

SUFFRAGIST MEETING IN ABERDEEN.

ROWDY SCENES.

The Aberdeen Branch of the Women's Social and Political Union made it known, mainly by pavement chalk notices, that they were to hold an open-air meeting at the Wallace Statue, Union Terrace, last night. The meeting, which was addressed by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, was characterised throughout by rowdiness on the part of the major portion of the audience, which numbered about 600, and was composed chiefly of lads, while the students were not without a fair representation.

During Miss Pankhurst's address—which was on the usual lines—she was continually interrupted by portions of the audience bursting out into song, and at times she had to cease speaking altogether. It was regrettable that some of the younger members of the audience so far forgot themselves as to throw small stones at the speaker, one of which caught her on the cheek, happily without injuring her, and many missiles which fell short landed on the heads of those immediately in the vicinity of the speaker. In the course of her address, Miss Pankhurst pointed out that were the Government to pass a bill granting women the right to vote, it would only occupy two days of Parliamentary time. She criticised the existing marriage laws, which she said could not be reformed until women got the vote. It had been said that women should not get the vote, because they did not want it, but she contended that the fact that 420 women had suffered imprisonment, and that £19,000 had been gathered for the cause in a single year, gave ample evidence that they wanted the vote. The Government had said women could not get the right without a mandate from the country, but she considered that that would be an appeal to the men, who had no right with what pertained to women. In an attack on the Cabinet—during which the mention of the Ministers' names was greeted with cheering—she said the Cabinet as at present constituted saw men with one eye, and did not see women at all. (Laughter.)

At the conclusion of her address, Miss Pankhurst answered several questions, and the proceedings, which had been of the liveliest nature throughout, terminated with cheers for the speaker.