



VOL. II.—No. 18.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1908.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

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Notes.

ALDEBURGH (Suffolk) Corporation has approached Mrs. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, M.D., asking her to accept the post of mayor, which request, we hear, she will accede to.

MISS DOVE, Principal of Wycombe Abbey School, and first student of Girton, has, it will be remembered, just been nominated Mayor of High Wycombe.

A LADY of Chatham, Mrs. Emmeline Jury, has her name on the new parliamentary register, and should therefore be entitled to vote.

WE are glad to learn that at last certain very necessary changes have been made at Holloway for all female prisoners in the second division. The need of these changes has been frequently pointed to by many Suffragists; and even those people who do not approve of militant tactics must acknowledge that the agitation has won more than one reform in the treatment of female prisoners.

THERE is a paragraph in French criminal law which enacts that a person must enjoy civil and political rights to be entitled to sit upon a jury. Consequently, as M. Briand, Minister of Justice, points out, women in France cannot be included in the reform he is working out for the widening of the basis on which juries are empanelled, though "on principle," he says, "I see no objection to jurywomen."

THE DAILY NEWS does well to point out a glaring fault in the measures for the relief of the unemployed. "In such a crisis, women workers suffer as seriously as men. But there is no place for them in any of the schemes which the distress committees or municipalities have drafted. We have all fallen into a habit of talking as though the term 'unemployed' covered one sex only."

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

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

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

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

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

ANOTHER testimony to the value of the Enfranchisement of Women, was given by the Rev. James Buchan at the Congregational Union last week. He said, "In New South Wales they had Women's Suffrage, which had been the means of getting better men into Parliament, and many reforms which probably would not have been otherwise obtained. The Mother Country would have to come to that."

LORD CURZON of Kedleston, writing in reference to a statement that he is opposed to higher education for women, says it is absurdly untrue, and that in his scheme of reform for Oxford he is going to propose that degrees shall be open to women on exactly the same basis as to men.

NEWS comes from Australia that the President of the Council of Victoria has received a deputation of the Men's League for Woman's Suffrage recently formed there, and has promised to make the enfranchisement of women a Cabinet question.

WE hear that our paper is now permanently on sale at Weldon's Library, Calcutta, where a contents bill is also displayed.

MISS A. MACGREGOR is paying for a copy of this paper to be sent each week to the Public Library, Arbroath, N.B.

The Scottish Women Graduates' Appeal to the House of Lords.

THIS appeal, which now stands high on the list of causes awaiting hearing, may be called at any date as the Lords take these cases in any order they please. The probability is, however, that it will be taken at the end of next week.

It will be remembered that in 1906, at the first contested election since women were admitted graduates, they claimed the right to vote for the University Member of Parliament. The names of the women graduates of each Scottish University are on the statutory Parliamentary voting registers, established by the Franchise Act of 1868, that being the Register of the General Council of the University.

Instead of employing counsel, two of the graduates will plead in person—Frances H. Simson, M.A., and Chrystal Macmillan, B.Sc. M.A. Miss Simson, before the opening of the Scottish Universities to women, studied at the classes provided by the Edinburgh Association for the University Education of Women. In 1892, when the Universities admitted women, she was one of the first to receive a degree from the University of Edinburgh. Since 1895 she has been Warden of Masson Hall, the residence for women students attending that University. Miss Macmillan holds the degrees of B.Sc. with Special Distinction in Mathematics, and M.A. with Honours in Mental and Moral Philosophy.

The appeal is made in consequence of the adverse decisions given in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, in July, 1906, and November, 1907. The Court is held in the House of Lords itself, but, like other law courts, is open to the public, though the space is limited to the standing-room behind the bar. It is the duty of those who plead the case to confine themselves to explaining the legal grounds of the claim—to plead its justice or expediency would be quite irrelevant.

Apparel and its Meaning.

By EBLANA.

"A woman shall not be clothed in men's apparel, neither shall a man use woman's apparel, for he that doth these things is abominable before God."—*Deut.*

But what is man's and what is woman's apparel? Which, if either, offends most if worn by the sex to which it does not

belong? and which has the highest qualities attributed to it? or to its wearers because of it? Has the present apparel of men always been peculiar to them—at all times and in all countries, and is it so in our day?

Dr. Hammond says that in early times there was little or no difference in the dress of the two sexes.

The Roman men and women alike wore skirts. In the tenth century it was difficult to distinguish between men and women, and it is so in many lands even now. None the less, changes, even in early times, crept in to mark the difference of the sexes. But as nothing human is without error and injustice, so error and injustice followed on those changes. As one sex undertook the responsibility of arranging all things concerning both, so this matter of apparel was no exception. Soon, then, it came to be understood that such articles of attire, as it pleased man to appropriate to his own use, became the emblem of all the excellencies with which he claimed to be endowed, while the items of dress relegated to woman served to proclaim her hopeless inferiority; and this, too, alike in barbarous and civilized countries, and taking likewise a variety of forms.

At one time men only indulged in foppery and extravagance in dress, wearing garments of many hues and a profusion of jewellery. This brilliancy of intellect and keen appreciation of the beautiful in nature and art. Accordingly, these magnificent beings looked down with proper contempt upon women who at that period wore black or dark attire which was supposed to indicate their gloomy and morose disposition and dull and feeble minds. But when time brought another change, and these conditions were reversed, then the gorgeous array of women was a sign of their vanity and shallow parts, while the sober and substantial apparel of men was a sure emblem of their superior intellect and sound common sense.

We will first consider foot-wear and lastly headgear. Covering the feet was a mark of dignity among the Greeks and Romans. Slaves went barefooted. So too did free people when engaged in penitential exercises.

In former times Russian girls on their marriage were required to take off and put on the bridegroom's shoes, as a sign of submission. So that, however inferior to their newly-made wives, this clever stratagem elevated these men above them to an unparalleled degree of power and dignity. But these were barbarous times; with civilization this custom became a source of embarrassment and shame, so much so that, not having the moral courage to dispense with it, they began to secrete money or jewellery in the shoes in order to soothe the wounded feelings of the bride. Probably the custom is now unknown, as, in other respects woman's rights have advanced much farther in Russia than in older and more pretentious civilizations.

However, it is around the principal habiliments of each sex that the war has raged most fiercely. We all know the sneer at petticoat government, whether in the home or in the state, in which even men from whom more might have been expected have not been ashamed to indulge. "I will not make my wife my master, or suffer her to wear the breeches!" This, and similar expressions are favoured by many men. Even clergymen descend to it. One of the latter was known to use it towards a lady who, at an election induced her husband to vote for the candidate opposed to the choice of his reverence.

In fact every woman who refuses to be a domestic slave, or who exercises any influence, political or otherwise, over her spouse, or indeed over any one, is said "to wear the breeches," as if that wonderful article of dress were the embodiment of all authority and power. Much pains have been taken to impress woman with a due sense of awe and respect for this charm more magical than the philosopher's stone itself, and the possession of which confers upon its happy owner the plenitude of power, yet surrounded by such a number of dragons of propriety, modesty, prejudice, Mrs. Grundyism, and a number of others—even religion—as to guard it effectually from the profane and longing eyes of the feminine worshipper. Now, is it any wonder that when woman emancipated herself from so many old superstitions, she should at last make a raid upon the much

be-lauded and therefore coveted prize, the marvellous powers of which had been dinned into her ears for ages; killing the shrieking dragons, lay profane hands upon the sacred garment, bear it off in triumph and appropriate it to herself?

At a convention held some years ago in Ohio, for the "emancipation of the down-trodden sex from petticoats," it was resolved that to her unnatural and suicidal modes of dress woman owes her physical inferiority to man and urged her to a change if she would be his equal.

Against this, at an earlier day, Lady Burgersh in one of her letters from the Continent during the wars of Napoleon, says:—

"I wish you could see the women who follow the armies; there is no doing justice to the horror of these monsters. They wear boots and other articles of dress exactly like men, and ride on men's saddles."

Oliver Goldsmith, treating the matter less seriously, describes the Amazons of old as clothed in jackets and trousers descending to the knee, and suggests that the modern female warriors whom he advised England to send against the French, be arrayed in vests of pink satin and drawers of the same, with buskins on the feet and legs, their hair tied behind and floating on their shoulders, and their hats adorned with white feathers.

In later days Dr. Hammond says:—"The wearing of trousers by women is a mere matter of convenience and aesthetics, or of occupation which they are competent to settle for themselves without male interference."

As a matter of fact, women do wear trousers in China, India, and all over the Continent of Europe, wherever they work in the fields. Without any such necessity, Mogul ladies also wear them. Considering the number of countries in which they are common to both sexes, and of others where they are relegated exclusively to women, it is amazing the extent of superstitious reverence with which man has managed to surround them in the few remaining lands where he has made them his own. They are supposed to be a proof of his moral and mental superiority over those not entitled to wear them, and that the woman who presumes to don them and to discard her own "draggletail" badge of ignorance and slavery is a creature to be avoided by all right-thinking persons. It is common enough for men to credit the shallowest person clothed in their own garb with more intelligence than the most gifted of the wearers of the costume for which they have such a superstitious contempt. Is this the secret of their disgust that women should copy such magic apparel, or adopt it right out? Certain it is that both in ancient and modern times there have been instances of peculiar cruelty arising out of this fetish.

In Europe women of the highest attainments, engaged in the learned professions, or obliged to make their living by putting to use their superior knowledge of languages or the sciences, have been obliged to conceal their sex by wearing men's clothes, in order to disarm prejudice on the one hand and inspire confidence on the other.

Of Eastern origin, the trousers was early adapted by the peoples of Western Europe—the Gauls, Britons, and Irish. Among the latter the trews were worn by men alone, varied by the kilt.

But neither they nor any other people in those far-off days supposed that so many virtues were vested in these garments.

Not always was the skirt or the flowing robe the brand of the slave, the imbecile, the ignorant. The Toga of the Romans resembled the flowing female dress of the present day. It was a badge of distinction worn by both sexes on great occasions. So, too, was the Chiton, the Pallia, and the Chlamys of the Greeks and Romans.

Among the Irish, the men on occasions of dignity wore over the trews a flowing robe or long cloak; also the Snadh, signifying wisdom, prudence, a learned man—the professor's gown.

In China, at present, the women work in breeches, while the men loll in long robes. Hyder Ali was garbed like a European lady.

Even here, and now, the skirt and flowing robe are not confined to women, nor are they, save when worn by them,

considered a mark of inferiority. Quite the contrary. Men to-day wear robes upon occasions of state and ceremony—in the Law Courts, in the college, in the Church. Lawyers, judges, professors, ministers of religion, never dream of performing their exalted duties in the otherwise much-lauded trousers. No, this so-called badge of authority and wisdom is religiously discarded, or at least concealed when its owner proceeds to discharge any high function in Church or State; and, for the nonce, while thus engaged, they look much more like women than men. So much for custom! It will thus be seen how little cause women have to covet the wonderful breeches, how much occasion they have for prizing their own calumniated, but tacitly revered form of vesture.

(To be continued.)

Correspondence.

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

Men's National League for Disfranchising Men.

DEAR SIR,—Perhaps you will spare me a line or two of your valuable space to say with what merriment I have read Mrs. How Martyn's clever and most amusing skit on Mrs. Humphry Ward's manifesto. Twice lately, in public, I have advocated such a proceeding as calculated to do real good to the cause by bringing home to the average person—who, after all, will decide the issue—the weakness of the opposition on the intellectual side, a weakness I endeavour to emphasize whenever I give my lecture, entitled, 'A Man's Reasons for Wishing Woman's Suffrage.'

I am, &c.,
MACKENZIE BELL.

October 23rd.

A PUBLIC MEETING

ARRANGED BY

Professional and Industrial Women

IN SUPPORT OF

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

WILL BE HELD IN THE

Queen's Hall, Langham Place, London,

ON

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17th, 1908,

At EIGHT o'clock.

CHAIRMAN:

Mrs. GARRETT ANDERSON, M.D.

SPEAKERS:

Mrs. AYRTON (Science).
Madame SARAH GRAND (Novelist).
Mrs. J. S. TURNER (Miss Agnes Ward), (Education).
Miss TITA BRAND (the Stage).
Miss ALICE CLARK (Commerce).
Miss REDDISH (Textile Worker).
Mrs. DICKENSON (Women's Trade Unions).
Miss GORE-BOOTH (Women's Trade Unions).
Miss ROPER (Women Workers).

ALL WOMEN ARE CORDIALLY INVITED.

Admission Free. Reserved Seats 2s. 6d. and 1s.

Apply to Miss ROPER, Miss GORE-BOOTH, Hon. Secretaries,
19, Buckingham Street, Strand

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: "VOICELSS, LONDON." Telephone: 1960 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.

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.D. (Lond.)

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

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

The National Union By-Election Policy.

SOME people are under the impression that the time for propaganda or spadework in the constituencies on the subject of Women's Suffrage is past and gone. I am convinced of the contrary. Everything depends on our being able to increase the momentum of our movement by an increase of enthusiasm for it, especially among voters in the constituencies. Such a demonstration, for instance, as the spontaneous organization by the engineers of Newcastle of a voters' petition for Women's Suffrage, signed by thousands in a few days, carries great weight with it in practical politics; people with votes behind them must be listened to. The appeal to the electorate, the placing before them of a statement of the case for Women's Suffrage, based as it is on justice, common sense and experience, is the strength of the election policy of the National Union. No one who has given practical help in working it doubts its efficiency. No section of the constituency is vehemently antagonized by it. The attitude of the National Union in each particular constituency not being a foregone conclusion, agents and candidates show themselves eager to secure its support; and more often than not all the candidates now go to the poll deeply pledged to support Women's Suffrage. The policy is easily explained and understood by the man in the street. The National Union is a non-party society, which supports, independent of party, the man who gives the most satisfactory assurances on the subject of Women's Suffrage. Our aim is to make every election agent say to the party managers when selecting a candidate, "Don't send a man who opposes Women's Suffrage." We want to make it difficult for the Anti-Suffragist to get selected as a candidate, or to win the seat if he is selected. I would say to those who doubt the usefulness and efficacy of the National Union by-election policy, Come and work with us at the next by-election, and judge for yourselves.

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, President of the N.U.W.S.S.

The Manchester Demonstration.

MANY weeks of arduous work, meetings that must have run to hundreds, held in drawing-rooms, open spaces, public halls and mills, strenuous advertisement by handbills, sandwichmen, and posters, culminated at last in the meeting held in the Free Trade Hall on October 23rd, and the Procession on October 24th. The Free Trade Hall was crowded in all parts except the really expensive ten-shilling seats, of which a few remained empty. The only speaker who failed us was Mr. Keir Hardie. Lord Courtney of Penrith made a noble and dignified appeal; Mrs. Despard and Mr. Stanger proved again their popularity; Mrs. Bury delighted her audience with her racy speech; and Miss Ashton and Miss Abadam showed what a masterpiece might be contained in the short space of a few minutes: every sentence of their brief utterances was sharpened to a fine point, and every sentence went home.

Next day was fine, except for a short shower at noon, which sent our hearts into our boots, and compelled us to forego the use of the Artists' League banners, which we had promised not to carry if there were any doubt of the weather. We carried all the others, however, many members of the Men's League helping, and among them the new banner belonging to the North of

England, and made to commemorate Mrs. C. P. Scott, was much admired. Mr. Hendy and Mr. Wilson Coe, of the Men's League, were unwearied in their help.

It is impossible for one who walked in the Procession to gauge it, and I must leave that to reporters. I can only say that we started precisely at 2.30, and that the head of the Procession, with its four mounted police, its six rows of speakers, its band and banners, made a very good appearance. A Manchester crowd is very unlike a London one, and we marched the whole way through a file of absolutely silent spectators. For my own part I never heard any remark save the constantly recurring "There's Mrs. Despard! That's Miss Ashton!"

Our thirty-six speakers turned up trumps, and made an excellent show upon the ten platforms, whose huge placards of red letters on a white ground were an object lesson in themselves. A bugle started the speeches with *Reveille*. Five minutes' warning was given by *Halt*, and at the sounding of *Charge*, the same resolution was put at each platform. As yet I only know the result at two of the platforms: Peace and Prison Reform, with an audience of about 500 each, passed it with about 6 dissentients. That night the thermometer registered six degrees of frost, and if the cold was trying to the speakers on the lorries, it must have been much more so to the audience standing in the long wet grass. In warmer weather we should doubtless have had four times the number.

Besides the work done by members of our own society and branches, we owe thanks to the National Union for its most valuable help in sending us Miss Gardner, Mrs. Cooper, Miss Fraser, and Miss Robertson. They all spoke at countless meetings in preparation. Miss Gardner and Miss Robertson did splendid service in marshalling and Miss Robertson combined this difficult work with taking the chair, and making an excellent speech on the Prison Reform platform. Mrs. Cooper spoke on the Labour platform. Miss Kathleen Courtney, Secretary of the North of England Society, organized the whole, and was most justly described by one of our most distinguished speakers as "Your charming Field-Marshal." H. M. SWANWICK.

A Friendly Leader.

ALL Suffragists must be interested in the leader quoted below, for the Government itself must care what so great a paper as *The Manchester Guardian* says on the Manchester demonstration in its issue of October 24th.

"THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE DEMONSTRATIONS.

"To people following with an open mind Lord Courtney's reasoned and moderate statement of the case for Women's Suffrage in the Free Trade Hall last night, it must, we think, have seemed that this movement has difficulties certainly to surmount, but not difficulties in argument. There is the difficulty of dislodging from the minds of a good many men the lingering remains of the old proprietorial instinct or feeling towards women, and also the difficulty of dislodging from the minds of a good many women a parasitic impulse to acquiesce in that feeling and accommodate their own natures to it. You see these things illustrated with convenient emphasis at the theatre—which is always half a century behind life—in the dramatic prominence of the all-directing, all-providing, better-knowing male, and of the featureless and merely adhesive heroine....

Letter to Mr. Asquith and His Answer.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage,
 38, Museum Street, W.C., Oct. 20th, 1908.

To the Right Honourable H. H. Asquith, K.C., M.P.

SIR,—Would you consent to receive a deputation consisting of some of the chairmen who have recently presided over public meetings held in support of Women's Suffrage under the auspices of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the Men's League for Women's Suffrage?

The object of the proposed deputation is to inform you of the serious and widespread support which underlies the movement for the political enfranchisement of women, as it is feared that your attention may not have been called to the large body of public opinion which has been content to express itself with restraint.

I feel sure that if you are satisfied as to the character and extent of the support this movement is receiving throughout the whole country, from both enfranchised and unenfranchised citizens, you will accede to their legitimate demand that the reform they have at heart shall receive consideration in the House of Commons, and shall not be postponed by a minority of opponents taking advantage of the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.

I enclose a list of Meetings and Chairmen,

And remain, yours obediently,

HERBERT JACOBS.

10, Downing Street, Whitehall, S.W.

Oct. 21st, 1908.

Herbert Jacobs, Esq.

DEAR SIR,—I am desired by the Prime Minister to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th inst., in which you ask him to receive a deputation of some of the chairmen who have recently presided over public meetings held in support of Women's Suffrage under the auspices of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

Mr. Asquith notes that your object is to inform him of the serious and widespread support commanded by the movement in question, and to call his attention to "the large body of public opinion which has been content to express itself with restraint." In reply I am to say that Mr. Asquith is always prepared to take note of any indications of public opinion on this question, and he is aware from numerous communications that he has received of the facts of which you speak.

He has read with interest the list of meetings and chairmen which you have been so good as to send him, and having informed himself in this way as to the state of things you desire to bring to his knowledge, he does not think that any useful purpose would be served by his receiving a deputation.

Yours obedient servant,

VAUGHAN NASH.

MRS. GARRETT ANDERSON, M.D., has been invited by the whole Town Council of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, to act as Mayor during the coming year. She has accepted the invitation. It will be remembered that Mrs. Anderson was one of the first women councillors elected under the Women's Local Government Qualification Act, 1907.

MRS. FAWCETT received on Saturday evening a communication from the University of Aberdeen Women's Suffrage Association asking for a message for immediate publication upon the forthcoming Rectorial election, the candidates being the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith and Sir E. Carson, both opponents of Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Fawcett telegraphed: "All Women's Suffragists, men and women, should use their votes to keep Mr. Asquith out." This advice was based on the principle, adopted by the National Union in its election policy, that noted opponents of Women's Suffrage should be opposed, even when the position of the other candidate is also unsatisfactory.

MRS. FAWCETT has received, and has accepted, an invitation from the President of the Oxford Union Society, Mr. Maurice H. Richmond, to address the Union on Women's Suffrage on November 20th. The occasion will be the terminal visitors' night debate, the principal debate of the term. The Union has hitherto on similar occasions been addressed by men only.

The present situation asks great tactical judgment of the leaders of the constitutional movement. Its chief elements are: (1) a House of Commons which supports by a great majority the enfranchisement of women, but is languid in this support; (2) a Cabinet divided on the question, but now containing a majority, perhaps a growing majority, in favour of the Suffrage, and led by a Premier who, without personal enthusiasm for it, still accepts the decision of the majority of his Cabinet, and is willing to let Women's Suffrage be embodied in a projected Franchise Reform Bill, of an omnibus kind, in the way that will make things easiest for the dissentient members of his Cabinet; (3) an Opposition 'watching and waiting,' as Lord Courtney says, with a wary quietude which has scarcely had justice done to its possible significance; and (4) a remarkably strong and general impression among professional electioneering experts that, in an electioneering sense, there is 'no money in' Women's Suffrage—that, although assent to its principle often saves a candidate some inconvenience, a candidate who stood on Women's Suffrage against one who stood against it would, in a great majority of constituencies, be badly beaten. We do not say that this view is correct. There are the strongest differences of opinion on the subject among active Women Suffragists themselves, some of them holding that many recent by-elections have been turned by the sympathy of male voters with the agitation, while others describe the existing voters as depressingly apathetic or alien on the question. But the strength of the average party wirepuller's belief, right or wrong, that strong support of Women's Suffrage against an opponent who strongly resisted it at an election where it was the chief issue would be almost fatal, as a rule, to its supporter's chances at the present moment is a fact to be reckoned with. It is a fact, too, which has an obviously possible relation to the languor of some assenting members of Parliament and to the existence of an adverse minority in the Government. The opinion of the House of Commons, in fact, is a little in advance of that of the agents and caucuses in the constituencies; and the action of Mr. Asquith, whom we absolutely believe, as Mr. Stanger does, to have been perfectly sincere in his promise, has also gone in advance of the opinion or the fears of the electioneering experts.

"If this view of the situation be sound, then obviously the place where the movement most needs strengthening is in each individual constituency. Tactically the weakest point in the whole position is the disbelief of the machine politician, Liberal and Conservative, in the hold of the movement upon the existing voter. It keeps the present Liberal House of Commons uneasy though friendly, and it keeps the Opposition from rushing in to strike a treaty with those Women's Suffragist organizations which try to fasten a special quarrel upon the Liberal party. Once this supposed hostility of the average male voter is removed or disproved the whole tribe of mere party men on both sides will be tumbling over one another in their haste to stand well with the coming new vote. It seems to follow that the greatest tactical advantage now is to be secured, first, by such demonstrations as last night's, and, we hope, to-day's, of the enormously increased hold of the movement on men as well as women; and, secondly, by redoubled spadework in the constituencies, both in the way of keeping present members up to their words and in that of converting still unconverted electors. Very many electors, no doubt, are still under the old impression that the whole movement is some hobby of a few exceptionally constituted women, or the new and equally false impression that its spirit is accurately reflected in the displays of contempt for democratic institutions and methods which have made one out of the many organizations concerned in the movement notorious. Such repeated demonstrations as that which is now taking place in Manchester should convince every elector who has any political instinct that the constitutional movement may now fairly be called that of English women as a body, that it has at last achieved a driving force of pure and deep enthusiasm second to that of no modern political movement in this country, and that, whether one's political aim be acceptance of the inevitable or the pursuit of the best, now is the time to throw in one's political lot with what is, as Lord Courtney gave reason to think, both a winning and a good cause."

We recommend to our readers the *Manchester Guardian*, of October 26th.

5,000 Guineas Fund.

Miss E. S. Hooper, M.A.	£1 0 0
Herr Walter Von Pohl (per Miss Dorothy Edwards)	0 2 6
Mrs. Eustace Smith	4 4 0

Reception by the London Society.

As was briefly announced last week, the Executive Committee of the London Society will hold a reception at the Doré Gallery, 35, New Bond Street, on Tuesday, November 3rd, from 4.30 to 7. Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs. Fawcett have kindly consented to receive the guests, and speeches have been arranged.

All members are invited to be present, and it is hoped they will make full use of the special opportunity for meeting together to talk over new schemes of work, and to win new recruits. Since the membership of the Society has increased so rapidly as during the last year has been the case, it has been recognized that the office At-Homes are no longer possible, and the reception on November 3rd is to inaugurate a series of such events to be held in the Doré Galleries on Tuesdays weekly (with the exception of November 10th, the date of the annual meeting) up till Christmas. Many inquirers, too, who dare not penetrate to 25, Victoria Street, will come readily to New Bond Street, and it is thought that by holding the gatherings in a picture gallery they will be rendered specially pleasant.

County Campaign Fund.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Essex.—Mrs. Eustace Smith	4	15	0	4	18	0
Glamorgan.—Miss Mabel Howell	0	10	0			
Miss Ridley	0	5	0			
Suffolk.—Mrs. Russell Upcher	1	1	0	5	2	0
Surrey.—Mrs. Henry Bury	1	0	0	39	12	0
Sussex.—Miss Davies-Colley	10	0	0	47	16	0
Total to Monday, Oct. 26th	£738	14	8			

Branch Societies.

NEWCASTLE.—Space unfortunately prevents our doing full justice to the splendid work being done here. Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Wilkinson, Mrs. Weddells, Mrs. Mein, Mrs. Reed, have in turn given us the hospitality of their drawing-rooms, and these meetings, at which Miss Fraser, Mrs. Harrison Bell, Mrs. Dunn, Miss Rowlette, Mrs. Wilkinson have spoken, or presided, have been most successful, many new members having joined and good collections being taken.

Two public meetings have been held, one presided over by Mrs. Wilkinson, at which Dr. A. Sudekum, member of the German Reichstag, was present, Miss Rowlette and Mrs. Harrison Bell speaking. Mrs. Harrison Bell presided over the other, which was addressed by Miss Helen Fraser.

Gosforth.—Miss Davies gave a drawing-room meeting. Mrs. Wilkinson and Miss Fraser spoke.

Gateshead.—Members meeting in afternoon, public meeting in the evening. Miss Fraser and Miss Temperley spoke, and Mrs. Harrison Bell presided. Mrs. Hall took charge of what at the back of the hall, would have been a slightly rowdy element.

On October 20th, Miss Fraser addressed a meeting arranged by the W.L.A., and Mrs. Harrison Bell, one got up by the Women's Labour League. On October 23rd, Miss Temperley gave a drawing-room meeting.

Jarrow.—Miss Margaret Dickerman took the chair at a public meeting on October 23rd. Miss Fraser and Mrs. Harrison Bell spoke, and the collection, after defraying expenses, left a substantial balance.

Walsend.—On October 20th, Miss Fraser addressed a meeting arranged by the W.L.A.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.		P.M.
Oct. 29.	Cardiff , Public Meeting, Park Hotel	8
	<i>Speakers</i> , Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., J. Malcolm Mitchell, Esq.	
	Warwick and Leamington , Public Meeting, Town Hall, Leamington	
	<i>Chair</i> , H. Y. Stanger, Esq., M.P. <i>Speakers</i> , Mrs. Pember Reeves, Miss M. Robertson, B.A.	
	Whitby , Annual Meeting, Lecture Hall, Silver Street	3
	<i>Speakers</i> , Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Gardner, B.A.	
30.	Glasgow , Annual Meeting, 58, Renfield Street (Offices of the S.C.W.T.)	
	<i>Speakers</i> , Miss Gardner, 6.45 B.A., Miss F. Nelson Pringle	
	<i>Hostess</i> , Miss Johnstone	
	<i>Speaker</i> , Mrs. C. H. Corbett	
	<i>Speaker</i> , The Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell	3.30
Nov. 2.	Bridlington , Debate, Debating and Literary Society	8
	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss Gardner	
3.	Bridlington , Invitation Meeting, Field's Café	3
	<i>Hostess</i> , Miss Stuart	
	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss Gardner	7.30
4.	Open-Air Meeting	4.30-7
3.	London , Committee of London Society "At Home," Doré Galleries, Bond Street	
	<i>Chair</i> , Mrs. Wm. Haslam	7.30
	<i>Speakers</i> , Mrs. F. T. Swannick, M.A., Miss Abadam, Mrs. Allan Bright, and others.	
	Bolton , Public Meeting, Temperance Hall	7.30
	<i>Opener</i> , Miss Lucas	
	Darlington , Debate, Croft Literary Society	7.30
4.	Southampton , Meeting, Bungalow Café	
	<i>Hostess</i> , Mrs. Mugford	4
6.	Windsor , Drawing-room Meeting	
	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss Abadam	3
10.	London Society Annual Meeting , Caxton Hall	
11.	London , Newington Green, Debate, Mildmay Club, 34, Newington Green	
	<i>Speaker</i> , Malcolm Mitchell, Esq.	
11.	Portsmouth , Mass Meeting, Town Hall	8
	<i>Chair</i> , Mrs. Godfrey Baring	
	<i>Speakers</i> , Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Despard, John Russell, Esq., Mr. Bramsdon, M.P.	
12.	Exhibition of Banners used in London Procession , Fuller's Tea Rooms	
10.	Scarborough , Public Meeting	
	<i>Chair</i> , Dr. Handcock	
	<i>Speakers</i> , Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., Mrs. Walter Rea	
	<i>Speaker</i> , Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D.	
11.	Scarborough , Public Meeting	
	<i>Chair</i> , Henry Seddon, Esq. 7	
	<i>Speakers</i> , Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., and others	
	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss Abadam	7.30
12.	Redditch , Meeting, Women only	
	<i>Hostess</i> , Mrs. Forsyth	
	<i>Speakers</i> , Hon. Mrs. Spencer-Graves, Miss M. Corbett	
	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss Abadam	3.30
13.	Stratford-on-Avon , Women only	
	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss Abadam	8
14.	Birmingham , Women only	
17.	London , Public Meeting, Queen's Hall, Langham Place	8
	<i>Speakers</i> , Mrs. Ayrton, Mme. Sarah Grand, Miss Roper, and others	
	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss Abadam	3.30
17.	Wolverhampton , Meeting for Women only, Y.M.C.A., Darlington Street	
18.	Saltley , Women only	3
	<i>Chair</i> , W. H. Dickinson, Esq., M.P.	
19.	Wandsworth , Public Meeting, Town Hall	
	<i>Speakers</i> , The Right Hon. Earl Russell, Miss Alison Garland, and others	
20.	London , Bedford Park, Drawing-room Meeting	8.30
	<i>Hostess</i> , Mrs. King	
	<i>Chair</i> , A. W. Waterlow King, Esq., J.P.	
	<i>Speaker</i> , Mrs. Corbett	
	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss Abadam	3.30
20.	Solihull , Women only	
23.	Southampton , Public Meeting, Shaftesbury Hall	3.30
	<i>Speakers</i> , Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., Mrs. Russell Cooke	
23.	Worcester , Women only	3.30
	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss Abadam	
24.	Birmingham , Edgbaston, Meeting for Women only	3.30
	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss Abadam	
26 & 27.	Exhibition of Banners, Birmingham	
	To be opened by Mrs. Fawcett (26th)	
	Miss M. Ashton (27th)	
	Altrincham , Public Meetings	

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

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

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.SC., A.R.C.S.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

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

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

Pseudo-Socialism.

POOR Mr. Belfort Bax! He is so upset at the thought that Women Suffragists are to be better treated in prison than Socialists—and it will be useless to point out to him that many of the Suffragists are Socialists; that fact will only appear to him another feminist impertinence, because Mr. Bax and his fellows define Socialism as the owning and controlling of the means of production, &c., by the people, and by "people" they mean "men." That is, presumably, why Mr. Wells has had to leave the Fabian Society. Male Socialists, however (with the exception of Mr. Bax), are quite kindly disposed towards women, and when they are reminded of the unimportant subject, they vaguely promise us a better time, better houses, bigger hats, an extra new dress per annum, and other benefits to be derived through our position as mothers, sisters, and wives of the people.

At present they are engaged in examining the class problem, and as they can only see one thing at once, they deny the existence of a sex problem; or, if they do admit that the economic dependence of women upon men is an evil, they say, with Mr. Bernard Shaw, that it is a side issue—a minor point, like compulsory vaccination, which can be dealt with when Socialism is established; at least, that is what we are led to infer from their utterances. They train the women in their ranks to be "shocked" at the idea of feminine rebellion against masculine domination, just as the upper classes are shocked at the idea of the Socialists setting "class against class." The upper classes say, "We mean well by the working-classes; we are very fond of them, and they are quite happy; there is no class war, but wicked Socialists are trying to stir up class antagonism." The Socialists see this fallacy, but repeat it in precisely the same terms when it is a question of male upper-class and female lower-class, showing that they have not yet developed the social mind, which aspires after justice and freedom for all human beings, drawing no line at class, sex, or nation—hating oppression and domination wherever it is found, whether of capital over labour, class over class, nation over nation, men over women. Where there is subjection there must be rebellion; where there is rebellion there must be war—the only legitimate war, the fight for freedom; so let us fight and get it over and then shake hands and be friends for ever more. We must settle this question of the economic dependence of women upon men before all the men obtain control and ownership of the means of production and distribution. Afterwards we may find it a little late, possession being nine points of the law. It sounds selfish for women to ask for anything for themselves; but, dear, good Socialists, we are only asking to be free—to serve. That is your own creed!

But I began about Mr. Bax. Poor Mr. Bax! My heart bleeds to think of the possibility of his being seated on a stool in Brixton jail, while Mrs. Billington-Greig wallows in luxury on a Windsor chair at Holloway. But, perhaps, when we see Mr. Bax showing signs of willingness to suffer for his principles it will be time enough to approach the Home Secretary on his behalf. Meanwhile, though Mr. Bax and his friends (if he has any) are quite entitled to their quaint antiquated views about women, let me point out to them, they are not entitled to call themselves Socialists.

M. F.

"Anthropocracy."

I TAKE *The Daily News* for no other reason than its persistent advocacy of the Suffrage for Women. On opening my

paper this morning I read, "The attack on anthropocracy reached its most interesting phases this week, when Mrs. Pankhurst," &c. Does *The Daily News* think that anthropocracy really means the rule of the male sex? And if so, is not the mistake an excellent comment on the absurdity of calling males "men"? This absurdity is not to be found in the classical languages; it was developed in the popular languages of modern Europe—at a time, that is, not only of scientific ignorance but of strangely artificial ideals, which have marred the sincerity of our outlook. The classical languages had a word denoting man the species, besides words denoting the human female and the human male. That word in Greek is *anthropos*, in Latin *homo*. It is therefore peculiarly out of place, when resorting to these languages, to presume to use either *homo* or *anthropos* as denoting one of the sexes, a use which in either idiom would have been as unjustifiable as an allusion to mankind as elephants. Let me suggest to *The Daily News* the word *androcracy*.

But as it has offered us the blessed word anthropocracy, let us turn the chance to account, confident that in so doing no one will be better pleased than *The Daily News* itself.

By what right is the male called "man" to distinguish him from woman? Is there any fact, any characteristic whatever which would make the use of the name of the species appropriate for the male and not for the female? On the contrary, we know that there is no scientist in existence of the slightest repute who could in this twentieth century assert that the male sex was the more important. Nothing, then, can be more grotesque than the allocation to the male sex of the name for the species. The direct outlook of mankind upon nature when the world was young, unvitiated by artificial considerations, imprinted upon language not fictions but facts; and it should be remembered that the distinction I have pointed out is operative in Genesis i. 26-28.

Now if it has been possible to call a male "a man" for so long without being impressed by the absurdity; and if it has been possible—as it has (a fact which proves that Shakespeare was quite wrong when he suggested that there was nothing in a name)—to believe that there was some distinguishing human trait in the male which made it possible to describe him absolutely as "man," may there not have been other and as serious mistakes in our views of the relations of women and men?

Homo! How sublime, how aspiring! None of your poor little females. *Ecce homo*, behold me, a real male, behold the man! And how much more than is dreamt of in current male philosophy, in fact, lay in the sentence *Ἴδε, ὁ ἄνθρωπος!* We lose half the noble meanings, half the noble possibilities, of literature by this ignoble adaptation of *anthropos* or *homo*—the word which connotes humanity and human things—to describe the male sex.

It is a glaring and a fearful and wonderful example of the rubbish which men have in the past asked women to accept as sense; and personally I regard it as certain that it is on a similar antiquated and semi-barbaric theory that the Anti-Suffragists repose. But, to their honour be it said, there are now a large number of men amongst us who feel ashamed that the disabilities of women should have been justified by semi-barbaric and wholly unscientific theories, and who are determined to pride themselves no longer on borrowed plumes, plumes borrowed from the despised woman, to whom they always rightfully belonged.

M. A. R. T.

Correspondence.

SIR.—The suggestion of Dr. Wilks that the members of all the Suffrage Societies should unite to procure the election to Parliament of a man whose first business there should be to work for Women's Suffrage, deserves very careful consideration.

There is no doubt that the support given to the Suffrage agitation by many Liberal women has been greatly weakened by the fact that the two militant Suffrage Societies are fighting against the Liberal Government. Many Liberal women cannot bring themselves to fight against a Government which, at the present moment, is exerting all its strength on behalf of temperance reform, a reform which some Liberal women judge to be as urgently needed as Suffrage reform. It does not concern us here whether their judgment be correct or not on this point. What we have to look at is, first, that the Government will not stop in its present campaign to give serious consideration to any other question; second, that Liberal women will support the Liberal Government, or at least will not definitely oppose.

There is, however, an immense difference between active opposition, in which Liberal women will not take part, and concentration of force on a given point, which, though not the point on which the Government is concentrating its forces at the present moment, is certainly that which must come next after the Licensing Bill is passed. At any rate, one may prophesy, with a good deal of certainty, that it will come next if the women who want the Suffrage determine, as a body, that it shall do so.

The success of the policy advocated by Dr. Wilks depends largely on getting the right man, a man heroic enough to face mockery and slights, with persistence to remain faithful to his work until the battle be won, with breadth of view which would uphold him in such concentration of purpose, and with self-abnegation enough to refrain entirely from voting on party questions. Such a man would probably be supported by Suffragists of every shade of political opinion, who would sink their differences for the time and unite to get him into Parliament.

I hope that Dr. Wilks is mistaken in thinking that this policy would "weaken more palpably" the present Government. The member for Women's Franchise should be neutral on all party questions if he is to be supported by Liberal and Conservative Suffragists alike.—I am, Sir, faithfully yours,

E. BARTHOLOMEW.

The "Privileged" Sex.

THE following extract from *The Daily News* may be of interest to those who maintain that woman is "the spoilt child of the law":—

"A dispute between husband and wife concerning money savings was heard before Judge Smith at the West Bromwich County Court yesterday. Mrs. Jane Hooper asked for a declaration that she was entitled to a sum deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank in her husband's name.

"It was stated that they had been married for thirty-four years, and had had twenty children, of whom twelve were living. Out of the money which she had earned during nineteen years, added to by presents made to her by her children, Mrs. Hooper had managed to accumulate £95, which she kept in an old muff in a drawer. One morning she found the muff was empty. Her husband told her to come with him to the savings bank, where he deposited £40 in her name, and she had found he had previously placed £50 to his own credit. He then handed her £4 10s., saying that he had spent the remaining 10s.

"The wife, in her evidence, said that none of the money had been given to her by her husband, who had never provided sufficient money to maintain the household.

"Judge Smith declined to make any order as to the £50, as he considered that the £95 was the joint property of husband and wife, and that the man had made a fair division."

So after a woman has given twelve children to the State, and earned money for nineteen years to help to support the family, the husband, who never provided enough to maintain the household, is allowed by British law to steal 50% of her savings. And still people wonder why women want the vote! Perhaps Mr. John Burns, in seeking to deprive married women of their

earning power, wants to put a stop to this kind of outrage. Perhaps we have been wronging him, and that he is really a philanthropist after all. For instance, how much better for the country it would have been if that woman and her twenty children had had to go to the workhouse, leaving the man free to steal from a *person* (not a slave), in which case he would have been accommodated in prison, thus affording a grateful country an opportunity of paying for the whole family. There really is something in Mr. John Burns's theory after all.

Sonnet.

Ah! soon shall triumph our beloved cause,
And soon shall be victorious the Right;
Women have risen to assert its might,
And called on Justice to amend the laws.
Come celebrate with me this blessed sight,
For apathy and ignorance is foiled;
And prejudice, that monster shall be slain,
Which round the land in many a fold lay coiled.

Soon shall we all rejoice from main to main,
For soon the struggle for the Vote shall cease;
And women, freed from the old galling chain,
Shall stand together for right laws and peace,
Through all the land, and liberty shall reign.

FRANCESCA.

Special Notices.

THE DEBATE arranged between Mrs. Billington-Greig and Mr. St. Loe Strachey, Editor of *The Spectator*, will take place on Tuesday, November 24th, at 8 P.M., at the Kensington Town Hall. Friends are advised to secure tickets at once; they may be obtained from this office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi. Do not miss this chance of seeing an Anti-Suffragist, it may be your last. Mr. St. Loe Strachey, in this capacity, is interesting and rare, and will probably be converted on November 24th. Mrs. Billington-Greig is an equally interesting specimen of the race that is to be. He representing the conservative, masculine type of mind, cautious and fearful of a new idea; she the progressive feminine type straining at the leash, looking ever onward and upward. The debate should be exceptionally interesting. Mr. St. Loe Strachey, by his courteous acceptance of Mrs. Billington-Greig's challenge, has proved himself to be a worthy opponent, and will, when on our platform, be accorded the courteous hearing due to an honoured guest. Members of the Women's Freedom League must show their respect for both debaters, and their belief in the tenets of one by their presence in the hall on November 24th.

THE HACKNEY BRANCH JUMBLE SALE is to be held on Saturday, October 31st, at 31, Goldsmith's Row, Hackney Road, and parcels should be sent to that address at once. All things, great and small, will be welcome. Nothing is too old for the poor of Shoreditch. Friends are invited to attend the Private Sale on Friday, October 30th, 6 to 10 P.M., when many very nice things will be for sale.

TICKETS for the MASS MEETING, PUBLIC HALL, RYE LANE, PECKHAM, on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th, at 8 P.M. can be obtained at this office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, price 1s., and 6d.; a few free seats for women only. Miss Seruya would be glad of more help at the Suffrage shop, 33, Lordship Lane; she needs more canvassers, bill distributors, and speakers for the afternoon and evening meetings.

The Women's Freedom League is starting A LENDING LIBRARY, but, at present, is in need of a cupboard, with lock and key, in which to keep the books. If any one feels moved to present the houseless library with a home, we shall be very grateful. Any books bearing on the Woman question, books by women, or books with a peculiar interest for women, will be gratefully accepted; but donors are requested to submit the titles to the Hon. Librarian, Miss Eustace Smith, 1, Belsize Grove, Hampstead, London, N.W., before sending them.

London Council.

At Homes.—On Sunday evening next the members of the Council will be At Home at Holborn Town Hall from 7 to 10 P.M., when Mrs. Hicks (Hampstead) will act as hostess. There will be music and refreshments from 7 to 8 o'clock, after which addresses will be delivered by Mrs. E. How Martyn, A.R.C.S., B.Sc., and Mr. L. Atherley Jones, K.C., M.P.

On and after December 6th the At-Homes will be held at Steinway Hall, Lower Seymour Street, Portman Square, of which further particulars will be duly announced.

It requires persistent effort to keep pace with the expenses of our campaign, and there must be no resting on our oars if we are to maintain that ever-progressive record which so far comprises the history of the Women's Freedom League. In aid of the funds of the London Council and of the local branches it is proposed to hold a series of **Jumble Sales** in different parts of London. The Tottenham Branch is arranging the first one, to be held at an early date, and it is hoped that other branches will follow suit, working in conjunction with the London Council. Goods may be forwarded at any time (at the convenience of the sender) to Miss O. Lewin, 25, Wimpole Street, W. (carriage paid). In the case of bulky packages it is requested that, at least, three days' notice be given prior to their dispatch. Goods may be divided roughly into four sections: (1) household, (2) clothing, (3) glass and china, and (4) miscellaneous. Parcels should be marked on the outside with the name and address of the sender and numbered to indicate the section to which they belong.

It is hoped that members and friends will contribute freely to our stock. Everything having any saleable value will be welcome. Enumeration would be endless and idle, but we want everything that you don't need; and all our readers are invited to avail themselves of this opportunity of unloading some of those surplus articles which seem to collect themselves in every household.

Miss Vance (Northern Heights Branch) has been appointed Acting Hon. Secretary to the London Council. Future communications should be addressed to her, care of the Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi. MARIE LAWSON.

Cyclists' Corps.—Will all cyclists meet at 33, Lordship Lane, on Saturday, the 31st inst. ? HELEN LEVY, Hon. Sec.

Branch Notes.

Finchley Branch.—On October 22nd, Mrs. Tweedy, of the Women's Freedom League, opened a discussion on Woman's Suffrage at a meeting of the North Finchley Congregational Church Socialist Guild.

There was a good attendance, and the audience listened with great interest to Mrs. Tweedy's clear and convincing statement of the case for the Suffragists. It was apparently the first time many of them had heard an address by a "Suffragette" on the question, and they seemed agreeably surprised. An animated debate followed, in which the case in favour was well supported. At the conclusion, Mrs. Tweedy replied very ably to the objectors, who, for the most part, did not show a very wide knowledge of the subject, and did not bring forward any strikingly original or convincing arguments on the other side.

A resolution in favour of Woman's Suffrage was then put to the meeting, and carried by forty-seven to seventeen.

At the close of the meeting the literature table was a centre of attraction, and our Literature Secretary, Miss Hepworth, did quite a brisk business.

The **Western Branch, Glasgow**, has realized a considerable sum in Special Efforts, the latest of these being a Musical Evening held in the Academy Rooms on October 24. A first-rate programme was carried out, the Cake and Candy Stall was cleared early in the evening, and the Palmist was

never idle. A number of new members were added. This branch finds that an occasion of this kind yields good results in every way.

Mrs. Hill, Randolph Gardens, gave a successful Suffrage Tea on the afternoon of Friday the 16th, the returns of which are also forwarded to headquarters.

On Wednesday, November 4th, when the Branch next meets, a paper will be read by Mrs. Charles Davidson on 'Poor Law Reform.' This subject is *apropos*, as the municipal elections are pending.

Holloway Branch.—The meeting at the Athenæum on the 21st was immensely successful, and resulted in thirty-two new members and a collection of £20. The neighbourhood of the Suffragists' prison appears to be very promising and ripe for conversion.

The **Cheltenham Branch** is to be congratulated on its "Special Effort." The hon. secretary held a sale of work, sweets, and cakes, and provided tea, for which the guests gave sixpence each to the funds.

The excellent programme—musical, provided by Miss Williams, L.R.A.M., and recitations by Miss Una Hadwen of Gloucester—was much appreciated by the fifty or sixty people who came. Miss Boulton filled a M.P.F. card at a Vegetarian Social, and in all £12 has been raised for the League.

Central Branch.—Will members and those wishing to join, please note that this branch (with which is incorporated the Despard Debating Society) meets at 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, on Thursdays at 7.45 P.M., for business, 8 P.M. for lecture or debate. October 29th, no meeting, Miss Matters visit unavoidably postponed. November 5th, no meeting. Members are asked to go instead on November 4th and help at the public meeting at Peckham Public Hall. November 12th, Miss Mocatta At Home to branch members, 108, Iverna Court, Kensington, 8 P.M. to 10 P.M. P. H.

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

October 29th to November 24th.

			P.M.
Oct.			
Thurs. 29.	"At Home," Caxton Hall, Westminster	Miss Muriel Matters Mrs. Billington-Greig	3.30
	Song by	Miss Anna Carola	
	Clapham, The Polygon, Old Town	Miss Underwood	8
Fri. 30.	Battersea, Prince's Head Road	Miss Underwood Mr. Duval	8
	31, Goldsmith's Row, Hackney	Private Sale	7.30
Sat. 31.	31, Goldsmith's Row, Hackney Road	Jumble Sale	
Nov. 1.	"At Home," Holborn Hall	Mrs. How Martyn, Mr. Atherley Jones, K.C., M.P.	7
	Wandsworth Common	Mr. Duval	12 A.M.
	Battersea Park	Mrs. Duval	3.30
	Clapham Common	Miss Underwood	3
	Clapham, corner of Long Road and South Side	Miss Underwood	7
Mon. 2.	Nunhead, Ivydale Road Lit. Soc.	Miss Sidley	8
Wed. 4.	Peckham, Public Hall	Mrs. Despard Mrs. How Martyn, A.R.C.S. Mrs. Toyne Mr. Atherley Jones, K.C., M.P. M.P.	8
	Glasgow, Academy Rooms Partick	Mrs. Chas. Davidson	8
Thurs. 5.	"At Home," Caxton Hall	Dr. Marian Thornett Mr. Atherley Jones, K.C. M.P.	3.30
	Clapham, The Polygon, Old Town		8
Sun. 8.	Wandsworth Common	Mr. Duval	12 A.M.
	Battersea Park		
	Clapham Common	Mrs. Toyne Miss Underwood	3
	Clapham, corner of Long Road and South Side	Miss Underwood	7
Tues. 10.	13, South Side, Clapham Common	Miss Neilans	8
Fri. 20.	Public Library, Stoke Newington	Suffrage Entertainment	6-11
Sat. 21.	Newington		
Tues. 24.	Kensington Town Hall, Debate	Mrs. Billington-Greig Mr. St. Loe Strachey	8

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.

OUR readers will all have seen Mr. Asquith's reply to our chairman, Mr. Herbert Jacobs, who had asked leave to introduce a deputation of chairmen of recent meetings. With Mr. Asquith's consent the correspondence was communicated to the Press. Though the reply was in the negative, the wording leaves no doubt that the Prime Minister fully appreciated the character of the proposed deputation, and the nature of the evidence which was to have been laid before him. It is clear that he is watching the progress of the work among men, and attaching to it the importance which the views of the electorate must necessarily have in the eyes of practical politicians. Taken in conjunction with the wording of his reply to Mr. Stanger's deputation concerning the Bill, we must come to the conclusion that it is evidence of the kind indicated in Mr. Jacobs's letter for which Mr. Asquith is looking.

Whatever may have been the cause of Miss Balkwill's defeat at Hampstead, the contest is valuable as showing that the electorate is becoming accustomed to the idea of women in politics. As Mr. Jacobs acutely pointed out at the Athenæum, Camden Road, last week, the work before us is not so much argument on fundamental principles as that of getting people used to the idea of Women's Suffrage. Every time a woman makes use of the new Qualifications Act, she helps the cause in this way. As Mr. Jacobs described it, in the language of modern chess, this part of the work is the "accumulation of small advantages," by which the unreal and half-conscious opposition of minds inured by custom will be worn away. For this reason we are glad to think that the mayoralty of High Wycombe may fall to Miss Dove, and sorry to see that only eleven women candidates are putting up in the municipal elections in the provinces, as compared with twenty-five last year.

Mr. A. R. Allerton, of the Liverpool Branch, asks us to state that Miss Nina Henderson, 17, Faulkner Square, Liverpool, is acting as "chief badge steward" for the district. Badges may be obtained from her at 1d. and 2d. each. Next week we hope to announce the officers of the new branch.

The Manchester Demonstration, held on October 23rd and 24th, and the Social Meeting held in the Holborn Restaurant on October 26th, will be fully reported in our next issue.

Edinburgh Branch.

THE following office-bearers have been appointed for the ensuing year:—

Hon. President: Prof. Sarolea, Ph.D., D.Litt.
President: J. Dan Easson, B.L.
Vice-President: W. W. Taylor, D.Sc.
Secretary: E. O. Vulliamy, B.A. (Cantab.), 3, South Learmonth Gardens, Edinburgh.
Treasurer: James A. Baird.
Committee: John Campbell, Frank Gibson (Captain of Stewards), F. J. Maloney (Literature Secretary), E. W. Rodbourn, and Thomas Shaw.

The report of our work since the formation of our branch in February last shows that, in addition to holding several successful meetings, we have lost no opportunity of assisting the various Suffrage Societies in Edinburgh in their active campaign by supplying stewards, and otherwise supporting the movement. The Treasurer has a satisfactory balance in hand, and our membership is steadily increasing.

We have arranged to hold a social evening in the Edinburgh Café, 70, Princes Street, on Thursday, October 29th, when Lady Steel, Mr. Graham Moffat of Glasgow, and others will speak. Tickets 1s.

EDINBURGH M.P.'S QUESTIONED.

SIR GEORGE McCRAE, M.P., who was asked by one of our members whether he would support the movement to have Mr. Stanger's Bill passed this session, replied that, though for long a strong supporter of Women's Suffrage, he felt that the Licensing Bill was of most importance, and could not assist us.

At the first public meeting in Edinburgh addressed by Mr. Chas. H. Lyell, M.P. for East Dorset (who is Sir Edward Grey's private secretary) as prospective Liberal candidate for West Edinburgh, he replied that, not being a member of the Government, he could do nothing for the enfranchisement of women. When asked why he had voted against the second reading of Mr. Stanger's Bill, he stated that he had done so as a protest against the militant tactics! If, as a private member, he can do nothing for a movement, but can vote against any Bill in support of it, what is the value of his statements or promises in regard to Liberal reforms? E. O. VULLIAMY.

Bristol.

A MEETING of the Bristol Branch of the Men's League was held on October 20th at 5, Berkeley Square, Clifton. The Rev. Canon Talbot presided, and among the speakers were Mrs. Tanner and Miss A. Kenney. In his opening address the Chairman pointed out that the Women's Suffrage propaganda was part of a general movement for broadening the electorate, in which the liberation of Roman Catholics, Jews, and Free Churchmen from political disabilities had been episodes. Every fresh grant of the Franchise had been opposed by prejudice, based on the fear that it would lead to social and political insecurity. Experience had shown these fears to be groundless.

Successful Meeting at Ealing.

ON Monday evening, October 12th, a successful meeting on behalf of Women's Suffrage was held in the Prince's Room of the Municipal Buildings, Ealing. It was organized by Mrs. Edgar Morris, B.A., and held under the auspices of the N.U.W.S.S.

The meeting had been arranged in the Argyle Hall, a much larger building, but the Trustees of that hall had been frightened into cancelling the engagement by receipt of an anonymous letter threatening to smash up the meeting and destroy the furniture. This letter, which was dated from Bayswater, was read by the chairman, Mr. H. G. Chancellor, Hon. Treasurer of the Men's League. It declared that the writers "feared no person or law." The chairman pointed out how the bravery of these cowardly hooligans was proved by their omitting to sign their names.

After reading numerous letters expressing sympathy, including one from Dr. Clifford, quoted below, Mr. Chancellor explained the constitution and objects of the Men's League, and dealt with a number of points. He argued that the granting of the Suffrage to women, by widening their interests and causing them to become better informed on questions outside the narrow circle of ideas in which they now lived, would make husband and wife better able to enter into and discuss matters affecting both.

Other speakers were Mrs. C. C. Stopes, Miss S. L. Ross, who in a maiden speech of great ability dealt with the economic side of the question, and Miss Aphra Wilson. Miss Wilson furnished a striking proof of the chairman's argument; she said that Mrs. Pember Reeves had told her that in New Zealand all the same old objections were raised before women voted there.

The disunion of husband and wife was predicted. But an actual experience of Mrs. Reeves's own was typical of a state of things quite the reverse. "I've never seen so much of my old man at home before," confided a woman to her. "'Now,' says he, 'you darn the socks and sit by while I and some chums have a talk. You've got a vote now, old woman, and you've got to listen and learn.'" The result had been that discussions formerly confined to the club were carried on at home round the fireside.

A vote of thanks to the speakers and Mrs. Morris was moved by Mr. Kennedy, and seconded by Mr. Ben Johnson.

The room was crowded to the doors, and during the whole of the proceedings the most perfect order prevailed.

25, Sunderland Terrace, Bayswater, October 10th.

Mrs. MORRIS.

DEAR MADAM,—For the greater part of my life I have held that there should be equality of responsibility and privilege for all citizens, women and men alike. I know of no valid reason against such a position, and have no doubt it must ultimately form the basis of the legislation of a just and free commonwealth. I have therefore advocated the extension of Suffrage to women, and I shall continue to do so, although I cannot avoid thinking that the method of silencing Cabinet Ministers in public meetings is one that is sure to hinder and not help the cause.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CLIFFORD.

Positivism and Women's Suffrage.

MR. FREDERICK HARRISON'S NEW BOOK (concluded).

Mr. Harrison draws a terrible picture of the disintegration of family life, which will ensue when women have the vote:—

"Are wives, mothers, daughters to attend the party meetings, to read the party journals, and search the electoral register? Unless they do, men will think their vote unmeaning—the result of prejudice or chance. How are women to be made fit to exercise the parliamentary franchise, unless they do all that men do in hot electioneering times? And will homes be more happy and pleasant when they do these things?"

We have a pathetic description of the forsaken husband:—

"Will his supper be as good and as punctual when his wife is away listening to her favourite speaker, or is abusing the candidate 'her old man' has promised to support. And will his daughter be all to him she used to be as he returned from work, when she is deep in the comic posters, fly-sheets, and ribald ballads of the day, or has come home hot from heckling a weak candidate about Sunday shopping, local option, and vaccination?"

Mr. Harrison is at pains to assure us that this description is humorous. But, he adds, these things are not mere jests. We will, therefore, take them seriously.

Home-life has stood the ordeal of the industrial revolution, which has, in some cases, brought husband and wife, brother and sister, to compete against one another in the labour market. This is surely a severer test than the enfranchisement of women would be. Nor have any of the evil results Mr. Harrison predicts as yet been noticed in the countries where women vote. Even in England, as at the last L.C.C. election, local questions are sometimes as hotly debated as national. Women have been granted a share in local government, yet the family and the home have not, so far, become extinct. We are in the happy position of being able to set experience against Mr. Harrison's imagination.

Mr. Harrison has appealed, in the name of Positivism, to the sanctity of the family, and to the special influence of women in humanizing society through the family. We are so far Positivists as to believe in these things; we look forward to seeing

men and women in co-operation put an end to many of the evils which have been allowed to beset family life—evils such as sweating, intemperance, ill-considered systems of education—under laws made by men alone. We cannot accept the dogmas that the influence of women will change from good to evil directly it is transferred from the home to the State, and that if their influence remains a moral and spiritual one its transference to the State will lead inevitably to "tyranny and corruption." The burden of proof rests upon those who advance such theories. Mr. Harrison must bring forward some argument better supported by experience if he is not to be judged and condemned on his own Positivist principles—that the social function of women is to moralize, humanize, spiritualize society; that the family is the real social unit; and that the good of the family is the end which the State exists to achieve. K. G. J.

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.]

To Curtis Bennett, Esq., Police Magistrate, Bow Street.

SIR,—I am one of the many witnesses whom you refused to allow to give evidence to-day.

The case is closed as far as you are concerned; but, at least, you shall be informed of what it was my duty to say in the witness-box—a duty your arbitrary and unusual refusal prevented me from fulfilling.

I was present in Trafalgar Square on Sunday, October 11th, and at Westminster on the evening of October 13th. Instead of disorder having been prompted by Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Pankhurst, and Mrs. Drummond, it was largely owing to their counsels of moderation that serious violence was averted. The people of London were recommended to violent disorder by the speeches of Mr. George Lansbury, Mr. Herbert Burrows, and other public men (who have not been prosecuted), on the days preceding October 13th; and many, prepared to act on their advice, were restrained by the wiser and calmer words, written and spoken by the Women Suffragists you have to-day sent to Holloway, from entering into conflict with the police.

You mentioned in court that watches had been stolen and people injured on the night of October 13th, but not a scrap of evidence beyond a policeman's word was produced to substantiate this statement. Moreover, whenever a large crowd assembles in London, pockets are picked and injuries occur; but I have never heard that those responsible for the gathering of crowds are commonly prosecuted.

I do not suppose my evidence would have affected your decision.

It was all too plain, unfortunately, that (like your fellow-magistrate, Mr. Horace Smith) you had decided, whatever the evidence might be, to carry out the wishes of the Government, and imprison the defendants, thereby making a travesty of the trial.

You have violated the best traditions of the English judicial bench by curtailing the evidence to-day. You have discredited the office you hold, dishonoured your profession, brought the administration of justice into disrepute, and shaken public confidence in police-court procedure.

You will hardly venture to deny that had this prosecution been instigated merely by the police or by a private person you would have dismissed the case, or advised the prosecutor to take such action as would have resulted in a trial by jury.

You have chosen, however, to acknowledge to the world that when a Government is the prosecutor you lay aside the responsibility of doing justice and carrying out the law, to become the compliant tool of the political party in power.

In this letter I am merely expressing the opinions of the ordinary male citizen.

I am, yours faithfully,
JOSEPH CLAYTON.
Prospect House, Hampstead, N.W., October 24th, 1908.

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Editorial Communications should be addressed to "THE EDITOR"—Business Letters to "THE PUBLISHER"—at the Office, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.
Printed and Published by THE WOMAN CITIZEN PUBLISHING SOCIETY at 13, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.—Thursday, October 29, 1908.