Lecturer by Miss Rose Scott.

A Lecture on "Womanhood Suffrage." The lecture was delivered by Miss Rose Scott at the School of Arts Hall, Pitt-street, last night. Mrs. E. Palmer (president) attended, and there was an immense audience. The majority of those present being ladies.

Miss Scott said that the first thing to consider was what it was a vote, and what did it signify. Briefly, it meant representation, giving the power to vote or represent their wishes in the choice of men who were elected to meet together and arrange all those State affairs which partially affected women. Representation was of far more importance than the vote itself, because even if the woman was illiterate she still remained one of the represented classes, if that class was enfranchised. The word "franchise" meant liberty, independence, so that this question was actually one of freedom. To be unenfranchised, therefore, was to be in a free state as a nation in which the people governed themselves, as opposed to a nation in which the people were governed by others. In New South Wales men were free, but women were not, for they were wholly governed by men, and by submitters to be enfranchised men to regulate and arrange all those laws which related to children. It was doubtful whether many women had any conception of what those laws were, or if they would for the sake of the world's children, work for their own enfranchisement. Evil laws undoubtedly existed, and every day there were poor, voiceless women and little children who suffered under them, and died terribly. There was no one in the world whose names alone facts as a social reformer who did not believe in the enfranchisement of women, but, in the words of a man, it was at the bedrock of all reform. Why should they wonder at the man who said that so often prevailed with regard to public affairs when women were trained to believe that there were no rights or privileges for them? If both political affairs become better and more wholesome when private greed and private monopoly in freedom were extirpated and public rights ignored. There were many objections urged against giving women a vote, but why about absurdities be marshalled as progress for their own advancement? women were held guilty that men could represent women also to the Parliamentary jobs. Such a responsibility was unworkable. The members of the male sex had the monopoly of the voting power. They had everything to do with the laws affecting domestic, marriage, and marriage, and the management of little children, to say nothing of the laws affecting criminal women and girls. The representation of a woman was not only a means of power, internal, and education, but it was a means of power to be applied to the protection of the strong man, the weak woman? They had only to glance at statistics to see that there were thousands and thousands of women in New South Wales alone who were compelled to care for living. Would not these women come into opposition matters? on were paid wages as miserable that they could hardly keep body and soul together, and yet which a vote of thanks to Miss Scott.-lcd, and not ashamed to ask the ill-paid, half-starved women to work overtime without extra pay, who declared that the franchise was that they might ameliorate the condition of those workers, that they might protest the home and change the conditions of life, so that every mother might be able to stay at home and raise their children by the true sphere of work and prevent. Any extension of the franchise to women had, too, been followed by greater legal protection of the female sex. Moreover, legislation has been undertaken for poor women and children, the appointment of more visitators to see and protect, women workers, the payment to women of the same wages as men for the same work—(applause)—the appointment of police matrons, the better treatment of women in schools and hospitals, registry offices, etc. It meant that they would have a voice in the State Educational Act, and it would allow women to have equal ownership with their husbands over their property. How different the laws were in New South Wales at present in regard to the control of children. The franchise gave power to do justice to a suffering world, and, if granted to women would make the sluggish and muddy stream of politics, Especially in regard to laws affecting women, flow freely for the good of all. She therefore appealed to those present to work for the consumption of the franchise to women.

Mrs. James Cowan, of Western Australia, made a few remarks, after which the meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Golding, and seconded by

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LEADER.