the members to show an untiring energy for the cause at this critical time.

The paper selling during the year has been very satisfactory, thanks to the devoted work of Miss Murray and those members who have regularly sold copies each month. During the summer holidays our members sold at Bangor, Chester and Wrexham. Coventry has also been visited by one of our paper sellers during the year.

We offer our condolences to Mrs. Christian on the death of her mother, Mrs. Hughes, for the repose of whose soul we ask the prayers of her fellow-members. R.I.P.

**Manchester and District.** The majority of the members are engaged on war work, nevertheless quarterly meetings have been held. In August a meeting was held at Houldsworth Hall, when Miss Barry, the London Secretary, gave an address on the valuable propaganda work done by the branches of the C.W.S.S. Members helped to sell papers outside the various churches during the Catholic Truth Society Conference, and entertained Miss Whately and several of the Liverpool members to lunch at the Grand Hotel. Mrs. Hughes is chairman of the branch and Miss Sullivan Honorary Secretary.

**Plymouth.** Our members are engaged on work in connection with the war. A meeting was held in March at which Miss Smyth-Pigott addressed the branch, and Mrs. Kent presided. Father Morissey was present. Since Mrs. Kent left Plymouth, Mrs. Kingdon has been acting as Honorary Secretary. We offer our sincere thanks to Mrs. Kent for her good services to the branch while holding the post of Hon. Secretary.

**Stirling.** This branch is well represented in the public work of Stirling in connection with the war. The Hon. Secretary,

Mrs. Bentley Murray, wrote to the local M.P's, Mr. Ponsonby and Mr. Chapple, on occasion of the proposed Registration Bill, and received very sympathetic answers from both.

**Wakefield.** All the members of the branch being engaged in work connected with the war, no meetings have been held, but we hope to resume work when peace is restored.

**Wimbledon.** Though no Suffrage work has been done the members keep together and join in the numerous charitable undertakings of the district. A very successful drawing-room meeting, held at Mrs. Forder's, was reported in June, when a substantial collection was handed over to Miss Violetta Thurstan for the National Union of Trained Nurses, for the admirable purpose of sending out a Maternity Unit to the refugees in Russia.

Through the perseverance of Mrs. Huggett the "Catholic Suffragist" is sold every Sunday and the poster shown outside the Church. Members would be doing good work if they bought one extra copy of the paper every month to send to non-members.

**CASH STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS** for the year ending 30th November, 1916.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.	
To Subscriptions and Donations (as per List):—								By Rent, Fuel and Lighting	£ 33 18 4
Subscriptions	...	20	5	10				„ Salary of Secretary	52 0 0
Donations to General Fund...	...	33	11	0				„ Postages	10 17 4½
„ for Rent and Office Expenses	...	34	17	0				„ Printing, Stationery and Office Expenses	10 19 3½
„ „ Masses	...	3	5	6				„ Audit Fee	107 15 0
„ to "The Catholic Suffragist"	...	0	12	0				„ Expenses of Meetings and Advertisements	14 15 9
					92	11	4	„ "The Catholic Suffragist"—Printing, Advertisements and Postage	87 3 10
„ Subscriptions to "The Catholic Suffragist"	...	20	6	9				„ Literature Fund	1 1 2
„ Donations to Christmas Sale, 1916	...	20	6	10				„ Mass Offerings	3 0 2
					40	13	7	„ Donation to Maternity Unit, per Miss V. Thurstan	1 1 0
„ Proceeds of Sale of "The Catholic Suffragist" and Advertisements	...	52	15	1				„ Cash in hand, 30th November, 1916:—	
„ Proceeds of Lectures and Meetings	...	13	2	11				General Fund	23 19 2½
„ Literature Fund	...	1	0	11½				Rent Fund	9 7 6
„ Interest on Bank Deposit	...	1	3	0				Literature Fund	0 14 11
„ Cash in hand, 1st December, 1915:—								"The Catholic Suffragist"	13 14 4
General Fund	...	26	19	8½					47 15 11½
Rent Fund	...	8	8	10					
Literature Fund	...	0	15	1½					
"The Catholic Suffragist"	...	27	4	4					
					63	8	0		
					£264	14	10½		

I have examined the above Statement with the Books and Vouchers relating thereto, and certify the same to be correct.  
E. K. SPENCER, Accountant,  
57, Oakley Street, Chelsea.

8th January, 1917.

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including General Fund, Office Rent Fund and Donations to "The Catholic Suffragist" Fund, but NOT including Annual Subscriptions to "The Catholic Suffragist."

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Anderson, Mrs. ... 0 2 6	Clarke, Mrs. H. D. ... 0 6 0	Garner, Mrs. ... 0 1 0
Andrews, Mrs. M. ... 0 1 0	Clayton, Mrs. I. ... 0 5 0	Golden, Miss B. ... 0 10 0
"Anon" ... 0 1 0	Clayton, Miss A. E. ... 0 1 0	Golden, Miss C. ... 0 1 0
" " ... 0 5 0	Clinton, F. W. J., Esq. ... 0 1 0	Gotto, Mrs. ... 1 1 0
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Brady, Miss E. ... 0 1 0	Dunn, Mrs. A. ... 0 3 6	Jerningham, Miss ... 0 1 0
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Bretherton, Miss M. E. ... 0 2 0	"F.F.F.G." ... 1 0 0	Kennett, Miss ... 0 2 0
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	Shore, Miss E. W. ... 0 2 6	

92 II 4

\*Miss O'Sullivan, for expenses of Miss Thurstan's meeting 3 12 9

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