

THE VOTE
Aug. 6, 1915
ONE PENNY

LOWERING THE STANDARD. C. DESPARD.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, AUG. 6, 1915

Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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THE FUTILITY OF PARLIAMENT.

Is Parliament futile? If not, why is it not necessary that it should sit just now?

We approach the question with the best and nearest approach to an open mind that we can compass; and we review the facts, striving to "set down naught in malice" and certainly not prepared to extenuate much!

From the daily papers we cull the facts. We do not mean by this that we have learned to lean on the daily paper and accept its statements. We only mean that the daily papers so juggle with facts and so doctor and delete from the Parliamentary debates that they point the fact that Parliament would need to be very virile indeed, very effective and efficient, very definite and very wise, to be able to rise above the futility imposed on it by the tyranny of the Press and the gullibility of the public. Let us, for instance, take the two leading halfpenny dailies of July 29. They contain the reports of the discussion in the House on the adjournment for seven weeks' holiday. The *Daily News* vaunts Mr. Asquith's and Mr. George's speeches. Very little space and no editorial comment is given to the criticism levelled by Sir Arthur Markham, Sir Henry Dalziel, and the other malcontents; Mr. Amery is not even mentioned. The *Daily Mail*, on the other hand, devotes about six columns to the discussion, and in its leading article pulverises Mr. Asquith and dots the i's and crosses the t's of the dissentient members. Both papers put (applause) and (cheers) in the places that suit them. The net result is that members have gone for their seven weeks' holiday, and the public does not really care much one way or the other. The electorate themselves seem as happy-go-lucky as their elected; so one has to suppose them well represented.

But, of all those who have read either or both of these papers, how many really know anything

about Parliament? Some very rousing accusations were made; were they true, one could hardly suppose it possible that the four or five hundred gentlemen who heard them could at once go off on holiday. Equally, if they were not true, why are such things said with impunity in such an assembly? It would almost appear as if it did not matter in the least what is said or left unsaid, true or untrue; the prattle goes on unchecked and unheeded; and so far as one may judge, has no consequences of any sort.

We give one extract from the *Daily News*:—

Sir Arthur Markham very nearly created a first-class sensation. When he told the House that the War Office had brought over from India, to be Director of Intelligence in France, the son of the German agent in London for Krupp's—an officer who had changed his German name to Blacker—that this officer had been entrusted with full knowledge of movements of troops, but had now been recalled, members listened in amazement as to a fairy tale. Yet Mr. Tennant did not dispute the facts, but only denied that the War Office mistrusted the above gentlemen.

What spoilt this disclosure was Sir Arthur's trivial attack on Sir Edgar Speyer, who owns the Queen's Hall, on the ground that Sir Henry Wood is there giving German music by Wagner! Even the Tories laughed at the idea that Beethoven should be vetoed.

What we want to know about the above is, in what mysterious way was the first item "spoilt" by a petulant attack upon German musicians, which, like "the flowers that blow in the spring, tra-la, have nothing to do with the case." Is it possible to imagine anything more childish and unreliable than the levity which allows honourable and right honourable gentlemen to be lured away from a serious matter because another matter, and quite a different one, strikes them as silly! Yet of this stuff is Parliament made; and that being so,

one may without harshness judge its sittings to be futile, its discussions unreal, and its functions so ill performed that seven weeks' holiday, more or less, makes very little difference to the country.

If these praters and debaters could be called to account by women, there would be a great stirring of the dry bones of Parliament, and the real things, the things that matter—the saving of food, the saving of life, the regulation of prices, the proper distribution of energy—might stand some chance of getting attention. If votes for women were needed in peace time, it is needed ten thousand times more now; and no day passes but shows the need to be more and more a matter of urgency. We are often told that men need the thought and the presence of women, the love and companionship of women, or the hope of it, to inspire them to give of their best. We may well believe that to be a fact when we see the futility of their labours in that field from which women are entirely excluded!

C. NINA BOYLE.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Mr. Morgan, and through him Mr. George, has now given the answer to the Great Procession which was organised under their auspices. Speaking on the subject of munitions recently, he stated explicitly that "the women's labour (for munitions making) was to be kept in reserve" until such time as, in their wisdom, they should decide it was really needed. Just what might have been expected.

Prisoners of War.

The Women's Freedom League has taken up, as special work during the war, activities in connection with the prisoners of war. Many women of the poorer classes find great difficulty in weighing, packing and addressing parcels to their relatives who are prisoners; and to help with this, Branches of the League are organising and getting into touch with existing committees for the care of prisoners of war, and with the families of the men.

The Lady Ostler.

The lady ostler is the latest sign of the war times. In short skirts and top boots, she is to be seen sometimes scrubbing her own ponies on the cobbles in a West End mews, and every time she passes to scrub down the shiny coat of the animal she emits that rhythmic "whew-whew" sound between the teeth which has been the breezy mannerism of the ostler from time immemorial. Her own ostler is serving with the Army Service Corps, and she has refused several offers of assistance from eligible stablemen, preferring to scrub her own animals till the end of the war.

Women as Motorists.

Women motorists are rapidly increasing. There are still hundreds of trained female drivers waiting for Scotland Yard to license them. Lady side-carists have made their appearance in the parks, taking the wounded out for a drive, and the big shopping establishments in Kensington are engaging women to drive the three-wheeled runabouts.

"Royal Charter" stops the Way.

Women medical students who have been expecting a new and far-reaching concession by the decision to admit them to the Medical School of the Charing Cross Hospital, have been disappointed. Though a committee of the school are in favour of their admission the women find themselves stopped by the Royal Charter of the hospital. It will be necessary to get counsel's opinion as to whether they can legally be admitted.

VOTE SALES.

Miss Alix. M. Clark, who is in town for the next few weeks, has kindly undertaken to organise the VOTE sales for London. Helpers are urgently required, and all members who have even the smallest amount of spare time during the week are urged to communicate with her at this office, and to make whatever sacrifice they can to keep the circulation of THE VOTE in London as high as possible.

WHAT OUR READERS THINK OF US.

DEAR EDITOR,—I always read, with interest, THE VOTE, which I get regularly, and have done so since I heard you speak at Rothesay two years ago. You have no idea how welcome your paper is, and how much it is read. If you would let me advise you, send it to the men at the front; it will do them good, and they'll read it through, and like it too. For my part, I send you 5s. for propaganda work of this kind, perhaps someone else will help. The above is an extract from a letter which I received, and which I think may be of interest to readers of THE VOTE. If anyone cares to send a special donation for this purpose, I will see that, along with the cigarettes, THE VOTE and other literature is sent out.—Yours, etc., EUNICE G. MURRAY.

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

Church of Rome and Women's Suffrage.

Cardinal Gibbons states that although "the Church" has taken no official attitude concerning Woman Suffrage, it leaves the matter to the good judgment of her children as to what they think best. "The statement that our Church is opposed to the enfranchisement of women," his eminence adds, "is incorrect."

Encircling the Globe.

That the Woman Suffrage Movement is encircling the Globe is proved by facts. In Central America, British Honduras, in Burma, in Bombay and Baroda, Indian women, who own a certain amount of property, have the vote. In Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, New Zealand, Australia, China, and the twelve States and one Territory of the United States, women have been granted the franchise on equal terms with men. In the United Kingdom, Canada, and the Union of South Africa, at present, the 'municipal suffrage' only has so far been granted. Great and Greater Britain Dominions should take the hint.

Reason Wins.

Ebenezer J. Hill, Republican representative elect for the Fourth Connecticut Congressional District, and millionaire banker and manufacturer, has been converted to Suffrage by his daughters, and declares he will vote for the federal amendment when next it "comes up." May he devote some of his millions as well as his vote to the cause! He admits that he has hitherto allowed his prejudice to control his reason. How like a man!

Another Triumph!

Dutch women, who have been watching with eager eyes the progress of events in Denmark, which led this year to political equality for men and women, have had their hopes raised to a high pitch for their own enfranchisement. Holland is about to change her constitution, and the Dutch Woman Suffrage Association is making every effort to have introduced in their country a Bill such as King Christian X of Denmark has just sanctioned, giving to women suffrage and eligibility on exactly the same terms as men.

How they do it

They seem to manage publicity methods adequately in America, although we do not approve of all American people do. Says one writer: "Whether it is appealing for votes at the foot of the Statute of Liberty, or passing on the torch of equality from feminine hand to feminine hand across the State, or administering the 'silent treatment' in a court-room where aliens are being naturalised, or 'hiking' to Albany, or parading Fifth Avenue—certainly the Suffragists have the knack of spectacular publicity methods."

"Scouting for Suffragists" is one of the American methods. The Scout is a Suffrage yacht, which is flying the Suffrage yellow in the main waterways of New York State. The towns and villages which fringe the Erie Canal already know it well. It is manned by two sisters, who serve afternoon tea and appetising dinners to Suffrage workers and men of prominence along the route. They make voiceless speeches all day long. On either side of the boat is fastened a big scroll, each page bearing a neat, crisp argument for suffrage. Crowds gather on the banks to read, and as page after page is turned, they say, vote after vote is added to the Suffrage Cause. When the boat draws up alongside of a village all the local people come down to meet it. Then the sisters step ashore and distribute suffrage literature, local workers join in, and they do not stop until every home and every store has been reached. They drop off to call at farmhouses, too, in their campaign of conversion.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

*** Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

AGAINST REGISTRATION,

Rocks Hall, Crowborough, Sussex,

August 1, 1915.

DEAR EDITOR,—I rejoice to find, as the result of your publication of my recent letter, that there are other conscious International Suffragists who feel with me in the matter of registering under this masculine Registration Bill. May I now add that I yield to none in my desire to help my country in its hour of need, even though I hold that that hour may have been brought about by the fact that the voice of the mother side of the human race is not heard in the councils of the world. What I object to, and what I believe most women who are conscious mothers will object to, is the compulsion implied in the act of registration, the result of which act may be that we may be called upon by a masculine Government to do violence to what we consider is our supreme function of motherhood. I am informed that the penalty for not registering is a heavy financial fine, and as that may hit many of us very cruelly, besides benefitting financially a Government we do not feel justified in supporting, I desire to propose to women readers of your paper the following plan of passive resistance:—

First, let every conscious Suffragist write across her registration form the words: "The Woman's place is the Home," as, I believe, that is the classic phrase in which men describe our duties. Then, when we are asked what work we are doing or can undertake, I would advise that we reply: "We can darn stockings, we can warm slippers, and fold newspapers; we can rock cradles; we can cook and sweep." These are the "womanly" occupations to which we are always being told to return when we ask the Government to allow us to fulfil our real duty to our home, by giving us the power to bring the moral atmosphere of the street, the town and the country more into harmony with the moral atmosphere of the intimate home in which every true woman loves to dwell.—Faithfully yours, DORA B. MONTEFIORE.

THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN ABROAD.

Miss Boyle asks us to say that some while ago she received a letter asking in what towns in Belgium and in Eastern Europe the traffic in women centred. She has mislaid the letter and cannot remember who was her correspondent. The answer to the enquiry is:—Antwerp, Ostend and Brussels were notoriously dangerous. So long ago as 1881, when some sort of an enquiry was being held by the British Government, Parliamentary papers gave excerpts from statements by Belgian officials showing the heavy expenses of keeping up the supplies of girls for the trade, and the very large capital invested in it. It was put forward by the Belgian Government, as an excuse for not taking active steps, that it was impossible to interfere with a traffic in which such large sums of money were concerned.

At Cernowitch, where fighting in the Eastern region has taken place, five men were arrested some six years ago. They were taken on premises of a sumptuous character, said to be the headquarters of the international traffic, and passing as a hotel. The infamies recorded of the conduct of the place were said to be unprintable. So far as she knows, the five ruffians, who were the principal working members of a syndicate to secure and control girls, and who were fabulously wealthy, were never tried, nor did their names ever transpire.

FIREWOMEN AT SELFRIDGE'S.

A recent issue of the *Drapers' Record* publishes an excellent photograph of "a very efficient squad of firewomen employed by Messrs. Selfridge and Co., Oxford-st., London, W. They are taking the place of the firemen who have enlisted, and have already attained considerable efficiency in handling the heavy appliances."

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THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, August 6th, 1915.

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To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote
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Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.
Telephone MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... 6/6 per annum, post free.
"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

LOWERING THE STANDARD.

There is no greater indignity an army can suffer than that of lowering the standard in face of the enemy. To have gained a coveted point and then, through misadventure, weariness, or lack of wise precautions, to lose it; to plant the standard and to have it torn down, what calamity could be greater? That the industrial classes of this country are threatened with such a set-back has been evident for some time to those who, their senses quickened by many disappointments, are watching the situation.

We do not wish unduly to praise the hand-workers of Great Britain, though it should not be forgotten that from their ranks the greater number of the heroes in the field whom we delight to honour are drawn. We know that, as regards many matters of vital importance to themselves, they have been curiously blind. None the less, it is certain that by much toil and, to the pioneers in the Trades Union Movement, extraordinary sacrifice and suffering, they have succeeded in gaining a recognised position for their industries and in raising the standard of living in their class.

During the last two decades the struggles between labour and capital have been more acute than ever before, and the men have not made the advance that might have been expected from their consolidation and their combined wealth. Had they spent the thousands which were thrown away upon fruitless strikes in getting some of the land of the country into their hands, and in farming federations, so powerful as to have been practically irresistible, their position would be more secure now. We do not altogether blame them. The strike is the old-established weapon, and, in some cases, the very possibility of it has thrown fear into the souls of employers. Where we blame them is precisely where we blame successive Governments. They have lacked that wise foresight which perceives impending changes and prepares to meet them.

There can be no doubt that the entry of women into trades, industries and professions which men in the past looked upon as their own has created a new situation. Many causes have contributed to this result, such as the discovery by women of their own capabilities, their excess in numbers, and the gradual passing away of the old fable that wifehood and motherhood is their only proper career; and certainly the war, with its awful necessities, has quickened the pace.

Unfortunately, save in a few cases, the crisis has

found both men and women unprepared; and this is where the danger lies. Had men workers long ago, instead of trying to keep or force women out of their industries, held out to them the hand of comradeship, as indeed has been done with good effect in some trades; had they drawn them into their unions, and encouraged them to seek that political backing which has, over and over again, been of service to themselves, the present alarming state of things might not have existed.

Let us consider what it means! By slow and painful degrees, with immense sacrifice to the pioneers, and fighting every inch of the way, trade unions have succeeded in winning some political and economic power. Wages, as a consequence, have been advanced, a better standard of living has been established; conditions in the workshops have improved, and a certain amount of leisure has been secured. That all has not been done which might have been done we are well aware; but, at least, mechanics are able now to live in decent comfort and to provide a tolerably good upbringing for their families, while the unskilled workers and general labourers, though in harder cases, have risen above the miserable conditions that existed before the rise of trade unionism. Territory, we may say, has been won by the industrial army; the standard has been planted higher. Is that standard to be lowered? Is industry to lose what it has so labouriously won?

It would be well for those who have little experience in these matters seriously to consider what lowering the standard implies. Take the trade union rate of wages for labourers in different trades. After food and shelter have been provided for large families and insurances paid, a very little margin is left even for clothes. Especially now, when food prices have risen to such an alarming extent. If wages go down, living must go down with them, and that is a poor prospect for the children. We have come to the point, we assert this deliberately, when to lower the standard of living would be to lower and degrade the race. Women, little as they generally know of economics, feel this; men feel it, too, and the common danger would, if they were wise, draw them together. The one enemy, as they must all perceive, is cheap labour. Flood the market with that; let the masters become accustomed to giving lower wages, and it is not likely, after the war is over, when everyone is feeling the pinch of it, that they will deliberately, of their own free will, raise them again. The consequence may be that, when the men return from the war, and when the feverish haste to produce shells! shells!! more shells!!! becomes no longer necessary, they will either accept a lower wage or eat out their hearts at home while the women work.

We do not say that this intolerable state of affairs will come about. We believe that both men and women, their eyes purged by suffering and their intelligence quickened by experience, will strike out new life-paths for themselves. We have even a hope that the noble art of agriculture may revive, and that some of the waste lands in the country for whose liberty we have striven and suffered may be brought under cultivation. But these, so far, are dreams.

What faces industry; what should make all workers ready to resist by every possible means any encroachment on their rights, is the imminent danger of losing that which has been so dearly won. Never let us lower our standard.

Unless, now, the workers are wise and strong, that which, with good reason, they have feared, will be upon them. It is all very well for clever journalists, whose one desire is to gain popularity for their papers, to talk blandly of patriotism and

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Advice Gratis.

The question of what to do and how to economise is now the question of the hour, and the pointed remarks as to how economies can be effected are mainly directed at women. It is, obviously, a thing that women can be fairly asked to do, and that they should be and are only too willing to do. Unfortunately, these matters are practical, not sentimental matters. It is not so much a question of what one would, could, or should do, as what would be the most effective thing to do; and when we were approached by the Board of Trade, and invited to co-operate in a campaign of advice to women to economise, we pointed out, while we offered our willing co-operation, that the savings women could effect were as nothing to the savings the Government could effect if it only would allow women to do their proper work in the world. The Board of Trade most courteously responded, pointing out that the expenditure of the Government was as nothing compared with the expenditure of the public. And this is in a certain sense true. But it is only half a truth; for while the expenditure of the public is certainly a greater item than the expenditure of the Government, when it comes to foodstuffs, etc., yet the proportion of waste is so infinitesimal when contrasted with the Government waste, that there is no safe comparison.

Not quite enough.

The position is further complicated by the question of trade. Mr. Morgan, after telling us to avoid the consumption of foreign articles, so that money shall not go out of the country, now tells us to avoid the consumption of home-made articles, so that they can be exported and bring money into the country. One's brain reels with the effort to grasp it all. Trade must not be neglected, because on our exports we greatly depend for prosperity; but we are not given any scheduled list of the trades that export, so that we may avoid consuming their goods and at the same time rush to offer our services to those trades to enable them at one and the same time to keep going and to release men for service elsewhere. So it is very complicated indeed; and the inspired mouthpiece of our national Admirable Crichton has not shed much additional light on the subject. Indeed, one might almost say that palls of darkness are continually being lowered over whatever gleams of light occasionally shine through the gloom. For instance, coal, our principal export, may now, we believe, only be exported by special permission. It isn't nearly as simple as Mr. Morgan pretends. Our exports quite frequently might be converted into sources of "comfort" for the enemy; and, so far, our newest counsellors have either spoken too much, or not enough, and not with sufficient clearness. The multitude of counsellors has not yet produced wisdom, but confusion; and we suspect the confusion is quite as much in their minds as in ours!

With that we cordially agree; indeed, it is almost a truism. The interests of man and woman cannot be divided, either in life or in the industries through which life is sustained. When the women who see all this clearly ask: How are we to secure justice—we, who have been always the Helots of Labour—and with what weapons are we to fight? We earnestly hope the answer of the men workers will be: Make use of the weapons which we have proved. So long as the war lasts, while our fate as a free nation is in the balance, and our economic status and yours is in jeopardy, we open the doors of our trade societies to you; and you, in return, will stand by us; you will see that the army of industry is not brought to its knees. Then, when the storm of battle has spent its force, we and you who have breasted it together will stand side by side in building up the 'Industrial Society of the Future.'

If the men workers will give us this answer frankly, we, of the Women's Movement, will do all in our power to make all women workers see that they owe loyalty, not only to their womanhood, but to their nation, which must stand or fall by the condition of its workers. Meanwhile, the Government could not do better than follow the advice given by a writer in this week's issue of the *Nation*. "If the nation is really to exert its full strength, a new character must be given to industry, and not merely a new discipline to workpeople; the State must make employers and workmen alike its agents, using the employers' knowledge and experience and the great moral resources of the trade unions."

This done, and men and women working together to make good the positions they have gained, there will be no fear of the standard being lowered.

C. DESPARD.

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A PENNY A DAY.

Many thanks to our member and friends who are busy putting by their extra penny a day for 100 days, to swell this year's Birthday Fund.

This is a way in which all can help during the holidays, and I should be glad of many more names to add to my list.

E. KNIGHT.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

National Registration.

The demonstration arranged by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes for August 15 (Registration Day) will be held in the Queen's Hall, Langham-place, and not in Trafalgar-square. A conference will be held on August 8, beginning at 11.30 a.m., in Chandos Hall, Chandos-street, Strand, to consider the resolutions in which the Federation will put forward its demands for fair wages and votes for women, control of the prices and a supply of the necessaries of life, and the abolition of profiteering.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM.

FORESHADOWINGS IN FICTION.

By L. A. M. Priestley (Mrs. George McCracken),
Author of "Love Stories of Some Eminent
Women," etc., etc.

GEORGE ELIOT'S "MIDDLEMARCH."

It was, I think, the late Professor Dowden who remarked upon the strangeness of the fact that George Eliot, the greatest woman novelist of the 19th century, was so indifferent to the interests of her sex as to take no active part in contemporary efforts to secure the enfranchisement of women. It seems, however, to a careful student of her works, that this indifference must have been more seeming than real. Much in George Eliot's own life militated against her active participation in the movement started by John Stuart Mill in the sixties. Her health, never robust, was a handicap, and required unceasing care in order that she might pursue her literary labours; and the peculiar circumstances in which her home life was rooted were probably sufficient reason to one of her sensitive and retiring nature for maintaining a certain aloofness from public life and work. The creator, however, of Gwendolen and Ronola felt, and felt deeply, the insufferable position of a young and innocent girl married to a *roué*. Gwendolen shrank instinctively from the companionship of her profligate husband. And twice Ronola fled from the false and faithless Tito. Maggis Tulliver, in renouncing personal happiness with Stephen, her cousin's fiancé, displays a deep fundamental loyalty to her own sex, which in modern womanhood has been translated into complete self abnegation, and a willingness to suffer martyrdom to win women's freedom. In "Adam Bede" we have voiced the claim which Suffragists make, that her partner in guilt should be held responsible as well as the unhappy mother who in frenzied shame commits the crime of infanticide.

It is in "Middlemarch" that we have perhaps most clearly evidenced the author's sympathies with and for women's progress. Sometimes there is a glancing sarcasm, as: "A man is seldom ashamed of feeling that he cannot love a woman so well when he sees a certain greatness in her; nature having intended greatness for men." And then the author slyly adds: "But nature has sometimes made sad oversights in carrying out her intentions." Or again we have a significant sentence like this: "The oppressive liberty of the gentlewoman's world where everything was done for her, and one asked for her aid."

In the prelude to "Middlemarch" is found—crystallised in that imperishable beauty of expression, the characteristic garb of the author's thought—the spiritual history of womanhood; her age-long yearning under restrictions and conventions to pour her wealth of service and of love into the stream of human beneficence and achievement. Suffragists can read unto this passage the long pilgrimage of woman towards the ideal goal of liberty and equality of opportunity which should be the birth-right of every living soul born into the human family:—

"Who that cares much to know the history of man, and how the mysterious mixture behaves under the varying experiments of time, has not dwelt, at least briefly, on the life of Saint Theresa. . . . Theresa's passionate, ideal nature demanded an epic life; what were many volumed romances of chivalry and the social conquests of a brilliant girl to her? Her flame quickly burned up that light fuel; and, fed from within, soared after some illimitable satisfaction, some object which would never justify weariness, which would reconcile self-despair with the rapturous consciousness of life beyond self. She found her epos in the reform of a religious order.

"That Spanish woman, who lived three hundred years ago, was certainly not the last of her kind. Many

Theresa's have been born who found for themselves no epic life wherein there was a constant unfolding of far-resonant action; perhaps only a life of mistakes, the offspring of a certain spiritual grandeur ill-matched with the meanness of opportunity; perhaps a tragic failure which found no sacred poet and sank unwept into oblivion. With dim lights and tangled circumstances they tried to shape their thought and deed in noble agreement; but, after all, to common eyes their struggles seemed mere inconsistency and formlessness; for these later-born Therasas were helped by no coherent social faith and order which could perform the function of knowledge for the ardently willing soul. Their ardour alternated between a vague ideal and the common yearning of womanhood; so that the one was disapproved as extravagance, and the other condemned as a lapse. Some have felt that these blundering lives are due to the inconvenient indefiniteness with which the Supreme Power has fashioned the natures of women; if there were one level of feminine incompetence as strict as the ability to count three and no more, the social lot of women might be treated with scientific certitude. Meanwhile the indefiniteness remains, and the limits of variation are really much wider than any one would imagine from the sameness of women's coiffure and the favourite love stories in prose and verse. Here and there a cygnet is reared unasily among the ducklings in the brown pond, and never finds the living stream in fellowship with its own oary-footed kind. Here and there is born a Saint Theresa foundress of nothing, whose loving heart-beats and sobs after an unattained goodness tremble off and are dispersed among hindrances, instead of centring in some long-recognisable deed."

A BOON TO WOMEN AT WORK.

Opened two years ago, the "Ada Léwis" House for working women, 172, New Kent-road, London, S.E., has met a decided want. Originally it was intended for every class of working women, and for any length of time, from the traveller who comes up to London needing lodging for a night or two, to permanent residents, who have lived there ever since the opening. This admirable building, an excellent example of co-operative housing, tends more and more to become a hostel for professional women of narrow income, although others are admitted.

Bedrooms and cubicles are relatively small: the great gain is in the common rooms which are large, light, lofty, numerous, tastefully and hygienically furnished and decorated. They number five: two dining-rooms, sewing-room, reading-room (well supplied with daily papers and periodicals), a general room provided with a grand piano kindly presented by Messrs. Blunther and Co. To these may be added a roof garden and light, spacious corridors. The whole building is a striking example of steel and concrete architecture, in which every detail has been planned beforehand. Amongst its advantages are electric lighting, central heating, an excellent and above all things, thorough system of ventilation. one of the best hot water supplies imaginable, including baths, fixed basins, fixed foot-baths, and even a laundry for the use of residents without extra charge. In some London "buildings" tenants can evade the arrangements of the architect and stop up the ventilation with newspapers. In the "Ada Lewis" House the fresh air fiend is triumphant: the tenant must perforce enjoy light and air.

Rooms and cubicles vary in size, price, furniture; a small cubicle starts at 4s. weekly or 8d. nightly, up to 6s. weekly or 1s. nightly. All meals can be bought at the buffet separately; both rooms and food are prepaid. There is a large staff of servants; beds are excellent far better than in British apartment houses, where they are too often disgraceful in every respect. The House is situate in New Kent-road, near the admirable Girls' Grammar School, St. Saviour's and St. Olave's. One penny carried visitors from Charing Cross, Westminster, Blackfriars Bridge, by 'bus or car.

C.S.B.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Sunday, August 8.—HYDE PARK, noon. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson.

Sunday, August 15.—HYDE PARK, noon. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m.

Sunday, August 22.—HYDE PARK, noon. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m.

Sunday, August 29.—HYDE PARK, noon. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m.

DARE TO BE FREE

Monday, September 6.—CLAPHAM BRANCH MEETING, 15, Clapham Mansions, 7.30 p.m.

Friday, September 10.—SOCIALS' COMMITTEE MEETING, at 144, High Holborn, 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 14.—Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation Public Meeting, Kingsway Hall, 8 p.m. Speakers: Right Hon. The Earl of Derby, Miss Lena Ashwell, Miss F. M. Parker and others. Chairman: Mrs. Despard. Admission Free. Reserved Seat Tickets 5/-, 2/6, 1/- and 6d, from 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Saturday, October 16.—WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, Annual Conference

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, August 10.—SALE, Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps' Meeting, "Bankfield," Roebuck-lane, 7.30 p.m.

WALES.

Friday, August 6.—CARDIFF, Branch Meeting, Welsh Industries, Queen-street, 7.30 p.m. Paper by Mrs. Stevenson Howell, on "Woman and Evolution."

Wednesday, August 11.—CARDIFF, Concert, Ruskin Institute, St. Mary-street (in aid of the Birthday Fund), 7.30 p.m. prompt.

BRANCH NOTES.

Cardiff.

Another very successful Branch meeting was held at the Welsh Industries, Queen-street, on July 9; a large number of the members were present to discuss the compulsory registration of women. A resolution was also passed that the Women's Freedom League should see as near as possible that the Government carried out the principle that women having the same result for a day's work both for war service and otherwise should be paid the same rate of pay. It was decided to hold a surprise party in the early autumn.

Glasgow. Suffrage Shop, 70, St. George's Road.

On the evening of Tuesday, July 27, Miss Parker addressed a meeting of the Branch on the advisability of starting a Branch of the Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation in Glasgow. Although many of the members were away on holiday, there was a large turn-out of friends who were interested in Miss Parker and her work. When Miss Parker's scheme had been thoroughly discussed it was decided that a Branch of the W.F.L.N.S.O. should be opened as speedily as possible, and that the work of carrying it on should be given into the hands of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps, the latter having expressed its willingness to undertake the work.

Middlesbrough. W.F.L. Rooms—231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

On July 26 Miss Frances Parker gave an address on the National Service Organisation Scheme. After explaining the aims and working of this scheme, she said that her

great desire was to see it taken up locally, and the possibility of doing so was discussed. Miss Goddard presided. The same evening an overflow meeting was held at Borough-road, where a large number of people listened attentively to Miss Normanton and Miss Parker, who received a very cordial reception from the crowd. On the 28th and 29th the W.F.L. took charge of the Tipperary Rooms; thanks are due to Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Cattermole, Miss Rance, Miss Hawkins, and Miss Goddard, who kindly offered their services. On the 30th an open-air meeting was held at Borough-road at which the Rev. T. C. Gobat gave a splendid address on the "Sex Problem." He was congratulated after the meeting by men who said they heartily approved of the opinions he expressed. On the 31st a committee meeting was held to discuss the formation of a Middlesbrough Branch of the National Service Organisation, and it was agreed to call a general meeting on Monday, August 9, at 7.30 p.m. Members please note.

Mid-London.

On June 29 Madame Carola arranged a very successful Bohemian Evening to help the Branch contribution to the Birthday Fund. Miss Julie Huntsman kindly lent her studio at 150, Finchley-road, for the occasion, and was good enough to give us some delightful recitations which greatly added to the enjoyment of the evening. We also had the pleasure of listening to some charming little French French songs by Madame Carola herself, Miss Anne Squire and Mr. Threadgold. Each sang several songs, some patriotic, some amusing, all evidently much appreciated; while Miss Violet Gullen's recitations and Miss Gladys Gullen's beautiful whistling won great applause.

Sale.

Mrs. Vaughan was in the chair at a meeting held at Bankfield on July 27, to discuss ways and means for working as the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps, and to work within the lines laid down by Headquarters. Funds are very low, so the few members present offered to subscribe a small sum each month.

West Hartlepool.

A very successful "At Home" was held in the Tipperary Club, by kind permission of the Mayoress and members of the Tipperary Committee on July 7, at which Miss Eunice Murray gave a very interesting address. A good musical programme was contributed by Mrs. Wilson, Miss Bruce and Miss Guy. All present expressed their appreciation of the work the W.F.L. is doing, and gave a cordial invitation to Miss Murray to come again as soon as possible. The Branch also had an open-air meeting in Church-square on the 6th. Although it was late when it commenced, a large crowd assembled to hear Miss Murray, whose fine speech and tactful replies to the many questions put to her excited much interest. It is four years since she was in the town, but she was recognised by many people in the crowd, who also expressed a wish that she should come again at an early date. Miss Goddard presided at both meetings.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS. Glasgow.

Before the holidays are quite over we are calling all hands to the work again. The coming session promises to be even more crowded with activities than the past, if last week is any indication of what is to come. Two new departments of service have been instituted, a local Branch of the National Service Organisation and a workroom for Belgian girls.

The National Service Organisation meets a demand which has been strongly felt in Glasgow of late, the regulation of new channels of enterprise, and the protection of women workers. By the time this notice goes to Press, we expect to be completely launched in this new work, and "doing great things," as a policeman on our "beat" said the other day to a lady who asked him where she

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FRIDAY,
AUG. 6,
1915

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

ought to go for assistance in looking for work. "Go up to 70, St. George's-road," quoth he, "they do great things there." We are duly grateful to Miss Parker for giving us such a good send-off.

"Labourer's reward is more labour," in the case of the work-room. So successful was our own last winter apparently, that when the advisability of starting a Belgian workroom arose, the Corporation Belgian Refugees Committee at once approached us with a request to run it for them. Within three days premises have been found, and all arrangements made for starting at once. A fuller report will be given next week.

Let us not neglect our other schemes: The "Women's Freedom League (Glasgow)" Bed in the Scottish Women's Hospital in Serbia will soon need its second grant of £25; the Belgian Refugees (Scot) Fund is still clamant, and now holds a new interest for us, and our particular attention must be given to the Interned Prisoners' Parcels Fund. Small contributions from all the members will enable us to "adopt" some few lonely warriors and to relieve the miseries of bondage for them. Will anyone offer to adopt one prisoner?

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We welcome most cordially the new helpers who came forward last week with offers of assistance for the N.S.O. Several more ladies are needed to give a few hours regularly. Offers of assistance in any of these schemes should be made to Miss McLelland, who will be at the office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily for some weeks.

We have to apologise for the delay in publishing the account of the Mid-London Branch Bohemian evening. The copy apparently was mislaid, a circumstance which we much regret.—EDITOR.

HOW TO BE A TEACHER, THOUGH MARRIED!

The following extract from *The London Teacher* recently will be read with interest, and the final word of advice duly noted. We know how a coach-and-four can be driven through an Act of Parliament; the value of "payments due" appears to have the same effect against the obdurate law of the London County Council with regard to the resignation of women teachers on marriage:—

An assistant mistress left a training college in 1914, and was placed on the "unattached" list in consequence of her former post in a non-provided school having been filled. In order to meet the expenses of her college training she took advantage of the Council's scheme of loans to un-certificated teachers, receiving grants to the extent of £85. She now wishes to get married, and asks that the regulations under which the appointments of women teachers on the "unattached" staff lapse on marriage may be suspended in her case. The Council's desire to secure repayment of its £85 in full is evidently stronger than its intention to preserve the integrity of its regulations in the case of those women teachers on the "unattached" list who desire to become married. An unofficial reason must, therefore, be found for suspending the regulation. It is as follows:—"Miss — was transferred to the "unattached" staff pending permanent allocation to another school, and owing to the suspension of the usual process for filling vacancies for permanent teachers, she has not yet succeeded in obtaining allocation." This contention has failed to persuade the committee in other cases, but in view of this fact (and here is the important point), "and also that the loan was made conditional upon repayment by instalments out of future salary, it has been agreed to suspend the regulation." It would appear, therefore, that if women teachers on the "unattached" list wish to become married, they should arrange to owe the Council some money.

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