

THE VOTE,
MAY 12, 1916.
ONE PENNY.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE—SUFFRAGIST.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1916.

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 LADY OF THE LAMP.

Accidentally, and probably much against his own will and intention, the poet Longfellow did the woman's cause (the woman's cause is man's) a disservice when he wrote his poem on Florence Nightingale. In his day only a few people knew what Florence Nightingale was really doing; the book that has informed the world as to her real work, Sir E. T. Cook's admirable "Life," was only published two and a-half years ago. It constitutes a revelation, and every Freedom Leaguer should make a point of reading it. The sculptor of the statue in Waterloo-place cannot have read the "Life." Surgeon-Major-General Evatt, who knew Miss Nightingale personally, declared in a lecture given to the India Association that the statue reminds him of a timid lady who has taken a lamp to look for a burglar under the bed, and is much hoping not to find him.

It must be admitted that Florence Nightingale had that side of her nature which the poet depicted: the soft, tender, lovable side. It was only one phase of an extraordinarily rich, many-sided nature, the one that sentimentalists, especially male ones, have always fastened on, and probably always will. In the Crimea she immediately gave evidence of exceptional organising capacity. Before many weeks had elapsed she was not only nursing the sick, rebuilding, extending, and making sanitary the great Scutari hospital, but helping to feed and to clothe the British Army. It is typical of her that she pointed out to Lord Raglan that the lives of the artillery were being wasted, and that a different disposition would save life. To his credit, her suggestion was accepted. Her biographer remarks that a great commander was lost to her country when Florence Nightingale was born a woman. She had breadth of outlook, grasp, personality, high

capacity, together with an astonishing mastery of detail. She was the intuitive woman on the top of highly trained brains.

Miss Nightingale organised modern, scientific trained nursing; she gave women a new profession. With large numbers of people this was her service to her day and generation. But this also was only one of many services that she rendered. She only began this work in 1877; and it is true that in the sixties, when she was helping to overhaul the War Office, she thought of severing her connection with the committee who administered the fund of £44,000 with which the nation had presented her, and which she had devoted to the organisation of nursing. Miss Nightingale's chief care was the health and moralisation of the British Army. She had a passion for the soldier, a deep admiration for his courage, endurance, devotion to duty, and the fortitude with which he had borne suffering, neglect, and wrong. In 1916 it is the fashion to extol him; but Miss Nightingale set that fashion. The British nation has always praised, magnified, and lauded the Navy. It has detested a Standing Army, legislated against it, and until recently has consistently treated the British soldier to disesteem, to severity. No respectable woman would be seen speaking to a soldier in the middle of last century; doors were banged in soldiers' faces when they sought lodgings; decent places of amusement forbade their entrance; they were turned out of restaurants, even such ordinary places as station refreshment-rooms. They responded to the low general opinion of them by their manner of living. That idol of the many, Mr. Gladstone, held that "the Army could not be a moral institution." But Florence Nightingale, Sidney Herbert (her "Master"), Sarah Robinson, Agnes Weston, Lord

Roberts, and other generals, knew that it could, and helped to make it so. All honour to their faith, zeal, and courage.

Miss Nightingale at Scutari often worked 20 hours out of the 24. She returned to England a broken woman, suffering from neurasthenia and a heart affection. The usual three years' rest would have put her right. But she knew that if she saved herself she would lose the Army, and she preferred to save it. "I stand here at the altar of the murdered men," she wrote, "and whilst I live I fight their battle." Her complaint was that the War Office had murdered 8,000 men in the hospitals who could have been saved.

She was one of the greatest living statisticians; the Statistical Society elected her a member when a woman member had not even been thought of. She corrected Mr. Gladstone's figures and those of other principalities and powers, and all from that Mayfair bedroom, where she never saw but one person at a time. She did not do her great work alone. She had on her side the Queen ("How I wish we had her at the War Office," wrote Victoria in her journal), Prince Albert, and every man who was in earnest about reform.

Seen in its right perspective, is not Miss Nightingale's life a great epic, a war between the forces of good and those of evil, a war in which the greatest woman of her century marshalled and generalised the forces of good? It was a regular Verdun, long drawn-out, in which she finally routed the enemy and won the battle. Miss Nightingale was the kind of general who divined what her opponent was going to do, and whilst the thought was yet in his heart she prevented and disarmed him and carried off the victory. They were children playing a game at which she was a past-master, for she had served twenty months in the Crimea, and they were arm-chair bureaucrats. Thinking on these things, one of the reviewers of Sir Edward Cook's "Life" remarked in a military paper that she had developed a fine taste for intrigue. That was how it struck *Them* at the War Office. *They* were intriguing for place, power, and to prevent reform. She was "intriguing" for betterment. The War Office was divided against itself. Miss Nightingale took counsel with the reformers against the antis.

The Apostle of Health.

She was a woman who grew: her mental horizon enlarged. To cure sickness is not enough. Health is the norm; disease is an accident, due directly to indolence and ignorance. It was because she realised this that she became the great sanitarian of her age, extending her work to India, partly because the British Army serves there for considerable spells, partly because Lord Lawrence, a man for whom she entertained the greatest admiration ("all the Ministers are rats and weasels compared with him"), was Viceroy for a long period, and partly because she recognised our great obligations to the Dependency. All over the kingdom, all over the world, Miss Nightingale was in communication with others, working for great ends; she made friends with inspectors of the Local Government Board, Poor Law officials, men who were building factories, infirmaries, barracks, or who were improving and administering them. During the Franco-Prussian war both sides appealed to her for the best form of field ambulance. The German Crown Princess, the present Kaiser's mother, came to see her on ambulance business. Both nations decorated Miss Nightingale for the services she rendered. At home the Order of Merit was conferred on her by King Edward, but not until 1907. Unfortunately, her high mental powers had by then given way, and it

is doubtful whether she quite understood the significance of the honour conferred.

Reviewing the field of her activities, a field which her biographer tells us was large enough for ten men, Miss Nightingale observed, "It is as if God had said, *Mankind is to create mankind.*" A most profound saying, and in striking contrast with our politicians and their system of government; they seem to have said in their hearts, *Man is to create mankind.* His failure, *their* failure, is one of the deeper causes of the present appalling war.

Few things are more interesting to women than the fact that many of England's greatest pro-consuls went to Miss Nightingale to inquire in what way they could serve the cause of health and good government. Five Viceroy's of India were among the number. "Supply the powder," said Lord Dufferin in effect, "and I will fire the shot." He was ignorant of Indian sanitation, but willing to learn from one who knew. Commanders-in-Chief like Sir Hugh Rose, Lord Napier of Magdala, and Lord Roberts conferred with her on the health of the Army, even in time of peace. And reform went ahead when the Secretary for War, the Secretary for India, and the Viceroy were men after Miss Nightingale's own heart, men who took large views, who were more devoted to duty than to place, power, or pelf. Of those who were against her, both in the Crimea and afterwards, Miss Nightingale observed that they would have gladly burnt her at the stake.

In addition to her powers as an organiser and administrator, as a statistician of the first rank, as founder of modern scientific nursing, as a leading sanitarian, this gifted woman had the power of expressing herself; her literary capacity was high. She was the author of 147 publications which cover the field of sanitation pretty completely. The Master of Balliol, Mr. B. Jowett, said that no one had criticised his *Plato* so helpfully and with such acumen as Miss Nightingale. She was, moreover, a mystic, though her work on this side was overshadowed by her other activities.

Suffragist.

When John Stuart Mill invited Miss Nightingale to join the London Society for Woman Suffrage in 1867, she at first declined. He then put before her the tremendous power of legislation over human happiness—the greatest in the world:

"I can neither approve of women who decline the responsibility of wielding it, nor of men who shut out women from the right to wield it." Miss Nightingale joined the Society in 1868.

England lost, the cause of women lost, by the fact that Miss Nightingale wielded her great power in the dark and in the silence. She considered it best to work in this way. Men reaped the fruit of her toil, as is often the case. Work moved by hidden springs may prove dangerous, as Mill pointed out. It remains to be seen whether this great Empire, after the rudest awakening that an Empire has ever suffered, can reform, and adjust itself to changed conditions of life. There are thousands of women, "of large regard, looking before and after" who can bear their part in the Great Readjustment, openly, as of right. C. S. BREMNER.

WHY THIS WASTE?

Once again the Admiralty has embarked upon an expensive law case, this time against a Leith firm, and again the Admiralty has lost its case. The jury, after ten minutes' consideration, returned the verdict that the accused, who were charged with attempting to defraud, were not guilty. It is deplorable that so much public money should be wasted in trials when the evidence that is forthcoming shows that the Government have not the shadow of a chance to win.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, May 12.—Florence Nightingale Meeting. Hyde Park (near Marble Arch), 4 to 7 p.m. Speakers: Miss Boyle, Miss Murray, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Whetton and others.

Sunday, May 14.—OPEN-AIR MEETING, Hyde Park, 12 noon. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray. LECTURE RECITAL of Stephen Phillips' *Paolo and Francesca*, by Miss Clara Reed, at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C., 4 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Despard. Tea, 6d. (if desired), from 3.15 to 3.50 p.m. Tickets, 2s. (reserved and numbered) and 1s., from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn.

Monday, May 15.—LECTURE by Mr. Holford Knight on "Civil Liberty," at 144, High Holborn, W.C., at 5 p.m. Chair: Miss Nina Boyle.

Thursday, May 18.—A DEBATE between Mrs. E. M. Moore (Author of "The Spirit and the Law") and Miss Nina Boyle, in the W.F.L. Restaurant, 144, High Holborn. Subject: "That the Nineteenth Century Presents One of the Darkest Pages of Civilised History," at 7.30 p.m. Chair: Miss Ada Mitchell. The audience will be invited to ask questions and take part in the discussion. Tickets, 6d. each, from W.F.L. Office.

Friday, May 19.—COMPETITION TEA, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3.5 p.m. Tickets, 6d. each.

Sunday, May 21.—OPEN-AIR MEETING, Hyde Park (near Marble Arch), 12 noon. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Miss F. E. Adams.

Wednesday, May 24.—Clapham Lecture by George Bernard Shaw on "War Economy" (arranged by the Clapham Branch of the Women's Freedom League and the Clapham and District Fabian Society). Clapham Public Hall, High-street, 8 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Corner. Tickets: 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s. and 6d., from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.; 15, Clapham-mansions, Clapham; and 1, Imperial-mansions, Bromells-road, Clapham.

Friday, May 26.—CROYDON, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss H. Normanton, B.A., on "Civil Liberty."

Sunday, May 28.—LECTURE on Shelley by Mrs. Despard at 129, East Dulwich-grove, S.E., 4 p.m. Tickets, 1s. each.

Sunday, June 4.—OPEN-AIR MEETING, Hyde Park (near Marble Arch), 12 noon. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle.

Thursday, June 8.—Anglo-Russian Meeting, Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Thursday, July 6.—Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, 7 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Monday, May 15.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, W.F.L. Shop, 7.30. Speaker: Miss Beatrice Kent. Subject: "My Tour Through America."

Wednesday, May 17.—SOUTHSEA. Work Party, 17, Lombard-street, 3 to 7 p.m.

Friday, May 26.—BOURNEMOUTH. Public Meeting, Freedom Hall, "Loughtonhurst," Westcliff-gardens, 3.45 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard, on "Women and War Economy." Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

Monday, June 19.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, W.F.L. Shop, 7.30. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle.

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, May 20.—EDINBURGH.—JUMBLE SALE, 3 p.m. Goods collected on receipt of postcard.

We Call Special Attention to—

1. LAMP DAY (to-day).—To commemorate the work of Florence Nightingale, the W.F.L. will hold meetings in Hyde Park from 4-7 p.m. Volunteers are urgently wanted to sell our cameo sketch of Florence Nightingale (written by Mrs. Marion Holmes) and THE VOTE.

2. LECTURE-RECITAL of Stephen Phillips' "Paolo and Francesca," by Miss Clara Reed, on Sunday, May 14, at 4 p.m., at which Mrs. Despard will preside. Miss Reed has so often placed her remarkably fine gifts at the service of our League that she deserves the heartiest support of our members and friends.

3. THE DEBATE on May 18, at 7.30 p.m., at the Office between Mrs. E. M. Moore and Miss Nina Boyle; chair, Miss Ada Mitchell. The audience will have the opportunity of taking part; judging from last Saturday's debate, such an opportunity will be welcome.

3. PROPOSED SUMMER SCHOOL.—Miss K. Holmes, Hon. Sec., W.F.L. Settlement, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W., will be very glad to hear of friends who will spend their holidays, or part of them, at the Summer School in the country, about an hour's journey from London.

4. ANGLO-RUSSIAN DAY, Caxton Hall, Thursday, June 8.—Important announcements will be made next week. Who will send flowers, fruit or vegetables for a garden stall, and let us know their names as soon as possible? Part of the proceeds will be given to the Russian Prisoners of War Fund.

MARCHING ON!

In Canada.

Jus Suffragii for May, which is full of vitally interesting matters to all interested in the position and progress of women, devotes its front page to a map of Canada, which clearly marks the three Forest Provinces, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, in which woman suffrage and eligibility are won. The area of these provinces is equal to 20,000 square miles—greater than the combined areas of the German Empire, France, Belgium, Spain, and the British Isles.

In Norway.

The Norwegian Parliament agreed by 91 votes to 14 to make women eligible for the Council of State. The Council is associated with the King, in whom is vested supreme executive authority, and consists of a Prime Minister and at least seven other members, all of whom are appointed by the Crown. Usually they are members of Parliament, but the King has the right to appoint others. He may now take counsel with women.

Women's Freedom League Settlement, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W.

We remind readers that the British Women Workers' Exhibition is open till May 20, and we shall be very glad to see visitors at our stall, No. 135, which is proving a useful advertisement for the Settlement. We are also most anxious for promises of support for our Summer School scheme, referred to in last week's VOTE. Will members, when planning their summer holidays, try and fit in a few days with us, and let us know in good time so that we may make arrangements? The following gifts have been received with many thanks: Miss Tiano, clothing for Jumble Sale; Miss Riggall, 1s.; Miss Ibbotson, Miss Æ. Tollemache, Mrs. P. H. Miller, and Miss M. Holmes, flowers; Mrs. Clark, stockings and tin of sweet corn; Miss Dawson, clothing for Guest House; Visitor, 1s.; per Mrs. Thorn, tea; Miss Mabel Letts, boy's hat and jersey; Hon. Mrs. Forbes, vegetable cutter. Can any reader supply good and inexpensive recipes for cooling summer drinks, which we propose to sell in our restaurant in hot weather—such as gingerette, raspberry vinegar, home-made lemonade, &c.? A couple of tables are also urgently needed to increase the accommodation in our dining-room.

To Help "The Vote."

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged	342	8	9
In memory of Mrs. Snow	2	0	0
Mrs. Baillie Weaver	10	0	0
Captain and Mrs. Walter Carey	3	0	0
Mrs. Tritton	5	0	0
Per Miss Eunice Murray:			
Miss Allan	5	0	0
Miss Dunlop	5	0	0
Mr. John Hunter	10	0	0
Mrs. Hendry	5	0	0
Miss Stevens	5	0	0
Mrs. Whitelaw	5	0	0
Letchworth Branch (per Miss C. Lee):	1	15	0
Miss Bloomfield	2	6	0
Miss Alix Clark	5	0	0
Mrs. Dodge	2	6	0
Mrs. Harding	1	6	0
Mr. Kuhlman	2	6	0
Miss C. Lee	6	0	0
Miss Reynolds	2	6	0
Miss Steen	2	6	0
	1	5	0
	£351	3	9

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1036.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, May 12th, 1916.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
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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.

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PARTY POLITICS.

In our last issue we showed the Searchlights of War playing upon our social order, and drew attention to what they had revealed. Ineptitude, and self-seeking, on the one hand, with a manifest effort to take advantage of the country's danger in the interests of those who desire from both men and women obedience and subjection; on the other hand a splendid courage, a noble endurance, a readiness for sacrifice and a capacity for labour that may well make us proud of our national heritage.

It is well that we have seen. Having seen, the question of questions arises: How is the nation to avert the ruin that threatens her at the hands of her self-constituted protectors; and how is she to give full effect to the simple, unconscious goodness whereby she might be cleansed and saved?

As we ask this all-important question we recall one more of the revelations that have come to us through the present distress, and we wonder if some approach to an answer may not be found in this direction.

To the simple people—the one-pointed as they have been called by mystics—it must long ago have been apparent that if, as a nation, we are to steer successfully through the rocks and shoals by which we are surrounded, we must be united; we must know what we are working for. We must be able to throw all our energy into the tremendous task of achieving our object.

Let it be remembered as we try to realise this object that, to many this war is a terrible episode; an obstruction thrown suddenly across the path they were traversing. These have spent some of the best years of their lives beating against closed doors.

Purer and more easily obtained food and equipment for the children of our nation; better housing and a juster reward for labour; equality of social and political status for women and men they have demanded. In the working districts of our great wealth-making cities infants have died like flies in winter; the horrors of the sweating system have been exposed, so that not even Cabinet Ministers can have failed to see them. Young women all over the country have been miserably underpaid and overworked. There have been industrial uprisings which, after extremity of suffering, have ended in unsatisfactory compromise; and always when Governments have been asked to attend to their own really important work, the same answer has been given: "There is no time to deal with these things at present." To which when women were the pro-

testors has been added: "As soon as the People are with us we will move, not sooner."

Militarists tell us that the breaking-out of war found us unprepared in men and in munitions. We, who are not militarists but only women who love our country and would give our lives for her children, complain that the nation has been found wanting in the statesmanship, the imagination, the health, the commonsense that might have saved us from the war.

Some ill-paid women, who were doing work of importance and had threatened to strike, were harangued the other day by a well-dressed and fed superior on the duty we all owe to our country at this time. On his studied eloquence there broke in a voice: "I can't love my country on twopence halfpenny a hour." As a fact, if these gentlemen would only perceive it, semi-starvation is not a fruitful soil for lofty emotions.

Why has nothing been done to alter this deplorable state of affairs? No time.

Again: our children are wasting and dying of insufficient or improper food. For many years a Pure Milk Bill had been before Parliament; not a perfect Bill, but a step in the right direction. Shortly after the war broke out it actually passed; but almost immediately our masculine Parliament spent time and energy in carrying through an amending Bill to suspend its operation. Why? Because there were not enough men to carry out its provisions! Where were the women? To employ women did not occur to our male legislators.

What, then, is the important business that so deeply engrosses the House of Commons? This also the war has revealed. It is Party Politics.

We women abjured them long ago. We ask for something straighter. "Give us deeds, not words" we say. "Yield to us the service for which you are honoured and paid." We hope—indeed, we believe—that the revelation made in this war-time of the depths to which party obsession may fall in pursuit of its ends has opened the eyes of the nation. Let it be understood! We do not specially blame any party. What we do blame is the system. That of which we complain is that the force, the cleverness, the knowledge which might have been given to organizing the nation for service, and to minimizing as far as possible the awful strain on workers and fighters has been spent, on the one hand, upon trimming sails to meet diverging winds, and on the other, upon a vituperative criticism, whose chief effect has been to dishearten us at home and to make us misunderstood abroad.

The late tragic events in Ireland supply us with an extreme instance of the failure of party politics. But for party intrigue, with its long-drawn-out delays, that sad country might have been now so completely reconciled with England that no one of her sons or daughters could, at such a time, have raised the flag of revolt. As we think of this; as we realize not only the recklessness and folly of the rising, but also the quality of many of those who took part in it and the sorrow and expiation that have followed, we cannot but pray with passionate earnestness that, in our country at least, we may soon see the last of party government.

What, we may be asked, is to take the place of it? Ought we to have what some are already urging the rule of the iron heel—that one strong man who appears to be in hiding somewhere, but to hold himself in readiness to be called upon? By no manner of means. What we do really need to accomplish the heavy tasks that lie before the nation is a strong, united, and well-instructed democracy, consisting, naturally, of women and men, who will deliberately choose their own leaders—persons of character, knowledge, and experience—preferably those who

have themselves suffered, whose strength will not be that of a party following on a close adherence to party shibboleths, but of love for the country which has given them birth, and an unselfish desire to serve her to the uttermost.

"My strength is as the strength of ten because my heart is pure," said Sir Galahad.

Such are the leaders we need.

It was said in the old time, "Man's extremity is God's opportunity." Let us hope and pray that as it has been in the past, so it may be again, that the Heaven-sent leaders may be found, and that the nation may recognise them. One prediction we may make: Party Politics is not the soil on which they can be expected to grow. C. DESPARD.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Women Workers.

If we may judge by Miss Mary Macarthur's statements at her recent meeting, there is still a lamentable lack of organisation in the distribution of women workers. The Labour Exchanges have had a glut of applications; what seems to be lacking is judgment and classification. Employers have no difficulty in laying their hands on sweated female labour; but women who take the trouble to train in response to this or that advertised demand, find endless difficulty in securing the work that is supposed to be waiting for competent workers. With the compulsory break-up of innumerable homes which is now imminent, we may expect a very serious state of things to develop; and it would be well that the great minds of the "Twenty-three" and their unnumbered subordinates should be addressed to this problem without loss of time; especially if the war is to be "won by women." Mr. Lloyd George, in his recent diatribe, spoke with his usual fervid confidence in the women who could very well be used whenever needed; but the country that must finance as well as fight the European campaign now in progress, would do well to take this matter with a trifle less of that quality which is described as "happy-go-lucky."

Time and Tide.

Father Time must be vastly amused just at present with the pranks played by politicians with the clocks and chronometers. It matters nothing to him, of course, whether we poor fleeting human vessels call one hour by one name or another by another. If it makes us feel clever and dodgy, he would hardly grudge us the gratification, seeing that Time and Tide neither wait nor worry, for all the fuss made by mankind. What the ordinary person wonders, however, is, if it does not matter whether twelve o'clock be called twelve o'clock, and if it will do quite as well to call it anything else, why was it ever called twelve o'clock; and what is, in real truth, twelve o'clock; and why? One pessimistic journalist commits himself to the heresy that none of our times have anything at all to do with real time, and another, that even the sun-dial does not know and only says it right occasionally; all of which is so upsetting to persons accustomed to treat these chronological fictions seriously as to make one wonder why one bothers about Time at all! It was made for slaves, anyway; which may account for Members of Parliament flouting it, just by way of having one last kick of freedom.

Conscientious Objectors.

There appears to be some division of opinion in the Army Council about the separation allowances for the wives of conscientious objectors. Answers to questions in Parliament have elicited very dubious replies. Are the wives of men who refuse to take Army money to receive allowances? It is quite likely that attempts will be made to break down the objectors' opposition by starving out their

wives and children. Whatever opinion one may hold about conscientious objection to military service, there can only be one opinion as to the course suggested. It would, however, be quite in keeping with all masculine tradition that any fight waged between men should be over the starved, or mutilated, or degraded bodies of women. This point makes it the more essential that representative women should have seats on all bodies which have to deal with the upkeep of the homes and the various interests of the married men in our naval and military forces.

Lawyers and More Lawyers.

Of seven gentlemen chosen to discuss the problems of the Air Service five are lawyers. Of the Scottish War Savings Committee only one is a woman. Barristers are to decide the claims of the married men's homes, with no women; and so it goes on. Thus does our lawyer Government display its amazing sagacity. No new situation, no new problem, no new anguish, no new emergency that the lawyers in Parliament do not turn to the advantage of the Chosen People of the law.

LETCHWORTH CAMPAIGN.

We have had a very successful Women's Freedom League Suffrage Campaign at Letchworth; five meetings were held in four days, and our indefatigable helper, Miss Alix M. Clark, sold about 150 copies of the Special Teachers' Conference number of THE VOTE in the streets and shops.

The campaign was successful in the numbers attending the various meetings and in the interest aroused, which we hope will result in the addition of many new members to our Branch. Suffragists of three other Suffrage Societies greatly enjoyed our meetings, and cordially helped to make the campaign a success.

At our first meeting, on Sunday morning, Miss Anna Munro spoke at the Howard Hall Adult School on "War and Waste," and emphasized the value of human life, also the false economy which deprived the child of the education which should fit it to be a good citizen. While children of 11 and 12 years were being employed on the land, there are numbers of women on the Labour Exchange books ready and willing to work. The committee of the Howard Hall Sunday evening service were very glad to welcome Miss Anna Munro to speak on her experiences of life in London slumdom. The audience, which was larger than usual, listened with earnest attention to her sympathetic account of the life of the poor.

These Sunday meetings were good propaganda for the direct suffrage meeting of Monday, and afforded a special opportunity of coming into touch with people and getting their sympathy. The Howard Hall was well filled, and we had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Despard as a speaker at the meeting. Miss Alix M. Clark presided, and at once arrested the attention of the audience by her interesting stories. Miss Munro, who spoke with remarkable power, called attention to the changed attitude noticeable towards the Women's movement, exemplified in Mr. Asquith's confession that he had not known before the war what splendid work women could do. She referred to the Garden City work of town planning, and the open field for reconstruction.

Mrs. Despard followed, speaking on woman's work in reconstruction. She showed how woman is called to heal not only the physical but also the spiritual wounds of humanity. We must have a peace, not only in name, she insisted, but in reality, a peace without hatred, a peace that shall be not merely the absence of active war as before August, 1914, but a peace that recognises international brotherhood and is filled with a great compassion.

The sons of the future will be the better if they are the sons of the enfranchised woman.

On Tuesday afternoon Mrs. Shackleton very kindly invited us to a drawing-room meeting in her house, at which an interesting address was given by Miss Munro, dealing with the many reasons why we should ask for votes for women now. A discussion followed, after which tea was kindly given by Mrs. Shackleton, and was much enjoyed. On Wednesday, twenty people accepted the kind invitation of Miss Napier to hear Miss Munro speak on "Our Duty to the Nation." Many interesting questions were raised, and a very animated conversation was continued during tea, kindly provided by our hostess. Our branch secretary, Miss Lee, who has worked so perseveringly for years, is greatly cheered by the results of the campaign.

A. HARRISON.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Better than Experienced Mechanics.

Congratulations to the women shell-makers at Parkhead, Glasgow, who, according to Sir William Beardmore's speech at the annual meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute, London, are doing most excellent work. They produce more than double the output of thoroughly trained mechanics, working the same machines under the same conditions. "In the curving, waving, and finishing of the shell bases," said Sir William, "the girls' output was quite 120 per cent. more than that of experienced mechanics."

A Record in Pharmacy.

A Scottish woman pharmacist, Miss Ella Caird, has just gained a remarkable series of successes. Not only has she obtained the Pereira medal—the blue ribbon of pharmacy—but she has been awarded the highest prizes in all the subjects at the recent examinations of the Pharmaceutical Society's School of Pharmacy in London, obtaining four silver medals, for botany, materia medica, practical chemistry and chemistry, respectively. On previous occasions a woman pharmacist has obtained the Pereira medal, but never before has there been such a record of success as that achieved by Miss Caird. Two other women figure in the honour list, and two male students, that is to say, there are three women prize-winners to two men.

Woman Blacksmith.

At the Ayrshire Appeal Tribunal on May 3, a blacksmith asked for exemption. He stated that he and his mother were joint proprietors in the business, and that for two years his mother had wielded the hammer in the blacksmith's shop.

Women Doctors Entertained.

At the Monday dinner at the Lyceum Club, on May 8, at which Mrs. Berry, president of the University Section of the Club, and her husband were welcomed on their return from Serbia, the guests included other women doctors who have done fine and memorable work for our gallant little Ally, among them Dr. Elsie Inglis, Dr. Alice Hutchison, Dr. Soltan, Dr. Scott. Mrs. St. Clair Stobart was also a guest of honour.

At the "Old Vic."

The scene at the "Old Vic." on Friday evening, May 5, when the splendid Shakespeare Tercentenary Festival, under the management of a woman, came to an end, was a fine tribute to the great dramatist—and to Miss Lilian Baylis, the inspirer of the splendid national work which is carried on at this People's-Theatre-in-being. Appearing only in response to insistent calls, and laden with flowers, Miss Baylis's statement that she hoped to reopen the "Old Vic." in September on the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the theatre was received by the vast audience with tumultuous applause. To Mr. Ben Greet, who has rendered in-

valuable help in producing the plays, to the "Old Vic." Repertory Company, who have won well-deserved praise, to the scene shifters and all helpers, the heartiest appreciation and thanks were given, in which many Freedom Leaguers joined.

At the Mansion House meeting in celebration of the Festival, poems by Miss Boyajian and Mr. Thomas Hardy were the only poems read by Prof. Gollancz. Our congratulations to Miss Boyajian on this special honour.

NEGLECT OF SCIENCE.

No reply having been received to my prepaid application for ticket of admission to the meeting convened by the committee on above subject, I presented myself at Burlington House on May 2, and followed Lord Headley to the ante-room leading to the hall, as I imagined, in which the conference was to take place. The great scientific minds (mis)managing it had cleverly chosen the very tiny "archway-room," capable of holding about 60 or 70 persons comfortably. By three o'clock it was crowded to suffocation with 200 or more men and five women besides myself, many standing. The windows were tightly shut. The selection of a larger room and fresh air would have been considerations had practical women been consulted, but it was evident that our presence was only just tolerated there!

The Chairman, Sir Ray Lankester, was unfortunately inaudible beyond the front benches, though I urged him to "speak up." A varied assortment of speakers supported the four resolutions, printed in letters beginning "Dear Sir," which had been issued to "leading men," etc., etc. The second resolution held the kernel of the subject, and ran as follows:

2. That it is in the highest degree desirable that the Government should exercise the large power which it possesses of encouraging the study of the natural sciences, and thereby increasing the efficiency of our public servants—

(1) By assigning capital importance to the natural sciences in the competitive examinations for the Home and Indian Civil Service;

(2) By requiring some knowledge of the natural sciences from all candidates for admission to Sandhurst.

Two further resolutions urged instant Government interference in the matter. Dr. Macan, Master of University College, Oxford, supported the movement on the ground that it was in harmony with the best spirit of Greece. He spoke well. The Governor of the Bank of England, who was very popular, spoke briefly and to the point; Lord Montague, Lord Southampton, and other gentlemen, whose names we could not catch, aired their amiable views. One speaker proudly told us our boys knew how to die. One gathered there were nebulous ideas floating in his mind that with less of his sex's muddling fewer would have died. Another speaker innocently remarked that in his opinion the classics being "switched into" all boys regardless of their want of aptitude for such study was the cause of "the very low standard of intelligence rife among the clergy." (Roars of laughter.)

No reference was made to women, to their education, scientific or otherwise, or to their needs. No reference was made to the sacrifices, bitter and unending, they are called upon to bear silently, in this war for which the male-run country was childishly unprepared. No allusion was made, even obliquely to them as teachers, as mothers, as pupils; in fact, could a denizen of another planet have been present, any such must have concluded but one sex existed here—the male.

But stay! Towards five o'clock, when a few males had retired partially asphyxiated, Colonel Crompton rose and said: "A chief reason for not teaching science was the fault of women nurses who always

objected to chemicals being spilt on carpets." He appeared to think that ruining good carpets was an integral part of chemical experiments; whether babies should toy with nitro-glycerine he did not state. This spiteful attack on women who spend their lives rearing the offspring of persons like himself reminded the meeting that such beings as mothers existed. We were tolerated in the room, that is all one can say.

Weird revelations as to the obligatory subjects for examinations were made. One heard that Sanscrit was needed by the Board of Agriculture! Sandhurst's revised curriculum included Greek and Latin. (2,000 marks.) Naturally boys going to India were not taught anything about Indian diseases, cholera precautions, germs, etc., etc., presumably useful knowledge. At 5.20 the speakers were still rumbling on, one window was opened half an inch, and having had enough of "science," fatuous male egotism, and bad air to last me for some time, I left for more congenial surroundings, and seething with rebellion against the slavish condition of our sex. The suffrage virus had, if possible, penetrated more deeply than ever into

MARION CUNNINGHAM.

SUFFRAGE DEBATE.

A large audience gathered at the Essex Hall on May 6 to hear the debate between Mrs. Swanick, of the Women's International League, and Miss Helena Normanton, of the Women's Freedom League, on the question whether woman suffragists should not now demand adult suffrage instead of votes for women on the same terms as men. Mrs. Swanick, taking the affirmative, said the present basis is bad for men and would be infinitely worse for women, as wives, and daughters living with their parents, would have no vote; that men do not easily understand women's desire for the vote, but if women work with them their education progresses; that in the past the adult suffrage movement had been beneath contempt, but things would not always remain as they were, and the Labour Party had bound themselves to support votes for women and to reject manhood suffrage; that virtue, when found, should be supported.

Miss Normanton maintained that the first duty was to break down the sex barrier and win the vote for women; afterwards electoral conditions could be improved; Austrian women had been persuaded to throw in their lot with adult suffragists; Austria had now (practically) manhood suffrage, and the women are left out. Dr. Clark, who was an excellent chairman, put the resolution to the vote, and declared it lost, the numbers being 33 to 65. Hearty votes of thanks were given to Mrs. Swanick, Miss Normanton, and Dr. Clark.

Miss M. A. CZAPLICKA is lecturing on "Poland, Past and Present" on Mondays at 5 p.m. at the London School of Economics, Clare Market, Kingsway. May 15, "The Fight for Freedom." May 22, "Twentieth Century Poland." Open to the public without fee or ticket.

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WAR ECONOMY.
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Doors open at 7.30.

Tickets, 5s. and 2s. 6d. (Numbered and Reserved), 1s. (Reserved), 6d. (Unreserved), can be obtained from the Women's Freedom League Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C., and from the Fabian Society, 25, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1915, £25,531 19s. 2d.

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BRANCH NOTES.

Bournemouth.

Members and friends in the South of England will be glad to hear that, by the kind permission of our staunch friend Mrs. Hume, we have arranged a public meeting at Freedom Hall, Loughtonhurst, Westcliff Gardens, on Friday afternoon, May 26, at four o'clock, when Mrs. Mustard, who is so well known as a woman suffrage speaker in London, will give an address on "Women and War Economy." The chair will be taken by Mrs. Whetton, who is equally well known in Portsmouth and the neighbourhood, and is the energetic honorary secretary of our Portsmouth Branch. Admission is free, but there will be a collection for the funds of the Women's Freedom League. Tea (if desired) can be obtained from 3.15 to 3.50 at 6d. each. We urge all our friends in and near Bournemouth to do their utmost to make this meeting a great success.

Clapham.

This Branch began its open-air meetings on Clapham Common last Sunday afternoon, when the speaker was Mrs. Tanner and Miss Ballard Dawson took the chair. There will be no meeting next Sunday afternoon, because we hope that our members and friends will support our President and Miss Clara Reed at the Bijou Theatre. For our Whist Drive, which takes place this week, we have been fortunate in securing the very valuable assistance of two sympathisers in the district—Mrs. Heighway and Mrs. Pipe, the latter having most kindly consented to act as M.C. We urge members and friends of the Freedom League to support us



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FRIDAY,
MAY 12,
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THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

at the meeting at Clapham Hall, High-street, Wednesday, May 24, when George Bernard Shaw will speak on "War Economy," the chair being taken by Mrs. A. E. Corner at 8 p.m. This meeting is the outcome of a joint deputation of the Clapham and District Fabian Society and the Clapham Branch of the Women's Freedom League to the Wandsworth Borough Council, to ask the Council to rescind its resolution by which the Fiction Department in each of the five public libraries in the district was closed down. The Council decided not to rescind this resolution, and the meeting on the 24th inst. will be the reply of Fabians and Freedom Leaguers to the spirit of retrenchment which is so prevalent among authorities at the present day, and which is so likely to increase our national waste.

East London.

The next Branch meeting will be held on Monday, May 15, at 6 p.m., at 37, Wellington Buildings, Bow, E. Will all members please make a great effort to be present?

Edinburgh Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road.

The annual business meeting was held on Wednesday evening (May 3), when all the office-bearers and members of committee were re-elected for next session. The Hon. Secretary read a report of the winter's work, and arrangements were made for the forthcoming jumble sale and sale of work. Members and friends are earnestly requested to contribute anything saleable for these occasions, and helpers for the jumble are wanted for Friday, 19th, and Saturday, 20th May.

Glasgow Suffrage Shop, 70, St. George's-road.

On May 4 the monthly Branch meeting took the form of an "At Home." Miss Murray was the speaker, and there was a good attendance. The half-yearly Jumble Sale was held on May 6, and was organised by the Partick district, with Miss White as convener. The sum of £25 was realised.

Liverpool (Central).

A very successful meeting was held at Miss Miller's Café on May 4. Mrs. Shaw, of Aintree, kindly spoke, and dealt specially with the policy of the Women's Freedom League. An interesting discussion followed, and an appeal was made on behalf of the 50,000 Shilling Fund. The room was kindly lent by the Liverpool Suffrage Club, for which our members tender their best thanks.

Middlesbrough. Suffrage Centre, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

"Casey's" recital on May 1 was a splendid success, both from a financial and musical point of view; the room was absolutely crowded. Mrs. Schofield Coates presided for part of the evening, but, owing to illness, had to leave early, Miss Winifred Jones taking her place. "Casey" has a wonderful repertoire; he played old folk songs and Maypole dances and an exquisite Irish harp lament, as well as music by Dvorak, Sarasate, Bach, Beethoven, Gounod, etc. On May 15 we shall have the pleasure of hearing Miss Beatrice Kent describe her tour through America, and it is hoped that all members will be present to welcome her on her first visit to the Middlesbrough Branch of the Women's Freedom League.

Regent's Park.

Through the courteous hospitality of Dr. Damoglou, of 1, Albany-terrace, Regent's Park, who put his drawing-room at our disposal, the Branch held a very successful suffrage meeting on May 5, at which many strangers were present. Miss Boyle's admirable speech aroused great interest and enthusiasm, and several new members joined the Branch. Everyone enjoyed the musical programme with which the evening commenced and the refreshments with which it ended. We thank Dr. Damoglou very warmly for his kindness, and shall not forget his promise of "More!"

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