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Notes.

AS we go to press the papers are filled with accounts of the results of an appeal issued by the National Women's Social and Political Union to men and women "to help the Suffragettes to rush the House of Commons." A woman has appeared at the Bar of the House, protesting, "Leave off discussing the children's question, and give votes to women first." If our readers seek to come to a decision as to whether the accomplishment of these doings and a subsequent advertisement for the cause is sufficiently important to counterbalance the harmful effect, we can but ask them to reach such a decision only after the most careful and temperate thought and discussion.

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

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

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

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

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

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

THE Four Songs for Women Suffragists, by Alicia Adélaide Needham, are entitled 'Marching On,' 'Daughters of England,' 'Fighting On,' 'Clipped Wings,' and may be had complete for 2s., post free, from Mrs. Needham's Secretary, 34, King's Avenue, Clapham Park, London, S.W. A royalty on each copy sold will be given to the Cause of Women's Suffrage.

IN reading through a report of one of our big missionary societies (S.P.G.), one realizes something of the immense amount of work being done by women abroad. Let those who would confine women's energies to the "home" imagine how the world would be without the noble work of those who in this and other ways benefit mankind at large.

MISS L. BRANCH is paying for this paper to be sent each week to the Northampton Public Library, and Mrs. W. M. Green to the Free Library at Smethwick. We have received from Mrs. Frank Summers 14s. 6d., and H. W. C. 1s. towards the expenses of publishing *Women's Franchise*.

### The Suffrage in Other Lands.

**UNITED STATES.**—The National American Women's Suffrage Association will hold its fortieth annual meeting from October 15 to 21st, at Buffalo, and at the same time celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the historic convention at Seneca Falls, which first formulated women's resistance to arbitrary limitation of their rights and privileges under law and in government. The progress made since then has been marked, but it cannot be called rapid. The laws relating to women have been improved in every State, and in four States full Suffrage has been won, but American women have, in matters relating to the Franchise, seen themselves outstripped by their sisters in older countries, where the agitation is newer. There seems a tendency just now to adopt some of the English methods.

The *Women's Journal* (Boston) says: "A few days ago about 200 California women, carrying a beautiful silk banner, marched in procession to the theatre in Oakland, where the State Republican Convention was going on, and asked for a plank in the platform favouring the submission to the voters of an amendment enfranchising women. Such an amendment was submitted in California about fourteen years ago, and then it carried the State outside the cities of San Francisco and Oakland. The women believe that Suffrage sentiment has grown very largely since then, and they want the question submitted again." Several ladies were heard, who all spoke briefly and to the point, but the Committee on Resolutions, whose members had no doubt made up their minds beforehand, refused to recommend the submission of the question to the voters. They offered, instead, to recommend the granting to women of the school vote, and finally passed a vote of thanks to the ladies, which they declined to accept.

**ANTI-SUFFRAGE.**—The *Frau* for October contains an interesting article by Ika Freudenberg on Mrs. Humphry Ward's anti-suffrage manifesto. She discusses its various paragraphs point by point, showing up the weak places in the argument. It seems specially strange to her that any one could approve the election of women to municipal bodies and yet disapprove the Parliamentary Suffrage. "Mrs. Ward appears to be under the impression that all social matters, all questions of national welfare and education, are the province of the municipality." She forgets that the work of the municipality depends on the social spirit that inspires legislation. As to the legitimate influence which women may exercise through their education and common sense, that means going a long way round (*Umweg*) to the goal. How long and wearisome was the struggle before proper laws were secured for the protection of women and children. Nothing can effectually take the place of the direct relation between the Government and every class of the governed. The whole article is worth reading for its careful reasoning and its studied moderation. I quote the last sentence: "Throughout Mrs. Ward's manifesto there breathes an aristocratic and conservative, almost patriarchal spirit, which makes us believe that it will prove too weak a hindrance to the movement which it is trying to arrest. The patriotism of the English-women who are ready with zeal and courage to take their part in the political duties of the nation, will prove to be stronger than the patriotism of those who shut themselves out from civic rights which they surrender of their own free will."

ALICE ZIMMERN.

### "Women's Suffrage."

BY J. M. WYLER, AGED FOURTEEN AND A HALF YEARS.

THIS is one of the questions which has recently been ushered into the world, and which promises to take a first place among the "political reform" topics of the future.

Needless to say, it has been, and will continue to be, ignored and made fun of—as has been the case with most social and political changes in their infancy.

But it is clear that, with the admirable perseverance and endurance invariably exhibited by the would-be reformers of women's affairs, the end will be gained, sooner or later.

If one only considers the important rôle played by woman in the social and economic organizations of the civilized world, it is practically impossible for one to shut out the fact that woman's material strength is not to be despised—nay, it must be carefully taken account of.

Day by day and hour by hour, fresh female breadwinners are launched into the theatre of life, are called upon to fulfil their duties as citizens, and to carry out their obligations to the society they live in.

What is the return for these concessions? Some reply, "Physical protection in the eyes of the law." In return for taxation and many indispensable services, the Government most graciously consents to prevent personal molestation! But as to their having a voice in legislation—oh, no! For then the old-fashioned dogma is produced, and it is discovered that "Woman's place is the home." However, those who adhere to this dogma take many precautions to avoid people remembering that this argument was established when the duties of a woman were to keep her spouse snugly housed, neatly clothed, and well fed—when, economically speaking, women were valueless, as regards their personal assistance in increasing the national revenue.

To any unbiassed reasoner it is plain that the state of affairs is now altered, and that women are as much qualified to receive representation in legislative assemblies as men are; and it is scarcely necessary to say that the only means by which this just measure can be effected is by giving women the means of taking part in the ballot, at elections of members for administrative bodies, whether national or municipal, in common with those who *alone* at the present moment possess that right.

Save for a few petty drawbacks, unworthy of the notice of a broad-minded arguer, there is nothing that in any way disqualifies woman from sharing with man full rights of citizenship and political power in national affairs.

To meet this point it has been stated that woman is mentally unfit to govern, or to influence government. Could any more absurd statement be made?

One has only to glance back through time, and even keep to the confined limits of English history, and endless examples of woman's mental capacities are to be met with, such as Mary Stuart, Queen Elizabeth, and Margaret of Anjou, and the numerous celebrated lady writers of the nineteenth century. Surely they are sufficient to stand comparison with any males on the point of mental powers!

It is plain, therefore, that whoever maintains that woman's mental capacities are subordinate to those of man, and that consequently females are unfit to have a voice in government, should seriously consider whether that does not concern himself as much as them.

Now is it not clear that nothing but good can be the outcome of women's franchise? Would it not go a long way to alter the present state of affairs as concerns women?

It can at least be hoped, with a certain amount of confidence, that the present system of the employment of female labour in commerce would be altered, and that such matters as "sweated labour" would become things of the past.

We might also hope that the present social system would be reformed, as a result of universal suffrage for law-abiding citizens—and citizenesses.

If such an ideal state of affairs would come about as a consequence of the success of this movement, then by all means, let us pray with the greatest fervour that the efforts of the few pioneers of this noble cause may not prove to be in vain.

### False Divisions.

LOVE is the greatest thing in the world, and love for a principle, an ideal, a finer and nobler thing than love for a person. That women realize this truth and are beginning to act upon it is a sign of the times. Their weakness and misfortune has been to attach themselves to persons rather than principles, to persons irrespective of principle.

The state of subjection in which they find themselves to-day is very largely traceable to their desire for peace at any price, to their dependence upon affection.

If passivity has led to exploitation, woman must now call to her aid the sterner virtues of resistance, must learn the art of war and exercise it at least in self-defence; must prove that she is the daughter not only of her mother but the daughter of her father also.

Not content with placing woman, man has placed the virtues too, made *them* male and female, encouraged her to display those he despises for himself. Smitten on the one cheek she is expected to turn the other to the smiter—is expected to be dumb before her shearers. But this division of the indivisible has led not to peace, but to dissension.

"It is possible; there are dangerous virtues, virtues that tempt the encroacher." Not until woman "the human drudge, the slave of the hearth," be installed as priestess of the home, not until sex disabilities be swept aside will the sex problem be solved, and a race of human beings arise in place of the many male and female abortions at present existent. K. KILBURN.

### The Gamin, the Loafer, and the Aristocrat.

"The gamin or the loafer remains absolutely unconverted so far as 'Votes for Women' is concerned."

From *T.P.'s Weekly*.

'Tis said, in spite of ceaseless and effective demonstration, That Suffragists are still without real backing in the nation, Are they thinking, those who say our force is uselessly exerted, That the gamin and the loafer are still wholly unconverted?

There are certain owl-like persons, who in weighty solemn phrase, Are warning those in power lest unfounded hopes they raise, They doubtless bear in mind, that it is truthfully asserted, That the gamin and the loafer are still wholly unconverted.

The gamin and the loafer's views are shared by the abusive, And exalted anti-Suffragists, who're scarcely less abusive, But will such opposition be effectively concerted, And does it really matter if they never are converted?

HELEN H. FORBES.

### A Suffrage Song.

O FAINT not, sisters, by the way,  
Though 'tis gloomy, rugged, bare,  
Ascend, and soon your feet shall gain  
The goal of life, so precious, fair.  
O be not weary in the strife,  
Endless though it seem to be,  
Songs ere long shall loudly swell  
Triumphant songs of victory.

Then lift the eyes, O sisters brave,  
Behold the flag shall be unfurled,  
With clouds dispersed, the dawn shall come  
In majesty o'er all the world  
Ah! 'tis then, 'tween woman, man,  
Shall grow the perfect trust and love,  
And nations rising to ideals  
Shall here reflect dear Heaven above.

ALICE E. COLLINGE, Bolton.

### Correspondence.

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

DEAR SIR,—It is with extreme regret that many of your readers who are members of the N.U.W.S.S. have read the section dealing with the "relative importance of the work of the National Union and that of the W.S.P.U.," in the article headed, 'Our Election Policy and the Newcastle Election' in the current issue.

Surely it is a trifle absurd to try to establish the superiority of the action of the former while trying to scoff at and belittle that of the latter.

All that matters is that the requisite pressure be brought to bear on the Government, and the air of complacency with which Miss Hardcastle attempts, quite in vain, to discredit the work of the W.S.P.U. in the election is a trifle nauseating. To many of us who care far more for the cause itself than for the individual societies which are working for it, the weakest point of the policy of the N.U.W.S.S. is that it cannot refrain at times from unworthy expressions of jealousy and ill-feeling towards the more militant, and certainly the more self-sacrificing, sister society. Many women, like myself, belong to both, and work for both; many of us, indeed, give the greater part of our time and labour to the N.U.W.S.S., for we find that in places where keen interest is taken in the Suffrage question the militant party makes its own strong appeal and does not need bolstering up, and in the more conventional and indifferent centres, it is only by means of the "Constitutional" Society that we can hope to draw in the careless ones who are far too limp to do anything but lend a polite ear, but who yet have got to be converted if our cause is to be won. But if the N.U.W.S.S. intends to persist in a policy of crying down the magnificent election work of the W.S.P.U., while at the same time profiting by the heroic advertisements that the latter society has given to a cause almost defunct, the situation becomes not only absurd, but rather contemptible, and many of those who belong to both must cease to work for the "Constitutionalists," and throw in their lot entirely with the "militants." Such a secession, with its inevitable loss of enthusiasm, cannot but be a cause of regret, since it is largely by means of those who can push on the movement with both hands, among those who are keen for action as well as among those who are still content to stand and wait, that the most effective work will be done.

I enclose my card, and beg to sign myself,

A MEMBER OF THE N.U.W.S.S.

[We must again ask our readers' special attention to the Editorial note on the front page.—Ed. W. F.]

SIR,—May I, through your columns, call the attention of Suffragists to a passage singularly worthy of quotation at meetings during the coming winter? This is it:—

"A privileged race, a privileged caste in the country debases courage and manliness in a nation, and nothing can save a people afflicted by such institutions from a spirit of bondage and incessant protest against them. That protest has not ripened into a statute of the realm for woman. No; but it has saved her soul from the curse of obsequiousness, and soon the offence itself will be removed."

These words, with one exception, were used in a public speech by one of the Cabinet Ministers, Mr. Lloyd George. He applied them to Wales—although half the population of Wales is allowed a voice in its own government. If it were not that politicians seldom seem to remember women except when women are actively annoying them, one would suppose that Mr. Lloyd George must have perceived the wider application of his general principles—that he was, in short, giving a "straight tip" to the Suffragists.

It must be exceedingly awkward for politicians of the Liberal party that they can never recite the principles of their creed without putting a weapon into our hands. If they were really prudent they would abstain from enunciating in public any general principles of liberty, democracy, representative government, &c., until they were ready to put these principles into action by enfranchising that larger half of their fellow citizens which is at present politically subject to "a privileged race, a privileged caste."

In the meantime we, on our part, will go on saving our souls from the curse of obsequiousness—an admirable phrase, for which we most heartily thank Mr. Lloyd George.

I am, yours faithfully,

CLEMENTINA BLACK.

Hampstead.

## 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: 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.

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.D. (Lond.)

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

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

### Quarterly Council Meeting.

THE quarterly Council Meeting of the National Union took place at Leicester on October 9th. After greetings to the Council from Miss Edith Gittins, Mrs. Fawcett voiced the regret of all that Miss Bertha Mason was not yet sufficiently recovered to be present. She was, however, preparing a lecture on the history of Women's Suffrage, to be accompanied by lantern slides.

Mrs. Snowden sent a message that she had already addressed 40,000 persons on Women's Suffrage in the States, that the Suffrage movement showed no sign of death, and that Mrs. Humphry Ward was all wrong. Mrs. Fawcett reported that the feeling in favour of Women's Suffrage shown at the meeting of the International Council of Women was most encouraging, and in reference to the visit of the International Suffrage Alliance to London next April, Mrs. Fawcett urged all the delegates to do their utmost to make the conference a success, that England may not occupy a second or third place in the eyes of our visitors.

The invitation from Brighton to hold the Annual Meeting there on January 27th was cordially accepted, and Cardiff was asked to repeat their kind invitation later.

After the report on the quarter's work by the secretary, Miss Gardner gave an account of the van, and Mrs. Marshall of Keswick of the successful experiment of a market stall for Woman's Suffrage literature. Miss Dimock, acting treasurer, gave the financial statement, and Cheltenham, London, Manchester, and Nottingham reported their quarter's work. The following amendment to the questions to candidates now asked by the National Union was moved by Birkenhead and Wirral:—

"For questions 1 and 2 substitute 'will you promise to move or, if moved by another, to support an amendment to the Address in reply to every future King's Speech, from which such clause shall have been omitted, that to such King's Speech there be added a clause stating that among the early business of next session will be the introduction of a Bill to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men?'"

This was moved by Mrs. Hooper and seconded by Mrs. Donaldson, supported by Dr. Ethel Bentham. Miss Jenner and Mrs. Broadley Reid opposed, and, after a speech by Mrs. Fawcett, the amendment was lost by a very large majority.

Another amendment to the questions was moved by Miss Merrifield on behalf of Brighton, seconded by Miss Bryan formally, and after a slight alteration was carried, so that the second question now runs: "Will you pledge yourself to vote for the inclusion of Women in the promised Government Reform Bill or for a Bill removing the sex disability, and will you oppose any further extension of the Franchise to men unless it also includes the extension of the Franchise to women?"

As an amendment to the rules for guidance at by-elections, Mrs. Stansfield of Reading proposed to rescind existing rules, and substitute: "The Women's Suffrage Societies shall refrain from supporting any Parliamentary candidate (whether he be in favour of Woman's Suffrage or not), unless there be a non-party candidate expressly standing for the cause of Woman's Suffrage." Miss Powell of Reading seconded, and after a lengthy discussion the amendment was lost by a very large majority.

The amendments to the rules brought forward by Brighton,

"In Rule 1 omit the parenthesis ('except as provided in 3 below')" "omit Rule 2," and "in Rule 3 after 'prominent opponents,' add 'or any candidate who has broken a Suffrage pledge,' and omit all after 'are not completely satisfactory,'" were subjected to a good deal of discussion. Then Miss Palliser moved, and Miss Jenner seconded, that the amendments be dropped, in order that the present policy might be tested for a few months longer. This was carried, with a recommendation to the Executive Committee that the rules should be redrafted, to read more simply.

Llandudno agreed to withdraw their amendment "that the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies shall refrain from giving any support to a Government candidate, even when he is personally in favour of extending the Franchise to women, so long as the Government will not promote the cause of Women's Suffrage."

The resolution from Cheltenham "that all possible pressure be brought to bear upon every Member of Parliament professing to be in favour of Woman's Suffrage to support any Bill or amendment that will give women the Franchise in this or any other session," was passed by acclamation, and the resolution from Leeds, "that for reasons of economy and convenience the Quarterly Council Meetings be held in the future in London, and not at different centres as hitherto," being withdrawn, the session terminated.

### Afternoon Meeting.

THE afternoon meeting at Leicester took somewhat the form of an At-Home, with speeches and discussions, as well as an inspection of the banners and an excellent tea.

In many ways, except for the absence of Mrs. Fawcett, this gathering was of greater interest to some of us than the evening meeting. There was less wealth of anecdote, less emotionalism, but a sounder statement of our programme in the future.

Miss Gittins presided with her usual ability, and the other speakers were Mrs. Stopes, Mrs. Swanwick, and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P.

Mrs. Stopes dwelt on the duty of party women putting their party second, and illustrated the great effectiveness of the adoption of such a position by Women Suffragists. Mrs. Stopes described the discomfiture of a certain Liberal candidate who had expressed himself unsatisfactorily on the subject of votes for women. His hench-women deserted him; the Women's Liberal Association in his constituency heard him, and went straightway to their headquarters and solemnly dissolved themselves.

Mr. Macdonald's eloquence took the meeting by storm. The sincerity of his enthusiasm for the great principle of justice for women was evidenced by his attitude towards the "limited Bill." In his opinion he stated clearly that this Bill will enfranchise large numbers of working women, but he added with warmth that even if this were not so, even did this Bill only enfranchise the propertied, and, therefore, possibly, in the opinion of his party, the reactionary classes, he would still vote for it, because to remove the sex disability is an act of justice which he was prepared to do, even at the cost of political disadvantage to himself. He then passed on to declare that the country is ripe for this great reform, but he conveyed, with telling force, the urgent necessity of our continuing to demonstrate again and

again and again, until the education of public opinion is confirmed.

Mrs. Swanwick followed with the same burden, "Organize, organize, organize, and then demonstrate." She told how, as the sequel to the great London Procession on June 13th, the North of England Society has arranged a monster—almost national—procession on October 24th. She appealed for active support from Leicester and all the North and Midlands. Thus she offered once again, as was offered in June, a grand opportunity to all those who, while constitutional from a high sense of duty, yet feel the martyr spirit within them, and desire to do and suffer for the cause.

### Newcastle-on-Tyne Electors' Petition.

THE petition signed by the electors was dispatched to Mr. Hudson, M.P., for presentation in the House of Commons on Monday. It measures 52 yards, 1 ft. 9 in., weighs 10½ lb., and is signed by 3,565 electors. It is headed by Mr. Thos. Burt, M.P., His Majesty's Privy Councillor, and amongst the signatures on the first page are those of the Deputy-Lord Mayor, Councillor Richard Mayne, and Mr. Charles Fenwick, M.P. A whole form is filled by medical men, amongst whom are most of the better-known doctors in the city. It is signed by hundreds of electors in every walk of life, and serves to convince us that had the time and opportunity been available to present it to the whole of the electors the great bulk of them would have signed it.

### County Campaign Fund.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Huntingdon.—Miss Cochrane .. ..	5	0	0			
Somerset.—Miss Deltmar .. ..	0	2	6			
				5	0	0
Total to Saturday, October 10th ..	£721	3	8			

We frequently receive from Branch Secretaries and other friends cuttings from local newspapers respecting meetings, &c.; these are most valuable, but we would urge upon the senders the necessity of giving, in all cases, the full name and date of the papers from which the cuttings are taken.

In fulfilment of promises made on the occasion of her previous visit, Miss Gardner has arranged to go to Bridlington on October 26th, and to Whitby on November 2nd.

### Conversazione at Wandsworth.

ON Monday evening, October 5th, the Wandsworth Branch of the London Society for Woman's Suffrage held a conversazione at Wandsworth Town Hall to start the autumn work. About 400 guests were present, and were received by Mrs. Shillington, president of the branch, and the ladies of the local committee. The first hour was given to refreshments and music, after which the chair was taken by Miss Emily Hill, who was supported by Lady Grove, Mr. Cecil Chapman, and others.

Lady Grove made an eloquent speech, showing how the effects of legislation penetrated the home, and how essential it was, therefore, for women to have a voice in the making of the laws. Women had as responsible and important a share in the work of the world as men, and ought to have the same political privileges when they bore equally heavy burdens.

Mr. Cecil Chapman pointed out the great anomaly of leaving half the population voteless in a country that boasted of freedom. It was an absurd argument to use against Woman's Suffrage to say that the State rested upon force, and therefore women had no right to the Franchise. The State rested upon good government. Women were forced to obey laws which they had no voice in making, and which were often unjust to them. The large majority of the Acts of Parliament affected women to a larger degree than men, and there was not any great social question which did not directly affect them more than men. Women performed all the duties that entitled men to the Franchise, and

the State was losing a very valuable asset in being without their vote. From the point of view of capacity, women were quite equal to, and among the working classes were superior, in intelligence to the male elector.

Mr. Councillor Shillington, who took the chair for the remainder of the evening, then moved the resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Duval, and carried.

After this a clever dramatic sketch, called 'A Change of Tenant,' written by Miss H. M. Nightingale, was admirably played, to the immense enjoyment of the audience.

As a result of the evening twenty new members joined the local society, making a total of 100 new members during the year.

### 5,000 Guineas Fund.

Miss Kirby (per Miss Fraser), 11.

### Branch Societies.

The following is the resolution referred to below: "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 Mr. Stanger's Women's Enfranchisement Bill during the present session of Parliament."

**BOURNEMOUTH.**—The first "At Home" of the season was held at St. Peter's Hall on October 9th. Lady Grove was the speaker. Owing to very heavy rain only about 150 members and friends assembled—about half the usual number. Those who braved the weather spent a very pleasant afternoon, and Lady Grove's speech certainly gave fresh food for thought. These "At Homes" are to be held monthly throughout the season, as they were so successful last winter.

**BRISTOL.**—The first of a series of meetings was recently held at Bishopton. The Rev. Donald Fraser presided over a good attendance. Miss Theodora Johnson moved, and Mrs. Martin seconded, the resolution, which was carried unanimously. A second meeting was held at the Lesser Colston Hall, which was presided over by Canon Talbot. Speeches were given by Miss Helen Sturge, Mrs. A. Bright, Mr. W. S. B. McLaren, and Miss Abadam.

**CARDIFF.**—An enthusiastic meeting was held on Oct. 5th. The Chairman—Councillor Herbert M. Thompson—refuted what he considered the two strongest arguments of our opponents, namely: (1) the mental differences between women and men; and (2) that the average woman is at present less qualified to vote than the average man, and therefore the admission of women to the Suffrage would lower the standard of voting. The resolution was proposed by the President, Mrs. Lewis, seconded by Councillor Smith, and carried *nem. con.* Canon Beck also spoke a few words in support of the resolution.

**CHELTHENHAM.**—The first social meeting of the season was held on Oct. 10th at the Town Hall, when there was a fair muster of members and friends. Councillor Robert Steel took the chair, and the chief speaker was Mr. Mackenzie Bell, poet and critic, who gave his reasons "Why a Man wants Women's Suffrage." The resolution was proposed by Mr. Bell, seconded by Councillor W. G. Earengy, LL.D., and carried unanimously. Votes of thanks were moved and seconded by Mrs. Earengy, B.A., Mrs. Mills, Miss How, and Miss Theodora Mills.

**EDINBURGH.**—A meeting was recently held in the Edinburgh Café, Princes Street. Mr. Joseph Dobie presided over a very large gathering. The resolution was put to the meeting by the Rev. Prof. Paterson, seconded by Mrs. James Ivory, and carried.

**LONDON, Bedford Park.**—A very successful Drawing-Room Meeting was held on Oct. 9th at 30, Fairfax Road, by kind invitation of Mrs. Brookes. The chair was taken by Mr. John Leighton, and a most interesting address was given by Miss Cockle. She moved a resolution urging Mr. Asquith to grant facilities to a Bill for the Enfranchisement of Women on the lines of Mr. Stanger's Bill. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Hartley, and carried unanimously.

**Fulham.**—On Oct. 6th an evening meeting was held in the West Kensington Lecture Hall, at which the chair was taken by Mr. R. Raikes Bromage, M.A., F.R.G.S. The resolution was proposed by Miss Marjorie Strachey, seconded

by Miss Helen Ward, and supported by Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell (Hon. Sec. of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage).

The Fulham local Hon. Sec. (Miss Jenner) appealed to those present who did not already belong to the London Society to join it and to any Associates of the Society present to become members. A vote of thanks to the Chairman and speakers was moved by Miss A. Lorrain Smith, F.L.S., and seconded by Councillor Herbert Norman.

**Kensington.**—Mr. Cholmeley took the chair at a meeting in the Town Hall on Oct. 7th, at which the resolution to Mr. Asquith was carried. After the Chairman's most able speech Miss Palliser and Miss C. Dean Corbett addressed the meeting.

**Marylebone.**—A public meeting was held on Oct. 6th (under the auspices of the Marylebone local committee) in the Portman Rooms. Sir Edward Busk, Chairman of the Convocation of the University of London, was in the chair; the speakers were Sir Victor Horsley, Miss Emily Davies, Miss Lowndes, Miss Corbett, Mr. Schloesser and Mr. Theedam (member of the Men's League). The speeches were listened to with much attention, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

**OLTON.**—On Oct. 2nd a public meeting was held in the St. Margaret's schoolroom, W. Anderson, Esq., presiding. Miss Gertrude E. Southall, of Birmingham, moved the resolution for presentation to the Prime Minister. This was seconded by Miss Taylor (Secretary of the Birmingham and Midland Women's Suffrage Society). Questions from the audience having been satisfactorily answered by Miss Taylor, the resolution was put to the meeting by the Chairman, who, upon its being unanimously carried, expressed the pleasure it would give him to present it in person to the Prime Minister, should the latter consent to receive the proposed deputation of chairmen.

**REIGATE AND REDHILL.**—A public meeting was held on Oct. 5th in the Public Hall, Reigate. The member for the constituency, Mr. Brodie, took the chair, and the resolution was passed by a large majority. Mrs. Rackham proposed the resolution in a clear and interesting speech, which was listened to with great attention. She was seconded by Mr. Baillie Weaver, whose forcible advocacy of a vigorous and forward policy in the event of Mr. Asquith refusing to grant facilities elicited much applause. The effect made by both speakers was shown by the fact that several new members joined the society after the meeting.

**SOUTHAMPTON.**—A social meeting was held in the Kell Memorial Hall on Oct. 2nd, over which the Rev. W. G. Garwood, M.A., presided. A resolution urging Mr. Asquith to allow facilities for the passing of Mr. Stanger's Women's Enfranchisement Bill during the present Session of Parliament was carried unanimously. Mr. A. C. Howard gave a short address on the present aspect of the Suffrage movement.

**WOBURN SANDS.**—We held our first garden meeting on Sept. 30th, for members and their friends. The speaker was Miss Janet Case, who traced the progress the movement for Women's Suffrage has made this year. She showed that women's influence need not, and will not, be impaired by their having the vote; that their "sphere," of which our opponents talk so much, is of shifting significance, and is really the touchstone of movement, and that women are refusing to allow their "sphere" to be defined and determined by the prejudice of men. Miss Case ended by an earnest appeal, urging her hearers to do all they could to push the cause. Her address was much appreciated by her audience.

**WORCESTER.**—By kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Carleton Rea, a meeting of the Suffrage Society was held at their house on October 6th. Unfortunately Mr. Rea, the Chairman, and Mrs. Rea, the Treasurer, were unable to be present, and the President, Mrs. Wilson, was also unavoidably absent. The chair was taken by Miss Power, the Hon. Secretary, and Miss Fowler, one of the members, gave her impressions of the London Procession of June 13th, in which she had taken part. Miss Gardner gave an interesting and inspiring address, and the resolution was carried unanimously. Meetings are to be held about once a month during the winter, and plans for small Suffrage Teas at different houses, as well as for public addresses, will probably be carried out.

**YORK.**—A well-attended public meeting was held on Sept. 29th, at the Friends' Meeting House, under the Presidency of Mr. Edwin Gray. Dr. Macdonald proposed, and Mr. Holmes seconded, the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Ocr.		Speakers	P.M.
14 to 20.	<b>Oxford, Meetings Daily.</b> 3, Corn Exchange Buildings, George Street		3 & 8
14 & 15.	<b>Exhibition of Banners.</b>	<i>Speakers</i> (15), Mrs. Stables, 3 to 8 Professor Margoliouth	
15.	<b>Warwick and Leamington,</b> Drawing-Room Meeting, Whitlock Cottage, Leamington	<i>Hostess</i> , Miss Crowlie 2 <i>Speakers</i> , Mrs. Rackham, Miss M. Robertson	
	<b>Public Meeting, Kenilworth,</b> Assembly Rooms	<i>Chair</i> , Corrie-Grant, Esq. M.P. <i>Speakers</i> , Mrs. Rackham, Miss M. Robertson	
16.	<b>Aberdeen,</b> Reception, Music Hall	<i>Hostess</i> , Lady Weetman 7 Pearson <i>Speakers</i> , Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Alison Garland, and others	
	<b>Cheltenham,</b> Open-Air Meeting, Norwood Arms, Leckhampton		6
16.	<b>Kilmalcolm,</b> Public Meeting	<i>Speaker</i> , Mrs. Swanwick	
17.	<b>Glasgow,</b> Public Meeting, Charing Cross Halls	<i>Chair</i> , Treasurer Stevenson 3 <i>Speakers</i> , Mrs. Allan Bright, Mrs. D. Greig, Miss F. Melville, Prof. Latta	
19.	<b>Bethnal Green,</b> Debate at Debating Society for Men		9
	<b>Gosforth,</b> Drawing-Room Meeting	<i>Hostess</i> , Miss Davies 3 <i>Speaker</i> , Miss Helen Fraser	
20.	<b>Nottingham, Exhibition of Banners,</b> Lecture Hall, Castle Gate, Admission, 1s.; Tea, 6d. From 12 to 2 and from 6 to 7 P.M., Admission, 3d.	To be opened by Lady Maude Rolleston <i>Speaker</i> , Miss M. Robertson	3.30
	Evening Public Meeting Admission, 6d., 1s.	<i>Chair</i> , Dr. Sarah Gray 8 <i>Speaker</i> , Miss M. Robertson	
20.	<b>Belmont, Surrey,</b> Debate	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss Emily Hill	
21.	<b>Gateshead,</b> Public Meeting. Arranged by W. L. A.	<i>Speakers</i> , Miss Helen Fraser and others	
	<b>Redhill,</b> Invitation Meeting, Fengates House	<i>Hostess</i> , Mrs. Rich- 7.30-9.30 mond	
	<b>Rochdale,</b> Public Meeting	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss Abadam	
	<b>York,</b> Public Meeting	<i>Chair</i> , W. J. Cudworth, Esq. <i>Speakers</i> , Mrs. Henry Faw- cett, LL.D., Miss Pringle <i>Opener</i> , Dr. Mary Jeremy 7.45	
22.	<b>Bournemouth,</b> Debate, Y.M.C.A., St. Peter's Road		
23.	<b>Westcott,</b> Drawing-room Meeting	<i>Hostess</i> , Miss Drew <i>Chair</i> , Lady Onslow <i>Speakers</i> , Lady Frances Balfour and Sir Alexander Onslow	
	<b>Manchester,</b> Joint Demon- strations in Support of Women's Suffrage, Evening Meeting, Free Trade Hall	<i>Chair</i> , Miss Margaret Ashton <i>Speakers</i> , Lord Courtney of Penarth, Miss Abadam, Mrs. Bury, Mrs. Despard, Keir Hardie, Esq., M.P., H. Stanger, Esq., M.P.	
24.	<b>Afternoon Mass Meet- ing and Procession</b> from Albert Square to Alexandra Park		
26.	<b>Birmingham,</b> Meeting for Women only, Smethwick Town Hall	<i>Speakers</i> , Miss Abadam, 3.30 and others	
	Public Meeting, Smethwick Town Hall	<i>Speakers</i> , Miss Abadam, 7.30 and others	
	<b>Iford,</b> Congregational Church Literary and Debating Society	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss Clementina 8 Black	
26 & 27.	<b>Sunderland, Exhibition of Banners,</b> Victoria Hall		
29.	<b>Cardiff,</b> Public Meeting, Park Hotel	<i>Speakers</i> , Mrs. Fawcett, 8 J. Malcolm Mitchell, Esq.	
	<b>Warwick and Leamington,</b> Public Meeting, Town Hall, Leamington	<i>Chair</i> , H. Y. Stanger, Esq., M.P. <i>Speaker</i> , Mrs. Pember Reeves	
30.	<b>Glasgow,</b> 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 Harcastle, 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.P.U.).

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

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

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.  
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. GRAHAM MOFFAT.Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.  
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. DESPARD.

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

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

## The Constituency Campaign.

I VENTURE to rebaptize these fortnightly mass meetings, in the hope that members may be tempted to read this appeal. As a fact, the above name actually describes the undertaking. I have been very disappointed that Miss Cicely Hamilton's appeal has met with so little response. None of us, I know, cares to subscribe to vague collections; but here is something quite definite—I restate our case: we are preparing for election campaigns by working Parliamentary constituencies. We wanted to hold meetings each week, and would even yet do so if members would help with time and money, for it means considerable expense for halls, shops, advertising, &c., but it even means more. To do the work effectively the N.E.C. has agreed that a *paid helper* is urgently needed. The money raised now will go towards paying a salary to an organizer. The society that cannot pay for organization is tied hand and foot. Let us not be so tied. Surely this campaign appeals to every one! It does not involve imprisonment, whilst at the same time it means laying a solid basis for future election work and the formation of new branches.

We are particularly choosing more or less virgin ground for our meetings. The campaign will also involve the sending of a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage to the Prime Minister regularly once a fortnight, and incidentally reports thereof in local and central papers. We shall arrange for free meetings daily for a fortnight in each district. As we are now booking dates right till the end of June, and as these dates are unconnected with any other meetings, either of the N.E.C., the London branches, or Council, you will realize that we are doing a big thing. Once again I beg each and all of you to give us practical help in every possible way.

Especially I appeal to those who are unable to undertake danger-duty to help here and now with this valuable propaganda work.

I have to thank the Highbury Branch for promise of help in Holloway, and Clapham for help in Wandsworth work, also the Cyclist Corps for undertaking to prepare the way for us in each district, as well as the individual members who have offered help, and to whom I shall write in a day or so. S.M.E. SERUYA.

## Manchester October Demonstration.

THE Lord Mayor of Manchester has declined the opportunity afforded him of viewing, in absolute safety, the procession of Suffragists, mild and militant, on October 24th. The sight apparently would be too much for him. Doubtless he is longing to restore the money of the voteless citizens that for so many years they have paid in taxes without receiving a due equivalent. The "gentlemen" of Maidstone did consent to "look on" while our beloved leader was insulted and injured by a horde whom it is flattery to call human. But perhaps an exchange of school-boy vulgarities and epithets in the Council Chamber of the City Fathers is more attractive than a police protected crowd.

It will soon be a case of the survival of the fittest to take part in the Demonstration, judging from the unsparing work of the societies. One of the pleasantest features of such joint effort is the better understanding and good comradeship to which it gives rise. Efforts are being made to arrange for special travelling advantages for London members of the W.F.L. and the N.U.W.S.S. who intend joining in the Demonstration. Our

honorary secretary has received many letters from the branches promising to send representatives; but there are still others from whom she will be glad to hear. Free Trade Hall tickets may also be obtained for the 23rd from the honorary secretary, Cecil Avenue, Ashton on Mersey. L. FIELDS, Hon. Treas.  
47, Mosley Street.

## Public Meeting in Glasgow.

IT was a successful meeting that was held in Partick Burgh Hall on the evening of October 8th, the United Kingdom, it was remarked, being well represented on the platform. Mr. Stanger, in the course of a most interesting speech, stated that he felt strongly on the matter of political meetings being disturbed and broken up, thereby expressing the conviction that women, asking questions in order, were the direct disturbers. Let this be the case or not—opinions differ seriously on the matter—when we are assured by an M.P. that these actions have proved at least irritating, we have the knowledge that they have not altogether failed of their purpose.

Much amusement was caused by the remarks of Miss Cicely Hamilton, who wittily depicted the position of women in the domestic circle.

Mrs. Billington-Greig, who seconded the resolution proposed by Mrs. Robert Wilson, urged the need for action, and that now is the time. As she proved that, though all methods are not expedient, the audience—Scotch—was convinced when she concluded, that all actions are necessary, as was shown by the complete unanimity with which the resolution was carried.

Bangor has reason to be proud of claiming Dr. Harriet Neill, as an advocate of Women Suffrage in Ireland. She made a strong impression by relating simply what, in her own experience, is more than sufficient justification for demanding immediate enfranchisement of women.

At the close of her, at times, pathetic speech, the meeting concluded without any disturbance.

## 'Diana of Dobson's.'

THOSE who saw 'Diana of Dobson's' in London, or during its successful tour of the provinces, will be glad to know that Miss Cicely Hamilton has reproduced it in book form, which in no wise detracts from the merits it had as a play.

The play and the book seem to me but two parts of a whole—and yet, illogical as it may be, each part is equal to the whole. Miss Hamilton, in turning her play into a book, has managed to retain the dramatic force of the story as it was interpreted by Miss Lena Ashwell, without losing any of those subtle touches which stimulated the imagination.

The story is one which must appeal to all who are interested in the broader aspects of the economic position of women in the social organism. It is especially interesting to those of us whose enthusiasm in the enfranchisement of women is rooted in a deep conviction that women cannot perform their true function without the lever of direct representation.

It is fortunate that we are able to offer copies of this book at 1s. EILEEN MITCHELL.

### Hackney Jumble Sale.

THE Jumble Sale organized by the Hackney branch is to be held on Saturday, October 31st, in the Mission Room at the back of 31, Goldsmith's Row, Hackney Road. On the preceding evening there will be a private sale of the better articles for members and friends of the League. It is hoped that this Jumble Sale will be a great success, from a financial as well as from a propagandist point of view, and for this purpose friends are asked to bear it in mind during the Special Effort Week, and to ransack drawers and cupboards for things no longer needed, also to ask acquaintances to do the same.

Nothing is too small nor too old for the Jumble Sale (provided that carriage be paid), old boots and shoes, clothing of all kinds, trimmings, household utensils, old carpets, &c., will be welcome and acknowledged. More especially, however, the branch wishes to emphasize the fact that **Nothing is too Big**. Bicycles, perambulators, cameras, sewing machines, musical-boxes, gramophones, furniture, pianos, jewellery, evening dresses, &c., are specially asked for. The larger goods will probably be sold privately. A fair price will be asked for them, and friends need not fear their being sold under value. Ordinary articles should be sent to Dr. Elizabeth Wilks, care of Mrs. Watkins, 30, York Street, Hackney Road; but the more valuable and larger should be announced by letter before being sent.

The branch will be glad to receive offers for the following articles:—

Perambulator, 15s.  
Bicycles, 1l. 10s. and 10s.  
Sewing machine, 1l.

Splendid Wheatstone Baritone Concertina (given by Miss Bennet of Burslem, original price 18l. 18s.), 7l. or offer.

Etchings and engravings, various prices.

Friends are reminded that the name and address of the sender should be enclosed in each parcel, otherwise it cannot be acknowledged. The branch thanks the unknown sender of the parcel from Deal.

### General and By-Election Policy.

DEAR MADAM,—The policy of working against the Government, though often styled unpractical and futile, is in reality a very effective one. We adopted it in the first place because we recognized the powerlessness of the private member, and because we further recognized that loss of votes exercises a more potent effect on the Government than any question of abstract justice. We have vigorously pursued it since its adoption whenever opportunity and means have permitted, and its success is clearly shown by the antagonism it has aroused in the Liberal "party-man," and by the changing attitude of the press, which begins to recognize the weight of the "Suffragettes" at election time. At the same time it presents certain disadvantages.

In the first place it irritates our Liberal friends, who do not see that, for women, this is the one and only question, and that we are determined to gain our political freedom before we will even consider other matters of politics. Naturally enough Liberal men, and unfortunately even some women, regard other questions as of equal importance with this, and it is a constant source of annoyance to them that in working for our enfranchisement we perform appear to work temporarily against such reforms as that of temperance, &c.

Another objection to our policy is that we are sometimes working against the very men whom our sister Suffragists are supporting, and thus our forces are split. Further, our appeal to the electors can frequently find only a negative expression at the ballot-box. The two courses open to our supporters are to vote for a nominee of some party other than the Government, or to abstain from voting. By very many the former alternative would be chosen, if at all, with very great reluctance, and the latter course leaves unrecorded that very weight of opinion to gain the expression of which, equally with its creation, is the object of our campaign.

These difficulties would be overcome by our adopting the

policy of running a candidate of our own, whom we should support at every election until we succeeded in getting him elected. This candidate must be a man not belonging to any political party. This is of the utmost importance, for all the Suffrage societies are united only on this point, that they desire the removal of the sex disability. On other questions he would be absolutely independent, and he would form a judgment simply by the application of common sense and love of justice. This policy would do much towards uniting the women's parties. The unanimity of our aim would surely enable us to work together in support of a Suffrage candidate, whatever may be our differences of opinion as to the methods best employed in bringing the matter forward on other occasions.

I am well aware of the difficulties of the policy. The most important is the expense. We should probably have to pay our candidate, and in any case election expenses would be extremely high. Surely this will not be an insuperable obstacle. It is true that women do not form the wealthy part of the community; but Suffragists are numerous, and if each one gives every penny she can spare, and the rich give to their utmost as well as the poor, money will be forthcoming. It will be urged that we should not get our candidate into Parliament. This remains to be seen. The North Country people gave the Suffrage candidate great support at Wigan at the time of the General Elections, when he was run on non-party lines, and even if apparently quite unsuccessful at first, our candidate, and we also, would be gaining experience at every election, until at last we should succeed. Further, our aim would not merely be to get him into Parliament, it would also be to weaken more palpably than we are doing at present the Government forces. In some constituencies we might even not gain many votes, but such as we gained would presumably be largely taken from the Government candidate, and the Government, which will not recognize our weight at present, would then necessarily see that they are losing votes, at once theirs when they adopt Mr. Stanger's or a similar Bill. This policy would show our weakness, I know, but it would show also our strength as represented by a certain definite number of votes, and I believe it would show an ever increasing strength. I strongly urge its adoption by the Women's Freedom League.

I am, &c.,  
ELIZABETH WILKS.

### Branch Notes.

**The Western Branch, Partick,** will be very energetic during Special Effort Week, individually and as a branch. A sale of small articles will be made, several members will give Suffrage teas, entertainments, &c., and it is hoped that the time will be accounted for by raising a substantial sum. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21st.

**Sale Branch.**—We hope to send a large contingent from this branch to the Demonstration on October 24th. A special tramcar will run from Sale station at 1 o'clock, and any who wish to travel by it should leave their names at Merrin & Haywards, Printers, School Road, Sale. Members willing to assist in making decorations for the car should send their names to the Hon. Secretary, Harper Hill, Sale. We wish to thank Mrs. Sandys for putting her drawing-room at our disposal for a meeting on October 21st and also those members and friends who have distributed handbills during the past week.

**Caldicot Branch (Mon.)**—The members of this new branch are keen, and great interest is being aroused on the question of "Votes for Women"; so much so, that the Anti-Suffragists have thought it advisable to enter the field.

On October 8th Miss Abadam very kindly addressed a meeting of our members and friends, and gave a most earnest and stirring speech. This has considerably strengthened the movement in the neighbourhood, and we are going forward with renewed energy and courage to do our share for this great cause.

**Manchester Branch.**—A very good open-air meeting was held in Broughton last Saturday. We shall hold another next Saturday in an entirely new district. It will be preceded by a drawing-room meeting at Mrs. Winnett's, Levenshulme, where we hope, through Mrs. Redfern, who is the speaker, not only to gain new adherents, but also to advertise the open-air

### Special Effort Week.

MISS R. EDMONSON, of the Food Reform Depot, 2, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, writes:—

"My mother and I are prepared to send out ten postal parcels of our fritters and patties, each of the net value of 1s. 6d. each, to be paid for in advance by the sum of 2s. (6d. for postage). The money and orders to be sent to the W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi. In this way we could bring you in a larger sum than if we sent a simple contribution. As there are so many Food Reformers in the Suffrage Movement I think that the orders will be gladly sent."

Miss Theodora Mills is willing to take orders for oil-painted calendars (2s. 6d.), supplied with 1909 date-cards and ribbon to hang up, during Special Effort Week. Cash should be sent with order, so as to go to headquarters with other funds. All the designs are different and original—grapes, flowers, &c. Date cards can be renewed each year. Apply Lowmandale, Cheltenham.

### Notices.

MRS. MITCHELL, assisted by a party of Artist Suffragists, hopes to visit Chester on Saturday, October 17th, and hold a meeting in the evening. Friends who can help by chalking pavements, canvassing, &c., please communicate with Miss Woodall, 15, The Groves, Chester.

Will all cyclists please meet at 87, Seven Sisters Road, Holloway, on Saturday, the 17th inst., at 4.30 p.m.?

A meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in that vicinity.

HELEN LEVY, Hon. Sec. Cycling Corps.

6, Flanders Mansions, Bedford Park, W.

Remember the **Mass Meeting** at the Athenæum, Camden Road, on Wednesday, October 21st. Tickets to be obtained at W.F.L. Office, and at the Suffrage Shop, 87, Seven Sisters Road, Holloway.

### PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Oct.	October 15th to 25th.	P.M.
Thurs. 15.	Manchester, Pankhurst Hall "At Home," Caxton Hall	Miss Manning, Mrs. Despard Mrs. Herringham Mrs. Sudd-Brown 3.30
Fri. 16.	1, Robert Street, Adelphi Battersea, Prince's Head Hornsey, National Hall, High St. Manchester, Open-air Meetings	Despard Debating Society Mrs. Duval Miss Bawden Mrs. Mitchell 8.15 7.30 8
Sat. 17.	Out-door Meetings, Broughton, Manchester Manchester, Meeting at Chester	Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Dean Miss Manning, Miss Banner Mrs. Mitchell A.M. 11
Sun. 18.	Wandsworth Common Battersea Park Clapham Common Manchester, 47, Moseley Street	Mrs. Duval Mrs. Ackroyd Mrs. Rothwell Mrs. Duval 3 3.30
Mon. 19.	York, Feasgate Restaurant Manchester, 47, Moseley Street, "At Home"	Mrs. Mitchell 3 3 to 5
Tues. 20.	Manchester, 302, Upper Brook Street, Cottage Meeting	Mrs. McMurray Mrs. Mitchell Miss Manning Mrs. Despard 8
Wed. 21.	Athenæum, Camden Road, N. Manchester, Branch Meeting Mossbury Road, Lavender Hill	Mrs. Billington-Greig Miss Cicely Hamilton L. Atherley Jones, Esq., K.C., M.P. H. G. Chancellor, Esq., L.C.C. Miss Taplin Mr. Victor Duval Mrs. Billington-Greig 3.30
Thurs. 22.	Caxton Hall, Westminster Margate Recitation, Mrs. Theodore Wright	Miss Margaret McMillan Mr. Atherley Jones, K.C., M.P. Mrs. Holmes 8
Sun. 25.	1, Robert Street, Adelphi Margate, Pioneer Room	and Mrs. Thornton Bobby Despard Debating Society Mrs. Holmes 8.15

Meetings every afternoon at 3, and every evening at 8, from Wednesday, the 14th, to Tuesday, the 20th, at Our Suffrage Shop, 87, Seven Sisters Road, Holloway, N.

meeting. At last one sees the fruit of Mrs. Dean's hard and earnest labour. Volunteers have been found to sell literature in the street and at a stall in the market, to collect in squares and stations, to make cakes and candy; our artists are to ornament the pavement with caricatures and Suffrage subjects; we expect to catch many a nimble sixpence this way.

Although a large share of our attention and energies are directed upon this Special Effort Week, still we do not lose sight of the fact that the harder we work for this, the greater show shall we make at the Demonstration, October 23rd and 24th. Tickets may be had from Miss Hines, hon. secretary. Branch meeting on Wednesday as usual, paper by Miss Kirkman, 'The Woman Question.' Meeting at Mrs. McMurray's on Tuesday, October 19th, 8 p.m.; there will also be a meeting the same day, 3 p.m., in the Unitarian School-room, Brook Street. Members who have not got tickets for the social evening on Thursday, October 22nd, Portland Café, Portland Street, please apply now.

**West Sussex Branch.**—At the invitation of Mrs. de Fonblanque of Dunston Mrs. Arcliffe-Sennett most kindly came down to Midhurst on September 30th and addressed an open-air and an indoor meeting there. Both were very well attended. The district is gradually being roused to an interest in votes for women, and new members are joining the branch, which is greatly encouraged by Mrs. Arcliffe-Sennett's helpful advice and warm appreciation of its efforts.

**Bromley Branch.**—Miss Dorothy Molony addressed the members of the above branch and their friends in the library of the Co-operative Hall, East Street, on Tuesday, September 29th, at 8 p.m. Mrs. Lewis W. Lewis presided. Miss Molony touched briefly but forcibly on the existing social evils, which are the results of the sweating system, and the lack of sufficient employment. She was listened to with deep and sympathetic interest by her audience, and answered most effectively the questions of one or two of the "privileged sex" present, who seemed somewhat disquieted by her statements.

AGNES EVANS, Hon. Sec.

**Cheltenham Branch.**—Mrs. Despard, fresh from the Maidstone experiences, drew a large number of sympathizers to the meeting; the room was packed many having to find places in the corridor outside.

Mrs. Earengy took the chair and Mrs. Despard delighted the audience with her speech. Both the proposer, Dr. Callaway, and seconder, Mr. Stephens, of an impromptu vote of thanks said that they had not really intended coming to the meeting but reading of the dastardly attack upon Mrs. Despard and other women by men at Maidstone, their indignation was roused that Englishmen should behave thus, and they felt they must come to the meeting to show their sympathy with the cause.

**Colchester and Sudbury Branches.**—The Women's Suffrage Campaign in East Anglia is finished. The campaigners did a month's strenuous work. Strong branches have been formed in Colchester and Sudbury, with several members ready to establish a Women's Freedom League branch in Clacton-on-Sea. Mrs. Hicks has had the assistance of the Misses Tillard, Mrs. Cowen, Miss Hicks, M.A., Miss Muriel Matters, and Mr. Joseph Clayton.

**Dundee Branch.**—Our demonstration in the Foresters' Hall on Thursday, September 24th, was very successful. The most noteworthy and satisfactory feature was the very large number of earnest and intelligent women in the audience. All the speakers made a favourable impression.

Two of our members went to Carnoustie on Wednesday, September 30th, and heckled Mr. Sinclair, whose replies were most unsatisfactory.

L. C.

**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, and 8 p.m. for lecture or debate. The Debating Society will meet on Thursday, 15th, subject: 'Manifesto of Adult Suffrage Society' (to be obtained from the *Times* Office). Debates on various subjects will continue weekly until Christmas, unless otherwise announced. Anti-Suffragists invited to attend.

## 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.

ONE of the officers at Museum Street has this week been the recipient of a very graceful post-card from Southend. There is a picture of Loch Awe on the one side, and on the other a communication, in which he is adjured as "a silly ape" to take his "miserable lot of unsexed monstrosities and drown them in the lake." It is probable that little attention would have been paid to this solemn warning, in spite of the terse virility of its phrasing, were it not that it bears the significant signature, "A Man!" (the mark of exclamation is *not* ours). It seems improbable that the bearer of this distinguished *nom de plume* derived his knowledge of the League's address otherwise than in connexion with the Maidstone incident. If, then, a person adopts such a pseudonym in such a connexion, it is not surprising that the definitions of such terms as "womanly" and "ladylike" are matter for argument, even in public meetings. It would seem that the formula laid down by our various opponents is, "As man to woman, so is brute to drudge."

The Anti-Suffragists have finally declined to meet us in debate. The reason is that their speakers are so heavily occupied. Since we have offered them choice of time, place, and conditions, we find it difficult to avoid seeing in this final refusal either sheer discourtesy or a confession of incapacity, both surprising in a society founded with so much ostentation, under such distinguished patronage.

We must apologize to those who have been kept waiting for Dr. Drysdale's pamphlet. We learn that, owing to causes of which we are unaware, orders were not actually carried out till the end of last week. A similar delay, only more protracted, has prevented the execution of orders for badges. These, however, will be delivered very soon now. They will certainly be in time for the Manchester demonstration.

Our readers may remember that, on the occasion of the Pro-Licensing Bill Procession, some Suffragists held that the misapprehension created by the Peckham election, in relation to the National Women's Social and Political Union and Women's Freedom League policy, might be neutralized if they marched in the procession as *Suffragists and supporters of the Licensing Bill*. We were invited to *inform our members that this was contemplated*. We did so, very carefully explaining both to our members and to the organizers, that the League, as such, had nothing to do with the proposal. Strange as it may seem, a man in the audience at a Kensington Town Hall meeting last week, accused the League of having supported the Licensing Bill! Fortunately, Mr. R. F. Cholmeley, one of our Committee, was in the chair, and on the platform was Miss Cicely Corbett (the organizer of the proposal), who conducted the negotiations with the League, and was thus able to state the exact facts, to the satisfaction of the audience.

This incident by itself is intrinsically unimportant, but we deeply regret to say that it is symptomatic of a good deal of mutual disloyalty among the various societies. In the midst of disagreement about tactics the cause is sometimes forgotten, and men and women are all too ready to confuse honest difference of opinion about tactics with disloyalty to the cause. Tactics are but a means to an end at the most, and individuals and societies are merely instruments. The cause is more than any of these things, and so long as any Suffragist or Suffragist Society abstains from dishonouring the cause or those principles which make it a high and patriotic one, it is the bounden duty of every other Suffragist and society to abstain from insinuation and suspicion.

Lest there should be any lingering anxiety in any one's mind as to the League's general attitude, we may be allowed

to state it once again. The League has absolutely no party sympathies; wherever action is possible it takes that course which, in the opinion of the Committee, is most calculated to promote the enfranchisement of women. As regards the problem of Franchise in the abstract it takes no view; it stands simply for the assertion of the principle that there should be no sex-distinction in the matter of citizen privilege and duty, and will continue to do so whether the present Franchise be retained, narrowed, or extended. As regards other societies, it endeavours to give help wherever it is asked, sending speakers and stewards to all sorts and kinds of meetings.

These principles have been, and will be, adhered to rigidly, and members are confidently invited boldly to make them known whenever occasion arises. It is not always the case that a mischievous suggestion is at once scotched, as it was at Kensington, and infinite harm may be done among the societies by a too great readiness to impute insincerity. Friendly criticism and advice is a part of good fellowship; mutual suspicion is intolerable.

In view of the proposed Demonstration to be held on October 13th by the National Women's Social and Political Union, a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Men's League was held on October 12th, and the following statement was issued to the Press: "The Committee of the Men's League wish to point out the extreme danger, in view of the simultaneous gathering of the unemployed, of the proposed 'rushing' of the House of Commons, and hope that their members, if present, will do their utmost to prevent disorder."

### Mr. Stanger's Engagements.

ON Oct. 8th Mr. H. Y. Stanger, K.C., M.P. (member of the Men's League), spoke at the Burgh Hall, Partick, in favour of Women's Suffrage. On Oct. 23rd he will take part, on behalf of the League, in the Joint Demonstration to be held in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester; on the 24th he will speak at the Open Air Demonstration to be held in the Alexandra Park, North London; on the 26th he will address the South Paddington Women's Liberal Association, when Mrs. Herbert Samuel will take the chair; on the 29th he will speak for the Leamington Women's Suffrage Society, in Leamington Town Hall; and on the 30th he will speak in Hackney Town Hall, at the meeting of the Central Hackney Women's Liberal Association.

MR. STANGER has authorized us to contradict the rumour which has been current during the past week to the effect that he has withdrawn his Bill. It was on the Orders of the Day Bill for Monday last, October 12th, and is thus officially still before the House, though, of course, nothing but Government intervention can save it from suffocation.

### Positivism and Women's Suffrage.

MR. FREDERIC HARRISON'S NEW BOOK.

To all who would read a lucid, a comprehensive, and, on the whole, a fair-minded statement of the case against the enfranchisement of women, we recommend Mr. Frederic Harrison's latest volume of collected essays. They will find in it the mature views of one who has read widely, thought deeply, and lived long; one, moreover, who is the acknowledged leader in his own school of thought. Suffragists, especially, will be interested to meet an opponent whose conception of the powers and duties of women is hardly, if at all, lower than their own.

Mr. Harrison devotes four essays to his discussion of the rightful place of women in the State. Three of these, though never before printed, seem to have been written, in part at least, more than forty years ago. Doubtless they have been revised. The fourth essay, entitled 'Votes for Women,' is, as we are told in the Preface, entirely new. The key-note of Mr. Harrison's argument is struck in his opening sentence:—

"The system of thought on which this entire series of essays is based seeks to moralise and to spiritualise the great institutions of society—not to revolutionise or to materialise them... It holds firmly the middle ground between the base apathy which is satisfied with the actual condition of woman as it is, and the restless materialism which would assimilate, as far as possible, the distinctive functions of women to those of men... Herein we are truly conservative in holding society to be made up of *families*, not of individuals, and in developing, not in annihilating, the differences of sex, age, and relation between individuals."

In his first essay, on 'The Future of Woman,' Mr. Harrison seeks to dispel the suspicion that Positivism rests contented with the present condition of women. He specifies three desirable reforms:—

"We can never rest satisfied with the current prejudice that assigns to women, even to those with ample leisure and resources, an education different in kind and degree and avowedly inferior to that of men... we look to the future to relieve women from the agonising wear and tear of families far too large to be reared by one mother... And to the future we look to set women free from the crushing factory labour which is the real slave-trade of the nineteenth century."

Why, Mr. Harrison asks, are these changes desirable and urgent, while it is not desirable that women should be admitted to a share in the physical toil, the engrossing professions, and, least of all, the public duties and privileges of men? The root of the matter is, he replies, that the "social function of women is essentially and increasingly different from that of men," owing, primarily, to the physical, and the resultant mental, difference between the sexes.

What, then, is the function of women in society, as defined in accordance with the Positivist creed? Mr. Harrison writes of maternity, the highest privilege of woman, with a passionate enthusiasm which even that eminent Suffragist, Dr. C. W. Saleeby, could hardly excel:—

"The most degraded woman is in this superior to the most heroic man (abnormal cases apart). It is the earliest, most organic, most universal of all the innate forces of mankind. And round this central feature of human nature all human civilisation is, and ought to be, organised."

But Mr. Harrison does not, of course, regard the breeding and nurture of infants as the sole duty of woman to mankind. "The true function of woman is to educate, not children only, but men, to train to a higher civilisation, not the rising generation, but the actual society. And to do this by diffusing the spirit of affection, of self-restraint, self-sacrifice, fidelity, and purity."

In a word, while men work, govern, and fight, women are to be concerned with the things of the spirit.

(To be continued.)

### 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.]

#### Meeting at Albert Hall, Swansea.

To the Right Hon. David Lloyd George, M.P.  
SIR,—The *Western Mail*, in its issue of October 2nd, reports that you used the following expressions: "If this young lady and her friends don't behave, let them be flung out ruthlessly."

"Mr. Lloyd George, who was obviously aggravated, again resumed, and said: 'He wondered how much that young lady had been paid for coming there. He was sorry to see it was becoming a profession.'"

Assuming that you were correctly reported, one must, of course, conclude that you acquiesced in the action of the "stalwart Radical who lifted a woman bodily, and ruthlessly flung her into the street."

It matters little what the status of the woman was, whether a miner's wife, a mill hand, or a sweated home worker, the act was equally barbarous and unmanly; as a matter of fact she was a cultured woman, and the sister of a well-known Clifton medical practitioner.

With regard to your suggestion that women are paid to attend your meetings, I believe you to have been grossly misinformed and misled into making a charge that is as unworthy as it is inaccurate. Upon this point you will, no doubt, be satisfied later.

I can assure you from personal knowledge that women in all parts of the country are giving both time and money to their cause, and furthermore, are giving that which you, with your knowledge of sociology, know to be of far greater force and value—personal service.

It is just because the workers in this movement are prompted by real love of humanity, and are not sustained by the funds of any political party that they are so phenomenally successful.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence has well said: "When the love of humanity is born self dies; and when self dies, fear dies, and all regard for personal pain and loss."

This, sir, is the spirit that is animating the women of the country, and you are doing your party and the cause of freedom a great disservice when you infer that these self-sacrificing women are in the pay of any party; a little thought will convince you, I am sure, that no amount of money can purchase such self-sacrifice as these devoted women are exhibiting to the world.

No, sir, their service is above price, and in that fact lies their strength and success.

I can personally testify to the growth of the movement in the west (including Mid-Devon), and I can assure you that you are deceiving yourself if you fail to realize that the women's movement is an exceptionally strong and increasing political force.

You have no doubt been informed by your agents in Swansea that on the morning following your meeting, some members of the Women's Social and Political Union held a large and successful meeting, and were surrounded by a bodyguard of the Independent Labour Party.

This should signify much to you, and I appeal to you as a Cabinet Minister responsible for the good and peaceful government of the country to well note this incident.

If the women attending your meeting had anticipated violence and appealed for male protection, that protection would have been forthcoming; and my faith in English manhood warrants my saying that men at public meetings will not passively stand by and see women treated with every possible indignity and "ruthlessly thrown out."

A repetition of such scenes must, in my opinion, inevitably lead to a serious breach of the peace, and I ask you to reflect upon your share of the responsibility for such disorder should it now follow your direct incitement to violence.

I may say that personally I had no cognizance of your meeting prior to its taking place, and in conclusion I shall be glad to hear that you can put some far more favourable complexion upon the words you are reported to have used than is apparent.

Awaiting the favour of your reply,

I am,

Yours truly,

(Signed) F. W. ROGERS.

Joint Hon. Secretary Bristol Branch Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

October 7th, 1908.

\* \* All communications intended for the Men's League columns should be addressed to the Editor, 38, Museum Street, W.C.

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