

# The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

# Women's Suffrage

Societies.

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ONE PENNY.

## Notes and Comments.

### The Conciliation Bill.

As we go to press we hear the Government has felt obliged to take the time of the House on Friday, the 22nd for the Miners' Bill since Mr. Bonar Law, the Leader of the Opposition considered the Bill would otherwise be too much hurried. This is of course a disappointment but we are confident that time will be found later for the Conciliation Bill in accordance with Mr. Asquith's pledge given before the industrial troubles were so acute.

Resolutions were passed last week by the Liberal suffragists in the House and by the Labour Party in support of the Bill. Those who see Mr. Sydney Buxton's "wobbly" letter in the *Times* of 18th will be glad to see a first-rate antidote in the letter immediately below it signed by Mr. Noel Buxton and Mr. Whitehouse.

### Deputations.

Deputations have been sent by Societies or Federations within the National Union to Members of Parliament in their own area during the last two months, and in every case it has been felt that, even if the Member could not promise all that was asked, a better understanding was reached of what we did ask and of the recent history of the suffrage movement. Members are always very busy listening to the demands of the electors, who are men, and therefore on a question concerning non-electors, and one which has no party pressure, we are apt to find they need not only frequent reminders but careful instructing in the facts. They can rarely gather these facts from the sensational press and no part of our work is more important than this steady counter-acting of rumour, exaggeration and misrepresentation. We hear that a prominent enemy of our cause in the Cabinet is assuring the Irish Members that a favourable vote on the Conciliation Bill will be a "vote against Mr. Asquith." It might just as well be said that an unfavourable vote was a vote against Mr. Birrell, Sir E. Grey and Mr. Lloyd George! It is nonsense and dishonest nonsense. Mr. Asquith has agreed that the matter shall be an open question and the ingenious Cabinet Minister who has evolved this fresh dodge is in truth

less earnest about Home Rule than desirous of playing his own game.

### Experience versus Prejudice.

Mr. Lewis Harcourt's position among the Antis at the Albert Hall was not an enviable one. We have drawn attention to the preposterous assertion that the vote had no effect on wages; the Australian and New Zealand Women Voters' Committee in London has drawn his attention to the fact that

he pitted his own random assertion that the vote was "bad for woman and bad for the State" against the conclusion *from experience* of those great self-governing Colonies of New Zealand and Australia, whose affairs are his especial care and whose opinion he has thus flouted. It is worth while at this juncture to quote the cablegram sent to Mr. Asquith by the Australian Senate on November 17th, 1910. It ran:—"That this Senate is of opinion that the extension of the Suffrage to the women of Australia for States and Commonwealth Parliament has had the most beneficial results. It has led to the more orderly conduct of elections, and at the last Federal elections the women's vote in a majority of the States showed a greater proportionate increase than that cast by the men. It has given a greater prominence to legislation particularly affecting women and children, although the women have not taken up such questions to the exclusion of others of wider significance. In matters of defence and Imperial concern they have proved themselves as far-seeing and discriminating as men. *Because the reform has brought nothing but good, though disaster was freely prophesied, we respectfully urge that all nations enjoying representative govern-*



Photo: Leslie Shawcross, Blackburn.

LORD ROBERT CECIL, M.P.

ment would be well advised in granting votes for women."

### Bringing Him to Book.

The Committee also passed last week the following resolution, and it was sent to the Right Hon. Andrew Fisher, P.C., Premier of the Australian Commonwealth:—"That this meeting of the Executive of the Australian and New Zealand Women Voters' Committee (London) respectfully calls the attention of the Premiers of Australia and New Zealand to a speech of the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the Albert Hall, London,

on February 28th last, and asks to be informed whether the public condemnation of any constitutional principle accepted in any of the self-governing Dominions is compatible with tenure of office of Colonial Secretary."

**Branding Women.**

In no particular, however, did Mr. Harcourt show himself more completely the Grand Bashaw than in that wonderful sentence, "Once in Parliament you cannot brand them as a class or sex apart, to be deprived of any of the high offices which are open to men. If they are not to attain those offices it must be not by the avowal of sex, but by an admission of incapacity. There is no question at present of women in Parliament, but he it observed Mr. Harcourt objects to women in Parliament because he wishes to "brand" them, as they undoubtedly are at present branded, "as a class or sex apart," under a life-sentence of disfranchisement, and this by no "admission of incapacity," but by a mere "avowal of sex." Women are only asking that they shall be allowed to do what they have the capacity of doing, and Mr. Harcourt actually states as a reason for refusing them the vote that it would lead to their getting into Parliament (which is an entirely different matter, and does not in the least follow), and that then you could no longer "brand" them. Really it is almost enough to make a nice-minded Anti desire to see his wife in Parliament.

**An Interesting Canvass.**

One of the fairest canvasses we have yet heard of was described in the *Standard* of March 15th. It will be observed that those canvassed were given the opportunity of signing either way, so the 597 who refused to sign at all cannot be added to either side.

The work was started by the Christchurch and East Dorset branches of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, and carried out by members of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and of the Church League. The results were as follows:—

Wards.	Total.	For.	Agst.	Dead.	Refused to sign.	Too ill to sign.	Gone away.
West Cliff ..	156	94	6	0	31	13	12
East Cliff ..	243	145	7	0	53	22	16
Southbourne	502	341	4	6	56	25	70
Boscombe ..	620	320	8	2	156	40	94
Winton .....	272	162	3	2	55	17	33
Branksome	273	170	3	3	49	17	31
Westbourne.	255	162	7	2	33	16	35
Central .....	216	133	3	1	30	18	31
	2,537	1,527	41	16	463	168	322
Wards (unfinished)							
Springbourne	104	56	2	0	24	9	13
Malmsbury	301	184	3	4	55	18	37
Christchurch	203	108	2	4	55	16	18
	3,145	1,875	48	24	597	211	390

In canvassing, two forms of petition were used, the wording of these being:—

1. We, being women who would receive the Parliamentary vote under the Conciliation Bill, do earnestly pray you to do all in your power to assist in passing that Bill into law. We feel that, as we pay rates and taxes, we should have some voice in choosing the representative who will vote how the money so raised is to be spent.
2. We, being women who would receive the Parliamentary vote, under the Conciliation Bill, do earnestly pray you to do all in your power to prevent that Bill from being passed into law.

People were first asked to sign petition 1. If they were not in favour of the Parliamentary vote being given to those women who are already on the municipal register, then they were asked to sign petition 2.

We do not give great weight to canvasses but this is the best method we have yet heard of.

**The Churches and Women's Suffrage.**

We are glad to hear that suffragists are to have the comfort and inspiration of several religious services on the eve of March 22nd; reference is made to these on page 854 and we are very sorry that by an accident notices of them fell through last week. The help that is being given by the Churches is a very great help to many women. Of Women's Suffrage it may be said truly, as Mrs. Butler (herself of course an earnest suffragist) said of her "great crusade," "It may seem a paradox, but it must be stated truly to my inner circle of friends, that this movement was born of God, secretly inaugurated by years of silent prayer . . . and that at the same time it was far from being a movement patronised by Christians at first. Indeed, the Christian churches were only very slowly and gradually gained to the condescension of looking at the question. Bishops and clergy and ministers of different denominations poured upon our little early group all the disdain they felt for

us." But the movement has always had some precious help from the Churches and we hope that the formation of the various Leagues (the Church, Free Church, Catholic and Friends') may greatly increase and make effective this help.

**The Lesson of the Strike.**

There is a considerable amount to be learned from the coal strike. The men have been successful in the first instance because they have been unanimous, and because they have been able to hold up a vitally important industry. They have not been formidable by the use of physical force in the crude sense of fighting, but by the equally formidable use of their power to withhold what is essential. The general sense of the community has been that it would not be fair to prevent the men from bettering their condition if they can do so by refusing what is theirs to give. We hope that when women are striving to better their conditions, whether industrial or social, men will remember to be as fair to them, and not try to drive them into any particular trade or career by closing all others to them. Coercion of that sort might lead to some entirely unprecedented and not very agreeable forms of the strike.

**Wilful Blindness.**

At a recent meeting questions were invited and a few sent up. Afterwards, however, an Anti-Suffragist came up to the speaker and said, "I couldn't ask you this before, but I will now. Don't you know the working women are against it?"

SUFFRAGIST: "No. I think they are for it when they are not misled. They certainly are in the North. We have dozens of working women who speak splendidly for the suffrage. Where are the Anti-Suffrage working women?"

ANTI: "Oh, *We* don't go screaming on platforms!"

SUFFRAGIST: "No-o-o? Then how do you account for the fact that women's trade unions and labour organisations of all sorts for men and women are with us?"

ANTI: "But they are all *Socialists!* And you don't want *Socialists* to have the vote, do you?"

SUFFRAGIST: "Then there is the Women's Co-operative Guild, all working women and mostly mothers of families, how do you—?"

ANTI: "Oh, it's no use talking to *you!* You *won't* understand!"

**A Notable Debate.**

On the evening of Wednesday, February 21st, an interesting debate took place on the subject of Women's Suffrage between the Arnold Society, a well-known debating society of Balliol College, and the Political Debating Society, of Somerville College. The debate has a historic importance in that it represents the first occasion, in conservative Oxford, on which members of a woman's college have been invited to join formally in a debate organised by members of the University. The subject of women's suffrage was debated with seriousness and enthusiasm. The speakers were deliberately chosen, two men and two women speaking for the motion, two men and two women against. The following points were significant. The best speech and the worst speech were by men, whilst the level of the women's speeches were noticeably good. Further, the coolest and most solid speeches both for and against the motion came from the women, and the most emotional speeches on each side from the men.

The motion ran:—"That this House is resolved that in matters of franchise no distinctions should be made between man and woman," and it was carried by 86 votes to 26.

**Sweden Next.**

It is one of the most encouraging circumstances of our movement that where women have been enfranchised it tends to spread. Norway's women have the vote. The Government Bill to enfranchise women is being brought before the Swedish Parliament in the last week of March.

**Our Portrait.**

This week we publish the portrait of another steadfast friend, Lord Robert Cecil. It is interesting to note what loyal friends we have always had in his family: the late Lord Salisbury was, as everyone knows, favourable to the enfranchisement of women; so is Lord Hugh and one of the keenest workers we have is his sister, Lady Selborne. The chivalrous feeling for women goes into other branches of the family, Mr. Arthur Balfour never having swerved and Mrs. Lidgwick having devoted her whole life to the advancement of women. We think that Lord Robert Cecil's statement (on February 27th, quoted in our issue of March 7th) that he was anxious to co-operate with Mr. Lloyd George to secure the franchise for women this year was, at the present crisis and in view of their Parliamentary relations, one of the most generous things that have been done. An admirable letter by him appeared in the *Times* of March 15th.

**The A.B.C. of Women's Suffrage.**

**THE ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS.**

The League for opposing Women's Suffrage held its

**FIRST ALBERT HALL MEETING**

lately, and some of their "arguments" struck one as odd. Lord Loreburn said we had to choose whether we should be governed by women

**OR**

by men. No suffragist has ever at any time suggested that any votes should be taken away from men to be given to women. He said it was not right to spring

**A SURPRISE**

on the country in the shape of Votes for Women. It would, perhaps, be a surprise to Lord Loreburn to know that women have asked for the vote since 1867, and have had a majority in the House of Commons since 1886. If Lord Loreburn did not know that, it shows his ignorance, and if he did know it, he traded on the ignorance of his audience. Lord Curzon said he was fighting the battle of the

**WORKING WOMEN**

of this country. He wants to prevent them from having that political power by which men have helped their trade unions and in a hundred ways got advantages, and will get more. He said, you "could not

**DRAW THE LINE**

at any qualification," but he did not explain why it would be impossible to "draw the line" for the Parliamentary vote exactly where it has been drawn, for over 40 years, with regard to the municipal vote. Women householders have the vote for town and other councils; why could not the "line" be drawn there *if the country wished it?* He said the House of Commons was

**VERY SENSITIVE**

to opinion in the country, yet he said the country did not want women to have the vote. How does he account for the fact that we have had a majority for 26 years in this sensitive House? Are you finding all this rather confusing? It is, very! But that's not nearly all! The audience cheered Lord Curzon very loud when he spoke of "that

**HATEFUL AND COWARDLY**

belief" that "The Vote must come!" He said it need not come if the country did not want it and we quite agree with that; but he had just been saying that if a few women had the vote all women *must* have it! And that if women got the vote they *must* get into Parliament! And he didn't explain why. Then Miss Markham made a very fine speech, saying that she too was defending the poor working woman from having a chance of saying what candidate she preferred and all the

**HONOURABLES AND RIGHT HONOURABLES**

on the platform and in the hall applauded her very loudly when she said that women ought to keep out of the "ugly scramble" for good things, and that "renunciation" was the proper thing for women. She was speaking for *working women* you see, and it was rather a pity that there were none to hear her. It is rather

**A QUEER THING**

that if working women are so strongly against the vote we should have so many fine working women and leaders of working women to speak for it. The working woman's point of view is taken by Miss Mary Macarthur and Miss Margaret Bondfield, by Mrs. Cooper of Nelson, Miss Reddish of Bolton, Mrs. Chew of Rochdale, Mrs. Aldersley of Middleton, Mrs. Richardson of London, Miss Roper and Miss Gore Booth, Mrs. Harrison Bell of Newcastle, by Mrs. Eddie and Mrs. Lawson (Manchester midwives), and by dozens more up and down the country who work in trade unions.

Lord Curzon called our movement a

**HOLLOW AND ARTIFICIAL AFFAIR,**

and it sounded oddly when we know that over 140 local councils (including all the great towns) have passed Women's Suffrage resolutions. Why should Lord Cromer (from Egypt) and Lord Curzon (from India) know more about Englishwomen than the men who are sent to sit on city councils partly by the

**VOTES OF THE WOMEN?**

But the chief point which they all made was that Votes for Women had not been "before the country." Now we should have supposed that if there was one subject about which we have all heard till we are

**SICK OF IT,**

that subject is Votes for Women. It has been argued for half a century, and for years past the candidates have been questioned at every election about their views, and their views have been published broadcast. During the last year, out of 49 candidates there were

**ONLY EIGHT ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS.**

The truth is the anti-Suffragists can't argue; they can only feel. Some of them don't like militant methods; some of them don't want adult suffrage. These are not really anti-Suffragists, and when you have left them out of your calculations, you come to the rest, some of whom always oppose all change, and others who have no better reasoning than this: "Men vote; therefore it is manly to vote; therefore it is unwomanly to vote.

**DO YOU WANT TO BE AN UNWOMANLY WOMAN?**

Very well then!"

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LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., accompanied by a stamped envelope addressed if it is desired that they should be returned. The Editor accepts no responsibility, however, for matter which is offered unsolicited.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices, and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents, however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long beforehand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last day possible, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and book-stalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., giving the name and address of the news-agent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

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### Remember the Women.

#### An Appeal to Suffragists in the House.

It is a heartless and cruel deception to tell poor women that the possession of a vote would enable them to raise their wages. Parliament has never attempted such a thing for men.

MR. LEWIS HARCOURT, Albert Hall, February 28th, 1912.

The date of publication finds us on the eve of the Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill, the third occasion upon which the House of Commons will have been asked to approve of what is substantially the same Bill. Two circumstances will affect the voting peculiarly on this occasion: the one is the definite promise of further facilities for the Bill when committed to a Committee of the whole House; the other is the recent action of the W.S.P.U. in opposition to the Conciliation Bill. It will be interesting to note to what degree that organisation will be successful in reducing our majority, and in view of the extreme rapidity of successive "waves of feeling" in the Press and in all places where they gossip, it is almost impossible to form any estimate. We will not attempt one. We prefer that the National Union, having worked its hardest, should abide the issue with constancy. Last year, after a period of peace, the Conciliation Bill passed its Second Reading by a majority of 167. Let us consider the various excuses that are brought forward for a reduction in that majority.

It was a composite majority, made up of men of all parties: out of 310 voting or pairing for the Bill, there were 170 Liberals, 78 Unionists, 31 Nationalists, and 31 Labour; out of 143 voting and pairing against, there were 48 Liberals, 86 Unionists, 9 Nationalists, and no Labour. In addition, there were six members, all favourable, who could find no pairs. We will consider the parties separately. Apart from the question of disorder, which should affect all parties in a representative House equally, what special appeal does the Conciliation Bill make to each party?

As far as the Unionist Suffragists are concerned, there seems no doubt that the Bill is (next to a Bill for giving women the vote on the same terms as men now have it) the Bill which most nearly meets their views. It cuts out certain categories of voters, but there is no reason why a future Government should not, if it so desire, amend the franchise to include further categories. Conservative opinion generally is on the side of gradual development as opposed to sudden and cataclysmal change, and "to make the household franchise a reality" is surely an object in entire agreement with the best Conservative opinion.

We can see no reason of a really broad and patriotic nature why Liberals should hold that a measure grateful to progressive Conservatives must necessarily be objectionable to Liberals: there are, we believe, a considerable number of social reforms which might quite well be tackled by the parties in conjunction,

and women's suffrage is pre-eminently one. No one knows how the women will vote, and if anyone did it does not become any man who professes to believe in representation to deny the vote merely on the ground that the voter may not agree with him. Moreover it is idle to pretend that there need be any finality about franchise reforms. The Antis are very fond of saying that "you can't stop." All Antis in all times have always been saying that, and it is the foolish thing, because as long as there are no good reasons for stopping you should not stop, and when there are good reasons for stopping you should stop. "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." Among Suffragists there are men who say "some women" should have the vote; others say "more women," and yet others say "all women." Now those who want "more" or "all" women will, if they stay in power, have an opportunity this session of seeing whether there is a majority for the extension of the vote to more women, and that circumstance should make them willing to allow the smaller measure to pass unharmed. In order to safeguard their opportunity in this Parliament, there is no reason why an amendment should not be inserted during Committee stage of the Conciliation Bill, postponing the actual placing of women's names on the register to 1914: this would give the friends of a wider measure in the Government Reform Bill all they need desire.

With regard to the possible defection of some of our Irish supporters, no one has suggested that this would be for any but the merest tactical reasons relating to their fears lest women's suffrage should in some way injure the chances of Home Rule. As far as we are able to diagnose these fears they come under three heads: (1) The general vague impression, fostered by the policy of the militant societies, that women's suffrage is "anti-Government." Now, whatever the policy of the Suffrage Societies (and there are, as a matter of fact, two opposed policies) there is no doubt that the healing of this festering sore of women's dissatisfaction could only tell in favour of the Government. It is never good for any Government that long-delayed justice should continue to be delayed. (2) The specific knowledge that Lord Loreburn (said to be one of the men in the Cabinet most determined on Home Rule) has denounced the proposal to deal with women's suffrage in this Parliament as "a constitutional outrage." Now if Lord Loreburn was carried away into using this phrase as politicians unfortunately do use phrases, without really meaning all its implications, it doesn't much matter and neither the Irish members nor anyone else need take it as meaning more than that Lord Loreburn dislikes women's suffrage and has arrived at the somewhat belated conclusion that it is imminent. But if he, being Lord Chancellor, really means that the Prime Minister's pledge that the question should be "effectively dealt with in this Parliament" constitutes a "constitutional outrage," why then he ought to have resigned when the pledge was given, and he cannot in honour now hold the threat of resignation in *terrorem* over our supporters in the House. In 1884 Mr. Gladstone threatened to resign if Mr. Woodall's amendment passed, and the threat availed him then. Much water has run under the bridge since 1884, and the pressure of opinion has become so great that Mr. Asquith has promised this shall not occur again, but that the question shall be left to a "free vote of the House." It would not be a free vote if the Lord Chancellor threatened to resign, and if he did so he would clearly be breaking the Government pledge. (3) There is finally the undoubted fact that there is great pressure upon the time of Parliament, and the "elastic week" will encroach upon what is available for other questions. We make this appeal to all members who are interested in "other questions":—You could have urged, and you did not urge, the claims of women in times of less pressure; it was not the fault of the women that you did not do so, it was your own lack of sufficient feeling for the women. We have put our plea before the men of England for nearly 50 years; we have had a majority in the House of Commons since 1886. Are we to think so ill of our friends as to believe that they will first calmly consent to having our question shelved in time of peace, and then refuse to vote for it in time of war, making the war an excuse? We know that "other questions" are urgent, but we believe that if all our friends will fight our battle with conviction and warmth there need be no great expenditure of time on this very simple Bill.

And now just a few words about those "other questions." The question which is at this moment convulsing the nation far more than any other is the question of the miners' minimum wage. We head this article with a quotation from a speech made by Mr. Lewis Harcourt, and we can only imagine that he must have forgotten his words would be carried beyond those walls containing him and his audience of ignorant women and prejudiced men. Oblivious of the fact that his own Government had established Wages Boards in several industries (chain and

box-making and tailoring), that Governments had been compelled by the pressure of men's votes to adopt fair wages for men in Government employ, that indirectly in a thousand ways, by interfering (or not interfering) with the conditions of labour and the opportunities of training and employment, Governments affect wages, he chose this time of all times—when the whole country is convulsed by the dispute about a minimum wage for miners, and when he knew perfectly well that the Government was contemplating legislation—to assert that it was "a heartless and cruel deception to tell poor women that the possession of a vote would enable them to raise their wages"! And he went on to assert that the only need of women was combination.

Now we appeal to our Labour friends. Do they not know that where men are sweated, women are worse sweated? Do they not know that whereas unemployed men starve, employed women starve? Do they not know that with equal wage for equal work it would not be possible for women to undercut men? Do they not realise that, if combination is what women need (and no one for one instant has ever denied it), the possession of political power will give an enormous impetus to combination? It is notoriously difficult for sweated workers to combine; it took the dockers very many years and an immense amount of organisation by more fortunate men, to achieve combination, and this difficult work was infinitely easier than the organisation of women, parcelled out as they are in individual homes. The Labour men are beginning to understand that the women's cause is theirs, and that to keep back the women is to keep back the men and to keep back the whole nation. Let them "remember the women" when they are seeking their own.

And for those who desire order, who seek peace and ensue it, let them remember there is no order in stagnation, no peace in the denial of justice.

### The Antis' Reign of Terror.

This is really terrible, worse than one might have thought, and in fact the Reign of Terror of the history books is simply not in it any more!

Lord Curzon writes us a homily under four heads, firstly, secondly, thirdly, and lastly. In firstly, secondly, and thirdly he tells us that if we do not make great haste to join his Society, women, or—to use his conveniently interchangeable synonym—law-breakers, will be getting the vote before we have had time to pull ourselves together.

To quote from the homily more precisely, he gives "excellent reasons for applying this advice" about joining, but the "excellent reason" headed "Lastly" is the priceless gem. "Those who do not openly sever themselves from the law-breakers can have no right, as long as they lend to the latter the tacit support of their acquiescence, to be surprised if they too become suspect!"

That is, that Mr. Bodkin, and Messrs. Chappell and Co., and Mr. John Burns, and members of the House of Convocation or of the Carlton Club, and the taxi-cab drivers, and the President of the Royal Geographical Society (even, Madam, you yourself), failing the talismanic N.L.O.W.S. after their names, may become "suspect." It is hideous—even that strong, silent man who directs the columns of the *Observer* may be excused for trembling. But it is worse than hideous (I know I am getting a bit hysterical, but I am only a woman after all). Even if you do join the N.L.O.W.S., you may still be suspect in the eyes of some—at least if live rats are law-breaking as well as hammers. Last week certain persons (this time not suffragist women, but anti-suffragist men) arrived with sacks of live rats to attend a non-militant Suffragist meeting not 50 miles from London, and yet the N.L.O.W.S. is still using writing paper on which we look in vain for the imprint "Anti-Rat" or "Rat catchers' daughters not eligible." In fact, so great has the pressure upon their time been lately that they have not even found leisure to inscribe "Ulster must not fight, because it would not be right." I feel sure Lord Curzon and Miss Pott will give the matter their immediate and serious attention, lest a great nation with heavy imperial responsibilities should be reduced to a state of gibbering panic. A. H. W. (Suspect).

### Deputation to the Lord Advocate of Scotland.

#### Mr. Ure and Mr. Gulland steadfast Friends.

On Saturday, March 16th, Mr. Ure received a deputation from the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies at the Parliament House, Edinburgh. Miss Lisa Gordon, local

organiser, introduced the deputation, and showed in her speech the enormous progress the movement had made of late years. Miss Chrystal Macmillan questioned him as to his intentions with regard to the Conciliation Bill, the Government Reform Bill, and the Referendum. Miss Andrew, representing the members of the Union resident in Bo'ness, spoke of the need of the women workers.

In reply, Mr. Ure said he would state his position frankly. He had been a believer in Women's Suffrage all his life, and though he had never spoken for it, he had been a consistent supporter. He considered that there was no argument for giving votes to men which did not apply with equal force to giving votes to women. Referring to the recent demonstration of the militant Society, although he was of opinion that it had undoubtedly prejudiced the chances of support from certain quarters, for himself he clearly held the view that no thinking person would alter his attitude towards the principle, or have his line of action affected by the ill-advised methods of a few of the supporters of the movement.

Regarding the Conciliation Bill, he understood that the National Union did not support the Conciliation Bill as an ideal, but as a practical measure, and he pledged himself to vote for its second reading on March 22nd. Speaking of possible widening amendments to that Bill, he expressed his intention of taking the same line as Sir Edward Grey, and of voting against any amendments tending seriously to divide the supporters of Women's Suffrage.

When the Reform Bill comes to be discussed, he will take the line which he considers most likely to secure the addition of Women's Suffrage to the measure. Failing the passing of an amendment conferring equal suffrage on men and women, he will vote for the amendment giving votes to women householders and the wives of householders, and failing such he will vote for the inclusion of women on the lines of the Conciliation Bill. He reminded the deputation of the statements made by prominent members of the Cabinet against the Referendum, and he pledged himself to vote against its application to Women's Suffrage.

The deputation then withdrew, after thanking Mr. Ure for his courtesy in receiving them.

Mr. Gulland, Scottish Whip, member for Dumfries Burghs, received a deputation from the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies on March 15th, and gave an assurance that he would vote for the second reading of the Conciliation Bill, March 22nd.

### A Working Women's Appeal.

The following letter has been issued to Members of Parliament:—

5, John Dalton Street, Manchester,  
March 12th, 1912.

STR.—In view of the withdrawal of support of the Women's Suffrage Conciliation Bill threatened by certain members of Parliament in consequence of the recent action of the Women's Social and Political Union, may we draw your attention to two points?

1. The Conciliation Bill has been rejected by the Women's Social and Political Union: therefore, in voting against it, any member who is in favour of Women's Suffrage will be supporting the militant policy.

2. May we remind you that amongst its supporters are that great mass of quiet but not less desperately determined professional and industrial workers who have petitioned Parliament again and again, held great demonstrations, fought elections and given the energy and work of years to every method of constitutional propaganda. Is it a fair reward for long resistance to the modern appeal to force and disorder, that the interests of these self-restrained and independent women workers should be thrown to the winds without a moment's consideration by those who desire to punish 200 women who broke windows, for which they are already being punished by the law of the land?

The demand of the working women dates back long before the foundation of the Social and Political Union and anybody who knows the needs and sufferings of the working classes will recognise that it is one with which the country will have to deal.

Our Committees therefore appeal to you to support the Conciliation Bill on March 22nd.

We are, yours faithfully,  
ESTHER ROPER,  
National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society.  
EVA GORE BOOTH,  
SARAH REDDISH,  
Lancashire and Cheshire Women Textile and other Workers' Representation Committee.  
SARAH DICKENSON,  
Manchester and Salford Women's Trades and Labour Council.

### Irish Women's Appeal to Irish Members.

MADAM.—As an Irish association, which for nearly forty years has been labouring to obtain some measure of electoral justice for our women, we shall feel very much obliged if you will kindly permit us, through your

columns, to express our confident trust that there will not be one of our Parliamentary representatives who will not do everything in his power to ensure that our Conciliation Bill, or some reasonable extension of it, will be enacted during the present Session. If that extremely moderate concession to our legitimate claims had been made during last Session, when its second reading was carried in the House of Commons by a majority of 167 votes, the lamentable events which have just occurred in London and elsewhere would never have taken place. The responsibility for those lawless acts, in our judgment, must largely rest with those who have so long persistently denied our women any measure of enfranchisement.

To our numerous representatives, of all shades of political opinion, who have so generously helped us in past years, we desire to tender our very cordial thanks.

On behalf of our Association,

I am, yours truly,  
ANNA M. HASLAM,  
(Hon. Sec.).

Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association,  
125, Leinster Road, Dublin, March 16th, 1912.

### Text of the Conciliation Bill.

The Conciliation Bill is a private Member's Bill which has already passed its second reading once last year in precisely this form, and the year before with some differences. It is the Bill for which the Government has promised full facilities this year, and the date of second reading has been fixed for March 22nd.

#### A BILL TO CONFER THE PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE ON WOMEN.

Be it enacted, etc.:

1. Every woman possessed of a household qualification within the meaning of the Representation of the People Act (1834) shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, and when registered, to vote for the County or Borough in which the qualifying premises are situate.
  2. For the purpose of this Act, a woman shall not be disqualified by marriage for being registered as a voter, provided that a husband and wife shall not both be registered as voters in the same Parliamentary Borough or County Division.
  3. This Act may be cited as The Representation of the People Act, 1911.
- It will be seen that this Bill would not give the vote to all women, nor to women "on the same terms as men," but only to women householders, whether married or unmarried.

#### NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

**OBJECT:** To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.  
**METHODS:** (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in this country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

**Hon. Secretaries:** Miss K. D. COURTNEY. **President:** Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.  
**Secretary:** Miss GERALDINE COOKE. **Hon. Treasurer:** Mrs. AUERBACH.  
**Hon. Secretary to Press Committee:** Miss EMILY M. LEAF.  
**Telegrams:** "Voiceless, London." **Hon. Sec. to Literature Committee:** Miss I. B. O'MALLEY. **Telephone:** 1960 Victoria.  
**Offices:** Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

#### The Conciliation Bill.

The event of this week is the second reading of the Conciliation Bill, which will be moved by Mr. Agg-Gardner (U.), and seconded by Sir Alfred Mond (Lib.), on March 22nd.

Since the date was fixed very many members of Parliament have been approached through their constituents by deputation or otherwise, and an immense amount of work has been carried on by the National Union all over the country.

The result of the second reading will be known soon after this paper is in the hands of readers; it is of course obvious that we cannot count upon so large a majority as that of 1911; the opposition is probably better organised than it was last year, when it collapsed altogether, and a certain number of those who have hitherto voted for the Conciliation Bill or promised to do so have now declared their intention of abstaining or of voting against it as a protest against the recent outbreak of violence on the part of the W.S.P.U. There is also some uncertainty as to the attitude of the Irish Party.

We do not envy those gentlemen who go back on their pledges the task of explaining their position, especially should they again present themselves as candidates in their constituencies; but their defection does not throw us into a state of despair. Our majority of 167 is not an easy one to wipe out, and the division on the 22nd will show us very clearly who can really be depended upon in the House of Commons.

In the meantime the Anti-Suffragists make it clear that their weapon is misrepresentation. We spoke last week of Miss Gladys Pott's attempt to misrepresent Mrs. Fawcett. This week an article on the same lines appears in the *Standard*, and no one will be surprised that the writer, who calls himself "Observer M.P.," prefers to remain anonymous. It is

### In Parliament.

#### HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

On Friday last week, Sir A. Griffith-Boscawen introduced a "Housing of the Working Classes Bill," which was read a second time without a division and sent to a Standing Committee. The Bill provides for a special Housing Commission of three, who shall go about the country, and on whose report the Local Government Board will have power to act, over the heads of a defaulting local authority, and to charge it with the expense. Mr. John Burns spoke against the Bill, and said "the day the Commissioners (under the Bill) come into my department, that day I walk out."

#### WOMEN UNDER THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.

On Thursday, 14th, in reply to Mr. Philip Snowden's question whether, in the minor appointments under the Insurance Commissioners, men and women were receiving equal pay for equal work, Mr. Masterman said the scales paid to men and women respectively holding minor appointments were those applicable to the Civil Service generally, and the Commission hope to appoint women to higher positions as the work progresses and opportunity offers. There was no differentiation of pay between men and women; they were doing different work.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

On Monday, 11th, Mr. Asquith announced that the Home Rule Bill would be introduced on the Tuesday or Wednesday following the Easter recess. This was the date "which has always been contemplated and intended."

On Saturday the Prime Minister announced that the Government, having done all in their power to arrive at a settlement by agreement between the coalowners and the colliers, had come to the conclusion with great regret that that was impossible. The Government would accordingly ask from Parliament "a legislative declaration that a reasonable minimum wage, accompanied by adequate safeguards for the protection of the employer, should be a statutory term of the contract of employment of people who are engaged underground in coal mining." It is stated that Tuesday, 19th, is the day fixed for the introduction of the measure.

unnecessary to reply to his insinuations, as Mrs. Fawcett is entirely beyond the reach of this kind of attack; but no well-informed reader could fail to smile at the remarkable inapplicability of the pseudonym which he is pleased to adopt. The whole article is a mass of inaccuracies, but the most humorous touch is contained in the statement referring to the Conciliation Bill that "For years that Bill was the apple of their eyes and the darling of their hearts," meaning the W.S.P.U. Everyone who knows anything about the Conciliation Bill knows that it came into existence in the summer of 1910, so that it could not have been the apple of anyone's eyes for more than 21 months, and it was repudiated by the W.S.P.U. last November. We advise "Observer" to study his facts before he commits himself to print again.  
K. D. COURTNEY.

#### A Model Memorial.

The West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation has sent up a memorial to Mr. Bonar Law, accompanied by the following letter. It may be worth stating that the services of Miss Thompson, the organiser who collected the memorial, can be secured by other Federations who are contemplating similar work. The experience of the West Lancs. Federation has convinced them that memorials as influential as that summarised below can be obtained in almost any constituency, at least in the North, if undertaken by some one with sufficient tact and experience. We have found that many M.P.'s are receiving most misleading and inaccurate reports from their party agents as to the feeling in the country about Women's Suffrage, and we believe that memorials of this sort are the best way of counteracting such reports.

Applications for the services of Miss Thompson should be made to me or to our Hon. Secretary, Miss J. Beavan, 12,

Ullet Road, Liverpool, who can also give full information about the procedure adopted, time, cost, etc. ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

[Copy.]

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.  
(West Lancashire, West Cheshire and North Wales Federation, and the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, Liverpool Branch.)

To the Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, M.P. March 12th, 1912.  
DEAR SIR,—As you were unable to consent to receive the deputation suggested in our previous letter, we are sending to you by registered post a memorial from your constituents and supporters in favour of Women's Suffrage.

May we venture to draw your attention to the unusual nature of this Memorial? It is not a mere haphazard collection of names. The signatures have been collected upon a definite plan to fulfil a definite purpose. We were aware that you did not yourself need conversion to the subject of Women's Suffrage, but we were anxious to demonstrate to you and others the absurdity of the contention put forward by the Anti-Suffrage Society that the great bulk of solid, respectable opinion in the country is opposed to Women's Suffrage. We therefore invited signatures only from a selected number of representative persons of weight and influence in Bootle. The analysis overlaid will give the result. It cannot be said that men of the types represented "will sign anything," and as the lady who collected the signatures was a stranger to Bootle, she cannot be said to have exercised political or social pressure. The Bootle W.S. Society is a small one, and there has been very little Suffrage propaganda there. We do not pretend that all the gentlemen who have signed are enthusiastic advocates of Women's Suffrage, but obviously the opinions they have formed are favourable.

We think it is also noteworthy that out of the 136 signers, 116 have asked you to support not only the Conciliation Bill, but the wider measure giving the vote to women householders, with the addition of married women. The remaining 20 were not willing to go beyond the Conciliation Bill, and have signed on a separate sheet.

We are, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) ELEANOR F. RATHBONE,  
EVELYN DEAKIN.

#### ANALYSIS OF SIGNATURES.

There are 50 members on the Executive Committee of the Conservative Association for Bootle Division.

Of these 28 have signed—i.e., 56 per cent. (including the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and the Chairmen of 13 out of the 15 Wards).

There are 44 members on the Bootle Town Council. Of these, 32 have signed the Memorial—i.e., 72 1/2 per cent.

The above two bodies are composed mainly of business men. The remaining signatures include those of—

Eighteen doctors resident in Bootle Borough (out of 20 seen—i.e., 90 per cent.).

Eighteen clergymen, priests and Nonconformist ministers in Bootle Borough (out of 24 seen, i.e., 75 per cent.).

Five clergy, etc., outside the Borough, but in Bootle Division.  
Ten Justices of the Peace for Bootle (including four doctors, already counted).

Thirteen women.

In order to enable you to have the accuracy of these figures checked, if desired, a complete classified list of those approached is appended.

### The Value of Federations.

With regard to the *raison d'être* of Federations, I think the first point that we should all bear in mind is that they were invented to promote efficiency: they were not intended to save labour, or money, or time, but only to rearrange all these things so that they might be applied to better advantage. In other words, no one is to carry less of a burden; but the burden is to be so adjusted that all may carry more!

Looked at in this light, the existence of Federations must, in order to be justified, only be shown to have increased efficiency, and made more work, and more effective work, possible.

(1) First, from the point of view of the workers at headquarters. The Federations have not lessened the work of Miss Courtney, Miss Palliser, Miss Cooke, or the office generally: they have simply made it possible for them to get through more. Much that has been done would have been frankly impossible but for the Federation. For instance, suppose a by-election occurs in some place where there is no society, Miss Courtney knows at once who is responsible (at least in the first instance)—the Federation Secretary. Before, time had to be wasted in ascertaining who was, or could be persuaded to be, responsible. To look at the map for guidance is often to be misled. Neighbourhood is not decided by distance alone: it is (in work like ours) far more a question of railways, good and bad train or tram services, local feelings, and the strength or weakness of

the nearest Suffrage Societies. To find out all this from London is always lengthy and sometimes impossible. The Federation Secretary knows (or should know) it all.

At a by-election, when time is precious beyond speech, the importance of knowing immediately who is responsible cannot be over-estimated. But in all Suffrage work it is very great; and the value of the Federations from the point of view of headquarters is enormous.

(2) No less great is it to peripatetic Suffrage workers—the organisers and speakers. As a speaker myself, I can vouch for the saving of money and fatigue which has been effected. Speakers are now constantly asked to speak for a week or more in one Federation. Nearly all my engagements, e.g., for the next two or three months, are grouped in this economical way. Instead of an enormous journey and one meeting, I make a short journey and address two meetings. This illustrates my point in saying that our aim is not to do less work, but more. Moreover, small societies, which can rarely afford travelling expenses if they must pay all, can get speakers who cost very little, when the expense is shared by a whole Federation, and the journeys all within a comparatively small area. This saving should be (mentally) balanced against the fares of delegates to Federation committee meetings.

What is true of speakers is still more true of organisers. A Federation can keep an organiser at work much longer than a single Society. Her travelling expenses therefore are saved, and the fatigue of long journeys. But (more important) she also acquires a knowledge of local conditions which greatly increases the value of her work. The Federation also can often raise her salary, or a part of it, when this would be hopelessly out of the reach, perhaps, of any one Society in that Federation. Societies grouped in Federations can thus secure the services of the organiser who suits them best, and plan her work for long periods ahead. We all work better in some parts of the country than others, and Federations make it more possible to get the square woman into the square hole. They also make far easier the breaking of new ground. This is emphatically Federation work; and while the National Union should not be content till every part of the country is within some Federation area, so no Federation should be satisfied until the whole of its area is being worked. This sounds a magnificent ideal, and I know very well what a herculean task it sets before some Federations, who, already poor, have nobly taken over great areas of hitherto untouched country, and feel overborne by their responsibilities. Yet if the problem is to be attacked at all, it must surely be by a number of societies all helping each other, and supplying each other's needs. After all, the new ground *must* be broken, and only the direst necessity should make any Society insist that the money it raises should all be spent on itself. I know such necessity sometimes exists, and then no one can be blamed, of course. But it must be real necessity.

(3) The individual Societies benefit, not only by the saving of speakers' and organisers' expenses, but also by the pooling of experience and of advantages at Federation meetings. Some Societies are better off in workers, some in speakers, some in money. All have different methods and different experiences, knowledge of which may help others in their work. An astonishing number of mistakes may be saved to new and inexperienced Societies if they will use the experience of others where it can be of service.

Finally, let me admit at once the necessity of frequent sacrifices as well as much advantage. I know that there are Societies who sacrifice more than they gain, by federation, and one's admiration cannot be too great for such Societies who, deliberately, and having counted the cost, come in for the sake of others, and because, to be really efficient, the Federation scheme should cover the *entire* country. I know of Societies, neither large nor rich, whose public spirit in this matter is beyond praise. They have their reward in the knowledge that they greatly simplify the work of over-burdened secretaries at headquarters, and so increase the general efficiency.

To those who do not realise how greatly this is the case, I would appeal to consider it now. In federating, the advantage to each individual Society is not so much to be considered as the general good. The largest and most powerful Societies have had to sacrifice a good deal, in many cases, in

LONDON SOCIETY OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES,  
NON-MILITANT. 58, Victoria Street, S.W. NON-PARTY.

**PUBLIC RECEPTION, TUESDAY, MARCH 26,**

Empress Rooms, Kensington (High Street Station), 3.30 to 6 p.m. Chair—Miss EDITH PALLISER, Hon. Parliamentary Sec. N.U.W.S.S.  
Speakers—Councillor MARGARET ASHTON, Miss I. O. FORD, Mr. MALCOLM MITCHELL, Hon. Sec. Men's League.  
DISCUSSION INVITED.

members or funds, or both. But since they do this in order to start new Societies and break new ground, or help the small and poverty-stricken ones not to die out altogether, their loss has been the gain of the Suffrage movement as a whole.

(1) The fact that the entire country is not yet completely covered—a fault which time, I trust, will rectify. And (2) the fact that the machinery has not invariably been properly worked.

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

Literature Department.

Our new catalogue was issued last week, and will be sent free to anyone who writes for it. Since it went to press we have published and stocked several new things, a list of which I give below.

Several people have asked lately whether the Artists' League was thinking of publishing any new posters. I believe that the Artists' League has actually got a design ready which it would be willing to publish if there should be sufficient demand to cover the cost of production.

NEWEST PUBLICATIONS.

"Lord Haldane and Women's Suffrage" (3d. per dozen, 2s.

SHOT WHIPCORD Tailor Suits. The extraordinary demand that has arisen for these new shot whipcord materials has taken the manufacturers by surprise so much that the supply is practically used up.



per 100). "Constitutional Suffragists and Militants," by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. (4d. per dozen, 2s. 6d. per 100). "The Cause of Women's Suffrage," Lord Robert Cecil's reply to Lord Curzon (1s. per 100). "Broken Windows and After," by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. (1s. per 100). "To Men and Women of the Liberal Party" (new edition) (1s. 6d. per 100). "Protest against Violence" (6d. per 100).

Table with columns for region (West of England, West Lancs, etc.), amount (£ s. d.), and total (£1,894 12 0).

Table with columns for region (West of England, West Lancs, etc.), amount (£ s. d.), and total (£2,458 0 6).

Table titled 'ALBERT HALL COLLECTION' with columns for region (Eastern Counties, East Midlands, etc.), amount (£ s. d.), and total (£1,894 12 0).

Table titled 'DONATIONS, ALBERT HALL MEETING, FEBRUARY 23RD, 1912.' with columns for name (Miss S. M. D'Albino, Miss Dalby, etc.), amount (£ s. d.), and total (£2,355 1 6).

larger than we expected that we had to send out hastily to our neighbours to lend us chairs.

On Wednesday, Mrs. Mayer addressed the students at the Training College, and on Thursday an "At Home" for business women took place in the offices, where Mrs. Mayer again spoke.

Mrs. Renton arrived on Thursday to carry on the work, as I had to leave.

I should like to express my warmest thanks to the Rev. G. H. and Mrs. Davies for the trouble they have given in speaking, as well as to our own members, Miss Stephens, Miss Spender, Miss Chave, and Miss Duncombe.

E. J. D. MORRISON.

Federation Notes.

Scottish.

Aberdeen is having, on March 27th, a meeting in its largest hall, for Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs. Philip Snowden, with Miss L. L. Lumley, LL.D., in the chair.

N. Western.

CAMPAIGN ROUND APPELBY—A NEW SOCIETY. I have just completed a week of meetings in and around Appelby. All the arrangements and organising have been carried out most efficiently by Appelby's energetic hon. secretary, Mrs. Baker.

On Friday, March 8th, a very successful meeting was held by the above society, at which the speaker was Mrs. Merivale Mayer.

On Wednesday evening, at a meeting of the Appelby Town Council, a resolution urging the House of Commons to pass some measure enfranchising women during the present session was passed by a majority.

The newly-formed society at WORKINGTON is working energetically. The membership has increased considerably, and a very successful meeting was held in the Carnegie Hall on March 14th.

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to find that there was to be a Town Council meeting on the following Thursday. With the help of Miss Davies, I tried to get the Town Council to pass a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill.

On Thursday, March 7th, I was allowed to speak at a meeting of Young Liberals, at which a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill was passed.

My work has been facilitated by the impression made by Miss Fraser's speech here a few weeks ago. She was invited to come by a local Liberal Society.

Two facts about Lampeter have impressed me greatly: The Theological College has held grimly aloof. This is one of the few places in South Wales where such an attitude has been adopted by the clergy.

Lampeter is a small place numbering about 2,000 inhabitants, in a most sparsely populated district (the whole of Gargishire makes one constituency), yet it has shown a power to grapple with the latest problems of the day such as one has expected in large towns.

Many men have joined the new Society and, as far as the townspeople are concerned, Lampeter deserves to be called "gallant Lampeter."

I understand that throughout the country there are many who cannot stand by us in troubled, stormy days. They might be edified by pondering the words: "He that observeth the wind shall not sow, and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap."

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29th, Mrs. Skemp and Mrs. Willis addressed a parlour meeting at Mrs. Wintle's, in South Bristol. On March 7th a Branch Committee of the Bristol Society was formed in East Bristol.

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improving, a fine open-air meeting was held in Hucknall market-place.

These meetings paved the way for a public meeting in the Co-operative Hall on March 5th, when Mrs. Philip Snowden was the principal speaker.

There had been rumours of likely disturbance, on account of the militants action in London, but the meeting was not only perfectly orderly but passed without dissentients a resolution "calling upon the Government to enfranchise women in 1912."

It is unnecessary to say that Mrs. Snowden's speech was well received, and will leave a lasting impression.

C. E. COWMEADOW.

**Eastern Counties.**  
**FORMATION OF A SOCIETY AT FELISTOWE.**

Under the auspices of the Ipswich Society a meeting was held at Millars' Rooms, Felixstowe, on March 15th. Mr. D. J. Cowles presided over a large audience.

Miss E. Place gave a short historical account of the movement, from 1792 to the present date, with a description of the work of the National Union.

The paper was followed by an interesting discussion. Mr. Euston proposed, and Mrs. Ewan Edwards seconded, a resolution that the meeting was of opinion that a local branch of the society should be established. This was carried without dissent.

Miss Heath proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and speaker, which was seconded by Mrs. Manning Prentice, and carried.

**HITCHIN, STEVENAGE AND DISTRICT.**  
The last month has been a busy one. Arrangements were made for members to join the N.U. demonstration in Albert Hall on February 23rd, when £10 was handed in to the collection—£5 from the Society's funds and £5 from the special appeal to members; £2 was earmarked for the E.C.F. Our two delegates, Mrs. Smithson and the Rev. P. M. Wathen, attended the N.U. annual Council meeting on February 24th, and on February 26th the second address of a series to be held in Stevenage, was given by Miss S. A. Villiers on "Women Workers and the Suffrage." The third address was given on March 11th by Miss A. Villiers, on "The Religious Aspect of Women's Suffrage."

Both meetings were very well attended; five new members and one associate joined, and COMMON CAUSES were sold. On March 12th the annual meeting was held in Stevenage, when it was decided to change the title from "North Herts" to "Hitchin, Stevenage and District Society," the former having become a misnomer since the division of the society last year. Reports and balance-sheet were read, the latter showing a balance in hand of £4 4s. 10d. The President (Lord Lytton), Vice-Presidents and hon. officers were re-elected, with the addition of Lady Robert Cecil as V.-P., and a ballot taken for Executive Committee. Since March 12th efforts have been chiefly directed to increase of interest amongst voters in the second reading of the Conciliation Bill.

**West Riding (Yorks).**  
**BINGLEY.**—As a result of the good work done by Miss Clarkson, a meeting of members was held on February 8th at the Strand Cafe. A committee and officers were elected. President, Miss A. F. Scott; Hon. Treasurer, Miss H. Madeley; Hon. Secretary, Miss L. Houlden.

At a meeting held here on the 13th inst. in connection with Miss Salt's Liberal Suffrage campaign in this district, the Women's Suffrage resolution was carried unanimously.

**BRADFORD.**—Great activity is being shown by members of the society. Branches have been formed in four wards of the city. The following meetings have been held:—HEATON BRANCH—"At Home," Hostess, Miss Gregson; speaker, Miss M. Illingworth. A speakers' class has been formed in this branch, under the leadership of Miss M. Illingworth. HONORABLE BRANCH—"At Home," Hostess, Mrs. Jacob Moser; speaker, Mrs. Bernheim. GIBLINGTON BRANCH—"At Home," Hostess, Miss Nachbar; speaker, Mrs. Bernheim. EAST WARD—"At Home," Hostess, Mrs. R. A. Harrison; speaker, Mrs. East.

**LEEDS.**—A large room, capable of holding about 80 people, has been taken as an office, and will be opened in the course of a week or two. It is situated in the heart of the city, at 9, Park Lane, within a few minutes' walk from the car routes and railway stations. If possible, the office will be kept open all day for the use of members and friends; literature will be stored here, and it is hoped that, with the help of generous friends, a good library of books of special interest will be got together. Periodical meetings will be held, when addresses will be given by well-known women workers on different subjects. Help is urgently needed towards furnishing the room. Second-hand chairs, tables and china (for afternoon teas) will be welcome.

One of our members, Miss Isabel Catterall, read a very able paper, "Women in Revolt," at a gathering of the Headingley Women's Liberal Association on March 4th, and Mrs. Parrish subsequently addressed the audience on Women's Suffrage.

**OLEY.**—A public meeting was held here on February 22nd. The speakers—Mrs. Philip Snowden and Mrs. Aldersley—were, unfortunately, unable to come, but Mrs. Parrish, of Leeds, and Mr. Rennie Foster very kindly acted as substitutes and were listened to very attentively.

**SHEFFIELD.**—Quiet, constructive work has been done by Miss Clarkson here. Small meetings have been held with a view of working up the large meeting in the People's Hall on March 27th.

**WARFIELD.**—On Monday, February 19th, a whist drive was held at The Laurels, St. John's North (by the kind permission of Mrs. J. Livesey Lee). It was well attended and highly successful, over £11 being raised.

Most of the West Riding Societies were represented at the Albert Hall meeting (London) on February 23rd. Miss Salt's Liberal Suffrage campaign in the Oley Parliamentary constituency has been very successful. At two of the meetings Mrs. Parrish (of Leeds) spoke. Good propaganda work has been done.

**North Eastern.**  
**DURHAM.**—At the Burlington Art Gallery, on February 21st, a meeting was held under the auspices of the Durham Constitutional Association for the discussion of women's suffrage. Colonel G. Caldwell presided over an excellent attendance. Miss Edith Eskridge (Liverpool) spoke on the political situation and on suffrage principles, and was opposed by Mr. J. W. Hills, Conservative M.P. for Durham City, who decided that the country did not

want women's suffrage, and held up the bugbear of "more women than men." Miss Cicely Corbett (London) most conclusively answered the objections. Prof. Robinson, an anti, also spoke, and after considerable discussion, Miss C. M. Gordon moved and Mrs. Darwin seconded a suffrage resolution, which was carried by a large majority.

**JARROW.**—At a meeting of members, held at Langholm, by kind invitation of Mrs. Dickinson, the Jarrow Society was formally separated from South Shields. Miss Gordon was in the chair, and Miss I. Fletcher was elected Secretary. On March 1st a drawing-room meeting was given by Mrs. Beet, at which Miss Mein was the speaker. On the 11th a drawing-room was kindly lent by Miss Jardine, when Miss C. M. Gordon spoke and Miss Fletcher took the chair.

**NEWCASTLE.**—On the evening of Saturday, March 16th, the annual meeting was held in the office. Dr. Williams was in the chair, and Miss Low came from Edinburgh to speak in her lucid way on the political outlook. The Secretary's report showed an enormous amount of activity during the year, which more than justified the deficit on the balance-sheet. The deficit of £25 was practically wiped out on the spot; it was obviously felt that the value of the office and of Miss Bury's individual services as organising secretary, together with the work of the Society outside its own immediate area, were the strongest appeal for funds that could be made.

Despite the gloomy foreboding of those outside the movement, the meeting was essentially hopeful and determined, and the keynote of all the speeches was work and yet more work whatever the fate of the Conciliation Bill. It is hoped that all the enthusiasm generated will be turned in full on to the Town Hall meeting on Monday, March 25th.

**SHILDON.**—The annual meeting was held on Monday, March 4th, Mrs. Brown presiding. A most satisfactory report was presented, and the officers were re-elected. An address was given by Dr. Williams, of Newcastle. **TEKOPUR.**—At last an appreciable beginning has been made in Monkseaton, where Mrs. Hinchcliffe very kindly gave a drawing-room meeting on Friday, March 15th. Miss C. M. Gordon was the speaker, and eight members were enrolled. The promise of another drawing-room was given, and COMMON CAUSES disappeared rapidly.

**Local Councils which have Passed Resolutions in Favour of Women's Suffrage during the Past Two Years.**

(C. = City, T. = Town, R.D.C. = Rural District Council, U.D.C. = Urban District Council, P.C. = Parish Council, C.C. = County Council, M.C. = Municipal Corporation, C.B. = County Borough, R.B. = Royal Borough P.B. = Police Borough.)

**LONDON BOROUGHES.**  
Battersea. Poplar.  
Camberwell. Southwark.  
Hackney. Stoke Newington.  
Lambeth. Wandsworth.  
Paddington.

**ENGLAND.**  
Adel-cum-Eccup R.D.C. Keswick U.D.C.  
Altrincham U.D.C. Leeds.  
Anfield Plain U.D.C. Leicester T.  
Barnsley R.D.C. Leigh U.D.C.  
Birkenhead T. Letchworth.  
Birmingham C. Liverpool C.  
Blyden U.D.C. Macclesfield T.  
Bradford C. Manchester C.  
Bredbury U.D.C. Middleton R.D.C.  
Brillington R.D.C. Newcastle-on-Tyne T.  
Brighton T. Nottingham T.  
Burton-on-Trent T. Oldham T.  
Chelmsford R.D.C. Ormskirk U.D.C.  
Chester T. Preston T.  
Chester-le-Street R.D.C. Prestwich U.D.C.  
Cockermouth U.D.C. Radcliffe U.D.C.  
Coventry T. Rangate T.  
Cuckfield U.D.C. Rochdale T.  
Derby T. Ryton U.D.C.  
Devonport T. Scarborough T.  
Dover T. Sheffield C.  
Enfield U.D.C. Solihull R.D.C.  
Falmouth T. Southport M.C., C.B.  
Felling U.D.C. Southwick U.D.C.  
Filey U.D.C. Spennymoor U.D.C.  
Folkestone T. Stevenage U.D.C.  
Flixton P. C. Tynemouth R.D.C.  
Frizington and Alecton. Urmston U.D.C.  
Hale U.D.C. Uxbridge U.D.C.  
Haltwhistle R.D.C. Wallasey M.C.  
Harrrogate T. Warrington T.  
Hartlepool T. Wellington U.D.C.  
Heaton Norris U.D.C. West Bromwich M.C., C.B.  
Hetton U.D.C. Whitehaven R.D.C.  
Heywood T. Widnes M.C.  
Huddersfield M.C., C.B. Willesden U. D. C.  
Hull M.C., C.B., C.C. Wolverhampton T.  
Kendal.

**SCOTLAND.**  
Arbroath R.B. Inverurie.  
Bonnyrigg. Kilnamock.  
Brechin C. R.B. Kilwinning P.B.  
Broughty Ferry P.B. Kirkcaldy R.B.  
Crieff. Kirriemuir.  
Cumnock. Lerwick.  
Dumfries. Montrose R.B.  
Dundee C. C.B. North Berwick R.B.  
Edinburgh C. Peebles R.B.  
Elgin C. R.B. Perth R.B.  
Forfar R.B. St. Ola.  
Fraserburgh P.B. Saltcoats P.B.  
Glasgow C. Stormonway.  
Haddington. Stromness.  
Hamilton. Thurso.  
Hawick. Tranent.  
Inverlathen. Wick R.B.  
Inverness T., R.B.

**IRELAND.**  
Cork C. Galway.  
Dublin C. Limerick C.  
Dublin C.C.

**WALES.**  
Bangor. Llangollen U.D.C.  
Bethesda U.D.C. Llyn R.D.C.  
Cardiff. Penarth U.D.C.  
Carnarvon C.C. Penmaenmawr U.D.C.  
Chepstow U.D.C. Penryn  
Holyhead U.D.C. Portmadoc.  
Llanudno U.D.C. Pwllheli.  
Llanfairfechan U.D.C. Rhyl U.D.C.

[NOTE.—We do not suppose that this is by any means a complete list, and we shall be very grateful to any of our readers who can give us further information as to what local councils have taken action in this matter.]

**Sir Alfred Mond and the Swansea Women's Liberal Association.**

The following letter has been received from Sir Alfred Mond, Bart., M.P., in answer to one from the committee of the Swansea W.L.A.:

Dear Mrs. Salmon,—I am in receipt of yours of the 11th inst. I shall always be glad to meet a deputation of the Women's Association when at Swansea on any matter of interest.

As far as the position of Women's Suffrage is concerned, you are aware that the Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill is down for 22nd March. The Conciliation Committee has decided to proceed with this measure, and I have personally undertaken to speak in favour of the Bill on its introduction in the House by Mr. Agg-Gardner.

There can be no doubt that the extremely foolish, not to say wicked, action on the part of a certain section of the advocates of Women's Suffrage has done very great damage to the cause and to the prospects of the Bill this Session.

I need hardly assure you that I have not in any way modified the view that I have always held in favour of the justice of admitting women to the rights of citizenship in this country. In fact, returning as I have just done from a part of the world where I was much impressed by the deplorable position in the community of women, where, as a matter of fact, with the stagnation and absence of progress among the population, largely due in my opinion to this very condition, I am more than ever convinced that every step which leads to placing women in a higher position among the community must tend to its ultimate advancement. Your committee can rest assured that such influence as I possess will be at their service, both as far as the Conciliation Bill and any future Government Bill which endeavours to obtain for women their just rights as electors of the State.

Believe me to be,  
Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) ALFRED MOND.  
35, Lowndes Square, London, S.W.  
March 12th, 1912.

**The Spiritual Side of Women's Suffrage.**

Many suffragists are anxious that the spiritual basis of the suffrage movement should be in the minds of everyone, and services are being held for corporate prayer by several denominations:—

A Special Service of Prayer on behalf of the enfranchisement of women will be held in St. Ethelburga's, Bishopsgate, E.C., on Thursday, March 21st, at 7.30 p.m., conducted by the Rev. Dr. Cobb.

Three services will be held in St. George's, Bloomsbury, at 11 a.m., 1.0 and 3.0 p.m., on Friday, March 22nd, under the auspices of the Church League.

At the City Temple on Thursday, March 21st, at 12 noon, the Rev. R. J. Campbell will hold a Special Suffrage Service.

**Foreign News.**

**United States.**  
Dr. Stanton Coit, who is lecturing in the States, writes from Rochester:—"There is wonderful news from the States of Washington. The women have triumphed at the Seattle election, defeating by their vote the republican candidate whom the men at the 'primaries' had chosen as candidate by a 10,000 plurality. He advocated open brothels, etc. The women have put in a 'clean' man."

The Committee on Women's Suffrage of the Ohio Constitutional Convention has reported in favour of Women's Suffrage by a vote of twenty to one. The "hearing" at Columbus, which preceded the voting is reported to have been the most successful during the Ohio Convention, and the only one attended by every member of a

Committee. Not only were all the members in their places, but the Constitutional Convention adjourned in the afternoon, and many of its members crowded in to the hearing and stood for hours, every seat being full. A few days later the anti's were given a hearing, "and," says the *Women's Journal*, "at its close the Committee voted twenty to one in favour of granting the petition of the Ohio W.S.A. that a suffrage amendment be submitted to the voters." So the suffragists have converted the Convention, and now they have before them the harder task of converting all the electors of Ohio. We heartily wish them success.

**Sweden.**  
The first number of the new Swedish paper was published on March 1st. The title, *Rösträtt för Kvinnor* (Votes for Women), is very familiar to all who had the pleasure of attending the Stockholm Congress. It contains greetings from Ellen Key, Lydia Wahlström, Ann Margaret Holmgren, Carl Lindhagen and other staunch friends and workers in the cause, suffrage news from home and abroad, articles on various subjects, and the first part of a detailed review of Lily Braun's "Memoiren einer Sozialistin." It should prove a useful weapon in the coming fight, which seems likely to lead our Swedish sisters to victory.

At this moment interest here is concentrated on the municipal elections, to which women are now eligible. Six women, belonging to three different parties, are standing for election in Stockholm. Women are being exhorted to use their votes and support the women candidates. Their papers point out that the municipal vote should lead on to the parliamentary, and at this critical moment it is essential to show that this franchise is valued by women. They are also exhorted to pay their taxes promptly, for in Sweden, unlike England, it is the payment of taxes and not rent that entitles to a vote. In view of the announcement in the King's Speech of a Suffrage Bill, demonstrations have been arranged throughout the country to take place on the day when the Bill is introduced into the Riksdag.

**France.**  
The National Union of French Suffrage Societies is barely three years old, but it already has a membership of 6,000. Its numbers have been more than doubled in the last year, and at the annual meeting on March 6th Madame Brunschvig, Secretary-General of the Union, was able to present a cheering report of the year's work to the members. A year ago there were seven societies in the Union, now there are sixteen, while twelve more are in process of organisation. The Union is now represented in 45 departments, either by branches or delegates, and has some isolated members in all the other departments. It may, therefore, claim to be a really national society. But the workers are still too few for the harvest, more speakers are needed, more pamphlets, more money to supply all their needs. In Parliament 80 fresh members have pronounced in favour of Women's Suffrage, and the list of friendly deputies now numbers 245. Suffrage, of course, in this connection means municipal suffrage, for that is the first step to be gained. As already shown, this is hampered by other electoral proposals before the House, and the woman's cause is not likely to make much progress till the change in the electoral system is complete. Meantime the Press is growing more friendly to the women. The *Temps* and the *Journal des Debats* have expressed themselves favourably, while four other papers have a special heading for news of women's questions. The Union is itself organising a press bureau, with a view to disseminating correct and regular information. An excellent record of work, and if the French Union continues to increase in the same method of progression, it will soon enter into friendly rivalry with other unions which have been at work for a far greater number of years.

The French Men's League for Women's Suffrage, known as the "League of Electors," held its first annual meeting on February 11th. The officials present were—M. Buisson, president, the promoter of the Bill for Municipal Suffrage, M. Louis Marin and M. Leon Brunschvig, vice presidents; M. Chenevier, editor of the "Bulletin de la Ligue"; M. J. de Breuil, secretary. M. Chenevier read a report, giving an account of the foundation of the League and its activities during the first year. In a sense, the cause of Women's Suffrage was already won before the tribunal of public opinion, for there were no longer any real opponents, only indifferent persons. Their work was to organise the "crusade against the indifferents" by means of lectures throughout the country, and by circulating the organ of the League. M. Marin dealt with the Parliamentary situation. This was not altogether encouraging, for the methods employed

in some countries by women Suffragists had not been without influence on the members of the French Chamber. At the same time, if indifference had in some cases given way to hostility, there was no longer any need to combat the old oft-refuted arguments. Women's Suffrage was becoming a force to be reckoned with, and as a result some of the reforms most urgently demanded by women were being carried through. He instanced the legislation enforcing a certain period of rest after childbirth, and held out hopes of early legislation establishing equality of pay in the education service, which he hoped would lead to a similar reform throughout the Civil Service, thus benefiting the 20,000 women employed in the postal and telegraphic service, and influencing indirectly the salaries in private enterprise. As to the burning question of Municipal Suffrage, he regretted that Parliament appeared so much occupied with questions of electoral reform, proportional representation and the like, that the prospect of immediate success for M. Buisson's Bill did not seem very hopeful. To combat this condition of stagnation, energetic efforts were required on the part of the League, which was striving for a reform "essential for French civilisation." There was no ground for despair, if only the friends of the movement continued a vigorous campaign with a view to influencing members of Parliament.

M. du Breuil de Saint Germain, who had represented the League at the Stockholm Congress, presented his report, and dwelt on the importance of the new International Men's League. This proved that if every reform had to pass through three phases, ridicule, study, realisation, Women's Suffrage had passed through the first and entered on the second. They might have to wait for the last, that of realisation, but of its ultimate attainment there could be no possible doubt.

M. Buisson was somewhat more hopeful in tone. He called on the members of the League to combat the ancient prejudices against the suffrage, especially among women. Friends must be drawn from all parties and care taken not to become entangled with any one political party. Above all they must have confidence in their own powers, and continue to work by the method which had hitherto proved so successful, "that of winning a little at a time, but something every day."

**Reviews.**

**ECONOMICS: DESCRIPTIVE AND THEORETICAL.** By Margaret McKillop, M.A., and Mabel Atkinson, M.A. (Allman and Son. Pp. 216. 3s. 6d.)

This book has some special claims on the attention of women, to whose needs and interests the two authoresses try to bring their science much closer than it has usually been brought. It purports to be nothing but a text-book for beginners, and that, of course, excludes novelties and exploring expeditions, and necessitates an impartial, impersonal and non-speculative treatment. While, however, the authoresses are loyal to their aim and to guide their pupils dutifully without bias down the main avenues of economic thought, they have achieved no little originality in the art of guidance. Knowledge proceeds from the known to the unknown, but it would be almost true to say of some economic text-books that they exactly reverse the process; the reader is early crammed with lumps of abstract theory, and only by later degrees—if she gets so far—learns what they mean for daily life, or indeed that they mean anything real at all. Nor are most text-books of economic history better; gilds and Black Death, spinning-jennies and steam-hammers—we know too well the arid catalogue.

Mrs. McKillop and Miss Atkinson have tried to combine in one volume description and theory, starting with description, and letting theory trickle in some way before attention is concentrated on it. Why we buy things at a shop; how they get there; how we borrow money; how we come to rent a house; what rates and taxes are; what local and central government is—these are the matters in which Mrs. McKillop grounds her students before Miss Atkinson takes them over. She in her turn works on the same principle; she always tries to start from what is naturally nearest; thus she boldly puts exchange before production, and gives more space and prominence to consumption than is usual in such a treatise. For women, whose first interest will commonly lie in retail buying and housekeeping rather than in manufacturing or wholesale operations, these features have special advantages. Both writers all through have kept the woman student much in mind. One sees it especially in the illustrations which they select. We are far from implying that their book is of less value for readers of the other sex; but they have broken

with the one-sided masculinity which has lasted on in economic treatises from days when economics was a purely masculine preserve. In fact, it may be welcomed not only as an advance in the teaching of a difficult subject, but as a notable aid towards broadening the outlook of women and equipping them for active citizenship.

R. C. K. ENSOR.

**THE ENGLISH AGRICULTURAL LABOURER.**  
By the Rev. A. H. Baverstock. With an introduction by G. K. Chesterton. (A. C. Fifield. 6d.)

The agricultural labourer is in some danger of being overlooked in days when men's minds are preoccupied with town problems. Yet his case is serious and very important. He is not happy, and, as Mr. Chesterton remarks in his preface, "some of us . . . are getting very unhappy about this unhappiness." This little book, and series of papers reprinted from "The Vineyard," consists in the main of a brief and sympathetic survey of the sufficiently sad history of the English peasant, and some suggestions by way of reform. Mr. Baverstock urges that our present plan of supplementing inadequate wages by State provision is as stupid as the old allowance system, and pleads for a higher wage as the true solution, which, he says, the farmer can afford. No doubt school feeding does, as he states, tend to weaken family ties. The case is less clear with regard to education, which the State imposes as a duty; and it is surely possible to see in insurance a means to that co-operation so greatly needed in the village. Not only is a provision against risks made which isolated individual efforts could not attain, but a natural nucleus for association is provided: for the Labourers' Guild, which Mr. Baverstock is so anxious to see restored. All that he says of the revival of games, etc., in the village is excellent.

M. A. H.

**Women and Local Government.**

The annual meeting of the Women's Local Government Society was held on March 15th at the Caxton Hall. The officers were re-elected, and the following ladies and gentlemen were added to the Council:—Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, M.P., Dr. Collingridge, M.O.H. City of London, Mrs. Creighton, Frank Debenham, Esq., J.P., Mrs. Arnold Forster, Mrs. Arnold Glover, Lady Gomme, Miss McKee, Miss Harrison, T. C. Dublin, and Mrs. Fabian Ware.

A discussion took place upon a resolution that a women's "approved society" should be formed as a separate section of the W.L.G.S., and the matter was referred to the committee, that they might draft proposals and lay them before another general meeting.

**Letters to the Editor.**

Correspondents are requested to send their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for any statement made in the correspondence column.

Correspondents are requested to write on ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY.

**THE GROWTH OF THE NATIONAL UNION.**  
I note that, in the current number of THE COMMON CAUSE, you declare, a *propos* of the progress of the movement, that the membership of the N.U.W.S.S. has increased during the past year from 21,000 to over 30,000; and if I remember aright, you also inform your readers that the number of affiliated societies has risen in the same period from 211 to 365. These figures, I observe, are also quoted by Mrs. Fawcett in her article in to-day's *Daily News*.

Might I ask you to go a little further and give us figures setting forth the total membership of the N.U.W.S.S. and the number of affiliated societies for (a) each of the five years preceding 1906, and (b) each of the five years subsequent to that date? If this were done, it would then be possible for us to realise in some measure at least how far militancy has injured—or helped—the cause of women's suffrages as represented by the propaganda of the N.U.W.S.S.

J. S. DAVIES.

154, Hamlet Gardens, Ravenscourt Park.  
[We are sorry that it is not possible for us to give any accurate figures concerning the numbers of the National Union before 1907, as membership used not to be calculated as it now is upon annually subscribing members of affiliated societies. The membership has been 5,836 in 1907; 8,297 in 1908; 9,431 in 1909; 16,283 in 1910; 30,140 in 1911. As far as we are aware no one has ever denied that the early work of the militant societies, their energy and enthusiasm, stimulated the movement; we have repeatedly stated as much in these pages. There were, however, very many causes for the revival of enthusiasm; Miss Roper and Miss Mason know something of the growth among industrial women in the North and the political propaganda of party women was also bearing fruit about the same time.—Ed. "C. C. ]

**BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

REGULATIONS FOR DOMESTIC SUBJECTS COURSES.  
May I draw the attention of the readers of COMMON CAUSE to an error in Miss Oakeley's letter published on March 14th?

It is there stated that "the total number of hours allotted to the practical domestic arts work in the three-year course in home science is 540 instead of the 800 (or a little more) required by the Board of Education or County Councils."

1. The domestic arts at King's College include cookery, laundry and housewifery. The Board of Education lays down in the Regulations for the Training of Teachers of Domestic Subjects that candidates must have been trained for not less than 1,000 hours!

2. The County Councils have nothing to do with the regulations for the training of teachers; these are contained in the Code issued by the Board of Education quoted above.

"A DOMESTIC SUBJECTS TEACHER." March 16th, 1912.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.

Referring to Miss Oakeley's note of last week, Miss Freund writes:—"As you will see from the Gloucester prospectus, which I enclose, the requirements of the Board for training in domestic crafts are—

- Cookery . . . 840 hours.
Laundrywork . . . 460
Housewifery . . . 300

Total . . . 1,600

Miss Oakeley compares 540 hours for three crafts and kitchen laboratory with 840 hours, the Board's requirements for cookery alone.

In reply, Miss Oakeley informs us that the time she gave in her letter of last week, as devoted to the Domestic Arts (540 hours) is in conformity with the Syllabus (which she encloses) in force at King's College since 1910. After the present session the kitchen laboratory work will not be included in this period. A student wishing to strengthen herself in the practical work can now give an additional 90 hours in her third year.

With reference to the second point—the requirements for teachers in Public Elementary Schools—she is looking into the matter and will write later.

"OUR CHIEF OPPONENT IN 1910."

In your leading article of last week you state that "our chief opponent in 1910 was Mr. Lloyd George, and in 1911 he did no more for us than vote for the Second Reading; had he used his influence to secure facilities then much misery and bitterness would have been saved." In the same issue you say that "truth is good for the common cause. I quite agree, but fail to recognise any in your conclusions regarding Mr. Lloyd George. He opposed the Conciliation Bill of 1910, giving reasons for his action which was so amply justified by the increased majority for the wider bill of 1911, but it seems to me that this result proved him our friend rather than "our chief opponent."

Our work as suffragists is done in order to secure the vote—the vote which Mr. Lloyd George cast for us last year, yet you say "he did no more than vote." Is the vote after all so insignificant a thing as compared with the influence apart from it—the very influence we can all even now exercise to our heart's content? Again, do you really mean to say that Mr. Lloyd George is more than the anti-suffragists responsible for so "much misery and bitterness"? If not, why single him out, forgetting those who used both vote and influence against the cause?

Are any of the National Union members also going to sacrifice everything in their desire to get "the vote in a hurry"?

S. E. LEWIS (Mrs. JOHN LEWIS). Pontypridd, March 15th, 1912.

[Our correspondent appears to be under the impression that Mr. Lloyd George's influence is no greater than that of an obscure voter in the land. We do not so underestimate what he can do for us if he will, and the pages of this paper have borne ample testimony to our determination that, now he has definitely taken the field for us, we will back his efforts heartily. Our chief opponent in 1910 is one of our most active friends in 1912. A professed friend who vetoes all practical help we hold more dangerous than an open enemy, for if your friends won't work for you, no one will.—Ed. "C. C."]

HEREDITY AND SCIENCE.

May I point out through your columns that Whetham's "Heredity and Science," though directed against Women's Suffrage, is based on a magnificent argument which should rightly be developed in its favour. They argue from an examination of the diminishing birth-rate that our race is deteriorating, and demand, therefore, that our Parliament should turn its attention to legislation on sound biological principles. "Let us, then, accept the racial point of view, and regard as the ultimate aim of politics the improvement of the racial qualities of the nation."

No doubt Whetham's legislation would aim at cutting off women from the external world, and herding them back to their "spring-cleaning and jam-making," regardless of the fact that arrested development must always be a biological mistake. He would attempt the great work of the improvement of the race without the help of the very people he should most consult, for see the following passage:—

While the work of men is almost invariably directed to the improvement or maintenance of the conditions of present-day environment, the natural duties of woman infallibly lead her to look into and provide for the future of the nation."

Is not this the very heart of our argument? We shall never get legislation "for the future of the nation" till women have the vote.

E. C. MATRAVERS.

19, Howard Place, Carlisle. March 11th.

[We hope shortly to review this book.—Ed. "C. C."]

DOMESTIC SCIENCE.

Some months ago I heard of the Home Science scheme at King's College for Women, and, as a student, at the beginning of a semester's work, I was interested and anxious to have full information of the scheme, with a view to the possibility of taking it up as my University course. I have read, therefore, with deep interest the criticism of the present course, both in your paper and in The Freewoman, and I note that the whole of the criticism from the scientific point of view has, up to the present, been of unqualified condemnation.

I was glad when I heard that the Warden of the College, Miss Oakeley, had replied to the criticisms of Miss Ida Freund and Miss Rosa Robinson, but on reading Miss Oakeley's article in your last issue, I found that no help was forthcoming, for Miss Oakeley declared her inability to deal with the matter. In her own words, "Miss Freund's article on the Home Science and Economics Course ought to be dealt with by one qualified to meet her on the scientific aspects of the subject." The scheme is undoubtedly a science scheme, and one which ought to be dealt with by a scientist, and it seems strange to me that its defence is left entirely to one who is unequal to the task.

The London University, which contains many eminent scientists, has already granted provisional recognition to the scheme, yet apparently not one of these scientists is prepared publicly to defend it. I should be glad if someone could be found able to give satisfactory replies to the very telling criticisms that have already been made; otherwise I, for one, prefer at this point to consider taking a pure science degree.

A STUDENT (Bedford College for Women). [We refer our correspondent to our note to Miss Oakeley's letter in last week's issue.—Ed. C. C.]

I am glad that I restrained my first impulse to comment with approval on your editorial remark on the Domestic Science course at King's College in your issue of February 15th, and to criticise Miss Oakeley's letter of February 22nd, since Miss Freund and Miss Robinson have undertaken the task so much more ably. But the extracts quoted by these writers from the syllabus of that course make it difficult to keep silence altogether. One's first impulse on reading them is to laugh. "Thirty hours for Physics and 60 hours' practical work, when 90 lectures and 60 hours of practical are considered inadequate at a modern University for the first year course in physics—that is, the course which leads up to the Intermediate Science examination!

The seriousness of the question, however, affecting as it does the whole problem of the education of women, soon turns one's thoughts from merriment to sadness. At first I took some consolation from the supposition that while as an education in Science the course must be regarded as inadequate, even to the degree of absurdity, yet the student at the end of her three years' course would at least be a highly-skilled and practical exponent of all the branches of housecraft. But no, she "will not, as a rule, offer lessons in advanced cookery, nor will possess necessarily any high degree of manipulative skill in the domestic arts." In other words, the final product will be a hopelessly inefficient "scientist," and a housewife of only average capability. And for this result the hall-mark of a University degree is suggested!

Probably most graduates of Science, who have specialised in three subjects, realise at the end of their third year how very much less comprehensive is the range of their attainments than they imagined it to be two years earlier. For with the growth of real knowledge has come a true sense of proportion, and a more highly-developed sense of humility. In fact, specialisation has resulted in education. On the other hand, the general effect of such a course as that of Domestic Science at King's College, with its extensive variety of subjects, to no one of which can justice be done, is calculated to give to the student so distorted and exaggerated an idea of the extent of her knowledge as to detract from instead of adding to her usefulness. In my opinion, nothing but evil can arise from substituting such generalisation for specialisation in any system of higher education.

I do not wish to say anything to depreciate the value of the many efforts being made to instruct girls, after their school or University work, in the general principles and practice of housework; for these I have nothing but praise. But I do maintain that what we want in our women, to make them efficient housewives, wives (companions of their husbands), and mothers, is not so much a highly specialised training in housecraft, as a clearness of thought and coherence of action; in other words, capacity for applying to everyday circumstances an intellect trained in scientific methods. It is practically little how this well-trained mind is produced; a Science course including Physics, Chemistry and Physiology would have many advantages. Once given such a reasoning and adaptive mind the knowledge of the details and practice of housework necessary for the average woman could be acquired in a comparatively short time. A practical course of six months should be ample, for the woman who has to manage a home of average dimensions, in which to acquire the general principles and necessary practical knowledge of cooking, laundry work, and housewifery (for I presume that it is not desired to produce chefs or managers of large hotels).

It is no use disguising the fact that in the average household where one or two servants are kept, the expenditure of mental effort required in running the house, after, say, the first six months of starting the machinery working smoothly, is practically nil. All is routine; a daily or weekly routine, varied only occasionally by the advent of visitors. A limited income prohibits the expenditure necessary for the higher and more elaborate branches of cookery, while the often

simple and conservative tastes of the household render superfluous, and even undesirable any great variety in the food.

Over and over again, I have heard friends, both University trained and otherwise, bemoan the fact that domestic work calls for so little mental activity that, were their interest confined purely to domestic matters, their brains would be in danger of stagnating. But experience shows that those who have had a training of University standard, prove the less likely to neglect the purely manual and routine work inseparable from housework, while at the same time they have the immense advantage of being able to take up some work requiring serious intellectual effort. As a matter of fact, it requires a high type of intellect to appreciate the importance of doing the most trivial and most menial work (if it is necessary), with as much wholeheartedness and conscientiousness as the more intellectual and therefore more congenial work. Lack of such intellectual interest produces the results so familiar to all—boredom, depression, nerves, and a craving for variety, which is sought to be palliated for a time by bridge and other social excitements.

Should not the ideal for the housewife be a well balanced mind, capable not only of efficient management of the home, but also of sustaining at least one definite line of intellectual activity?

I have omitted reference to the training for Motherhood; that obviously is on an entirely different level from that for mere housecraft. But here again I maintain that the mentally efficient woman would make a better mother than one with a merely practical training, though, of course, the combination of the two would be the ideal. For it can hardly be denied that the upbringing and education of her children gives an opportunity which can only be fully appreciated and used by a woman of adequate intellectual capacity.

(Mrs.) ETHEL M. R. SHAKESPEAR D.Sc.

MRS. FAWCETT'S HISTORY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Once more Mrs. Fawcett has placed all suffragists under a debt of gratitude by writing that admirable history of the women's suffrage movement, recently published at 6d. It seems most desirable that this book should be read by the rank and file of our Suffrage societies as well as by those not intimately connected with the movement. I venture to suggest that local associations should buy a few copies in order to lend them to members of the associations who might not otherwise read the book. It would, of course, be better still to induce members to purchase it.

CLARA C. LUCAS.

Darlington.

STANDING AND SITTING.

The argument is often put forward by anti-suffragists that electors are by their franchise possible Members of Parliament. Lord Curzon repeated this fallacy, as I think it is, at the anti-suffrage meeting at the Albert Hall. But is it not a fact that the clergy, though enfranchised, are not eligible for Parliament? Women would be on the same ground.

One more confusion of thought may I allude to? What suffragists ask for is the power to choose who shall govern them, not the power to govern. Yet the anti-s are never tired of repeating about being governed by women.

AMY HARTLAND,

Hardwick Court, Chepstow, March 1st, 1912.

Our Advertisers.

Suffragists of both sexes should see to it that the House Committees of their clubs try COMMON CAUSE cigarettes, the new brand sold by R. Berlin, of 34, King Street, Manchester. These cigarettes, "came out" at the Manchester Bazaar, and had a great success. No suffragist smoker could resist COMMON CAUSE cigarettes daintily got up in red, white and green, and with the most excellent tobacco inside. Even an Anti-Suffragist connoisseur might overlook the badge for the sake of the tobacco, and thereby benefit the funds of the National Union to the extent of 6d. a hundred.

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TO SECRETARIES AND ORGANISERS.

In consequence of the great demand for blocks which have appeared in THE COMMON CAUSE, we shall be obliged in future to make a charge of 2s. for the use of our blocks, to cover the cost of postage, correspondence, &c. This is in addition to any copyright fee which may be due to the photographer or artist.

Supplying "The Common Cause."

Successful Suffrage workers have to know a little of everything, and no knowledge or experience comes amiss. From correspondence received lately it is plain that many of them thirst to understand the devious ways of the newspaper trade. Why does one newspaper tell them that he cannot stock THE COMMON CAUSE because he cannot afford to pay for the copies he may not sell, while another will cheerfully stock the paper, and say nothing about "returns"? This is one of several conundrums which we are often asked to solve. An article is in preparation, and we hope to publish it shortly.

Other Societies.

PEOPLE'S SUFFRAGE FEDERATION.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the People's Suffrage Federation, held on the 5th inst., the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That this meeting of the Executive Committee of the People's Suffrage Federation—which represents over 400 Societies and Branches of Societies—desires to place on record its conviction that the outrages recently perpetrated in London by a small minority of suffragists have caused and are causing incalculable damage to the prospects of the enfranchisement of women, and appeals to all fair-minded citizens not to judge the merits of a cause by the excesses of a few extremists."

THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

The wet afternoon by no means damped the enthusiasm of the audience which gathered together under the auspices of the Actresses' Franchise League on March 6th. Miss Eva Moore, who presided, in a charming speech appealed to all those present to show their sympathy in a practical form by joining and working for one of the many Suffrage Societies. Lady Bamford Slack exposed the fallacy of the statement that the agitation for Women's Suffrage was artificial because it was the work of organisations. No one said the agitation under which the whole country was suffering at the moment was artificial because it was the work of an organisation. It was only the unorganised units scattered over the country who could be gathered together to sign a petition against this reform. Mrs. Pertwee, in an able and thoughtful speech, dealt with the reforms which women would demand from the Government they helped to elect. A number of women had not yet declared their politics.

STANSTED (ESSEX).

The Saffron Walden and District Women's Suffrage Society, whose object is to obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men, and whose methods are strictly constitutional, lately organised an energetic campaign under the direction of Lady Meyer, its Honorary Secretary. Mr. Beck, the member for North Essex, is an Adult Suffragist, and will not support the Conciliation Bill for that reason.

Three important meetings have been held at the Central Hall, Stansted, during the last six weeks. At the first, held on February 15th, two plays were given by members of the Actresses' Franchise League and speeches made by Lady Meyer and Mr. Walter Hogg, L.L.B., on the present position of the movement. On February 29th Lady Meyer presided, supported by Mrs. Baillie Weaver, President of the local society, and Miss Mary Adelaide Broadhurst, M.A. (President of the National Political Reform League). The hall was full and the audience most appreciative. The third meeting took place on March 13th, Mrs. Baillie Weaver presiding, while Mrs. John Bailey and Dr. Coates represented the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association. Lady Meyer also spoke in the unavoidable absence of the Rev. Hugh Chapman. This meeting also was most successful, in spite of the interruptions of some facetious persons in the audience.

FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Meetings have been held this week at Weston-super-Mare (National Union), and in Trafalgar Square, London, after a procession to the Embankment, with the Church League Speakers: Rev. C. Fleming Williams, Rev. E. J. Barson, Mrs. Strickland, Mrs. Borwick, Lady Stout. Resolutions passed demanding immediate legislation, and appointing a deputation to Cabinet ministers.

Forthcoming Meetings.

ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION.

(The meetings are given only a fortnight in advance.)

- MARCH 21.
Chelmsford—Shire Hall—Mrs. Hatcher's "At Home"
—Mrs. Alderton, Sir J. Cockburn, K.C., 3.30
Bristol—Mrs. Gilmore Barrett's drawing-room meeting—Miss Helen Fraser 4.30
York—Assembly Rooms—President and Committee "At Home"—Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A. 3.0
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Mayfield, Jesmond—Cake and candy sale—Hostess, Miss E. Eriesson; opener, Mrs. Herbert Shaw 3.0
Wendover—"St. Theresa's"—Mid-Bucks annual meeting—Miss Helga Gill 3.30
Leominster—Mrs. Nield's drawing-room meeting—Mrs. Renton 3.30
Aldershot—Mrs. Lloyd's drawing-room meeting—Mrs. R. L. Dempster, Rev. T. Creed 3.30
Darlington—Mrs. Crickshanks' drawing-room meeting—Miss Lucas Afternoon
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Bigg Market—Miss Bury, Miss Beaver 7.0

- MARCH 22.
Altrincham—Public Hall—Prof. de Sumichrast, Mrs. Graham Ysborne (C.U.W.F.A.), J. Sidebottom, Esq., M.B., J.P. (Chair) 8.0
Colwyn Bay—Pier Pavilion—Mrs. Philip Snowden 8.0
Scarborough—St. Nicholas Boarding House—Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A. 8.0
Wednesbury—Clock Tower—Open-air meeting—Miss Morrison, Mrs. Cashmore 1.30
Wednesbury—High Bullen—Open-air meeting—Miss Morrison, Mrs. Cashmore 7.30
Limpfield—Hoskyns' Assembly Rooms—Mrs. Scoresby Routledge, M.A., Mr. Walter Hogg, L.L.B. (Chair) 8.0
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Armstrong's Works, Walter Street—Miss Bury, Miss Beaver 7.0

- MARCH 23.
Cheltenham—"Lowmandale," Leckhampton Road—drawing-room meeting—Mrs. Swiney, Mrs. Blakeney 3.15
Wednesbury—Corner of Revell Street—Open-air meeting—Miss Morrison, Mrs. Cashmore 1.30
Wednesbury—High Bullen—Open-air meeting—Miss Morrison, Mrs. Cashmore 3.0
Darlington—Bull Stake—Miss Morrison, Mrs. Cashmore 7.30
Streatham—Mrs. Barlow's and Mrs. Alvey's drawing-room meeting—Miss A. Miller 3.0

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IN a few weeks this phrase became a truism. Why? Order The Standard for a week, or a day, and you will see. It is because, since October 3, The Standard's daily news pages have included one headed:

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which every Thinking Woman in the land, and very many thinking men, want to see and to study every day. "WOMAN'S PLATFORM" has ended what was called the "Press Boycott" of the serious interests of thinking women—not their ribbons and ornaments, but their thoughts, aims, claims, views, hopes, deeds, and—WORK.

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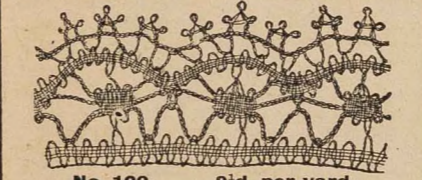
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MARCH 25.  
 Peiton Fell—Institute—Miss C. M. Gordon, Miss M. Weddell 7.30  
 Letchworth—Howard Hall—Annual meeting 3.15  
 Eccles—Morton St. Andrew's School—"Sandle-bridge Homes for the Feeble-minded"—Mrs. Noxbury 8.0  
 Stevenage—The Chestnuts, Basils Road—"W.S. from the Man's Standpoint"—Rev. J. D. Jones 8.0  
 Newcastle-on-Tyne—Town Hall—Lord Robert Cecil, G. E. Markham, Esq., Viscountess Castlereagh (chair) 8.0  
 Mickleham—Mrs. Gordon Clark's drawing-room meeting—Miss Susan Lawrence, Mrs. Raokham 8.0  
 Nottingham—54, Long Row—"At Home"—"Woman, past and future"—Miss Aird 7.30  
 Wednesbury—Town Hall—Miss Muriel Matters, J. Cameron Grant, Esq. 7.45  
 Newcastle-on-Tyne—Cowan's Monument—Miss Fenwick, Miss Bury 7.0  
 Newcastle-on-Tyne—Torchlight procession starting from 27, Ridley Place 8.0  
 Manchester—Cobden Hall, Great Clowes Street, Broughton—Miss A. Maude Royden, Miss M. Robertson, B.A., J. R. Tomlinson, Esq. (chair) 8.0  
 MARCH 26.  
 York—Mrs. Holmes' drawing-room meeting 3.30  
 Newcastle-on-Tyne—27, Ridley Place—Suffrage choir practice, conducted by Mrs. Bellas Simpson 8.0  
 Birmingham—Queen's College—Members' meeting—Mrs. Osler 5.0

Tiverton—Drill Hall—Miss Helen Fraser, A. J. Widgery, Esq. (chair) 8.0  
 West Bromwich—Library Lecture Room—Members' monthly meeting—Miss Matters, Miss Morrison 7.30  
 Worthing—31, Warwick Street—Annual meeting—Miss N. O'Shea 8.0  
 MARCH 27.  
 Bournemouth—Assembly Rooms, The Avenue—"At Home" 4.0  
 Wokingham—Town Hall—Lady Willoughby de Broke, Mrs. Corbett Ashby 8.0  
 Portsmouth—Bramble Road Schools—Miss N. O'Shea, Miss Jones (chair) 8.0  
 Bath—Post Office Chambers, Northgate Street—"The Summer Campaign"—Miss Chambers, Miss Johnston, Miss Wheelwright, Mr. Webb 5.0  
 Leamington—Masonic Rooms—Warwick and Leamington Societies' annual meeting—Mrs. Ring 3.0  
 Hereford—Mrs. Bulmer's drawing-room meeting—Mrs. Renton 3.30  
 Marple Bridge—"Walden"—Annual meeting—Paper by Percy Redfern, Esq. 7.45  
 Shipley—The People's Hall—Mrs. Parrish (Leeds), J. Mortimer, Esq. (chair) 8.0  
 Ascot—Drawing-room meeting—Mrs. Robie Uniaoko, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Lady Selbourne (chair) 3.0  
 Saltburn-on-Sea—Mrs. Stainthorpe's drawing-room meeting—Miss Fielden 3.30  
 Darlington—Mechanics' Hall—Debate—Miss C. M. Gordon & Miss Wall 7.30  
 Lancaster—Friend's Hall, Fenton Street—"The present position of W.S."—Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A. 7.45

Glasgow—Office, 202, Hope Street—Miss Macnaught's "At Home" 4.0  
 Gourko—Gamble Institute—Dr. Elsie Inglis 8.0  
 MARCH 25.  
 Crieff—Mayfield—Cakes and candy sale—The Lady Frances Balfour 3.0  
 Crieff—Portion's Hall—The Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, M.A., B.Sc. 8.0  
 Eyemouth—Town Hall—Mrs. Philip Snowden, Rev. R. S. Birch 8.0  
 MARCH 26.  
 Edinburgh—Music Hall—Mrs. Snowden, Lord R. Cecil, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, M.A., B.Sc. 8.0  
 Saltcoats—Lessor Town Hall—Miss A. Maude Royden, A. Ballantyne, Esq. 7.30  
 MARCH 27.  
 Aberdeen—Music Hall—The Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Snowden, Miss Louise I. Lumsden, L.L.D. (chair) 8.0  
 Ayr—Council Chambers—Miss A. Maude Royden 8.0  
 MARCH 28.  
 Perth—The City Hall—Mrs. Snowden, C. M. Robertson, Esq., Miss Haldane, of Cloan (chair) 8.0  
 Dundee—Forester's Hall—Miss A. Maude Royden 8.0  
 Leven—St. Margaret's Hall—Social meeting—Address by Dr. Elsie Inglis 7.30  
 MARCH 29.  
 St. Andrews—Volunteer Hall—Mrs. Snowden, C. M. Robertson, Esq., Prof. Herkless (chair) 8.0  
 Glasgow—Office, 202, Hope Street—"Women Parasites"—Miss Muirhead 4.0

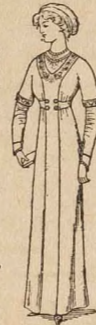
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MARCH 30.  
 Stirling—Albert Hall—Mrs. Snowden, C. M. Robertson, Esq., A. Ponsonby, Esq., M.P. (chair) 8.0

APRIL 1.  
 Falkirk—Town Hall—Mrs. Philip Snowden, Col. Denny, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, M.A., B.Sc. 8.0

APRIL 2.  
 Paisley—Town—Mrs. Snowden 8.0

APRIL 3.  
 Kirkcaldy—Beveridge Hall—Mrs. Snowden, R. O. Lockhart, Esq. (chair) 8.0

MEETINGS ADDRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE UNION.

MARCH 21.  
 Bristol—Redland Adult School, Blackboy Hill—Miss Helen Fraser 8.0

MARCH 22.  
 Edinburgh—Marshall Street Hall—Central Liberal Association—Miss Alice Low 8.0

MARCH 24.  
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MARCH 27.  
 Middlesbrough—Oddfellows' Hall—Trades and Labour Council—Miss Fielden 8.0

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 Gainsborough—Cleveland Hall—Miss Fielden, Mrs. Stainthorpe (chair) 3.30

**MARCH 29.**  
 Barnsley—Arcade Hall—Councillor M. Ashton, M.A. 7.30  
 Barmouth—Belle Vue Room—Miss Muriel Pryce, Miss Eskrigge, Mrs. Morgan 8.0  
 Exmouth—King's Hall—Miss Helen Fraser, Mrs. Knight Bruce (chair) 8.0  
 Purley—Mr. and Mrs. Shannon's "At Home"—Mrs. Duncan Harris, R. F. Cholmeley 8.45  
 Plymouth—Johnstone Terrace School 8.0

**APRIL 1.**  
 Budeigh—Salterton—Public Rooms—Miss Helen Fraser 8.30  
 Nottingham—Office, 54, Long Row—"Electoral Reform"—Mrs. Blagg 7.30  
 Stevenage—"The Chestnuts," Basils Road—"The present political position of W.S."—Mrs. Reed 8.0  
 Knutsford—King's Coffee House—Annual meeting 7.30. Social meeting—Miss M. Hewitt 8.0

**APRIL 2.**  
 Newcastle-on-Tyne—27, Ridley Place—Suffrage choir practice conducted by Mrs. Bellas Simpson 8.0

LONDON.

**MARCH 21.**  
 Plaistow—Settlement House—"At Home"—Miss A. Maude Royden, Miss Agnes Dawson 8.0  
 Balham—St. Mark's Literary and Debating Evening 8.0

**MARCH 25.**  
 Tower Hamlets—Ratelif Settlement—"At Home"—Miss J. Thomson, B.A., Mrs. Leon (chair) 8.0

Southwark—Webber Street Mission, Blackfriars Road—Mrs. Rogers 3.0  
 Paddington—Conservative Club—Debate—Miss C. Corbett, B.A., Mrs. Archibald, M.A., Alderman Handover (chair) 8.30  
 E. Molesey—Conservative Hall—Debate—Miss Abadam, Miss Pott 8.0  
 Kingston—St. Paul's Vicarage—Drawing-room meeting—Miss Clementina Black 3.0  
 Northwood—Emanuel Church Hall—N.S.P.I.E. Debate—Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A., Mrs. Gladstone Solomon. 8.15

**MARCH 26.**  
 Kensington—Empress Rooms, Royal Palace Hotel—London Society's Public Reception—Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A., Miss I. O. Ford, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, Miss Edith Palliser (chair) 3.30 to 6.0  
 Paddington, N.—11, Lauderdale Parade, Maids Vale—Social meeting—Miss Ruth Young, Miss Goddard 8.15

**MARCH 27.**  
 Hackney, C.—Mrs. Holder's drawing room meeting, 55, Lavender Grove—Mrs. Gimingham, M.A., Mrs. Ohallis 8.0  
 Kennington—Liberal and Radical Society, 143, Upper Kennington Lane, S.E. 8.30

**MARCH 28.**  
 Wimbledon—The Lecture Hall—Lingfield Road—Public meeting—Rev. W. O. Hawksby, Miss Helen Ward (chair) 3.0

**APRIL 3.**  
 Windsor—Castle Hill, Windsor—Open-air meeting—Miss C. Corbett, Mr. J. Y. Kennedy 8.0

SCOTLAND.

**MARCH 21.**  
 Perth—Cherrybank School—Miss Gorrie, D. B. Nicolson, Esq. (chair) 8.15  
 Brechin—Lessor Corona Hall—Miss Crompton, Mr. David Murray (chair) 8.15

**MARCH 22.**  
 Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—Public meeting 4.30  
 Perth—White Horse Hall—Miss Gorrie, J. Saunders, Esq. (chair) Evening

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