

## W O M E N .

At a recent meeting of the Women's Emancipation Union held at 81, Harley Street, under the presidency of Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy, the hon. secretary of the Union, she said that in view of the extreme gravity of the situation, it was the supreme duty of women to work for the success of the Women's Suffrage Bill which comes before the House of Commons this week. It was not an entirely satisfactory measure, and left many of their grievances still unremedied, but it was worth supporting as a step in the right direction. They should remember how much the possession of the Franchise meant to them, and spare no effort to ensure the passing of the Bill. A resolution calling on the leader of the House of Commons to provide facilities for the discussion of Mr. Faithfull Begg's Women's Suffrage Bill was carried.

Unfortunately, however, the Bill has been shelved again for an indefinite period, and will doubtless continue to be treated with contempt by the House of Commons, until they are convinced by real practical demonstration upon the part of women that they are really interested in the question, and take as much interest in their enfranchisement as they do in a new bonnet.

The Conversazione given by the Central National Society for Women's Suffrage and the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage at the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours was an interesting meeting, and was attended by the most thoughtful women of the day. Mr. Faithful Begg regretfully announced that there was no chance of his Bill being brought forward this Session, which was a keen disappointment to those present; but he gave some excellent advice when he hoped that no woman would work to return a man to Parliament, to whichever party he might belong, unless he was prepared to support a Bill for the enfranchisement of women. Mrs. Fawcett supported this sound reasoning.

A very deep-thinking woman said recently with regard to Woman's Suffrage:—"That ignorance of which we complain in women to-day will be better overcome by the use of the ballot than in any other way. Ignorance is not security. It is one of the sources of danger to a country. Whatever may be the objection raised I have never heard any argument used against Woman's Suffrage that is not equally applicable to manhood suffrage. The ballot has never been extended to any body of people in the principle of justice. You cannot arouse men on an abstract principle of justice any more than you can arouse women against an abstract principle of wrong. You must show the average man that there is profit in the thing."

Miss Susan B. Anthony not long since, in responding at a public dinner to the toast of the "Rights and Privileges of Man," said:—"His principal rights are to have a good mother, a sister who is a comrade, girl friends to whom he does not have to talk down, and a wife who is neither a caged canary nor a hot-house plant. Shall I tell you how to secure such women? By voting for Women's Suffrage.

At the same dinner Miss Shaw, in responding to "The Manly Man" toast, said:—"A Manly Man must not only be good, but he must be good for something. This is the time when the women are asking the manly men to be counted, and by the manly men I mean those who are in favour of suffrage for women. I am not going to pledge that we will be good, but we will be free, but I had rather be a free lost soul than go to heaven against my will. I can only pledge you this, brethren, that the womanly woman will be found close by the side of the manly man."

The 13th Annual Report of the Society for Promoting the Return of Women as Poor Law Guardians is of a most satisfactory nature. The committee is pleased to announce that the hope expressed last year of a largely increased number of Women Guardians, has been fulfilled beyond the most sanguine expectations; for whereas prior to the December elections there were only 169 Women Guardians in England and Wales, there are now no less than 875.

Of this satisfactory number 86 are in Metropolitan Unions, and among the country Women Guardians there are 39 District Councillors; whilst out of the 648 Unions throughout the country 342 now have women on their Boards, an average of 255 women each. Among the 30 Metropolitan Unions only five have no women on their Boards, *viz.*, Chelsea, St. Giles, St. Olave's, Westminster and Whitechapel. It is noteworthy that in at least three out of the five Metropolitan Boards on which there are no women, the condition of the Workhouses and Infirmaries calls for immediate reform.

It is a significant and gratifying fact that in most of the districts where they were candidates, the women headed the polls by large majorities. In order to further increase the good work, it is urged that local committees should be formed throughout the country to further the return of women as Guardians.

The Bill introduced by Mr. W. Johnston to enable women to be elected and to act as Poor Law Guardians in Ireland, has passed the Standing Committee of the Lords.

Sister Kathleen, who superintends the "Bird's Nest," which is the Home for the children at Duxhurst, has written a little book descriptive of her work, which can be obtained from the Literature Department at Headquarters, B.W.T.A., 47, Victoria Street, S.W. After reading this book, a member of Lady Henry Somerset's household devised a plan by which she could personally help the cause of the children. Having purchased materials, after her daily duties were over, she cut out and made various garments and articles to sell, and the amount which she will realise when she has disposed of the same will be sufficient to send fifty children to the holiday home at Duxhurst for one week.

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