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Notes.

WE congratulate Miss Gertrude H. Wren on being the first lady to gain the Pereira Medal, the "blue riband of pharmacy."

ON the first day of the month a letter from the venerable American author, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, President of the New England Woman Suffrage Association, was published in *The Times*. We congratulate *The Times* on having been enabled to insert such a complete and admirable refutation of Mrs. Humphry Ward's recent article which appeared in their columns on the Woman Suffrage movement in America.

MISS LUCY ASHBY, member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, made an eloquent appeal for the emancipation of her profession from the schoolgirl restriction at present in force in last Saturday's *Times*. A little more control exercised over a proportion of medical students, who often show the want of it, and a great deal more freedom for the nurses, who show much need for it, is a change urgently wanted.

LACK of space precludes us from more than a brief announcement of the important fact that Mrs. Needham, the famous composer, is about to publish four Suffrage songs.

WE shall be glad to hear immediately from those who wish to have a Suffrage Calendar. We have almost decided, having regard to the orders received, to increase the number of the first printing—especially as a second printing means a large additional expense.

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

Mrs. Smithson	£ s. d.		
Mrs. H. Stables	0 10 0	Brought forward	5 12 6
Mrs. H. Thornton	5 0 0	Mrs. Underwood (quarterly donation)	0 5 0
	0 2 6		
Carried forward	£5 12 6	Total	£5 17 6

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

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

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

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

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,

13, BREM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

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

"The Truth against the World."

By L. H. FRANKLAND—(continued from p. 147.)

THE only way to appease any deep-seated discontent is to give it a chance of expressing itself. If legitimate channels are blocked, other outlets will be found. People must work for the causes they have at heart in the way their consciences dictate. The Constitutional Suffragists hold that laws should not be broken, and that street scenes are dangerous examples to the mob. They do not wish to come into public life to imitate the methods of men. The eternal feminine is antipathetic to physical violence. It is not only degrading, but useless, to seek to settle this question by resorting to fisticuffs.

No doubt there is a point at which self-respecting persons are driven into rebellion; the question is, has that point been reached? The Militant Suffragists have infringed the Prevention of Crimes Act; but injustice and oppression are apt to beget unruliness. They have also broken the law—a sort of law of etiquette framed to protect the dignity of the surroundings of the Houses of Parliament—a far different matter from the rick-burning, tearing up the railings in Hyde Park, burning down the prison in Bristol, and wrecking houses, which men indulged in when demanding the vote. But the women who now demand the vote have a greater grievance to complain of. They are properly qualified voters, according to the constitution of this country, and have been so ever since the axiom was laid down that taxation and representation go hand in hand. Their sex is the sole reason why the vote is withheld, and the insult implied is so searching and so profound that the only thing to be marvelled at is the moderation of the women who have realized the position in the body politic which women occupy to-day. You have to consider also that women who have realized their position have been working in a constitutional way for over fifty years. The treachery and insincerity with which their efforts have been met have had an effect on the conduct of determined women, who have made up their minds that patience is regarded as a sign of weakness.

Those of us who still cling to the tactics of peaceful propaganda have been forced to observe that by means of sensational methods the Militant Suffragists have in a couple of years advanced the cause into the position of a burning question which will have to be dealt with, if only to restore peace to political meetings, and to save the House of Commons from becoming a laughing stock. It is a disgrace to the country that the appeal to reason has been less effective than the appeal to sensationalism. Suffragists, however, would do well to remember that discretion is the better part of valour; but the blame for the over-excitability of some of their actions is thought by many to attach itself to politicians, who have made use of women in the game of politics, and have played fast and loose with them until large numbers are on fire with indignant revolt, and some have been goaded into a state of passionate irritation which they can scarcely control.

The annoyance caused by these manifestations is of a harmless and fleeting description, and the punishment meted out is surely harsh enough to pacify the most rigid sense of decorum. If hope deferred can be held to be any justification of shooting and cattle driving in Ireland, surely the justification of the mild revolutionary methods of the Militant Suffragists is not far to seek. The blocking of Sir Charles McLaren's motion in 1907, and the knighthood subsequently conferred, may have accounted for a good deal of bitter feeling. Women depend so much on the protection which civilization affords, and they are so well aware of this, that one can be certain that nothing but a strong sense of injustice could induce educated and respectable women to depart from the habits of a lifetime, and expose themselves, as we have witnessed, to hardship, indignity, and misconception.

Women are naturally very sensitive, and some of those who have suffered imprisonment in the Second and Third Divisions, where their sufferings have been unquestionably severe, have, to my knowledge, a keen sense of what is befitting, and a great susceptibility to ridicule; and when we

see them steeled to ridicule and careless of exposure, we are forced to ponder on the depth of feeling which urges them on to repugnant paths. Most of them have been drawn from the well-to-do classes who have not much to gain individually from the grant of the vote, and their unselfish enthusiasm sends a glow through a chilling world of private ambitions and party rivalries. Surely the dullest amongst us can recognize the courage with which they have plunged themselves into the anonymous degradation of prison life; anonymous for most of them, as far as public appreciation of their conduct is concerned; but by no means anonymous in the private circle of each one of them. In some cases ostracism and loss of employment and income have rewarded their efforts.

What has given these plucky women the strength to brave convention, and risk shattered nerves and the loss of health? The fact is, we have got it into our heads that women are not so well protected by civilization as is commonly supposed. The struggle for existence presses with peculiar weight on poor women and girls. The desire to help and protect their unfortunate sisters has awakened the passionate sympathy of those in better circumstances.

I was present as a spectator at the Parliament of Women at Caxton Hall on February 11th, and as I watched the self-elected delegates from the meeting passing quietly and gravely from the Hall to meet the police in Parliament Square, and to make, by the temporary sacrifice of their persons, the time-worn, but ever-reviving, protest embodied in the ancient Welsh motto, "The Truth against the World," I thought of Tennyson's Love took up the harp of life and smote on all the chords with might;
Smote the chord of self, that, trembling pass'd in music out of sight.

L. H. FRANKLAND.

Correspondence.

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

DEAR MADAM,—With regard to the proceedings at Maidstone, I wish to make two or three points clear.

We were protected and helped, but not by the so-called respectable persons in the crowd. Two or three men, whom members of the soft classes would call rough, stood by us gallantly, and forced the crowd back; but for their help I think we should have been severely hurt. They did not know us, and I do not now know their names; and I desire through your columns to offer them thanks and admiration.

When I stood on a chair and faced the crowd the stone-throwing ceased. Boldness under such circumstances is really the best policy. Allow me to contradict the assertion made in certain reports that we were terrified during the siege of the van. Both Miss Sidley and I have a keen sense of humour, and we laughed heartily several times at the remarks of our rather foolish opponents, and the ridiculous incidents of the situation.

I hear no report was made at the police station. Damage to women does not seem to count in our country.

On the following evening we went again to the square. On this second occasion the Mayor, who came forward with courteous apologies, introduced us. I was received with hearty applause. We were heard attentively, and our addresses were followed by an interesting discussion.

I am refusing the payment of my imperial taxes, and find I am running the risk of imprisonment. Can any reasonable man or woman be surprised at my action? The occurrences at Maidstone illustrate our contention that the law is for citizens. I am not a citizen, yet I am made to pay—for the maintenance, I presume, of law and order, which, so far as I am concerned, may be broken with perfect impunity to the law-breakers.

I remain, yours faithfully,

Earnshaw Cottage, Esher, October 3rd. C. DESPARD.

[We have received a long letter from a printing employee who used to work for *Women's Franchise*, enclosing cuttings from local papers which confirmed our fears of the seriousness of Mrs. Despard's hurt, and of the disturbance generally, also showing the absolute intrepidity of the two ladies. The writer of the letter had the honour of offering "first aid" to Mrs. Despard.—Ed. W.F.]

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

OBJECT.—To obtain the Parliamentary Suffrage for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to Men.

The Union is a Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Secretary: MISS MARGERY CORBETT, B.A.

Treasurer: MISS BERTHA MASON.

Hon. Secretary: MISS FRANCES HARDCASTLE, M.A.

Organisers: MISS E. M. GARDNER, B.A. MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON, B.A. MRS. COOPER.

Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

Telephone: 1060 VICTORIA.

OFFICES: 25, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

The Union will send Organising Agents, Speakers, or Literature to any place requiring them, its desire being to form a Women's Suffrage Society in every County and Borough. All persons interested in the movement, or desiring information about it, are requested to communicate with the Secretaries. Increased Funds are needed for the growing work of the Union, and Subscriptions will be gladly received by the Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1908.

Chairman—MR. WALTER S. B. MCLAREN.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON
THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR
MISS FLORENCE BALGARNIE
MRS. ALLAN BRIGHT

MR. A. CAMERON CORBETT, M.P.
MISS EDITH DIMOCK
MISS I. O. FORD
MISS MARTINDALE, M.B., B.S.

MRS. BROADLEY REID
HON. BERTRAND RUSSELL
MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN
MISS LOWNDES

MISS WARD
LADY STRACHEY
And the Hon. Officers,
ex officio.

Our Election Policy and the Newcastle By-Election.

NEWCASTLE should mark the opening of a fresh chapter in the history of our by-election work. The key-note of our policy is to bring direct pressure to bear on the Government of the day by means of the electorate, and for this purpose it is essential that we act as politicians, not as mere propagandists.

When Mr. Shortt was interviewed by the local Liberal Association before his adoption as candidate, two men got on their feet at the same moment to question him on his attitude to Women's Suffrage. Every candidate at every election ought to be required to pass this test.

It was spontaneously suggested to our organizer at a meeting of a branch of the Engineers, that a petition be prepared for signature by voters only; the number of signatures obtained already, with the minimum of effort, shows that with proper organization, an unmistakable mandate to the Government would be the result. The same plan should be adopted in future in all favourable constituencies.

After the declaration of the poll both candidates referred to Women's Suffrage in their speeches. Personal pledges to do this should be obtained from all favourable candidates at every election.

Finally, when the new member takes his seat, the senior member for the constituency, Mr. Hudson, will present the Voters' Petition to the House of Commons.

From first to last, at this election, the question of Women's Suffrage has been in the forefront of the political arena. By means of our election policy we are forging an exceedingly powerful political weapon: the spontaneous expression of the wish and intention of the electorate of Great Britain to give justice to their women.

A few words, now, as to the relative importance of the work of our Union and of the W.S.P.U. in this election.

The first out-door meeting at which the cause of Women's Suffrage got anything like a quiet hearing was held by our organizer, Miss Fraser. Standing all alone on a box in the Haymarket, she ultimately succeeded in quieting a tumultuous and irritated crowd by explaining to those near her that we were not the Anti-Government society, and that she had something to say to them which it would interest them to hear. After that there was no difficulty in obtaining a hearing for either section of Suffrage speakers, and the interest in the different election policies of the two societies was remarked by all.

We were told over and over again that we were going to work the right way; one of the candidates exclaimed, when told of our Voters' Petition, "that is practical politics!" He was quite right, and it was an unmistakable fact that our influence, and our influence alone, could have launched and carried through that venture.

On the afternoon of the polling-day Miss Fraser and I went round to the polling-stations to see after our sandwich-men with the posters announcing the Voters' Petition. We saw hardly any signs of the W.S.P.U., except that at one station a young woman wearing their colours told us she had waited a long hour in vain for the arrival of Anti-Government literature from head quarters; she was very glad to take some of our petition handbills to distribute!

These incidents, and many others I could cite, will serve to show that it is by no means "now a pretty well-established fact that the N.W.S.P.U. lead the way in propaganda work" (*Votes for Women*, Sept. 17th).

On two occasions we filled the Town Hall with audiences of men and women who paid for their seats. The proceeds amounted to £40 in cash. As a proof of the interest taken in us by the people of Newcastle, this may be compared with the contributions obtained at similar meetings by the W.S.P.U., consisting for the most part of large sums promised by the rich ladies of the town. We sold £25 worth of literature during the election.

As to the local press, I could quote page after page showing the immense interest taken in speeches on the Suffrage, whether by members of the W.S.P.U. or by ourselves. It is, in fact, exceedingly difficult, except for those who were on the spot, to apportion the credit accurately; this, no doubt, accounts for the fact that the London press has frequently mixed up their allusions to "the Suffragists" in such a way as to be peculiarly misleading to those who wish to gauge the value of our work. Instances might easily be given, but space forbids. And, as more importance naturally attaches itself, from their standpoint, to an agitation which may be turned into a catspaw for the Unionist party, it is not to be wondered at that the Unionist press, in especial, should not always succeed in separating one part of the Women's Suffrage camp from the whole.

FRANCES HARDCASTLE.

Correspondence.

An Open Letter to the Right Hon. Lloyd George, M.P.

DEAR SIR,—In common with others, I have read with attention and interest the speech to the Welsh Liberal Convention of Oct. 1st in which you outlined the Government policy.

1. "In the forefront" of your programme you placed "the establishment of complete equality" religious and civil—you devoted a whole section of your speech to the enumeration of the restrictions, disabilities, privileges, and monopolies which must be abolished and destroyed before "religious and civil equality" is attained to in this country.

I have carefully searched for some reference to the "civil disabilities and restrictions" imposed on women, but I find no single word concerning the removal of these.

The omission will have given pain and disappointment to thousands of women who have looked to you for "bread." You have given them a "stone." And yet it must be obvious to you, without any words of mine, that "civil liberty and equality can never be established in the land" until sex disqualification is abolished, and the Parliamentary Franchise is granted to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men.

2. You are reported to have stated that the reason for this omission is "because the conduct of women is making the advocacy of their cause hopelessly impossible."

Believing as I do in the right of free speech, I hold no brief for those who disturb public meetings, though in common fairness I must point out, in passing, that it is "hope deferred," patience exhausted, the sense of justice denied (than which nothing is harder to bear), which have led in no small degree to the adoption of tactics which many of us regret and deplore.

On the other hand, I would remind you that there are thousands of women in the country who are fulfilling the duties, and bearing the burdens, of citizenship, who have never disturbed a meeting, or interrupted a speaker; who are earnestly and persistently working for the removal of the "civil disabilities," which press heavily upon women, especially upon working women, who are sacrificing their health, their time, and their means to secure the "civil freedom and equality" which you so strongly advocate. Is the conduct of such women, I ask, "making the advocacy of their cause hopelessly impossible"?

3. You are reported to have said "that there are some people" (and amongst such people you apparently class women) "who are dissatisfied because the Government (of which you are a prominent member) have not transformed the whole conditions of life in this country in two years."

So far as I know, no such sweeping and ridiculous charge has ever been made against the Government by even the most militant and dissatisfied member of any of the women's societies which have for their sole aim the abolition of sex disqualification and the extension of "civil equality" to women.

Our demand is "that the great principle of civil equality" which, as you truly told the Welsh Convention, "lies at the root of freedom and good government of the people," may be applied to women as well as to men. We ask, in common with yourself, "for that fair play which we seem to regard with pride as a peculiar property of Britishers"—a "property" by the way—so far as women are concerned—"to which this country has not yet attained."

An American poet has said that "the convincing fact, the kingliest act of freedom is a free man's vote."

The same may with truth apply to a free woman's vote.

We Suffragists of all societies ask for no privilege. All we demand is that we may be entitled, fulfilling the same duties, bearing the same burdens, to exercise the same privileges as men, and that we shall be no longer barred from the possession of citizenship in a great and free country.

The movement for political freedom and equality among women is over forty years old. During that time it has grown to great dimensions; it embraces all classes. That it is a living movement there can be no doubt. During the last forty years we have adopted every reasonable means, every constitutional method in our power, to further the cause of "civil equality" for women. In so doing we are striving for objects which you and every English statesman has taught us to believe are desirable objects, citizenship and political freedom. The Prime Minister once stated that "the task of Liberalism was to enfranchise the people," you told us last week that "the Liberal party has not abandoned its traditional ambition to establish freedom and equality." We call upon you, then, to prove without delay the sincerity of your words by recognizing, both by word and deed, the present strong and growing demand of women for a share in that "civil equality" and political freedom to which you attach so much importance.

BERTHA MASON.

East Coast Campaign.

MISS GARDNER is going to the east coast on the 12th to carry on a campaign in the district through which the caravan travelled. She starts at Bridlington on the 12th, is at Filey on the 19th, Malton on the 23rd, and Whitby on the 29th. From there she goes north to Hartlepool, Sunderland, &c., but these dates will be announced later. She would be very grateful for the names of helpers in the district, or for the addresses of secretaries of political associations, debating societies, &c., or of ladies who would be willing to give drawing-room meetings. Information may be sent to the office or to Miss Gardner, 136, Portland Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

5,000 Guineas Fund.

WE have much pleasure in acknowledging a splendid donation of 50*l.* from Miss Philippa Fawcett,

Mrs. Fawcett's Engagements.

WE are often asked when and where Mrs. Fawcett will be speaking, as our members are anxious for their friends to hear her. From October 12th to the 16th inclusive she will be at Kendal, Ambleside, Keswick, and Workington respectively. On the 19th, 20th, and 21st she speaks at Maryport, Cockermouth, and York. She gives an address on 'Women as Citizens' in Bloomsbury Chapel on the 25th. On the 28th she addresses a meeting at Pontypridd, and the next day she speaks twice at Cardiff.

New Societies.

WE are glad to welcome two societies into the Union which, although they have been in working order for some time, did not feel strong enough to join us officially. Berwick W.S.S. (secretary, Miss Alice Low) has hitherto been working with Edinburgh, but has now a sufficient membership to manage its own affairs; and Edinburgh has generously remitted the subscriptions received from the new members.

Woburn Sands W.S.S. has also joined us, and is doing excellent pioneer work. We are very glad to welcome these, as we want our forces to look as imposing as possible at the moment.

Work in Penrith.

A SUCCESSFUL open-air meeting was held in Penrith on August 25th, the speakers being Miss Robertson, Miss Abadam, and Miss Thomson. Miss N. Hart has started a stall for the sale of Suffrage literature on market days, hoping by means of it to raise interest in the movement. The stall was opened on September 8th, and for three successive Tuesdays was carried on with gratifying results. On September 29th Miss Robertson held an open-air meeting in the afternoon and another on Wednesday evening. Her addresses were much appreciated, though the crowd was characteristic of Penrith audiences in that it displayed neither strong disapproval nor enthusiasm. On the 30th we held a meeting in the hall of St. Andrew's Parish Rooms, and the success of it was beyond all expectations, expenses being entirely cleared, and no active opposition to the resolution being shown. We had an excellent chairman in Frank Marshall, Esq., of Keswick. Miss Sparks, of Penrith, proposed the resolution, which was seconded by Miss Robertson, who spoke with convincing eloquence. Part of her address dealt with the manifesto of the Anti-Suffrage Society, and this was most appropriate just now, as we have reason to believe that a branch of that Society may shortly be formed in Penrith. We ourselves hope to start a Suffrage Society as soon as the necessary number of sympathizers can be mustered, but at present work is much hampered through lack of funds. In the meantime we are arranging for a course of six lectures, for which some of the speakers have been secured.

MAY LAWRENCE.

Branch Societies.

BIRKENHEAD.—A largely attended public meeting was held in the Association Hall on September 28th, under the joint auspices of the Women's Suffrage Society and the Men's League. J. H. Ziegler, Esq., J.P., presided, and the speakers comprised Miss Margaret Ashton, Mr. Ivory Cripps, Mrs. Allan Bright, Mr. Herbert Gorst, and Dr. Alice Ker. The following resolution was passed with only one dissident: "That this meeting urges Mr. Asquith, in view of the recent successful demonstrations of the 13th and 21st of June proving the earnest desire of women for the vote, to allow facilities for the passing of a Women's Enfranchisement Bill during the present session of Parliament."

DARLINGTON.—A very successful meeting was held on October 1st. The Rev. T. J. Christian occupied the chair, and after an appropriate address, Mrs. A. Foster ably proposed and Mrs. Hutchinson seconded the resolution (which is being forwarded by every branch to Mr. Asquith). It was carried unanimously. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the chairman, and several joined the Society.

M. L. SWANSON, Hon. Sec.

CHELLENHAM.—The fourth outdoor meeting was held on Saturday, October 3rd, at 3.30, at the usual rendezvous at Leckhampton, under the Women's Suffrage Society's banner. The meeting was small, but many women were present, and all listened attentively. Miss Lilian How and Miss Theodora Mills were the speakers. Announcements were made of Mrs. Despard's meeting the same night (W.F.L.), and of Mr. Mackenzie Bell's on the following Saturday. The proceedings lasted an hour.

LLANDUDNO.—A large and representative drawing-room meeting was held at 4, Abbey Road on October 1st by invitation of Mrs. Walton Evans, President of the branch.

The chair was taken by Mr. J. J. Marks. Miss Eleanor Rathbone, of Liverpool, moved a resolution urging Mr. Asquith to give facilities to Mr. Stanger's Bill, and she delivered an able and interesting address. The resolution was seconded by Dr. Goody, and carried unanimously. Archdeacon Evans moved a vote of thanks to Miss Rathbone, whose presence was much appreciated by the audience, some having come from Colwyn Bay and Rhyl to hear her. The meeting evoked much enthusiasm for the cause, and a good collection was taken for the funds.

E. WALTON EVANS, Sec. pro tem.

LONDON, Beckenham.—A reception was recently held at the Co-operative Hall to meet several of the leaders of the movement. It was very well attended and thoroughly successful, enabling all to mix with friendliness and to appreciate the speeches without the set formality of the ordinary public meeting. Miss Abadam presided, and the speakers included Dr. Alice Johnson, Miss Cicely Hamilton, and Miss Margaret Ashton.

Highgate.—A successful meeting was held in the Spears Memorial Hall on the 2nd, the Rev. T. L. Lacey in the chair. An address was given by Miss C. Dean Corbett. Miss Zimmermann and Mr. Hanington seconded the resolution, which was carried *nem. con.*, although the Anti-Suffrage League was unofficially represented.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

			P. M.
Oct. 8.	Bristol, Caldecott, Public Meeting	Speaker, Miss Abadam	3
	Leicester, Meeting of N.U.W.S.S. Secretaries at Y.M.C.A. (London Road Entrance)		5-6.30
	Soiree, Municipal Art Gallery, New Walk		8-10 A.M.
9.	N.U.W.S.S. Quarterly Council Meetings, Sunday-School Memorial Hall, New Walk		10.30 P.M.
	Exhibition of Banners, Admission 6 <i>d.</i> , including Tea, Temperance Hall, Granby Street	Speakers, Rev. Gertrude von Petzold, M.A., and Delegates	3-6
	Great Demonstration, Temperance Hall. Admission by Ticket—1 <i>s.</i> , 6 <i>d.</i> , 3 <i>d.</i> Organized by an Independent Local Committee	Chairman, J. Tudor Walters, Esq., M.P. Speakers, Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mrs. Cooper, Miss I. O. Logan, Sir Charles McLaren, M.P., T. M. Kettle, Esq., M.P., Franklin Thomasson, Esq., M.P.	8
	Bournemouth, Public Meeting, St. Peter's Hall, Hinton Rd.	Speaker, Lady Grove	4
	London, Bedford Park	Hostess, Mrs. Brookes Chair, Mr. J. Leighton Speaker, Miss Cockle	8.30
Oct. 9.	Manchester, First Weekly "At Home" of the N. of E. Society, at 85, Deansgate Arcade	Speaker, Miss Margaret Ashton	8 P.M.
	Gateshead, Members' Meeting, Bewick Hall		3.30
	Evening Public Meeting	Speakers, Miss Rowlette, Miss Helen Fraser	7.30
	Newcastle, Drawing-Room Meeting, Adderstone Crescent	Hostess, Mrs. Mein Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser	3.30
10.	Cheltenham, First Social, Town Hall	Speaker, Mackenzie Bell, Esq.	4-6
	Manchester, Public Meeting, Emmanuel Schoolroom, Barlow Moor	Chair, Rev. Charles Ford, M.A. Speaker, Miss Margaret Ashton	8
12.	London, Ealing, Public Meeting, Argyle Congregational Hall, W. Ealing	Chair, H. G. Chancellor, Esq. Speakers, Mrs. Stopes, Miss Abadam	8
	Newcastle, Drawing-Room Meeting, 11, Devonshire Place	Hostess, Mrs. E. Weddell Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser	3.30
13.	Ardrossan, Literary Society, Meeting, Town Hall	Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser	8
14.	Manchester, Marple Branch, Public Meeting	Speakers, Miss Barbara Foxley, Miss Edith Eckhard	
	Warwick and Leamington, Public Meeting, Schoolroom, Westgate	Chair, Councillor Lloyd Evans Speakers, Mrs. Rackham, Miss M. Robertson	
15.	Warwick and Leamington, Drawing-Room Meeting, Whitlock Cottage, Leamington	Hostess, Miss Crowlie Mrs. Rackham, Miss M. Robertson	2
	Public Meeting, Kenilworth, Assembly Rooms	Chair, Corrie-Grant, Esq. M.P. Speakers, Mrs. Rackham, Miss M. Robertson	M.P.
16.	Aberdeen, Reception, Music Hall	Hostess, Lady Weetman Pearson Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Alison Garland, and others	7
	Cheltenham, Open-Air Meeting, Norwood Arms, Leckhampton		6
17.	Glasgow, Public Meeting, Charing Cross Halls	Chair, Treasurer Stevenson Speakers, Mrs. Allan Bright, Mrs. D. Greig, Miss F. Melville, Prof. Latta	3
19.	Bethnal Green, E., Debating Society for Men		9
19 & 20.	Nottingham, Exhibition of Banners, Lecture Hall, Castle Gate		
20.	Belmont, Surrey, Debate	Speaker, Miss Emily Hill	
23.	Manchester, Joint Demonstrations in Support of Women's Suffrage, Evening Meeting, Free Trade Hall	Chair, Miss Margaret Ashton Speakers, Lord Courtney of Penarth, Miss Abadam, Mrs. Bury, Mrs. Despard, Keir Hardie, Esq., M.P., H. Stanger, Esq., M.P.	8
24.	Afternoon Mass Meeting and Procession from Albert Square to Alexandra Park		
26.	Birmingham, Meeting for Women only, Smethwick Town Hall	Speakers, Miss Abadam, and others	3.30
	Public Meeting, Smethwick Town Hall	Speakers, Miss Abadam, and others	7.30
	Ilford, Congregational Church, Literary and Debating Society	Speaker, Miss Clementina Black	8
26 & 27.	Sunderland, Exhibition of Banners, Victoria Hall		
29.	Cardiff, Public Meeting, Park Hotel	Speakers, Mrs. Fawcett, J. Malcolm Mitchell, Esq.	8
	Warwick and Leamington, Public Meeting, Town Hall, Leamington	Chair, H. Y. Stanger, Esq., M.P. Speaker, Mrs. Pember Reeves	
30.	Glasgow, Annual Meeting, 58, Renfield Street, Offices of the S.C.W.T.		

* * * Kindly address all communications relating to the work of Societies in the N.U.W.S.S. and all paragraphs intended for these columns to Miss Hardcastle, 25, Victoria Street, S.W.; to reach her by first post Saturday. Please write only on one side of paper.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League (late W.S.F.A.).

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

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

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

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

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

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

The Thorny Path of the Cabinet Minister.

THE Liberals of East Fife are not taking any risks with their Cabinet Ministers! It would not have seemed, a few years ago, to any one visiting this constituency, as if any emotional danger whatsoever could possibly exist throughout the whole of its stolid length and breadth. But now the scene is changed. Mr. Asquith, who once walked boldly and without fear through East Fife, and roused admiring crowds to enthusiasm (as enthusiasm is understood there), by his eloquent and unflinching peroration, "As long as East Fife sticks by me, I will stick by East Fife," now lays his plans for delivering that peroration with deep and deadly caution. According to the local press, no small amount of feeling has been created in the Liberal ranks over the arrangements in connexion with the Premier's visit to Leven on October 7th. His proposed movements are shrouded in such mystery and secrecy, that even the Decorative Committee, who desire to strew his path with flowers and banners—a most laudable desire surely!—are not allowed to learn the route by which he will enter the town. No wonder they are up in arms. To quote the local press again, "The Decorative Committee met last Thursday evening. Bailie Easton occupied the chair; and the convener of the Committee, Mr. J. Beveridge, in the course of a strongly-worded speech, spoke of what he regarded as an ignoring of the Committee. He remarked that when they asked what road the Premier was to drive along, all present professed ignorance; but he had it on good authority that some of the gentlemen in the room were sitting with invitations in their pockets to dine with Mr. Asquith at a certain private house. Mr. Beveridge said he had always been a hard worker for the Liberal Committee, but he would do their 'dirty work' no longer."

I applaud Mr. Beveridge's resolution. It has a familiar and determined ring about it. But the Decorative Committee is not the only body that has difficulties to face—read on.

"A meeting of the Parent Committee was held afterwards, ex-Provost White presiding, and after the business of going over the voters' roll was disposed of, a discussion took place regarding the admission of ladies into the hall. As a precaution against interruption by Mrs. Billington-Greig and her allies, it had been decided to admit only about a hundred ladies by ticket to the platform, and Mr. D. Malcolm Allan argued that the restriction was quite unnecessary. The Liberal ladies of Leven, he said, were all quite well known, and no stranger would get past the stewards they would place at the doors. Mr. Ketchen, the Liberal agent, explained that the arrangement was made at Mr. Asquith's request." So that is the secret of it all. The trail of the Suffragist is over East Fife, and unless all the men now stand shoulder to shoulder, and unite in a determined front against the common enemy, it may be that the finest effort of the Decorative Committee will be marred by an intrusive banner flaunting the words, "Votes for Women." It may even be—awful thought—that the famous peroration will be robbed of its thunderous effect by the interjection of the haunting and familiar cry. No wonder the Liberals in East Fife, including the Decorative Committee, and the Parent Committee, and the Dinner Committee, are meeting in solemn conclave, and taking serious counsel together. It is all very sad, very distressing.

Here is the Prime Minister of the empire compelled to resort by dark and devious ways, like a thief in the night, to his place of meeting in Leven. Instead of proceeding along gaily decorated streets lined with a cheering populace, he will have to meet his constituents by stealth and speak to them on affairs of state

with bated breath, behind locked doors, each door guarded without and within by stewards pledged to slay and spare not any stranger caught trying to dodge their vigilance.

Now, it is not for the "likes o' me" to offer advice to the Liberals of East Fife, and the Committees aforementioned, but I should just like to utter one word of caution. How can they be sure that all their plans will not be brought to utter confusion after all? We have been at work in East Fife for some months, and as a result of our efforts a large number of local women, even some of them "well-known Liberal ladies," have been roused to a sense of the indignity of their position. The treatment that was meted out to them on Saturday, September 26th, by Mr. Haldane, when he was addressing a meeting in Ladybank—behind the usual locked doors—and who discourteously refused to receive a deputation of Ladybank women which waited upon him, even refusing to answer their legitimate and polite request in any way whatsoever, has only proved another valuable object lesson to the women of the East Fife constituency. Mrs. Mitchell and I, who were present with the local women, held a meeting outside the Masonic Hall, and protested against the treatment to which a perfectly peaceable deputation was subjected. Well, such is the position of East Fife. As I said at the beginning, they are not taking any risks with their Cabinet Ministers. It may be that this farcical position in which all Cabinet Ministers are now placed, viz., that they have to conduct an ordinary public meeting with almost the same stringent precautions that they adopt for a Cabinet meeting, may seem the lesser of two evils. But as they nearly all say they are in favour of giving women the vote, why not do it, and go back at one bound to the peaceful days when they could speak without fear of their carefully prepared and glowing perorations being spoilt, if not utterly extinguished, by the constantly reiterated cry of "Votes for Women"?

M. H.

Summary of Work done in East Fife.

MRS. DONALDSON of Dunfermline opened the campaign in June, and with wonderful courage and perseverance visited every village and hamlet in the constituency. Working almost alone, she seems to have won golden opinions from the villagers, who speak of her as "the lady whae stuaud wi' hersel," meaning she was alone. Then in July the Misses Scott of Edinburgh, Miss Eunice Murray, and Mrs. Sanderson attacked the district, and let loose upon the amazed electors of East Fife a flood of oratory which seems to have swept away a good many lingering prejudices, and at last convinced the canny Scot that, whatever he may think of our tactics, the justice and logic of our claim is indisputable.

I arrived on the scene in August, and, realizing the value of flank movements in warfare, and discovering a very willing and invaluable helper in the person of Mrs. Westwood of Buckhaven, I opened fire on the outskirts, and held meetings in places on the very edge of the constituency, paying special attention to Leven and Kirkealdy, where Mr. Asquith is to pay a visit of ceremony next week.

We have closed our summer campaign by a number of very successful indoor meetings, addressed by Mrs. Billington-Greig, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Irene Miller, and myself. Mrs. Billington-Greig was unfortunately prevented by pressure of work from being with us in East Fife as often as we could have wished, but no more effective substitute could possibly have been found than Mrs. Holmes of Croydon, whose ready wit and wonderful pathos

quite took by storm even the doourest Scot who attended our meetings. Indeed, in Ladybank the "champion heckler," who had half promised us assistance at question time, retired from the meeting with his questions unasked, but not unanswered. As we were afterwards told, we had covered the whole of the ground. Discovering that Mr. Haldane was expected in Ladybank on the 26th, in Mr. Asquith's place, we endeavoured to induce him to receive a deputation of local women, but found it next to impossible to approach the great man. However, we assembled our deputation at the gates of the hall, where we were unexpectedly reinforced by a number of very indignant ladies, who had sought admission to the meeting and been refused, although some of them were taxpayers and keen politicians in the constituency. We sent in a message by telegram informing Mr. Haldane that a deputation waited without. No reply being forthcoming, we held a meeting of protest at the big gates of the hall, and when the great man made an undignified rush for his motor-car, he was assailed with cries of, "Why didn't you receive our deputation? Why are we shut out of our own meetings? &c. Both men and women began to murmur that now they understand the necessity for our tactics.

Altogether we feel that East Fife is at last awake, having learnt something more of politics from the Suffragettes than twenty-two years of Liberal representation has taught them, and when we return at the end of October to carry on our work, we shall find an interested and kindly electorate to welcome us.

M. MITCHELL.

Caravan Tour.

ON Friday last our Women's Freedom League Caravan was at Sittingbourne. Here we had a most delightful pitch—in the grounds of a large empty mansion—and excellent meetings. Miss Mocatta and I held two very large orderly meetings in the Cattle Market, and on Sunday morning I addressed the Men's Adult School in the Town Hall. A great deal of sympathy was aroused in the town, and we have received many promises of help should we ever revisit Sittingbourne.

Our next halting place was Maidstone, where we received very rough treatment. Mrs. Despard joined the Van here, and Miss Mocatta left it. On the first night when we attempted to hold a meeting, an enormous crowd had assembled in the Sessions House Square. As soon as Mrs. Despard and I arrived we received showers of broken granite and small pebbles. One of these struck Mrs. Despard on the forehead, leaving a nasty cut and bruise. However, she mounted the chair and began to address the crowd, which immediately made a rush for her. Fortunately she was able to get upon her feet on the ground, but the chair was smashed up, and things looked indeed very dangerous. A little body of working men tried hard to protect us, and fought valiantly on our behalf. Stones, granite, and missiles of all kinds were flying around us. Just then our caravan, from which we had hoped to speak, arrived, and we got inside, opened the back, and I attempted to make myself heard. Shouts, jeers, songs, and stones came from every side. Soon the tail-board was wrenched off, and we tried to close the doors for fear they should share a similar fate. One refused to shut, and the hinges were strained very badly, so our half-dozen protectors fastened the chains across to keep the doors from the mob. Finding that they could not easily hit us from the back, our cowardly assailants turned their attentions to the windows, four of which were smashed. Great blocks of heavy stone and granite came through, while others hit the sides and back of the caravan, scratching the paint and spoiling the pretty exterior of our house. Meanwhile some half-dozen messengers had been sent for a horse, but it was not until about 9.30 that one arrived, and we were driven homewards, where we were left in peace to try and make the caravan habitable once again. By far the worst feature of the disturbance was that hundreds of so-called "gentlemen" stood by looking on, not one attempting to prevent the dastardly attack upon us, many of them smiling with evident satisfaction.

However, we held a very different meeting on the following night. The Mayor himself opened the meeting by asking for fair play; the Chief Constable came down with a large body of plain-clothes and uniformed police constables to enforce order, and our gathering was very quiet and orderly.

The next night found Miss Seruya, Miss Cowen, and myself at West Malling, where we had a perfectly delightful meeting. We all felt extremely sorry to be obliged to come on to Sevenoaks after seeing so much interest displayed. We felt that three or four days could be spent in this little village with advantage. We took a very good collection, and sold a large quantity of literature.

Our first meeting at Sevenoaks was somewhat noisy—a number of youths and boys delighted in throwing fireworks and clods of earth at us, and in occasionally practising pantomime songs. The police do not appear to think it their duty to prevent fireworks or other missiles being thrown at women. However, we must teach our youthful opponents better, and hope that on Monday they will behave more decorously.

MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY.

Constituency Campaign.

TICKETS for the first of the Fortnightly Meetings will be sent on sale or return to Branch Secretaries and others on application. Please apply if you have any Meetings during next week at which they can be sold. Speakers: See Calendar.

Special Effort Week.

MANY excellent methods for raising funds have already been suggested for those having leisure to carry them out. There are, however, a great many members and friends of the Women's Freedom League belonging to the army of workers who have not the time to take advantage of the suggestions already set forth. To these another and a simple plan is now submitted: It is proposed that, for this particular occasion, we place a self-imposed tax of 10 per cent upon all our earnings (derived from the exercise of any profession, trade, employment, or vocation) during the *Special Effort Week* from October 12th to October 19th, in aid of the funds of the Women's Freedom League.

This is a scheme which, if generally taken up, would undoubtedly bring grist to the mill in no small measure, without inflicting any very great hardship. As our Hon. Secretary has informed us, "The hour is critical, the work is pressing!" Therefore, all members and friends are appealed to to assist in carrying this plan into execution.

Already offers of help have been received, and it is proposed to combine all contributions, under this head, in one lump sum, and to add the total to the general fund. It is hoped that all our working women (and men too) will be willing to pay this form of Income Tax, for one week only, to the Women's Freedom League.

Please address inquiries and contributions to Miss Marie Lawson, W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Mrs. and Miss Arklay have undertaken to make almond toffee, stuffed dates, acid drops, and other sweets.

The Islington Branch will work up a concert-party to go out several nights during Special Effort Week.

The Battersea Branch is undertaking a stall in Northcote Road. An entertainment is also planned, and though it will not come off till November, a special effort will be made to render it a success, and the proceeds will be handed over to the fund.

Miss Ada Mitchell, Merok, Great North Road, Highgate, N., will be glad to do embroidery on dresses, collars, or fancy articles in order to assist the funds for the Special Effort Week. All who wish to take advantage of this offer, please communicate direct with Miss Mitchell at above address.

Miss Baenziger reports that a special effort will be made to increase the membership of the Maida Vale Branch, and invites sympathizers to call at Flat 4, 134, Portsdown Road, Maida Vale, on October 15th, between 4 and 7.30. Arrangements are also to be made for *Women's Franchise* to be on sale at most of the local agents and booksellers.

We much regret that owing to want of space a portion of the Branch Notes, Correspondence, and other matter has to be held over till next week.—Ed. W.F.L.

Branch Notes.

Finchley Branch.—A branch has been formed in Finchley. The Executive Committee, which has met twice, consists of Mrs. Mary Mather, Hon. Treasurer, Miss Edith Berry, and Mrs. Eileen Mitchell, Hon. Secretaries, Miss Hepworth, Hon. Literature Sec., and Mrs. and Miss Taylor.

So far the work done has been organizing and visiting individuals with a view to enlist their sympathy.

Some of the chief Liberal women have been approached, and have promised to come to meetings. Some have even subscribed to our funds.

The local Socialist Society has invited us to send them on the 12th inst. a lady to lecture on "Why Women Suffragists do not Work for Adult Suffrage," and Miss Hicks, M.A., of Hampstead has kindly consented to represent the W.F.L.

Before this goes to press we shall have called on the Primrose Dames.

The local police, press, and anti-suffragists have not been neglected. One of the last-mentioned visited us armed with a paper collecting signatures (she had only three) and now she is on the road to conversion. We are trying to get up a Debate with the A.S.S., but I doubt if we shall succeed, because they do not seem to have sufficient courage to voice their convictions in public.

One of the local papers has kindly consented to insert news for us, and perhaps occasional articles.

On the 8th we have a meeting at Squire's Lane Council School. This is preliminary to a November public meeting.

There is any amount of work to do in a district like this, but we are full of hope for the future. E. B. and E. M.

The Clapham Branch of the Women's Freedom League is now working vigorously. Out-door meetings are held on Clapham Common at 3 P.M. every Sunday, and arrangements are being made for week-night meetings. Indoor meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays at Messrs. Phillip's Music Rooms, 13, South Side, Clapham Common at 8 P.M., to which members and their friends are cordially invited. Last Tuesday Miss Fitzherbert gave an extremely interesting lecture on 'The Necessity and Efficacy of Militant Tactics,' which aroused a good deal of enthusiasm, and was reported in the local press. On Tuesday, October 13th, Miss Neilans will lecture on 'Women under the Law,' and Tuesday, October 27th, Mrs. Nevinson has kindly promised to lecture.

Helpers for the sale of literature and for taking collections on Clapham Common are urgently needed. F. A. U.

Hampstead Branch.—On Thursday evening, October 1st, a large number of ladies and gentlemen engaged in educational work attended an "At Home" given by Mrs. Hicks at the Library, Prince Arthur Road. An hour was spent in tea and talk, after which a meeting was held at which Mr. John Russell, M.A., presided, and an address was given by Miss Muriel Matters on "Votes for Women," short speeches were also made by Mr. Joseph Clayton and Miss Crickmay. The evening closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Hicks.

Manchester Branch.—The interest displayed and the invitations we received to "come again" decided us to hold another meeting in Broughton. About twenty new members joined our League in Sale, the credit for which must be given to Mrs. and Miss Manning for their good and thorough work in Sale and Altrincham Bowdon. Three drawing-rooms are offered for "At Homes." October 15th, Miss Manning speaks at Pankhurst Hall to recruit members for the Demonstration, October 23rd and 24th, to which we wish to draw all friends' attention. The Special Effort week, October 12th to 19th, will provide an excellent opportunity; for Mrs. Dean, our Organiser, is portioning out and preparing work in readiness for this time. October 19th to 24th will find Miss Hines each day in our office ready to receive inquirers, and by gentle suasion to win the undecided ones over to our League. October 22nd, a Social will be held in the Portland Café, tickets 6d. each.

Wednesday, October 7th, a paper will be given by Miss Banner, 'Passing of a Bill in Parliament.' Wednesday, October 14th, a paper will be given by Miss Kirkman, 'The Woman's Question.'

Herne Hill and West Norwood Branch.—The "Votes for Women" movement has established itself in Herne Hill and West Norwood, for on Wednesday evening, September 30th, the Willoughby Hall was filled by an enthusiastic meeting of women gathered together for the purpose of forming a branch of the Women's Freedom League, and a start was made by enrolling twenty-five members. Dr. Alice Vickery, who presided, addressed the meeting, as well as Miss Molony, who made a stirring speech, which was heartily applauded. Dr. Vickery, who was elected president of the Branch, has kindly lent her drawing-room for branch meetings. Dr. Alice Vickery was an active worker, and greatly helped towards the success of the meeting. The following officers were elected temporarily: Dr. Vickery, President, 28, Carson Road, West Dulwich; Mrs. Minnie Holloway, Hon. Treasurer; and Miss Dorothy Spencer, Hon. Secretary, 48, Hawarden Grove, Herne Hill, S.E. DOROTHY SPENCER, Hon. Sec.

London Council.

The Cycling Corps will meet on Saturday, October 10th, at the Marble Arch, 3.30 P.M. The run will be to Holloway.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.
October 8th to 31st.

			P.M.
Oct.			
Thurs. 8.	"At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Despard Mrs. Nevinson Miss Abadam	3.30-6
	Women's Meeting, Ivy Lodge, Caldicot, Newport		3
	Squire's Lane Council School, Finchley	Mrs. How Martyn Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell	8
	1, Robert Street, Adelphi	Despard Debating Society	8
	Prince's Head, Battersea	Miss Underwood	7.30
		Mrs. Duval	
Fri. 9.	Attwell Road, Rye Lane Middlesbrough	Miss Cicely Hamilton and others	8
	Leicester Hackney Baths Committee Room,	Mrs. Billington-Greig Dr. E. Wilks, Mrs. Sudd- Brown, Miss Bawden	8
Sat. 10.	Friary Road, Rye Lane		8
Sun. 11.	Battersea Park	Mrs. Duval	3.30
	Wandsworth Common	Miss Taplin Miss Taplin	3
		Mr. Victor Albery Miss Underwood	
	Peckham Rye	Mrs. Despard	11.30 A.M.
		Mrs. How Martyn	3.30 P.M.
		Miss Irene Miller	6.30
		Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Sproson Mrs. Moore, Miss Neilans Miss Hillsworth, Miss Williams	5-7 & 8-10
Mon. 12.	Reception, 1, Robert Street Finchley Socialist Society Opening of Parliament, Open-air Meetings Meeting in New Offices, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi	Mrs. Billington-Greig and others	5-7 & 8-10
	Phillips's Music Rooms, Clapham	Miss Neilans	8.15
Tues. 13.	Altiora Club, N.W.	Miss Fitzherbert	8
Thurs. 15.	Pankhurst Hall, Manchester 1, Robert Street, Adelphi	Miss Manning	8
	"At Home," Caxton Hall	Despard Debating Society	3.30-6
Fri. 16.	Prince's Head, Battersea	Mrs. Herringham	7.30
	Hornsey, National Hall, High St.	Mrs. Duval	8
Sat. 17.	Out-door Meetings, Broughton, Manchester	Miss Bawden	8
		Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Dean Miss Manning, Miss Banner	
Sun. 18.	Battersea Park Clapham Common		3.30
			3
Mon. 19.	Feasgate Restaurant, York		3
Tues. 20.	Cottage Meeting, 302, Upper Brook Street, Manchester	Mrs. McMurray Miss Mitchell Mrs. Despard	8
Wed. 21.	Athenaeum, Camden Road	Mrs. Billington-Greig H. G. Chancellor, L.C.C. Miss Cicely Hamilton L. Atherley Jones, Esq., K.C., M.P.	
Sat. 31.	31, Goldsmith's Row, Haggerston Jumble Sale	Hackney Branch	

** All communications intended for the Women's Freedom League columns should be addressed to The Editor, W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and must reach her not later than first post Saturday.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

OFFICE: 38, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.
Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.
Hon. Literature Secretary: A. S. F. MORRIS.

Notes and Comments.

WE call the attention of all our readers to Mr. Joseph Clayton's letter which we publish below. From the statement issued by Mrs. Pankhurst last Saturday, it is evident that the N.W.S.P.U. contemplates a very vigorous movement in the absence of a satisfactory reply from the Prime Minister. In view of what Mr. Asquith has already said, no one can possibly expect that such a reply will be sent, and the usual course will be pursued—a deputation (probably more elaborately arranged than of yore), interference by the police, and numerous arrests.

Now we have been recently reminded, by the letter of C. I. which appeared in our columns last week, that it is our duty as the Men's League editor to take a perfectly impartial point of view on these questions of "method." Every reader of our columns—and a vast number beside—has his or her views. We would, however, remind all and sundry that the women who are sent by the N.W.S.P.U. to Westminster on the 13th are taking a tremendous risk. We do not refer merely to imprisonment—though that is serious enough; it is rather the danger of a disturbance in the open space near the House of Commons. That a huge crowd will assemble is certain, and the police will have the utmost difficulty in preserving order.

Now if for a single moment a crowd gets out of hand, the consequences may be disastrous. The very possibility is terrible to contemplate; we do not want to wade to Woman's Suffrage through blood. We therefore exhort all men, however strongly they may dislike the proposed deputation, or disapprove of it tactically, to be present on that occasion at Westminster, in order that they may be at hand to aid the forces of law and order. A crowd is very susceptible to the slightest impulse, and if the onlookers on the 13th realize that there is a large body of men determined to "see fair," they are much less likely to break loose.

For our own part we hope most earnestly that arrests may not be necessary. The public is getting used to the idea, and hence its object of stimulating the interest of the indifferent is largely achieved. Moreover, the cause can ill afford to lose for several months the enthusiastic services of the women who are prepared to undergo the torture of a long period of inactivity.

The shameful attack made on Mrs. Despard and Miss Sidley at Maidstone is another instance of the perils which in civilized England attend even propagandist work. Mrs. Despard is a woman who, one would have thought, should be safe where even policemen dare not go. Her personality, even to those who are unacquainted with her long record of public service, should protect her wherever the very lowest degree of civilization is found. Yet in Maidstone she was brutally assaulted, and only by good fortune escaped without serious injury, while the police and a large number of well-dressed spectators appear, like the Romans of the Imperial Coliseum, to have stood round and watched.

We are thankful to say that, as a result of letters to the Press on this subject, a large number of men have been moved to join the League. From Colchester we have received a list of names collected by Miss Muriel Matters, while many Londoners have signed their names, and particulars of membership have been sent to applicants in many parts of the country.

The subject of letters to the Press reminds us that many of our members do not in the course of such letters state that

they are members of the League. They thus lose an opportunity of keeping our name before the public. The members of the Manchester, Edinburgh, and Bristol Branches have done excellent work in this way.

Members of the Stewards' Corps are wanted as volunteers for a meeting in Ealing on the 12th inst. Threats of violence have been received by the organizers. As a result, the owners of the Hall fixed upon may withdraw their permission for its use. Full particulars will, therefore, be sent to all who send in their names.

Branch News.

LIVERPOOL.

THE balance-sheet in connexion with the Demonstration held on Saturday, September 5th, has now been drawn up, and it is satisfactory to be able to record a success as complete financially as in every other respect. In view of the general attitude of the Men's League to the question of a fair wage, it may be worth while to point out that an additional sum of two shillings daily, over and above the ordinary charges, was paid to the sandwichmen in order to make up what in the opinion of the organizers constituted a reasonable living wage. The organizers are desirous of thanking those friends, other than members of the Men's League, who assisted to render the Demonstration a success. Three banners were worked and presented by Miss Broadhurst, and donations were received from Miss Dalby (5s.), and Miss E. F. Rathbone (£5). These contributions, together with the collections taken during the proceedings and at the earlier meetings held on June 21st and August 19th and 27th covered the entire cost of the Demonstration, inclusive of printing and advertising.

BIRKENHEAD AND THE WIRRAL.

A well-attended and enthusiastic meeting was held on Monday, September 28th, in the Association Hall, Grange Road, Birkenhead, under the joint auspices of the Men's League and the Birkenhead and Wirral Women's Suffrage Society. Mr. John H. Ziegler, J.P., a member of the League, acted as Chairman. A letter was read from Mr. R. H. Tattersall, local secretary of the League, in which he expressed his regret that he was unable to be present. The Chairman laid stress, in his introductory speech, on the importance of obtaining the adhesion of the working classes to the cause of Women's Suffrage. He compared the attitude of many persons towards the proposed reform to that adopted by the late Duke of Devonshire when the Franchise was granted to agricultural labourers. That reform was characterized by the Duke of Devonshire as "a leap in the dark." Many persons regarded the enfranchisement of women with the same doubt and suspicion; but the women of to-day were far better qualified to exercise the duties of citizenship than the agricultural labourers had been before the age of national education.

Miss Margaret Ashton moved the resolution: "That this meeting urges Mr. Asquith, in view of the recent successful demonstrations of June 13th and 21st proving the earnest desire of women for the vote, to allow facilities for the passing of a Women's Enfranchisement Bill during the present session of Parliament." The Rev. J. Ivory Cripps (a member of the Men's League) said, in seconding the resolution, that the question of votes for women was no longer academic, but one of the burning questions of the day. He pointed out its promise of better things for men, as well as women, and said that it was time for men and women in comradeship to start to legislate for each other.

Mrs. Allan Bright, who supported the resolution, said that she would confine her remarks to two opposing forces. One was the New Anti-Suffrage League, appropriately championed by the accomplished Mrs. Humphry Ward, "a novelist, a romancer, and used to make-believe." The other was the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, which had been founded by a handful of men in London, and had now spread to every part of Great Britain. She added, amid applause, that as women had been unable to obtain the vote by their unaided exertions, they had appealed to men, and the response of the Men's League had done much to help them on the road to victory.

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried amid much enthusiasm, with only two dissentients.

BIRMINGHAM.

The formation of a Birmingham branch of the Men's League may be expected in the near future. Many men have expressed their anxiety to join, and application has been made to the London office of the League for copies of the rules and other information. An inaugural meeting will, it is hoped, be arranged at an early date.

When the Birmingham branch is formed the Men's League will be represented in all the largest industrial towns of England. Hitherto the whole task of carrying on the Women's Suffrage propaganda in Birmingham has devolved upon the Birmingham and Midlands Women's Suffrage Society, which was founded in 1868, and thus dates from the year in which the demand for the enfranchisement of women first became prominent. The officers of the Society are kindly assisting the organizers of the new branch with all the weight of influence and experience gained during the past forty years.

Correspondence.

[The Men's League is essentially a non-party organization, in which all shades of political opinion are represented. For this reason we feel bound to state that the League is not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.]

October 13th.

DEAR SIR,—I hope all members of the Men's League and all their male friends who are in earnest for Women's Suffrage will make a point of turning up at Westminster on October 13th. We ought to have thousands of men between Caxton Hall and Parliament Square cheering the deputation to the House of Commons all along the line of march.

Ruffianly mobs have been permitted to break up Suffrage meetings and molest the speakers without a word of rebuke from Liberal leaders; let us show, by orderly and constitutional means, that we are as keen and as resolute as the enemy. It is not enough to be mere spectators at these demonstrations; the time has come to show by our presence that we are in full sympathy with the aims of the deputation.

Yours, &c.,
JOSEPH CLAYTON.

October 1st, 1908, Prospect House, Hampstead, N.W.

[We have received a communication to a similar effect from Mr. Laurence Housman, who further suggests that all who are able to be present on this occasion should meet at 7.30, or a little earlier, outside the Embankment entrance of the Charing Cross Underground Station.—ED.]

The Social Meeting on the 26th.

We are glad to say that a very fair number of members have promised to come to the Social Meeting at the Holborn Town Hall on October 26th at 8 o'clock, and several have expressed a desire to speak. The points we would lay stress on are two—*first*, that every member who can possibly come should

let the Hon. Sec. know of his intention by October 23rd; and *second*, that every one who comes should do his best to bring with him at least one male friend.

The Committee urges all to come, in order that the gathering may be not only a success in itself, but a centre of increased activity for the future of the League.

Mr. Baillie-Weaver at Chiswick.

WE have received from Mrs. East the following report of Mr. Baillie-Weaver's speech at the Town Hall, Chiswick, last week. The tactics question is one on which our members are greatly divided, opinions of all kinds being held. It is therefore only right to point out that Mr. Baillie-Weaver was speaking as a private member of the League. We are glad to supply speakers and stewards for all kinds of meetings.

A most successful "At Home" was given in the Chiswick Town Hall on Wednesday, 30th ult. by the local members of the N.W.S.P.U. Miss Brackenbury presided, and Miss Christabel Pankhurst and Mr. Baillie-Weaver (of the Men's League) were the speakers. Mr. Baillie-Weaver was particularly interesting, and was constantly applauded. He spoke, by request, on the militant tactics of the Suffragettes from a man's point of view. He said at once that he entirely agreed with them; it seemed to him that only by adopting such tactics as they did would they get what they were striving for. The opponents of the movement used a lot of epithets against them. He would like to mention four—hysterical, silly, unwomanly, and illogical. As to the first, it was generally understood women suffered from this complaint much more than men; but he had been told by doctors that it was quite as prevalent in men. It was not only women who got excited. What about Mafeking night, or the declaration of the result of the poll at a closely contested election? He greatly deprecated the nasty expressions and innuendoes used against the Suffragettes. Had they ever tried to realize what must be the suspense of these women when certain plans had to be carried out? If they disapproved of their plans, he would ask them to be just, and not to abuse. Silly! What was more silly than to chain oneself to a railing? But they must look at the object of such an action. It was done to call attention to their needs. If men wanted attention called to them, they used the rifle and bayonet or a little private assassinating with bombs on their own account; but women had not yet resorted to violence. "Silliness," as Mrs. Pethick Lawrence said, was women's alternative to cruelty. Unwomanly; calculated to lower man's idea of women! Some men's idea of being womanly was—at one end of the scale, that women should do all the dirty work of the household, get up and light the fire and black his boots while he lay snoring in bed, and do anything that was unpleasant for men to do—at the other end of the scale that women should spend huge sums of money on their backs, neglecting their children, and leaving them to hirelings while they sought for pleasure they never found. But if a woman wanted to be a doctor or barrister, or wanted a vote, she was "unwomanly."

Illogical? No, deadly logical. That was the reason why some men got so irritated. There was one method which undoubtedly went to the root of the question—that was the policy of the N.W.S.P.U. at by-elections. It followed that women ought to have the vote. That policy is the logic of events, which every woman's society will eventually have to follow. The Women's Franchise Bill had got to come. This was the very moment for women to have the vote. Why was the Licensing Bill pushed forward as raising moral issues? Every Bill introduced raised moral issues. They were right to refuse to wait. They had tried reason, and other similar means. Mr. Baillie-Weaver concluded by saying that men are interested as much as women, and should take up this question. Until men were just to women they would not be just to themselves or each other, and no real social progress was possible, or would be possible, while there remained a single trace of inferiority with reference to women's position to men.

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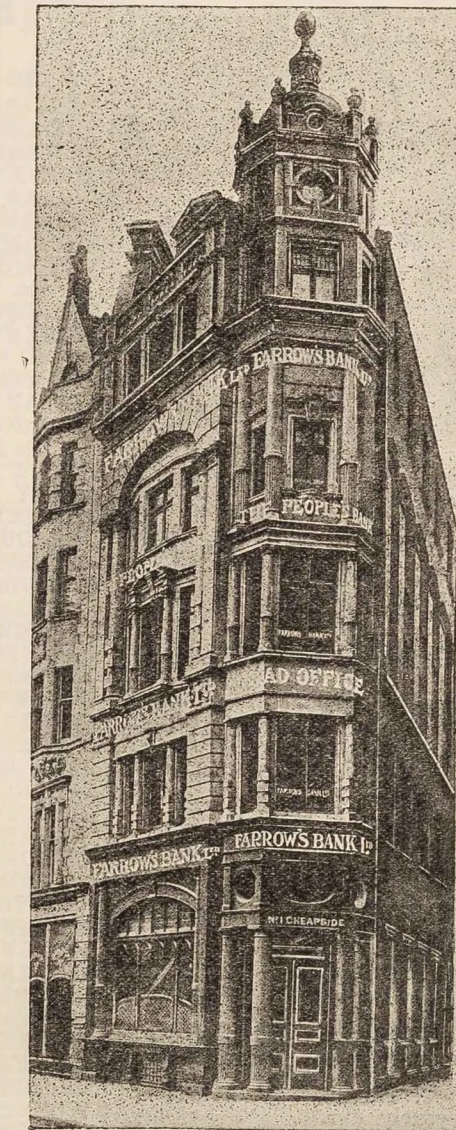
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