

The National Women's Social & Political Union.

OFFICE:

4, CLEMENTS INN, STRAND, W.C.

Telegrams:—"WOSPOLU, LONDON." Telephone: Holborn 2724 (three lines).

Bankers: Messrs. BARCLAY & CO., Fleet Street.

Colours: Purple, White and Green.

Mrs. PANKHURST,

Founder and Hon. Sec.

Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE,

Hon. Treasurer.

Mrs. TUKE,

Joint Hon. Sec.

Miss CHRISTABEL PANKHURST,

Organising Sec.

The Women's Social and Political Union are NOT asking for a vote for every woman, but simply that sex shall cease to be a disqualification for the franchise.

At present men who pay rates and taxes, who are owners, occupiers, lodgers, or have the service or university franchise possess the Parliamentary vote. The Women's Social and Political Union claim that women who fulfil the same conditions shall also enjoy the franchise.

It is estimated that when this claim has been conceded, about a million and a quarter women will possess the vote, in addition to the seven and a-half million men who are at present enfranchised.

The Women's Social and Political Union claim that a simple measure, giving the vote to women on these terms, shall be passed immediately.

WOMEN in sympathy with this Movement should join the W.S.P.U. Apply, Hon. Secretary, 4, Clements Inn, W.C., who will send them membership cards and supply information. Entrance fee, 1s. Subscriptions entirely voluntary.

MEN in sympathy with this Movement should communicate with the Hon. Secretary, 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

THE WISDOM OF THE FOLK.

It is the month of harvest. The summer sun rules the earth by day, opulent and splendid. The harvest moon rules by night, serene and radiant, while all living things sleep, gathering in to themselves new life and force. And now the corn is reaped and gathered into sheaves, and the harvesters are carrying it home to barns and granaries, rejoicing and singing as they go. The food of the world is garnered against man's future need.

One sheaf is left standing ungarnered in the field, and as night falls and the sound of dance and song comes from the farmhouse on the hill, two figures come out into the moonlight and, joining hands, move slowly round and round the standing sheaf, chanting as they go. They are old and wise, and while the young folk make merry, they perform the ceremony which insures the harvest of next year. The spirit of the wheat has moved from sheaf to sheaf, and will now escape and be lost to man for ever, unless captured and buried in the earth, where alone, suffering, and at the last once more overcoming, it will rise, the life-giving food of man. It is the age-long truth, that "except a corn of wheat fall into the earth and die, it abideth alone"—told again by peasant man and woman, in an incantation older, perhaps, than the words of the peasant Teacher of Galilee. It is to such as these that the world truths are known, to such as these that the authority to speak is given, not to the bookman and the pharisee. For close on a hundred spring

times the miracle of resurrection has rejoiced the souls and bodies of this aged couple, chanting round the sheaf. Close on a hundred winters have ploughed deep in their hearts lessons of renunciation, of life given as hostage to the future, of seed sown in toil and sorrow, of harvest won only by obeying laws, but sure and certain when obedience is given.

And this is the song they sing—the triumphant song of the end of life:—

There were three Kings came from the west
Their victory to try,
And they have taken a solemn oath
John Barleycorn should die.

Fol the dol the didiay,
Fol the dol the di-di-a-ge-wo.

They took a plough and ploughed him in,
Laid clods upon his head;
And they have taken a solemn oath
John Barleycorn is dead.

Fol the dol, etc.

So there he lay for a full fortnight,
Till the dew on him did fall,
Then Barleycorn sprung up again,
And that surprised them all.

Fol the dol, etc.

There he remained till midsummer,
And looked both pale and wan;
Then Barleycorn he got a beard,
And so became a man.

Fol the dol, etc.

Then they sent men with scythes so sharp
To cut him off at knee;
And then poor Johnnie Barleycorn
They served him barbarously.

Fol the dol, etc.

O, Barleycorn is the choicest grain
That e'er was sown on land;
It will do more than any grain
By the turning of your hand.

Fol the dol, etc.

It is consciously, or unconsciously, by the inspiration of this truth that women are living and acting to-day in their fight for liberty of body, soul, and spirit.

Nearer to the Earth Mother than man, wiser in the wisdom learnt at the gates of death, through which enters each new-born life, in the depths of her being untouched by the sophistries of a masculine interpretation of her place in life, she has committed the seed of her liberty to the earth. Ploughed in by suffering as it has been, ruthlessly cut down again and again, condemned to death by the Kings of Prejudice, Tyranny, and Lust, it has risen triumphant, and the harvest is near at hand.

"O, Barleycorn is the choicest grain
That e'er was sown on land;
It will do more than any grain
By the turning of your hand."

Mary Neal.

THE PURPLE, WHITE, AND GREEN

At the Women's Exhibition, Knightsbridge, May 13 to 26.

Before our next issue is in the hands of our readers, the Prince's Skating Rink at Knightsbridge will already be thronged with those who have come to the opening of the Women's Exhibition of 1909.

Get Tickets Early to Avoid the Rush.

On all our readers we wish to urge the extreme advisability of obtaining their tickets before the opening of the Exhibition in order to relieve the great pressure which will otherwise fall upon those who are selling tickets at the Exhibition building itself. There will undoubtedly be a great attendance of the general public, and the task of dealing with the sale of tickets will be very onerous indeed unless all our members and friends make a point of obtaining their tickets beforehand, either from 4, Clements Inn, or at next Monday afternoon's At Home at the Scala Theatre, or through the Secretaries of local Unions.

On the opening day the charge for admission to the opening ceremony and up to six o'clock will be 2s. 6d. These half-crown tickets are violet in colour. Admission on the opening day from six o'clock onwards will be 1s., and on every day afterwards the admission will be one shilling. The shilling tickets, both for the evening of the opening day and for every day afterwards, are of one colour—green—and are otherwise identical; that is to say, they bear no dates and therefore a shilling ticket once bought can be used either on the 13th from six o'clock onwards, or should one be prevented from coming on that day the same ticket will admit one upon some other day. This is intended to facilitate the purchase of tickets beforehand, and we most earnestly hope that all members and friends will take advantage of the arrangement.

Season Tickets.

Season tickets will cost 5s. We would point out that this is really a good investment, both for its convenience and its low price. It is, for instance, cheaper than buying separate tickets for the opening ceremony and for three subsequent visits.

Important Notice to Local Secretaries.

Tickets for the Exhibition can now be obtained from 4, Clements Inn, on sale or return. Local Secretaries and others are urged to send for handbills for distribution, also for posters if they are able to get them displayed. Address the Exhibition Secretary, 4, Clements Inn, Strand, W.C.

The Purple, White, and Green.

There is little further that need now be said of the Exhibition itself. Of the articles for sale, the novel exhibits, the pictures, the splendid entertainments and music, the admirable arrangements for the comfort and refreshment of guests, much has been said.

Our readers, however, have yet to learn something of what is perhaps the greatest feature of the Exhibition, and that is, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's great colour scheme in the Purple, White, and Green.

As we approach the Prince's Skating Rink we shall find that the outside of the building lends life and colour to Knightsbridge and Hill Street.

Around the building from Venetian masts, will float banners in purple, white, and green. Just below them trophies of colours will be grouped behind heraldic shields, and from mast to mast intertwined lines of fair garlands will swing.

The upper part of the building will be even more pictorially draped and festooned with the colours, and from the roof more masts will rise with banners flying.

Next to the masts who is in possession of the building for

This outer bravery is but the note of the colour scheme decorations carried through alike within and without under the superintendence of Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

Let us suppose that it is the fateful opening day, and we are at the Prince's Skating Rink.

The Decorations.

The first thing that will strike the visitor is Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's beautiful work, bold and original in conception and carried throughout the building with exquisite attention to detail.

Along the whole length of the walls, that is to say, for 214 on either side, runs a series of arched panels. The arches consist of rich, decorative designs, in which the principal features are a mingling of ivy, the vine, and the rose; the conventional clusters of ripe purple grapes and the green of ivy supplying the dominant colours, which are varied by brilliant hues of orchid-winged butterflies.

In the centres of the panels, which measure about 15 across, are three designs which alternate throughout. They are: A pelican on its nest with two young feeding from breast; a dove rising with outspread wings and holding olive branch in its mouth; and the broad arrow surrounded by a wreath of laurels.

The lettering shows that these decorations carry a story to them, but on first entering one's eye is drawn to the converging towards the further end of the building which is covered by a magnificent canvas having for its centre a group of three beautiful female figures at least twice life size. The most commanding of these figures stands upon the green sward. Around her feet spring daisies, daffodils, and many bright coloured wild flowers, whilst a briar rose in blossom also rises up here in pattern-like quaintness. This central figure, whose arms is a sheaf of grain, is clad in a robe of new tint, relieved with purple wherever the robe is raised or draped back.

The figures looking either way from the central one supply the green and purple notes of the group. They are expressive in music their joy at the harvest, typified by the gathering sheaf. Above their heads is a golden sun which irradiates the picture.

The vine and ivy design forms a great arch over this splendid group. In the great panels either side of it are symbolic designs loaded with fruit and flowers. One realises now that this group is the culmination of the design, the climax of a drama for the figures are radiant and triumphant, as those who have reaped success.

The Sower and the Reaper.

The design, in fact, is interpreted by the Psalmist's words running round the building: "They that sow in tears, shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

Across the culminating picture appear the words: "Doubtless come again with rejoicing."

The story actually begins with the picture which is best seen when we are returning from the further end of the hall. At the entrance, upon our right, is a large canvas on which appears the figure of "The Sower," representing the opening words of the text: "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."

The final group are radiant in their triumph, symbolising the sheaf of gathered grain. The sower is eager and anxious, stepping forward and looking forward into the unknown future. On each side of her figure are a small and a large arched panel, each containing perfect conventional representations of the almond tree, whose blossoms exquisitely typify the first and fairest promise of spring.

There will be few who will not then again pursue Miss Pankhurst's theme from "The Sower" to "The Reaper," thus enjoy her work in detail.

The National Stalls.

n of Miss Mona Hunt; the Ladies Mascot Band, under the direction of Miss C. Isabel Green; and the 'Æolian Ladies' Orchestra, under the direction of Miss Rosabel Watson.

The Pictures.

There will be an interesting display of pictures and statuettes by forty artists. This will include statuettes of Annie Kenney and Christabel Pankhurst, and of a "Suffragette" in cap and gown. There will be four portraits of Christabel Pankhurst, including a miniature and a pastel.

The other exhibits will include water-colour sketches, etchings, gouaches, woodcuts, illuminated writing in the colours, black-and-white drawings, and prints, also some beautiful frames and framed mirrors. Several artists have very kindly undertaken to do "quick-trait sketches" from day to day.

Entertainments.

The Actresses' Franchise League have arranged a series of splendid entertainments each day of the Exhibition. There will be five performances, viz., at 3.15, 4.30, 5.45, 8, and 9.15. The programme will include recitals by Miss Tita Brand, Miss Cicely Hamilton's Wax Works, duologues by Miss Eva Moore and Mr. Henry Ainley, and Mrs. Mary Neal's Children's Dances and Morris Dances. Mrs. Delino Lucette Ryley is writing a sketch for Madame Alice Esty specially for the occasion. Miss Eva Moore and Mr. H. V. Esmond will also take part in a little play which has just been written specially by Mr. H. V. Esmond. There will also be other sketches, viz.: "The Philosopher in the Apple Orchard," by Anthony Hope; "Woman's Influence," by Gertrude Jennings; "Colonel and Henderson," by Rosina Filippi; "Kiddy," by Cyril Twyford; "Meringues," by Mrs. St. Claire.

Among other artists who have very kindly undertaken parts are:—Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. Arthur Applin, Miss Lillian Braithwaite, Madame Marie Brema, Miss Margaret Bussé, Miss Compton (Mrs. J. Carlton), Miss Alice Crawford, Mlle. Dolli, Madame Donald, Mrs. Rosina Filippi, Mrs. George Giddens, Miss Maud Hoffman, Mrs. Grainger Kerr, Miss Gertrude Kingston, Miss Auriol Lee, Madame Liza Lehmann, Miss Florence Lloyd, Madame Bertha, Miss Lillah McCarthy, Miss Decima Moore, Miss Edyth, Miss Esther Palliser, Miss Nancy Price, Mrs. Raleigh, Miss Alice Forbes Robertson, Miss Susanne Sheldon, Miss Janette, Miss May Whitty, Mr. Ben Webster, and many other well-known artists.

The Soda-fountain Bar.

One of the most attractive and novel features of the Exhibition will be the Soda-fountain Bar, where Mrs. Baillie Guthrie and her daughters are to dispense American iced beverages at moderate prices. These will include a large variety of refreshing iced fruit drinks, cherry and orange phosphates, delicious ice cream sodas of all the favourite flavours, and the American sundoes or orange ices. The "Consol" British Soda Fountain and most of the accessories have been generously lent by the British Automatic Bottlers, Limited, of Paul Street, E.C., and Mrs. Baillie Guthrie wishes to thank the assistant general manager, Mr. Doherty, for kindness and advice, which have been invaluable.

Preliminary Exhibitions.

Some of the workers in various localities have hit upon the excellent idea of holding an exhibition of their work before sending it to London. This has had the effect of greatly extending the list and bringing in new workers for the stalls. Visitors are encouraged, whether working for the stall or not, with the result that more workers are obtained, and the circle of interest in the Exhibition is considerably widened.

Farm Produce and Flower Stall.

Mrs. I. Seymour and Mrs. E. K. Marshall, Hon. Secs., gratefully acknowledge subscriptions:—

Abbey, 10s., and Miss Goodlife, 10s., towards prizes, and Anon. (per Littlejohn), 10s. Miss C. I. Green promises cream. Mrs. White sends Mrs. Newcome, £2.

Some are still anxious for promises of flowers, plants, etc. To know on day to expect donations would be a great convenience to them, as supplies must be received daily, and unless they hear in good time from donors it is difficult to arrange matters.

They will be very glad of the loan of specimen glasses, plain glass vases of all sizes, and green earthenware glasses for the flower stall. Owner's name and address should, of course, be attached to the bottom.

Judges for the competitions are:—On May 13 and 22, Miss McConnell, B.D.F.A., County Council Laboratories, Chelmsford; and on May 25, Miss C. M. Dixon, F.R.H.S., Elmeroft Nurseries, Westergate, West.

Refreshment Stall.

Mrs. Frederick Edwards, 63, Lancaster Gate, W., and Miss Una Dale, 13, Stanhope Place, W., Hon. Secs. of the Refreshment Stall, appeal for chickens, hams, tongues, cakes, sweets, straw-

berries and cream, tins of apricots, pears, peaches, and pineapples, bread, butter, tea and coffee, sugar and milk.

The Bookstall.

Miss Bessie Hatton, Hon. Secretary, Women Writers' Suffrage League, 15, Sandringham Court, Maida Vale, W., appeals for books or donations of money for the bookstall.

The Millinery Stall.

The Hon. Secretary appeals for hats, veils, scarves, hair ornaments, etc., and points out that models should be sent to her, care of Mrs. Corbould, 8, Victoria Road, Kensington, W., and not to Church Street.

Dresses.

Mrs. Morris, Hon. Sec., Marylebone Stall, wishes to draw attention to the fact that the Marylebone stall will be exclusively devoted to summer dresses, and to appeal to members of the Union and their friends to abstain from buying elsewhere until they have seen what it can produce. There will be a varied selection to suit all requirements, and Mrs. Morris will be pleased to answer inquiries as to detail.

SUGGESTIONS WANTED.

Last week a full account was given of the novel idea of a daily poll by ballot upon questions of the moment.

Each day a new question will be voted upon, so that altogether a poll will be taken on twelve different subjects while the Exhibition is open. It is here that the readers of VOICES FOR WOMEN can be of special assistance, for we want these twelve subjects to be the most interesting and attractive which can be found. For obvious reasons it has been decided that no question which enters into party politics will be selected. A further necessary condition is that the voter should be able to express his view by placing a cross against one of two or three names, or against one of two or three alternative views on a certain subject. One suggestion which will probably find favour is that of a ballot on the Daylight Saving Bill, which has been lately attracting so much attention.

MRS. DRUMMOND'S APPEAL.

Mrs. Drummond will be glad to receive the names of volunteer workers. Many are needed, especially in the daytime, as stewards, sellers of literature and the colours, and for other work. Mrs. Drummond hopes to receive promises for the whole time or for whole days, the latter specified whenever possible. Of course, those who have already promised need not repeat.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO STALL SECRETARIES.

Parcels must NOT be sent to Clements Inn.

Every Stall Secretary has been asked to write to her contributors requesting them to send parcels to her only after a certain date—say, May 1. The Stall Secretaries themselves will collect and keep all contributions until Thursday, May 6, on and after which date they can be forwarded in large parcels to the Prince's Skating Rink.

It is very essential that they should be most clearly addressed to the stall for which they are intended, otherwise confusion and disappointments must inevitably arise.

Those responsible for the decoration of stalls will be allowed in the Rink after 12 o'clock on Tuesday, May 11, when they will find the stalls prepared for them. These consist of tables measuring 6 ft. by 3 ft., with a space of 3 ft. between each table. They run in double rows, and there is a clear space of 3 ft. between the stalls and the partition, 7 ft. 6 ins. high, which divides the two rows from one another. Both the stall and partition will be covered with biscuit-coloured canvas, but everything else in the way of decoration will be left to the stall-holders. It is hoped that as far as possible all the stalls will be finished by midday Wednesday, as there will be a Press view of the Exhibition on Wednesday afternoon.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

The Exhibition catalogue, of which a circulation of not less than 20,000 copies is guaranteed, is now in preparation. Advertising spaces are rapidly being allotted, and applications for the remaining spaces should be made at once to the Advertisement Manager, Exhibition Catalogue, W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C. In addition to the usual matter the catalogue will contain special articles by well-known writers, biographies and portraits of the leaders of the movement, and other readable matter. Being both a guide and programme to the Exhibition, and a souvenir of one of the most notable events of 1909, the catalogue will undoubtedly prove a valuable advertising medium.

WOMEN MUSICIANS.

Mr. Henry Mills, through the influence of Mr. Lyell Taylor, both of the Sunday League, has engaged a complete orchestra of women, and they will be at Queen's Hall on Sunday night, May 2, in a concert performance of "Faust." This is a very great step in the profession, and, as such, is warmly welcomed by the women musicians.